

Wellspring United Methodist Church
6200 Williams Dr.
Georgetown, Texas 78633

Rev. Debra Crumpton, Pastor
Church: (512) 930-5959
Pastoral Care: (512) 677-3885
www.wellumc.org
Email: admin@wellumc.org

All are Welcome, All are Accepted

or current resident

Worship Times:
8:30 & 9:30am-Traditional Services
11:00 am-Contemporary Service

Great Day of Service Coming April 13

Join us for ONE Great Day of Service as we participate with other United Methodist Churches in the area. The event will be hosted in Round Rock. It will be from 8:00am-5:00pm. You can serve in 4 hour shifts or, if you choose, you can serve for the entire day.

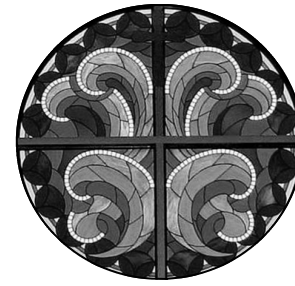
You can choose to work just a few hours (8:00-12:00 or 1:00-4:00) by helping to host a FREE car wash, making manna bags (distribution bags for the homeless), making hygiene kits for the homeless, crafting blankets, or by working in nursing homes painting finger nails or playing Bingo and visiting with the residents. Or you can choose to be in service all day (8:00-5:00) by building wheelchair ramps, painting homes, or other minor jobs for people in Williamson County.

This is going to be one GREAT Day. Sign up now! The cost is \$25 per person or \$75 per family maximum until April 1st and includes a t-shirt and mission supplies and lunch for all day jobs.

For more info and to sign up, please contact Rodney Williams, 512-930-5959 or youth@wellumc.org.



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Wellspring~The Source

BRINGING *life* TO THE
COMMUNITY

A Monthly Publication - April 2013

The Journey Continues

“Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:1 & 3b, NRSV)



Since the call of Abraham, God has been seeking those who will join the journey to be a blessing so that God’s kingdom may come upon the earth as it is in heaven. We are all sojourners seeking to fulfill God’s mission for our lives. In January 2008, I joined Wellspring’s journey and we began seeking what God had planned for our time together at Wellspring.

Thus, we held small group meetings to answer three simple questions about Wellspring.

- What brought you here?
- What kept you here?
- What is your vision for Wellspring?

At the conclusion of these meetings we had at retreat at FUMC Georgetown to discern the common threads in an effort to hear God speaking to us. During this time we learned that we held visions for the church that were in conflict and pulled our resources in different directions. Over the next four years we sought to discern clarity of focus and purpose, settling on a process called Focusing Our Way Forward (Visioning Team) using the tools of Holy Conversations. After two years of gathering information, analyzing data, and prayerfully discerning God’s will, the committee has recommended the following vision for Wellspring’s ministry focus.

The overarching theme is: Wellspring will minister to those who are in need, sick, hurting or troubled in Jesus’ name.

- **Wellspring will be a missional church (Wellspringers going into the world)**
- **Wellspring will reach the unchurched (bringing the world to Wellspring)**
- **Wellspring will be a nurturing community (all are welcome, all are accepted)**
- **Wellspring will leverage our land to outreach to our community**

We are thankful to Texas Methodist Foundation Consultant, Rev. Eric McKinney for his guidance in our process. And to each of you who shared your input by attending cottage meetings or completing surveys. Additionally, we are thankful to each church leader who labored faithfully and wrestled tirelessly with difficult questions until they reached a point of spiritual clarity. The details of the report and the names of those who reached this point will be listed on our website.

God’s promise to Abram was not fulfilled in Abram’s lifetime; but throughout the ages God has continued to call others into the journey. In June my part of the journey with Wellspring will reach completion, and I will go to join St. Andrews UMC in Arlington. More than ten years ago their leaders discerned God calling them to be a multi-cultural church. They have done so through missional engagement locally and internationally. Yet, they know their journey has not ended and are looking to take the next step. Likewise, Wellspring’s journey continues when church leaders install the Rev. Dr. Jeff Smith as its new pastor on Sunday, June 23, 2013. Jeff has taken his congregation, FUMC Burleson, through Holy Conversations and looks forward to leading you in the next phase of your journey.

Continued on Page 2...

Opportunities for Adults - Service, Mission and Prayer

From the Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Wellspring UMC is about to experience a long standing tradition of "passing the torch" of leadership from one pastor to another pastor. The change of pastors is a three-fold decision made by the departing minister and the church's Staff Parish Relations Committee, the incoming pastor and his/her church and the Bishop and his cabinet who are entrusted annually with orchestrating a whole series of appointments throughout the Annual Conference. The primary goal of the appointment system is to match the gifts and graces of a particular pastor to the ministry needs of a certain congregation at a particular time. On February 20th, our district superintendent brought to our SPRC a decision made by the Bishop and his cabinet. So here we go again for the fourth time in the life of our church. God is good!

