

WESLEY

WINDOW

Wesley United Methodist Church
Shawnee, Oklahoma

January 5th, 2009



Dr. Marvin Hudson

Thank You and Happy New Year!

First, let me say, "Thank You So Much!" to all of the Wesley family. The Advent and Christmas season saw many wonderful expressions of affection including cards, emails, special gifts, and more that warmed my heart. The wonderful gift of a leather attaché case designed to hold a laptop computer was a highlight. I thank you all and count it a privilege to be with you at Wesley. I am delighted to report that the Advent season was spiritually rich for me and I am sorry it is over (so to speak). This was a great season. I hope you can say the very same. It is a great launching pad into a new year.

With the New Year in mind, I want to remind everyone that we are deep in the consultation process. This is the data collection phase, and we are doing perspective and statistical instruments even as I write this article. Our congregation will be asked to do another instrument in the next few days. On January 18th, every congregant will have the opportunity to stop by a table in the fellowship hall and complete an important document. Please

be planning your schedule now to provide for some time to do this important task during the morning. We have planned the process so that you may stop by before or after worship to not interrupt your worship time.

I believe that the EBA process is a crucial part of the journey that I alluded to on Sunday. In that service as we observed the historic Wesley Covenant service, I was reminded that we live in a day that is so much like the age of the earliest church. We are more a mission outpost than a institutional church. I fervently believe that being a mission outpost means that we must seek the direction of the Holy Spirit and do so through a process of holy conversation. The goal is know where our priorities should be in terms of ministry, resources, and all else related to Wesley. As I said Sunday, we need to be both on the same page together and even more importantly, on God's page.

I also believe that being a mission outpost means that we place equal emphasis upon outreach and evangelism. We serve the physical needs of our culture and we unabashedly share the transformative Gospel of Jesus Christ. We cannot be content to merely feed and clothe. We must share faith in winsome and gracious ways. To do this kind of mission will challenge us in the spirit of the Wesley Covenant service, to yield ourselves to that which is convenient or pleasant on the one hand, and that which calls us out of our comfort zones. It may be a challenging process, but the rewards will be amazing.

Blessings in the New Year
Marvin

Wesley's website—
www.wesleyumcshawnee.org

Dr. Marvin Hudson,
Senior Minister

Rev. Kris Steele,
Associate Minister

Lindsay Burress
Youth Director

Lauren Edwards
Children's Director

Joel Deichman
Music Director

Sandra Meyer
Organist/Pianist

Pamela Torrick,
Administrative Assistant

Patti Pixley, Editor,
Wesley Window

Janet Henry,
Nursery &
Parents Day Out
Director

Mike Deer, Building Manager

WESLEY WINDOW



Sympathy to . . .

Janet and Rick Henry on the loss of his stepfather, Harold Augusts Trousdale who passed away on December 31st, 2008. Services for Mr. Trousdale will be January 7th, 2009.

Thank You!

Dear Wesley Family,
Thank you so much for my Christmas gift! I will put it to good use. We feel so blessed to have such a loving and caring church family. Thanks again.
Kris

Wesley Senior Adults

Wesley Senior Adults have a good time together. We try to travel somewhere once each month and gather for a meal at the church once each month. In December we attempted to go to Tulsa to see the Christmas lights but the weather turned bad so we rescheduled for December 29th. What a beautiful day, warm, very little breeze and not much traffic. Once in Tulsa we stopped at The Cheesecake Factory for supper and allowed the sun to set so the lights at Rhema Bible College would be bright. When we drove up they were brilliant and plentiful, words could not fully describe their beauty. From there we traveled to Muskogee to see Honor Heights Park where their light also impressed us. Next, we visited the castle north of town for a real treat. They have amassed over 1800 inflatable Christmas scenes that were something to behold. Some were animated, some had music, all were lit and they were on both sides of the bus as we traveled thru.

If you have not traveled with us before or would just like to try us sometime, please come the 1st and 3rd Mondays for Senior Adults and the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays for OBOE's. We hope to see you there.

Help Needed: Saturday—January 10th

The decorating committee needs help on Saturday, January 10th at 10 a.m. removing all Christmas decorations and packing them away. The more hands available the faster it goes. Please come and help.

Sisters at Heart



Tuesday, January 27

6:30-7:00

Snacks/fellowship,

7:00

Program:

"BEST OF ALL GIFTS"

by Christian author, singer, and
motivational speaker,

PATTY CURL

Please join us for a winter
blessing as we hear Patty's message!

Nursery always provided....Wesley women,
again we thank you for bringing snacks!

