

WESLEY

WINDOW

Wesley United Methodist Church
Shawnee, Oklahoma

May 19th, 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

Heinz 57

A number of us are old enough to recall that this slogan not only applied to the products made by the Heinz Company, but it also became something of a euphemism for matters of diversity. We employed it to describe all kinds of things from a shopping list of highly unrelated items to the dubious lineage of our favorite pet dog.

Today, the slogan could easily apply to the church. Most of our communities have churches of every sort of persuasion and so numerous as to almost outnumber the convenience stores. Further, within our local congregations, we find that our diversity is very pronounced as well. You may be setting beside a Roman Catholic, a German Presbyterian, or a Bible Belt Pentecostal. In fact, we are discover in recent years that the younger the constituency, the less concerned they are about labels. They focus on the fundamentals of the Word and worship, fellowship, nurture, service, and friendship, to name just a few priorities.

Within the church we are an assorted lot; sort of a Heinz 57 mix of people.

And if it's any comfort, this diversity is not all that new. My spouse has been engaged in some research related to a book she is finishing, and shared an old clipping from the Oklahoman dated in 1910. In that long ago year, there were listed a surprising variety of faiths in Oklahoma City. Among those listed were Unitarian Universalists, The Spiritualist Church, The Spiritual Progressive Church, and The Pentecostal Mission on California Street, a United Brethren Church, a German speaking Lutheran church, a Methodist Episcopal South, and a Methodist Episcopal. Pretty diverse, I would say.

For me, this discussion of diversity, especially within a local church, raises the question of what constitutes the glue that holds a group together. Beliefs and preferences will most certainly vary. I believe that the greater "glue" must of necessity be the vision and spirit of Christ. As we pursue the larger and ultimately more essential purposes of Christ, our diversities become much less significant.

The question for this moment is, do we in the midst of the diversity that is Wesley, have a clear understanding of the greater glue that holds us together as a community of faith. We can ill afford to focus upon our diversities and lose sight of Christ.

Marvin

WESLEY WINDOW



PRAYER CORNER

Stewardship...a way of life!

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from the world." John 18:36

Jesus made it amply clear that His kingdom was not of this world. It is neither temporal nor political, but rather is of the spiritual realm. As inheritors of the kingdom of heaven, Christians are in this world, but not of it, and therefore must exercise extraordinary care where we place our allegiances.

When we rely on property, possessions, material objects, and wealth, we make "things" our sovereign and place our trust in them rather than in the King of kings. Stewardship helps us to put first things first.

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

Thank You.....

The family of Cassie Schroeder would like to express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Marvin Hudson and Rev. Kris Steele for all their help and support during our time of need. Also, to our loving congregation for the cards, food, phone calls and many, many prayers for our whole family. We could not have made it without you!

A special thank you to the UMW for the wonderful lunch that was prepared for our entire family after the services Thursday.

In loving memory of Cassie, The Schroeder and Silvia Families.

To the Wesley Methodist Family

May the love and joy that Mrs. Schroeder gave to everyone she met stay in your hearts forever. May God Bless the Wesley church family at this tender time...

*The Salvation Army
Officers and Soldiers*

I sought the Lord and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Psalm 34:4 (NIV)

When my Grandson was a toddler we often took him to a nearby park to play. One day, accompanied by his father and myself, we stopped by the park. Lorcen immediately jumped out of the car and ran to a large slide. Without hesitation he began climbing the ladder, but upon reaching the top step, he froze. His eyes became round with fear. But Lorcen knew exactly what to do. "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy," he cried. And Daddy was right there to help him over the top step and down the slide to safety.

Nearly any child when confronted with fear will cry out to someone bigger, stronger and wiser than himself. How I wish we adults could have that same faith. When we are faced with some seemingly impossible obstacle and are frozen with fear, we need only to cry out "Father, Father, Father", and our heavenly father will be there to help us over whatever problem seems to be overwhelming us.

There will be many times when we face things that frighten us or that we do not understand. Let us always remember to cry out for help when we need it. And our Father God will be right there to help us. We are not alone! -
--Sue Thomas

Dear God. Thank you that whenever we get ourselves into places where we are frightened and alone, you are always there to help us over the top step and down that scary slide to

Church Office Hours

The office will be closed to observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 26th. Normal office hours resume with Tuesday, May 27th.