The Reverend Pastor Debra Crumpton will be leaving Wellspring in June and has been appointed to St. Andrews UMC in Arlington, Texas, as Senior Pastor. While we will have several months to say our good-bye's and to thank Debra for her ministry, I would like to start the accolades by lauding her six years of leadership in establishing our Holy Conversations process in planning for the future of Wellspring, her excellent sermons (can we get an Amen?), her mentoring of an awesome staff and the diversity she has brought to this church. Debra's appointment to St. Andrews is important in many ways, but we wanted to share with you that she will be succeeding our Central Texas Conference's new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Clifton Howard. He will be replacing our current DS, the Rev. Rankin Koch who will be retiring.

Now, you may be wondering who has accepted an appointment to Wellspring? That person will be the Rev. Dr. Jeff Smith, who has served as the Senior Pastor for five years at FUMC in Burleson, TX. He has over 31 years of ministry in the Central Texas Conference. Both he and his wife Leah were raised in Ennis, TX. They have two grown, married children and are about to become grandparents, two times. Pastor Smith's experience is a wonderful fit for this appointment to Wellspring, to take the torch from Pastor Debra and lead us as we become more missional and continue to fulfill our role on the west side of Georgetown as a beacon for intergenerational growth and service.

There will be many additional details forthcoming as we go through this transition. The Holy Spirit is with us! God is good. To close, please consider the following verse from Romans 12:2 where Paul talks about change: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

God likes change; think about how we are to repent of our sins and accept Christ – that too is change! Amen

Cathy Wyman, SPRC Chair

"From the Pastor," continued from page 1...

Jeff and I met during my candidacy process when he was an Associate Pastor at FUMC Arlington. He is a great preacher with a compassionate pastor's heart who loves the church and kingdom work. I am thrilled that he will be the next pastor of Wellspring, and know that God will do amazing things through him. You will hear more about Jeff between now and his arrival in June as the Staff Parish Relations Committee leads us through the transition process. Please pray for all involved during this special time in the life of multiple congregations.

Shalom,

Debra

Methodist Federation for Social Action and PFLAG

The MFSA and PFLAG (the support group for Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gay persons) are co-sponsoring meetings for support and conversation on the fourth Monday evening of each month. For information, contact Judy Shepherd at 512-863-2862, Nettie Ruth Bratton at 512-240-5700, or Louise Schock at 512-943-9592.

United Methodist Women

Wellspring Ladies Spring Luncheon

Presents

"Gifted and Talented Christian Women"

Saturday, April 27, 2013

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Cowan Creek Amenities Center
(Sun City)

\$13 per person

You are invited to attend our 2nd annual spring luncheon for the ladies of Wellspring and their guests. Bring your mothers, daughters, friends and family to this just-for-women event! The program will feature dynamic speakers, fun, fellowship and music.

Tickets can be purchased in March by contacting Louise Schock at (512) 943-9592 or louiseshock@gmail.com.

Tickets will also be sold every Sunday in April (prior to the luncheon) in the Wellspring Munch & Mingle area. We look forward to seeing you there!

Youth Ministries

The youth group will be partaking in their annual **OneNow** weekend. OneNow is an event where all the Methodist and Presbyterian churches get together and focus on how to be a better follower of Jesus Christ. Our youth will have college leaders pouring into them all weekend as they also serve the community of Georgetown. The youth will need your help though. If you are able to donate any food for breakfast, lunch, or dinner that would be truly appreciated. The weekend that we will be having this event is April 19-21st.

Also, the youth group will be selling **mission shares** on April 14th at all services. The mission shares help us in raising funds for our mission trips this year. The high school youth will be going to Oklahoma this year and the middle school group will stay in Texas and do mission work in the conference. The mission shares are \$25 dollars for one and we hope that you will help us reach our goal of selling 100 mission shares.

For more info about programs for Youth (grades 6-12), please contact our Youth Minister, Rodney Williams, at 512-930-5959 or youth@wellumc.org.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY SERVICES (Worship Center)

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Traditional Worship
11:00 AM Contemporary Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES OFFERED

9:30 AM Chapel Dwellers (Rm 204)
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School (Rm 105)
9:45 AM Youth Sunday School (Rm 207)
9:45 AM The Journey Class (Admin Area)
10:45 AM Seasons of the Spirit Class (Rm 203)
10:45 AM Cornerstone Bible Study (Rm 204)
11:15 AM Children's Worship (Rm 106)

SUNDAY EVENTS

4:00 PM Youth Band Reh. (Worship Center)
5:30 PM MYF - Youth (Rm 207)

MONDAYS

1:00 PM Prayer Ministry (Chapel)

TUESDAYS

3:30 PM Handbell Choir Reh. (Worship Center)