Leadership Workshop: Sat., Jan. 17th

Our North and South OKC Leader Workshop will again be at OKC, St. Luke's UMC, 15th and N. Harvey. Anybody in a leadership position at Wesley should plan to attend this time of insight, sharing and equipping for the coming year. Really, everybody should consider making the Saturday morning trip to learn more about how Wesley can be better.

The individual fee for the workshop is \$10. Make checks payable to "Wesley UMC" and note: Local Church Leader Workshop." Our office has a common registration form, so drop your payment by the office by January 7th, registration deadline.

Child care will be provided; coordinate that with St. Luke's by Jan 7th at 232-1371.

Our people-mover van will leave Wesley at 7:15 a.m. We will register at St. Luke's and then hear Bishop Hayes speak at 8:30 before attending our South OKC District meeting at 9:00. The two workshop times will be at 8:45-11:00 and 11:15-12:30 p.m. We'll do lunch in Midwest City and return to Wesley around 2:00 p.m.

Terry Dyke
2009 Lay Leader

WESLEY WINDOW



Church Council Meeting Minutes December 18, 2008

Call to Order – Bill Haselwood

Opening Prayer – Bill Haselwood

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

Mission Statement - Recited by those present.

Minutes from the October Church Council meeting were presented. Motion was made by Jennifer Carpenter and seconded by Shirley Adams to waive the reading of the minutes and approved by those present. Motion was made to approve the minutes by Jennifer Carpenter, seconded by MB, minutes were approved.

Other Business:

Representing Wesley's Green Team, Debbie Chlouber. Request was made to purchase Green Bags from Cookson Hills (Charitable Organization). Bags will be sold at \$7.00 per bag. Green Team would like to request \$1000.00 to buy 50-75 bags. Motion made by Gary Dowdy to approve the motion, seconded by Jennifer Carpenter, motion approved by those present.

Pastor's Report – Dr. Marvin Hudson

Rio Bravo Mission Trip – Two remote clinics will held in the outer lying areas of Rio Bravo, where missionaries are only seen 3-4 times per year. To Dr. Marvin's knowledge we were the first church to take a Chiropractor and Veterinarian.

Leadership Training Workshop will be held January 30-31 at Canyon Camp. Workshop will focus on building skills in conflict management and communication skills.

Consultation: Consultation data collection is in process.

Attendance – November average 300.32.

Active Ministries Reports:

Discipleship Council - report given by Terry Dyke. Minutes from November 20, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

UMW – report given by Laynie Shebester. 1) Rummage Sale/Bazaar made \$3000.00; \$2400.00 was given to various projects (Angel Tree, RSVP, Salvation Army, Mission Trip, Wilson School, Project Safe and Family Promise). \$700.00 was set aside for funeral dinners. 2) Executive Committee is to start thinking "outside the box" to increase membership and help with participation in projects. 3) September 19, 2009 will be the Annual Meeting for UMW and it will be hosted by Wesley.

UMM – presented by Gary Dowdy. New Church fund \$100.00 for Nagawee Church repair. Weekly Tuesday morning breakfast continues with focus on devotion and prayer. The men also continue to meet and work for the whole church.

UMYF – presented by Lindsey Burress. 1) Youth group is very talented and diverse, some of the differences have led to discipline problems. Counteracting with youth made rules and a covenant every youth must sign. 2) Youth parents must sign new press release to allow us to use pictures, audio and videos of the youth. 3) Average Attendance: 11 on Sunday Mornings, 24 for UMYF and 20 for LOGOS. Ministry Team visits Carter Hall on Monday Evenings, bringing the word of God to 12 youth and 2-3 staff. Lindsay invites you to be involved by going to Carter Hall, writing letters or praying for them. 4) Youth will be split at LOGOS into middle and high school groups for Bible Study. Volunteers needed to help with small groups. 5) Youth assisted Mike Deer with cleaning the black marks off the floor in the fellowship hall.

Children's Council – Christmas play and Santa after Church December 21, Birthday Party for Jesus December 20, Third Sunday in January will be the Children's Council retreat.

Ministry Support Reports:

Staff Parish Relations Committee – Report presented by Shirley Adams. Staff salaries were reviewed and recommended a 3% increase raise for next year for all staff and a 5% increase for Senior Pastor. Discussed contingencies in case finance didn't approve. Options will be painful. Finance approved our request, but at Shirley's urging we are rethinking. SPRC is conducting a computer survey for inactive members and visitors to see why they may not be attending. SPRC would like to visit some dynamic vibrant children's programs with the Children's Council. Working on Leadership Retreat, last year's retreat was visionary, this year's theme is relationship building. December meeting was cancelled, due to no urgent matters.