Needed:

Adult sponsors for the youth lock in on May 30th and May 31st.

On May 31st at 6:00 p.m., potluck dishes for the meal to break the fast, family and friends from the church to offer words of encouragement.

WESLEY WINDOW



Church Council Meeting Minutes April 17, 2008

Call to Order – Bill Haselwood

Opening Prayer – Bill Haselwood

Motion was made to approve the Agenda by Gary Sackman, seconded by Jennifer Carpenter and approved by those present.

Mission Statement - Recited by those present.

Minutes from February Church Council meeting were presented. Motion was made by Gary Sackman and seconded by Jennifer Carpenter to waive the reading of the minutes and approved by those present. Motion was made to approve the minutes by Jennifer Carpenter, seconded by Gary Sackman, minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report – Dr. Marvin Hudson

Summary of Events...10 new members. 300 attendance average on Sunday's.

Worship Events...Strength for Service Sunday will be 2nd Sunday in May.

Family Ministries group being put together.

Active Ministries Reports:

Discipleship Council - report given by Terry Dyke. Minutes from March 20, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Terry requested the following be highlighted. 1) Communications Chair needs to be filled. 2) New position of Projector System Coordinator who will be responsible for scheduling, recruiting and orienting volunteers to run the screens. 3) Information Technology Committee to be renamed to Audio/Visual Committee.

UMW – Not Present. No report.

UMM – presented by Gary Dowdy. Weekly Tuesday morning breakfast continues with focus on devotion and prayer. Rio Bravo Mission trip will be this summer.

UMYF – Not present. No report.

Children's Ministry – Not present. No report.

Ministry Support Reports:

Staff Parish Relations Committee – Report presented by Shirley Adams. Meeting was held on March 2nd to honor our staff and their families with a luncheon. Employees met with their SPRC Liaisons and reviewed the job descriptions and discussed their individual visions and goals for the church.

Finance Committee – Report presented by Jennifer Carpenter. Data is running behind but reports that the church is currently breaking even. Current up to date data will be available by next meeting.

Trustees – Report presented by Gary Sackman.

Restrooms are progressing. Big Toy will be replaced with a different toy. Play Ground: Enhancement will be made to existing playground as an interim step as trustees design a larger one. Sanctuary Roof: recently leaked in main office and hallway by East sanctuary doors. Trustees will pursue financing options in June. Church Work Day was very productive.

Memorial Committee – Not present. No report.

Permanent Endowment Funds Committee – Report presented by Brent Vickery. Nan Shadid will be stepping down as Chair. Fund value has declined as market has declined.

Stewardship Committee – Report presented by Brian Koons. Report compared previous years giving patterns.

Scholarship and Loan committee – Not present. No report.

Other Business –

Motion was made by Terry Dyke that Sound System Coordinator and Projector System Coordinator be moved to Audio/Video. Seconded by Gary Sackman. Motion to be sent to Lay Leadership Committee. Motion tabled until they approve.

Motion was made by Terry Dyke that Adults Group be included as an entity under Education with the group make up being a representative from the following: Sunday School, Sunday Evening Classes, Super Adults, OBOE's, Sisters at Heart, Singles Group and Other Adult Gatherings. Seconded by Gary Dowdy. Motion was approved.

Motion made by Terry Dyke that the chair of the Adults Group have a seat on Church Council. Seconded by Melisa Baker. Motion was approved.

Motion was made to move the second all church dinner to discuss the consultation be moved to May 4. Seconded by Gary Sackman. Motion was approved. Motion was made to move Church Conference to May 18th. Seconded by Gary Sackman. Motion was denied. Motion was made by Jennifer Carpenter to cancel May 4 luncheon due to scheduling conflicts and also giving the congregation time to absorb information. Seconded by Marilyn Simmons. Motion was approved. Motion was made by Gary Sackman to table rescheduling of the second luncheon until next Church Council Meeting. Motion approved. Motion to adjourn made by Jennifer Carpenter, seconded by Brian Koons motion carried.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON June 19, 2008.

DISMISSAL WITH PRAYER – Dr. Marvin Hudson



Rev. Kris Steele Associate Minister

Rocks in His Head

"David took the armor off. He took his stick in his hand and chose five smooth stones."

1 Samuel 17:39-40

Max Lucado, in his devotional book "Everyday Blessings," reminds us that God can do the extraordinary with people who are willing to serve. He says, "The King tried to give David some equipment. 'What do you want, boy? Shield? Sword?..."