WEDNESDAYS

Noon Bible Study: Bk of Revelation (Rm 203)
4:30 PM Santa Rosa's Mass (Worship Center)
6:30 PM Chancel Choir Reh. (Worship Center)
7:00 PM Youth Boot Camp (Rm 207)
7:45 PM Praise Band Reh. (Worship Center)

FRIDAYS

10:00 AM Close Friends (Munch & Mingle)

Coming Soon:

April 1: Easter Monday (Office Closed)
April 2: Trustees Committee
April 6: United Methodist Men breakfast
April 9: Finance Committee
April 17: SPRC Meeting
Apr. 19-21: Youth OneNow
April 27: UMW Ladies Spring Luncheon

Scheduling Events and Meetings

Please fill out a calendar request form (located in the church office) or you may send an email to admin@wellumc.org if you have an event or meeting to schedule, or a change in date. All events will be posted on the church calendar and can be accessed through the church website at www.wellumc.org.

Church Under the Bridge Reflections

Article and pictures by Frank Butts

I have been asked to author a short narrative about my perceptions of Wellspring's most recent journey to the "Church Under the Bridge." However, before I begin I feel it's necessary to introduce myself and how personal experiences may have "colored" my perceptions.

During my youth (Christian background), when I saw what would now be termed as "the homeless" they were more likely to be labeled as Bums, Beggars, Hobos or Transients. Many people of my generation in the congregation, may remember Red Skelton's portrayal of "Freddie the Freeloader" or Abbott and Costello as tramps with their bindles. These sketches were broadcast on T.V. during the 50's and 60's as humorous and entertaining comedy. In retrospect, I feel less certain about the comedic content of these shows.

My first interactions, age 18, with "the homeless" occurred along Cicero and 63rd St. on Chicago's south-side. I was pan-handled on several occasions. On the other hand more frequently, trying to avoid tripping over them at night, as they slept in doorways. I was walking to and from work for lack of bus fare. There was nothing I could do for them; any encounters were rife with negatives. So I changed my route to avoid them. Once learned this type of behavior is difficult to change.

When I heard Carol Hoke speak about Wellspring's out-reach mission to the "Church Under the Bridge", I felt a distinct "nudge." Here was an opportunity to personally participate in something meaningful. My first act after this service, was to "panhandle" my dentist for toothbrushes and toothpaste. A request that he graciously fulfilled.

About my venture to the "Church Under the Bridge." I was still feeling some residual trepidations when we volunteers assembled at Wellspring on that Sunday morning. For me a journey fraught with unknown consequences or outcomes

When we arrived, the area under the bridge was already a bee-hive of activity; volunteers setting up and the homeless beginning to line up. I must mention it was a very orderly line with no pushing, shoving or jockeying for a better position. The line was composed mainly of lone individuals; interspersed here and there with a few couples.



We first time volunteers were ushered aside for a short introduction about personal safety issues; followed by a short prayer. After the orientation, we dispersed to take up our various positions. I joined my wife briefly at the "book-table" where she and another volunteer were setting up. But then another truck pulled in loaded with tables and chairs. Being a first-timer, I loitered near the truck for a few moments allowing the more seasoned volunteers to step forward. I then joined in, carrying the chairs and "rolling" tables to a spot near the "Mission Possible" van. I then rejoined my wife and the other volunteer at the "book-table." With little or no activity there, as yet, I circulated as unobtrusively as possible taking photos which I hoped to share with the Wellspring congregation.

One of the patrons at the "book-table" could not decide which toothpaste to take, I suggested he take both. He gave me a huge grin showing that he was already missing several teeth. One of the most trying circumstances for me was a seven year old girl that was there with her Dad. He had lost his job, home and then his wife.

Please turn over and keep reading...



Another was a 20-something young woman that was making yet another attempt to get off drugs. Her boyfriend had torpedoed her last attempt by making drugs available in circumstances where she could not resist; this revelation coming from her after several abortive attempts to speak about what was bothering her. Probably, the funniest was an old woman who told her husband "to step way from the table" as she had already gotten him a dental hygiene kit.

Overall, I was and still am awed by the presence of so many volunteer organizations and the coordination of effort which they displayed. In my estimation, The "Church Under the Bridge" is a "work in progress." Going forward, I hope and pray that our congregation will continue to support and possibly improve upon this mission's needs. There were many unfulfilled requests.

How YOU Can Help!

There are several ways the congregation can help in this mission opportunity:

- Ask your dentist for donations of dental hygiene kits
- Donate travel-sized shampoo, conditioner, lotions, soap, etc.

There is a box downstairs labeled "Church Under the Bridge" to drop-off donations.

- Financial contributions to pay for breakfast tacos and fruit. (Please turn in to the church office.)

Questions? Want to get involved? Please contact Carol Hoke in the church office, 512-930-5959 or pastoral@wellumc.org.



"...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."

Matthew 25: 35