Finance Committee – Report presented by Jennifer Carpenter. Finance will be meeting to cut an additional \$33,000.00 from the budget.

Trustees – not present, no report.

Memorial Committee – not present, no report.

Permanent Endowment Funds Committee – report presented by Brent Vickery. As of November 2008 we had received \$133,000.00. Projections for 2009 will be around \$92,000.00. Scholarship money will be \$3000.00 for the first 6 months in 2009.

Scholarship committee – Not present. No report.

Other Business Continued –

January 17 will be the Local Church Workshop at St. Lukes.

Sylvia Cobb inquired about the budget shortfall. Jennifer Carpenter answered that the budget shortfall involved a decrease in year end giving.

Kris Steele – Spring Semester for Sunday Night Classes will begin on January 25.

Motion to adjourn Jennifer Carpenter, seconded by Sylvia Cobb motion carried.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON February 19, 2008.

DISMISSAL WITH PRAYER – Dr. Marvin Hudson



Rev. Kris Steele
Associate Minister

Sunday Evening Bible Studies/ Outreach/Fellowship Schedule set to begin January 25, 2009

January 25th will signal the beginning of the spring semester's Sunday evening program which offers age appropriate bible studies, recreational classes, outreach opportunities, youth activities, children's ministries and a fellowship dinner. The schedule of class options will included:

"A Purpose Driven Life"

by Rick Warren

(led by Kevin and Kasie Nichols)

"Beginnings Two: The Spiritual Life"

(led by Terry Dyke)

"Confronting the Controversies"

by Adam Hamilton

(led by Gary Heilman)

"Experiencing the Power of Scripture"

(led by Dr. Marvin Hudson)

Line Dancing

(led by Carol and Chris Silvia)

Crocheting Class

(led by Marjean Johnson)

Support/Mentoring Outreach Ministry

at Project Safe

(led by Sandra Meyer and Sydney Casey)

Youth Ministry

(led by Lindsay Burress)

Bible Kids (children's ministry)

(led by Lauren Edwards)

All of the classes will begin each week at 4:30pm unless otherwise noted. In addition, a delicious dinner will be served in the fellowship hall at 6:00pm. Nick and Debbie Chlouber and Brad Snider will be in charge of the kitchen this semester.

The purpose of the Sunday evening program is to fulfill the mission statement of our church by *"drawing generations together to worship, study and serve"*. Sign up sheets for

the various classes will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, January 4th. Many of the courses require a book and/or other related educational material. The costs for these materials vary and will be the responsibility of the individual participating in the class. You may contact Kris Steele at 275-1556 or by email at wesleykrissteele@sbcglobal.net for additional information about this exciting ministry.

Our hope is that everyone in our church family will choose to participate in one of the Sunday evening options and begin a season of personal growth in drawing closer to God and one another!

Prayer Corner **Into The Unknown**



The Magi) went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. Matthew 2:9 (NIV)

My husband has been unemployed for three months, so I've taken a part-time job. But we're still falling behind each week. I continually ask God to provide my husband work. Meanwhile, I agonize over how long we will have to wait.

While teaching Sunday School recently, I learned that tradition says the wise men who visited Jesus spent about two years following the star to Bethlehem. What faith these men possessed. Did they have any idea what lay ahead of them through their travels? Did they know what they would find at the end of their trek? The depth of their faith and the magnitude of their discovery make my family's current journey into unknown territory seem far less serious by comparison.

Living the last three months on such a small income hasn't been easy and I don't know where we're headed. Perhaps my husband may have to change occupations, at least temporarily. But if the magi could cling to their faith for two years while following a star, then my family can hold tightly to our faith, secure in the belief that God is guiding us toward something good. ----Terry Newman

Oh God, we realize our journey through this life is similar to the wise men's. We travel not knowing where you will lead us but content that you are with us every step of the way. Amen



Lindsay Burress
Youth Director

We can not continue this ministry with out the help of volunteers, and we have many slots that are still left open.

Please pray about this ministry. Ask God if there is a way that you can help the youth or the children of our church. We need your help. We are furthering God's kingdom by ministering to these young people, but we need your help.

Thank you.

As our Spring semester of Sunday Evening Fellowship fast approaches, I ask you to consider how you might be able to serve.

Dr. Marvin's most recent sermon asked us how we could serve others. I ask you, how are you furthering God's kingdom? Dr. Marvin spoke of combining evangelism with mission work. That is the way to spread the Good News. Did you know that there are ways that you can be a part of that kind of service within the walls of Wesley?

You can be a part of this Evangelism/Mission oriented team. There are many slots still available. The only skills required are patience, love, and a passion for Christ. How are you needed?

