

WESLEY WINDOW

Wesley United Methodist Church
Shawnee, Oklahoma

May 6th, 2008



Wesley's website—
www.wesleyumcshawnee.org

Dr. Marvin Hudson,
Senior Minister

Rev. Kris Steele,
Associate Minister

Pamela Torrick,
Administrative Assistant

Joel Deichman
Music Director

Sandra Meyer
Organist/Pianist

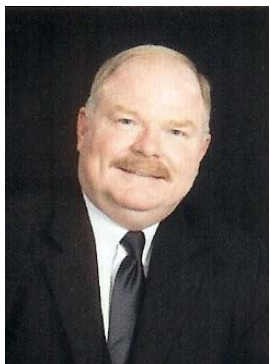
Patti Pixley, Editor,
Wesley Window

Janet Henry,
Nursery Director

Lindsay Burress
Youth Director

Janet Henry, Parents Day Out
Director

Mike Deer, Building Manager



Marvin Hudson

Summer Slump?

I am sure that you have heard of the notorious summer slump that many churches face. Some congregations are so comfortable with it that they actually cancel Sunday School and even select worship services until Fall. In some cases, the church goes into a sort of programmatic suspended animation until everyone returns from whatever it is that fills the months of June, July, and August. And sure enough there is a slump in attendance that proves the wisdom of such planning. Over the years, I have become convinced that we actually plan to have a summer slump by scaling back in worship, fellowship, and ministry.

What might happen if we planned to cancel summer slump? What if we added events, special worship, fellowship, ministry and other opportunities?

Could this be a time when outreach and evangelism events could take place? What about a summer music event on our acreage? What about some local missions? What about a special Fourth of July celebration that would motivate persons to invest in church rather than to turn that weekend into a long vacation?

Well, you probably get my point. I hope all of our staff and ministry area persons will spend some time thinking about the summer. What could we do that would buck the trend and turn summer 2008 into a banner season? Let's cancel the slump!

Marvin

A Mother's Day Hymn

Sing praise to our Creator God!
Earth prospers from the way
God "mothers" each new child
into this world day after day.

God fabricates in motherhood
A channel from above
That longs to share with every
child God's Comfort, Grace and
Love!

Sing praise to our Creator God,
Who "mothers" us from birth!
Providing what we truly need
Throughout our lives on earth.

—Peggy Ferrell

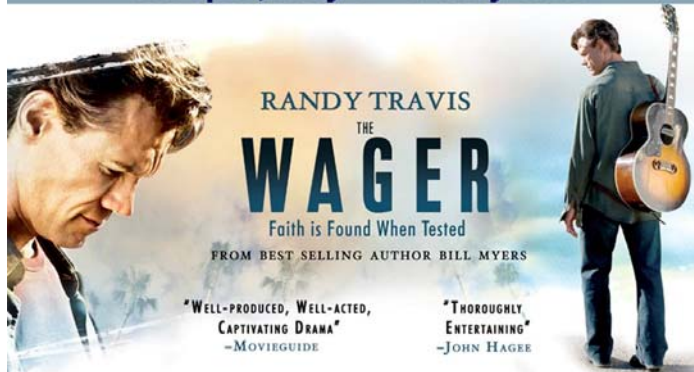
WESLEY WINDOW



Friday Night at the Movies

Wesley UMC

7:00pm, May 9th & May 16th



What happens when the faith of a Hollywood star is put to the test?

That's the question haunting Michael Steele (Randy Travis) in "*The Wager*," a new major motion picture release from Pure Flix Entertainment coming to churches across the nation at the end of the month through Outreach Cinema (www.outreachcinema.com), a new direct-to-church film releasing platform.

The net proceeds from this first movie will be added to our missionary covenant we have with Marsha Alexander, "Manos Juntas" [hands together] Mexico in Rio Bravo.

Brian Moore will lead an elective discussion group in Fellowship Hall after the movie. Popcorn and drinks will be available at 50¢ each.



**Men's Softball
Team:
First Game
May 6th**

Wesley Men's softball team plays Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. vs. Downtown Pentecostal Church, then at 8:30 p.m. vs. Evangelistic Center. Both games are on the west field. Thursday, we play at 7:30 p.m. vs. Immanuel Baptist and 9:30 p.m. vs. Faith Christian Outreach. Both games are on the east field. We are "E" on this preliminary set.

See you Tuesday at 6:15 p.m. on the west field. (Dockery Field, south of S. Leo and W. Farrall)

Thank You.....

Thanks so much for your thoughts and prayers, for the cards and food.