David has something else in mind - five smooth stones and an ordinary leather sling. The soldiers gasped. Saul sighed. Goliath laughed. David swung. And God made His point.

"Anyone who underestimates what God can do with the ordinary, has rocks in his head."

Rio Bravo Mission Trip

On June 14-21, Wesley UMC will be participating in a life changing mission trip to Rio Bravo, Mexico. Currently, about 15 people have signed up to make this journey. There is still room for more. A passport is required and the total cost of the trip is \$375.00 per person, but if you are a Wesley member, the cost for you will be \$175.00.

We are always at our best when we are helping others. As Christ's body, we are called to be the hands and feet of the Risen Savior to those in need. A Volunteers In Mission (VIM) trip provides that opportunity in a direct and meaningful

way. Please prayerfully consider making the journey to Rio Bravo with Wesley this summer.

If you're thinking about going on the trip and not sure you can make a difference, remember we should never underestimate what God can do!

For more details about the Summer 2008 VIM Rio Bravo, Mexico trip, please contact Gary Dowdy at 273-3497.

Dennis Jernigan Concert

Dennis Jernigan performed new songs



and old favorites and spoke at Wesley, May 17th. Many fans and friends from Wesley and several area churches sang along and praised God with music. His father, mother, wife, and two sons assisted during the evening and with the sale of his CDs and books.

The "M" word

During a science lesson, a second-grade teacher demonstrated how a magnet can pick up metal objects such as nails and screws.

Afterward, she said, "My name begins with the letter 'm.' I pick up things with my power. What am I?"

A boy quickly answered, "You're a mother!"



Lindsay Burress Youth Director

You might have heard about an exciting thing that the youth are doing in a few weeks. We will be doing a 30 hour Famine on May 30th and 31st.

The youth and I will participate in games and activities while we chose to be in a famine state. We will learn about people around the world that don't have that choice.

We will have speakers come to talk to us about local missions and global missions. We will learn about how we can help end poverty and hunger in Oklahoma. Speakers from Salvation Army will come to tell us how we can become more involved with their ministry. We will also learn about a Oklahoma Business that makes a huge global impact, Feed the Children.

During the 30 hours there will be many activities and competitions that the youth will be participating in. We will be immersing ourselves in the cultures of those in need trying to understand them more completely so that we can find ways that help them.

Not only will we have games and activities, but we will also have time to worship. Along side of each other we will thank God for how he has blessed us so abundantly that we are able to give to those in need.

If you are a youth in 6th-12th grade and you are interested in participating in this event, or if you are an adult that would like to be a sponsor during the lock-in, please contact Lindsay Burress.

At the end of the 30 hours, the youth will break their fast with friends and family from the church. We hope that our entire congregation feels welcome to attend this potluck dinner.

Each youth that will be participating in this lock-in has a sponsorship envelope that gives you an opportunity to sponsor the youth, financially, during the lock-in. This is a fundraiser where all raised funds will go directly to this summer's Mission trip to Rio Bravo. If you are interested in sponsoring a youth for this fundraiser, please contact Lindsay Burress or a youth.

Thank you and God Bless

Remember to remember

**The Price for
Freedom
Is
Not
Free**

One Memorial Day, some children were asked what the holiday meant to them.

"That's the day the swimming pool opens!" answered one eager boy. What he didn't realize or appreciate was that he can freely go to the pool because more than one million people have put their lives on the line to preserve America's democracy. Many of them have died so citizens of other countries might also enjoy the privileges of political, social and economic freedom.

Memorial Day is our opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices of many of America's best citizens. They made the supreme sacrifice on our behalf, so please remember to honor these heroes on May 26.



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

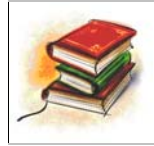
Raymond & Lorene Utter; Paul Helfer; Mary Ann Calvert (David Haberland's Mother); Vernon & Pauline Childers; A. F. Schroeder; Macie Collins' grandmother JoAnn Boyce; Betty Clark (Steve Davis' Mother); Wanda Burford (Loretta Smith's Sister); John Chandler (Gwen's nephew); Harold Trousdale (Janet Henry's Father-in-law); Mary Bergsten (Jamie Bergsten's Mother-in-law) Mary Lou Baker: Bobby Thompson, (Garrett Ellis' grandfather); Edith Lee; Dianne Massey; Brenda Hitt; Kim Mason; Sharon May; Mary Loftis; Christina Watson; Wilma Reppert, sister of Vaden Smith and Margaret Tucker; Frank Stockwell; Jim Symons; 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; Dean Holley, Marines, in Iraq, cousin of Hollie Johnson; John Bristow, husband of Lauren (Heer) Bristow.