We need a team to help with Sunday Evening fellowship. We have the lessons, we need leaders for small group discussion for both Middle School and High School. We also need leaders for recreational time. We always need people with a "help where I am needed" attitude.

We need a team of drivers to pick up kids and youth before Sunday Evening Fellowship, and then after dinner on Sunday night. We must continue to bring in kids from our community so that they can learn about the love of Christ, and it takes a team to do this.

On Wednesday, we need at least two adults to help with Middle School Bible study, and at least one adult to help with High School Bible study.

We will also need two people, and a driver to help with the drop off at the end of Logos for the youth.

Coming Events:

On Thursday, January 8th, the youth room will be filled with football fans and tasty food. Please join us at 6:30 pm to watch OU play in the National Championship Game on a 90 inch screen and a massive sound system! Everyone is invited. If you'd like to bring a tailgate snack, it would be highly appreciated!

Photos for Pictorial Directory

If you were unable to come to be photographed by the LifeTouch photographers, and would like to be included in the Wesley pictorial directory that's underway, please bring a photo to be submitted along with \$10 (cash or check payable to WUMC) for the LifeTouch charge per photo. Photos and payment will be mailed to LifeTouch along with page proofs, in approximately two weeks. Call Sue Dyke with questions, 275-1511.

Giving Statements

"The Yearly Statements are ready and in the tray under the pictures in the narthex."

Please look your statement over to and make sure it is correct. If you find a problem, please call Ann Dowdy at 273-3497 as soon as possible so she can give you a corrected statement. Thanks for your help in this matter.



**Lauren Edwards
Children's Director**

2009

God has blessed us with an amazing 2008, and I cannot wait to see what he has planned for 2009!

We have done so much in just the few months that I have been part of Wesley and I know that God is going to work wonders through this department for this year!

We finished of the year with the amazing Christmas program, letting our kids share the story of Christmas in such a unique way that they understood! It was amazing and such a blessing to get to work with each and every one of those kids!

Reminders:

The first Children's Council Meeting of 2009 will be after church on Sunday January 18th. Lunch and nursery will be provided.

Are you a parent (guardian)? Do you volunteer in the children's department? Would you like to volunteer in the children's department? If you answered yes to any other these questions I would like to invite you to a Parent/Volunteer lunch after church on January 25th (nursery provided).

This is such an important meeting; we are going to be talking about our new policies and procedures for our children's department.

Thank you for an amazing 2008, let's make an even better 2009!

God Bless,
Lauren Edwards

A Note From the Office.....

My new office hours will be Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:00pm. If you have anything you need to leave for me, please feel free to put in my "Inbox". It is on the wall outside my back door.

Please remember to continue to fill out "All Event Forms" for any event that requires the use of facilities, nursery or other items. Filling out our "All Event Form" also ensures information is put on the calendar so there is not scheduling conflict. Please check with the office for scheduling.

Purchases made from your Designated Fund must have a Purchase Order signed and approved by proper Committee persons **before** purchases are made.

All expenditures using General Funds at this time must also be approved by Finance. At this time we are at a spending freeze. All questions may be directed to Jennifer Carpenter. Checks will not be written unless prior approval was granted in writing.

January is always a busy month in the office. Please note that the office doors will be closed to ensure a quiet environment to wrap up end of the year, transition for the new year and complete W-2's for employees. But, I am always available at my office window if you have an immediate need. Thank you for your understanding.

Pamela Torrick

Scholarship Funds Available Now

The Scholarship Committee has now opened the application time for the Spring 09 semester under the W.R.C Fund. **Applications will be accepted immediately and through January 13th**, the close of the application period. Forms are online at: www.wesleyumcshawnee.org.

(Please note: Form should be for the **W.R.C. Fund only**.) Thank you on behalf of the entire committee, Chris Silvia, Phyllis Bolt, Marci Utter, Burky Curtis, Joyce Pippis and Conner Rutherford.



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; Mary Roberts; Viola Montgomery; Esther Mezger; Flo Kienzel; Alpha Mills; Lucie McDonald; Mary Ann Calvert (David Haberland's Mother).

AT HOME OR IN THE HOSPITAL

(Please note: Names will be removed after 3 weeks unless you call and return name to the prayer list. Hopefully this will keep our list current.)

John Chandler (Gwen's nephew); Larry Kibbie; Gwen Harlin; Gary O'Neal; and Louise Lantry (Mavis Lupton's sister).

OUR MILITARY NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS. PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Aaron McCowan nephew of Pat Snider; 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; Jeremy Barrett, grandson of Fern Barrett, Iraq; Craig Pope, Baghdad; Dale Torrick, (Chris Torrick's brother) Kandahar, Afghanistan.

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