To the ladies for the great meal. To Marvin and Kris for the wonderful service.

We appreciate it so much.

The family of Iva Jo Zurmehly

Thank You.....

To my Wesley Church Family:
Thanks for the birthday cards and kind words.
Also thanks for the wonderful people who helped clean-up while I was down with the inner ear infection (vertigo).
God Bless, Mike Deer

Thank You.....

We want to thank Vaden Smith for mowing the court yard for us on a Saturday afternoon.

Thank You, Vaden!
Parent's Day Out Staff

Making a Difference

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day he was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer. So he began to walk faster to catch up. As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man and the young man wasn't dancing, but instead he was reaching down to the shore, picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean. As he got closer, he called out, "Good morning! What are you doing?" The young man paused, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The sun is up and the tide is going out. And if I don't throw them in they'll die."

"But young man, don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it? You can't possibly make a difference!" The young man listened politely, then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves. *"It made a difference for that one!"*

-Adapted from *The Star Thrower* by Loren Eiseley.



Stewardship...a way of life!

Dr. Amelia J. Gearey of the Virginia Theological Seminary recommends that we consider the gift of teaching another about God. We are called to share the message of the gospel, yet many of us are not called to be evangelists. There is one very significant way that we can teach another person about God. Share your love of God with a young child. Teach children the love of God by welcoming them into your presence, especially in church. Teach them how to worship by allowing them to watch and imitate you in prayer.

Stewardship is not an annual financial campaign but a way of life!

Rio Bravo Mission

Rio Bravo mission, is getting close. I have the papers we need to get signed and notarized now, they are ready for you. You can pick them up in the church office or call me and I will get them to you. The forms must be returned by May 11th. As of now we are building one casita and one other project that we have not identified yet.

We will leave Shawnee Saturday morning this year instead of Sunday and return on Saturday with a stop over at a popular Texas beach on Friday. Included will be eating on the San Antonio River twice and looking to have a great time in mission.

We still need as much money as we can find for this mission as the cost rises each year. I am looking to any group or person in the church who can help financially; we do not want money to stop anyone from going. If you or your group can help, please see Gary Dowdy or the church office.

Thank you and May God richly bless you.

Gary Dowdy

Annual Conference 2008

Annual Conference is coming up soon starting May 25th through May 29th. One of the highlights this year will be the commissioning of Marcia Shoemaker to an Elder. She called to share this news with us.

Marcia has been active in Wesley for some time and continues to update us on her assignments. May God Bless and grow her ministry.

PRAYER CORNER HOPE

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

My nine month old granddaughter is a delight to be around. She is just beginning to take her first wobbly steps and say her very first words. When she comes crawling toward me saying "Nana, Nana," my heart just melts. It is wonderful to contemplate all the things she will learn and do in her lifetime. I have heard it said and indeed it is true that children are the "hope of the world"

My mother is eighty-seven years old and is now confined to a wheel chair. She suffers from Alzheimer's disease and has lost her ability to care for her self. She doesn't know her children any more or where she is and she talks mostly in monosyllables. However, I see in Mom the same hope we have in our children. While the baby is being prepared for a wonderful life here on earth, Mom is being prepared for a glorious eternal life with God in the heavenly home He has prepared for her. And like the baby, it is wonderful to imagine all the things Mom will see in her future in heaven.

My prayer for all of you is that you never lose the hope God has given you for an eternal life with Him.

---Sue Thomas

Dear God: Thank you so very much for sending your only son to die for us that we may have eternal life with you. Amen



**Rev. Kris Steele
Associate Minister**

A Job Well Done

Dr. Marvin served as the Chaplain for the House of Representatives last week. His responsibilities included offering the opening prayer each day as the session convened, and delivering the weekly message to the Legislature on Thursday morning.

As you might expect, Dr. Marvin did an outstanding and professional job the entire week. In his official capacity, he was granted the "privileges of the floor," thus allowing him to interact with elected officials from across the state as the daily tasks associated with the governmental process took place. A highlight of the week came when the very talented Future Farmers of America (FFA) Honor Choir filled the House Chamber and sang patriotic and inspirational songs. Hearing those young people sing reminded everyone of the strength and greatness of our nation and state.

In his closing address, Dr. Marvin built on the wonderful message of the FFA Honor Choir, and challenged the Legislature not to lose sight of the good and valuable things that are shared among us. He said even though the differences among the individuals are real, they should not be the focus of the job and become a barrier for moving our state forward. His timely and well-received words served as a reminder that we are all God's children and, in this case, Oklahomans first.