Wesley Office News



Pamela has just received several boxes of new books for the library. Come by and see what excellent books are available. Great Christian fiction plus study and commentaries are available to check out. Watch this column for future book reviews. Check with Pamela for the current hours.



May Wesley Church Directory Ready

Please pick up a copy of the latest directory in the narthex at the nametag table. We print a revised directory in May and November to keep you up-to-date with all of our changes, comings, and goings.

If we don't have your data correctly listed in this edition, please tell the office what should appear under your name.

Many people list their cell phone or work phone as an additional listing. We can do that for you. Let us know if you want to include a "phone note" in your November listing.



Co-ed Softball Starts Late June



It looks like we have enough interest in co-ed softball to have two teams again. Nichole Luetgens will coach *Wesley Faith*. *Faith* needs to pick up two or three more players to fill out the team. Interested?

Wesley Love needs a coach. Let me know if that's you. *Love* is basically the Young Adults Class plus friends. This year, co-ed softball starts after the men's regular season ends June 22nd.

The games will be played 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays through mid-August. Please let Terry Dyke know if you are bringing your game. (275-1511)

THE PURPOSE OF THE UMW READING PROGRAM

The purpose of the Reading Program is to encourage United Methodist Women:

1. to expand understanding of and participation in God's mission;
2. to increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests, and concerns;
3. to encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today;
4. to grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life;
5. to enhance self-knowledge and to act from that knowledge;
6. to strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

The Women's Division recommends a diverse range of books with the intention of broadening exposure to a variety of concepts. The Division does not intend that United Methodist Women accept each word or idea contained within each volume. Some books you may agree with. Some you may not. Either is all right. At the least you know the Women's Division cares and wants you to be a knowledgeable and caring Christian about the issues of the day.

Each month I will be introducing a book that is in the 2008 Reading Program. You can check these books out in the Library.

KEEPING SPIRITUAL BALANCE AS WE GROW OLDER: MORE THAN 65 CREATIVE WAYS TO USE PURPOSE, PRAYER AND THE POWER OF SPIRIT TO BUILD A MEANINGFUL RETIREMENT

Molly Srode & Bernie Srode 199 pages SkyLight Paths Publishing, 2005

As people grow older and face new demands on their bodies, they may forget the spiritual transformations they undergo. This book discusses how the power of spirit can help overcome the obstacles of aging, add meaning to everyday life, and attain both material and spiritual goals.



WUMC Discipleship Council Minutes May 15, 2008

With 14 in attendance, Terry Dyke, chairman, called the Discipleship Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He opened with prayer and everyone recited the Mission Statement. The agenda was approved after a motion by Gary Dowdy, seconded by Kellie Steele. Reading of the minutes of the March 20, 2008 meeting was waived with a motion by Gary Dowdy, seconded by Sue Dyke. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Committees convened for separate discussions for 45 minutes.

Missions: Gary Dowdy reported that the June 14-21 mission team going to Rio Bravo, Mexico, Will include eleven adults and four youth. They Will build one casita and work on one other project. Their drive back to Shawnee will include a beach front stop. Also planned is a medical mission trip to Rio Bravo, December 4-7 where participants will fly rather than drive, for the short mission. Funds continue to be collected through the Birthday House donations, Friday movie night and individual gifts for missionary Marsha Alexander and "Hands Together Mexico." Mission funds also continue to help Shawnee Family Promise, Salvation Army Food Bank, Hope House, Free Health Clinic, Mission Shawnee and Zimbabwe GBGM Advance.

At the upcoming Oklahoma Annual Conference in Tulsa, May 25-29, Gary will introduce Wesley member, Marsha Shoemaker, as a candidate for the position of Elder in the Oklahoma Conference.

Evangelism: June McMahan reported that their committee is for outreach, and continuing to provide new nametags, Wesley pens, greeters, and welcome table volunteers. They want to pass along the comments they hear from visitors to the Worship committee and pastors. Both Marvin and Kris are actively contacting or writing to first-time visitors. Buster and Gladys Hale and Jackie Helfer process the names of visitors from the weekly registration lists.

Communications: Committee member Terry Dyke will be glad to feature any church event with special graphics and information on the weekly Saturday newspaper ad. Tell him what your group is planning. Also, groups need to remember to turn in a completed "All Events Form" prior to their events, with copies on-line or in the office hallway, for staff planning. The new semi-annual Church Directory, May 2008, is ready for everyone in the church narthex. It has a green cover.

Audio Visual: Chris Torrick will explore means of creating CDs or DVDs of the Sunday worship services for shut-ins to hear or watch, instead of cassette tapes. He also recommended taking videos from the church library to loan to homebound members. He will also research cameras and mixers for making videos of services, weddings or special events. Anyone could thereby watch a service, live, by computer internet.

Membership Care/Spiritual Formation: Sue Dyke asked for volunteers to share in shut-in visitations. Three pages of the church directory also need "Pages" to make telephone or personal contact with those church people listed. Recently "Pages" have personally invited folks to the Friday Night Movie and Dennis Jernigan concert. Melissa Baker will soon be starting a Small Group and will give more information to anyone interested in starting another Small Group.

Prayer Ministry: No report

Children's Council: Lisa West reported upcoming activities—Water Day this summer, Back to School Swim Party, the Fall Festival and Christmas events. There will be fund-raising activities to raise money to replace the ball pit/slide in fellowship hall with safer, quieter equipment for children.

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Youth Council: Brad Snider and Kris Steele reported on the Friday, May 30th 30-hour Youth Fast/Lock-In. Lindsay Burress has several speakers and activities planned to provide information to the youth on the enormity and seriousness of world hunger and poverty. She would like more adult helpers to sign up for 3-hour periods to help. The fast will end with a potluck breakfast for everyone at 6 p.m., Saturday. Snacks of plain rice, plain oatmeal, beef jerky and water will be available during the 30 hours. She announced extensive summer plans in the May 12 *Wesley Window*.

Adults Group: Kris Steele has agreed to chair and be spokesperson for existing adult groups, including softball teams, Senior Adults, Oboes, Singles, Divorce Care, Sisters at Heart, Sunday Evening Classes, the adult Sunday School classes and curriculum. He has planned a summer focus on local missions for five Sundays this summer, beginning May 29 at 4:30 p.m. Teams of ten will divide and go out on such missions as nursing home visits, Project Safe service, Salvation Army meal service, repairs or lawn care for church members, or neighborhood invitational visits. After one-hour projects, everyone would meet back at church for cook-outs on the pavilion patio. The five Sundays would include each Sunday in June.

Terry announced that the first six Wesley men's softball games (three nights) have been rained out. When their season ends in June, a church co-ed team will begin, coached by Nicole Luetgens, and a second team may form, needing a coach.

Worship: Sylvia Cobb said that the Audio Visual leader, Chris Torrick, and Worship Team Leader, David Whited, met with her and began making plans to work together on special projects. She will also meet with the Evangelism Committee for their ideas on improving worship services.

There was no new business, or old business introduced. Terry Dyke closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting date for **Discipleship Council will be Thursday, July 17th. All committees will again meet and report, beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

Sue Dyke, Secretary

*Rebecca Jeanne Lupton invites
Wesley United Methodist
To the following:*

*The Senior Class of Altus High School
Announces its
Commencement Exercises
Friday evening, May
twenty-third
Two Thousand Eight
Eight o'clock
Hightower Memorial Stadium
Altus, Oklahoma
Graduation Party
May 24, 2008 - 2:00 pm
705 Cambridge Drive
Altus, Oklahoma
RSVP to 580-482-5662 or
580-482-4093*

Our Sympathy.....

*To Marcie Utter and her family
in the loss of Marcie's mother,
Velda Ringer. Services were on
Tuesday of this past week.*

*To A.F. Schroeder and Chris and
Carol Sylvia in the loss of Cassie
Schroeder, wife and mother.
Services were on Thursday of this
past week.*

*To Jason and Devra Melot and
Madeline in the loss of Romona
Melot, Devra's mother-in-law.
Devra is the daughter of Gary
and Nanci Sackman. Services
were on Saturday, this past week.*

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