Dr. Marvin Hudson is a first-class professional who possesses a brilliant mind, a kind heart, and a gentle spirit. It is a privilege and honor to serve alongside him at Wesley UMC.



Dr. Marvin and Kris listen to a presentation at the State Capitol on Monday, April 28th

Family Promise—Special Needs

A new family came into the Family Promise of Shawnee program last Friday, a single mother with two teen-age (15- and 12-years-old) boys. Both boys are involved with Boy Scouts, the oldest working to earn his Eagle badge this summer. There is a Boy Scout camping trip in July that the eldest, Billy, needs to attend and the youngest, Clayton, should attend. Unfortunately, the cost is prohibitive to their mother at this time. Billy already mowed enough lawns to put up the \$40.00 deposit with another \$125.00 still owing. Clayton needs the full amount of \$165.00.

If any of you can contribute to help these boys go on the camping trip, please call me or Peggy at the day center. 273-0161

Also, the younger boy, Clayton, is in need of summer tutoring. He is going to attend summer school, but has a lot of trouble keeping up in class due to his 25% hearing loss. If you know of an older adult who can help Clayton this summer with his school work, please call me or Peggy.

Thank you for all you do to help the guests of Family Promise.

SMALL GROUP SIGN-UPS COMING SOON!!



Lindsay Burress Youth Director

Summer is up and coming and the youth have so much scheduled! Summer is always a time for camp and missions and the youth will be doing both. We will be heading off to Lawton District Camp at Crosspoint this summer. Camp is scheduled from June 2nd through the 6th. If your youth is interested in going to camp please contact Lindsay Burress and I will forward the information on to you.

Also during June, the youth will be heading to Rio Bravo, Mexico to do Mission work with other members of our church. We look forward to working side by side doing God's work.

Before we go to Mexico, we are planning a 30 hour Lock-in/Fundraiser where the youth will participate in a famine situation while learning about needs around the world. We will be playing games and doing activities that help us focus on ways that we can be stronger Christians and how we can help serve those that need help.

All youth are invited to attend this lock-in and they may invite friends, but everyone will need a parental consent and medical release form to attend. Parents need to be aware of the fact that this is a famine situation and food will be limited to plain rice, oatmeal, beef jerky and water. We still need volunteers to take shifts in sponsoring this lock-in, if you are interested please email or call Lindsay Burress.

After the Lock-in there will be time scheduled for a feast with friends and family. It is going to be a potluck so please call 275-1556 to sign-up for your favorite dish. The meal is scheduled for 6 o'clock Saturday, May 31st.

Other activities that we will be trying to do this summer are bowling, rock climbing, hiking, paintball, Whitewater and Frontier City. We will also take a trip to go and see Prince Caspian as a group when the movie comes out in theaters.

May and June Schedule:

May 11	No youth-Mother's Day
May 11	Rio Bravo Papers Due
May 18	Camp Papers Due
May 25	Youth Summer Water Party
May 30-31	12 pm Mission Lock-in begins
May 31	6:00 pm Potluck Dinner
June 2-6	District Camp at Crosspoint
June 8	Regularly Scheduled youth
June 15	No youth due to Mission Trip
June 14-21	Mission to Rio Bravo
June 23	Trip to Shawnee Bowl
June 30	Picnic and a day at the Park

We still need the following:

1. Adults to sign up for shifts in helping sponsor the Lock-in on the 30th and 31st. (We still need a few more volunteers)
2. I need people to sign up to bring a dish to the potluck on the 31st of May. The meal is to break the fast/famine situation that has taken place for the previous 30 hours.... Those teens will be HUNGRY!

SMALL GROUP SIGN-UPS COMING SOON!!



PRAYER LIST

For the prayer chain, please call The Church office at 275-1556 or Gwen Gray at 273-3691

NURSING, ASSISTED LIVING OR HOMEBOUND

Jack Bailey; Ernestine Gravley; Vivian Logan; Lillian Woody; Mary Roberts; Viola Montgomery; Esther Mezger; Flo Kienzel; Alpha Mills; Lucie McDonald.

AT HOME OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Raymond & Lorene Utter; Paul Helfer; Mary Ann Calvert (David Haberland's Mother); Vernon & Pauline Childers; A. F. Schroeder; Macie Collins' grandmother JoAnn Boyce; Betty Clark (Steve Davis' Mother); Wanda Burford (Loretta Smith's Sister); John Chandler (Gwen's nephew); Harold Trousdale (Janet Henry's Father-in-law); Kent Cooper; Mary Bergsten (Jamie Bergsten's Mother-in-law) Mary Lou Baker: Bobby Thompson, (Garrett Ellis' grandfather); Edith Lee; Dianne Massey; Brenda Hitt; Devra Melot ; Kim Mason; Catherine, Alex & Erin, Greg & Jennifer Blair; Carl Fridrich; Cody Brashears (Margaret Tucker's grandson); Sharon May; Mary Loftis; Christina Watson; Wilma Reppert, sister of Vaden Smith and Margaret Tucker; Frank Stockwell; Jim Symons; Sarah Sanger; and Phyllis Ramseyer (Jill Tipton's Mother).

OUR MILITARY NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS. PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Russell Helms son of Ken and Sally Henderson; Aaron McCowan nephew of Pat Snider; David Cooper son of Kent and Sherry Cooper; Travis Carter, son of Phyllis Bolt, brother of Jessica Carter, Army Iraq; Pfc James Bittle, Army, husband of Nanci Sackman's niece; L/CPL; Jeremy Walker, Pamela Torrick's cousin, Air Force; Greg Jenkins, Navy Seal, Nephew of Gary Sackman; Michael C. Davis, in Iraq, Betty Hale's son-in-law and husband of Jonna Hale Davis; SSG Randall K. Brisco, brother of Sharon Abbott, in Bagdad, Iraq.



Wesley Office News

As many of you know, there have been changes in the office. Pamela Torrick is back in the office full time. Pamela will continue to process the "Event Forms," Purchase Orders and checks. All events connected to the church require the "Event Form" and needs to be filled out as completely as possible. This avoids confusion and allows for your needs to be met. Do you need equipment or nursery requirements? In this same vein, Janet Henry also needs the event form filled out *as soon as possible* to allow scheduling of workers.

All Purchase Orders require two signatures, this will help your orders process in a timely manner. In order for a purchase order to be paid, Pamela *must* have the receipt to match the purchase order.

Patti Pixley will continue with the weekly bulletin, announcement inserts and newsletter editions. Since Patti is part time, working Mondays, 8:30 to 4:30, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, 8:30 to 12:30; announcements for the insert need to be on her desk no later than Wednesday morning. The bulletin changes need to be in no later than 9:00 a.m. Thursday. Newsletter articles need to be in by *Sunday evening proceeding the print date*. If you can submit your articles before the deadline that would be great. Minutes of meetings take time (an important job with little recognition) and submitting them in a timely manner would be greatly appreciated.

Hopefully, this will help everyone who has a need or question. Please keep in mind that our desire is to serve you and help in any way that we can.

Pamela and Patti

**Coming soon to an
"off-Broadway" street near you...
"Coming Out of the Dust" a
musical Centennial Celebration
brought to you by South Rock Creek's
"Dust Bowlers," and Liberty Creek
Bluegrass Band.**

"Coming Out of the Dust"

The "**Dust Bowlers**" consist of approximately twenty-eight students from grades sixth through eight who have been studying the Dust Bowl in their language arts classes. Volunteering their time after school, these students along with many community volunteers, have produced an original musical drama over the Dust Bowl, written by **Delinda Curtis**, their language teacher.

Joining the "**Dust Bowlers**," will be the local blue grass gospel entertainers, Liberty Creek Band, led by **Burky Curtis**, former principal and coach of South Rock Creek and **Norman Wagoner**, co-director of the play. With some folksy "Woody Guthrie" tunes, these forces will lead you through the desperate times of the Dust Bowl and those inspiring Okies who through their grit, determination, and faith faced extraordinary times.

Performances are at 7:00 Saturday May 17th and Monday the 19th at the Ritz on Main Street . Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students and Sr. Citizens (ages 65 and older) They are available at South Rock Creek or by calling 213-1959, or 273-8660.

"Coming Out of the Dust," written and directed by **Delinda Curtis**, is based on stories from Library of Congress's 'Voices from the Dust' and literature studies from *Children of the Dustbowl* as well as Karen Hesse's novel, *Out of the Dust*, and bluegrass music. The story focuses on both fictional and historical figures who represent ordinary heroes living in extraordinary times. Faith and friendships are challenged and strengthened as Okie families take to Mother Road for California .

The play will feature a variety of familiar tunes along with a historical account of how ordinary people through their artistic gifts were able to bring hope to the Okie's plight. Audiences will get a brief glimpse of folks like Dorothea Lange, the photographer of the "Migrant Mother" and Leo Hart, the educator who built a special school for the Okie children who were being ostracized from the California schools, and the radio broadcasters who gave a voice to the Okies.

**Wesley United Methodist Church
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Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors, The People of The United Methodist Church.