

Wellspring United Methodist Church
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All are Welcome, All are Accepted

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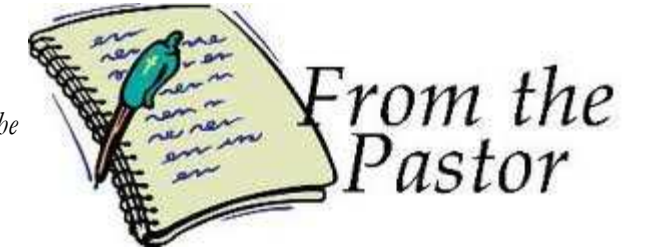
Wellspring~The Source

BRINGING *life* TO THE
COMMUNITY

A Monthly Publication - December 2012

A Different Christmas

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7, NRSV)



Have you ever arrived at Christmas morning completely exhausted? Or have you ever found yourself on Christmas night feeling it's gone too soon? After months and weeks of preparation suddenly the day has come and gone.

Since childhood, I have always been sad to see Christmas day come to an end. It later became my tradition on Christmas night to sit by the Christmas tree looking at the lights, listening to Christmas carols, and reflecting on the hectic rush of the past few weeks; silently saying next year will be different.

But, the next year has not been different. Through the years it seems things got more frantic. Ministry brought the excitement of planning for Christmas Eve Services — which meant I was no longer home watching midnight mass, but I was actually participating in worship on Christmas Eve. Before coming to Wellspring, there was always the 11:00 pm service which meant getting home at 1:00 am and in bed around 2:30. Then came that early morning phone call from my nephew Andreas, *“Deb, where are you? Can you come now? I want to open my presents.”* And I would silently say next year will be different; I will keep his presents at my house.

So what if Christmas was not about receiving presents at all? What if Christmas was about becoming presents??? On that first Christmas, the baby that was wrapped in bands of cloth became God's present to the world. We are familiar with John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world...”* yet it is Luke 4:18-19, that more vividly describes the purpose of this gift:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

This year, we want Christmas to be different in the life of our church. In addition to the church-wide study of Mike Slaughter's [A Different Kind of Christmas](#), we have identified two ways through which we can join together and become presents to those in needs:

- a. The youth are leading a shoebox ministry for the children at the Methodist Children Home in Waco.
- b. Ron Spates, our Mission Chair, is coordinating with Brenda Brooks, a church member and teacher at Carver Elementary School, to create an Angel Tree for the 21 students in her class.

Of course, these are not all the ways we can be presents — there are hospitals and nursing homes where many are alone and lonely; there are those who will be experiencing the first Christmas without a loved one. I hope that each of you will join in whatever way you can to become presents to others and make this a Different Christmas at Wellspring, in Georgetown, and the world.

Blessings,

Debra

Worship Times:

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

Have you turned in your pledge card yet?
“Count Me In!”

Schedule of Holiday Service Times

Please mark your calendar with our list of holiday services:

November 25: Thanksgiving weekend — Please join us as we begin our Advent Journey!

December 23: Our Wellspring Choir will present their Christmas Cantata, “Follow the Star, Follow the King” at the 9:30 service. We will also have contemporary worship service at 11:00.

December 24: Christmas Eve (*there will be communion at all four services*)

3:00 p.m. - Chapel Service: Piano-led carols, intimate, contemplative service

5:00 p.m. - Family Service with Children's musical

7:00 p.m. - Traditional Music and Candlelight

9:00 p.m. - Contemporary Music and Candlelight

December 30: Services will be at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

We will resume our normal worship schedule on Sunday, January 7th.

Opportunities for Adults - Service, Mission and Prayer

Close Friends Needs Volunteers

Close Friends is a program that provides weekly programming for persons with Alzheimer's. They have games, entertainment, crafts, lunch and fellowship. Many volunteers are needed as the program also serves as a "caregivers day out." They meet on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Gary Carver at 512-966-0421

UMW Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 1st
La Madeline - in Round Rock
11:30-1:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10.50 and will go on sale soon.

This is a members-only event. Limited space is available so get your ticket now.



Church Wide Advent Study

Join us every Sunday in December and on Christmas Eve as we study together, [A Different Kind of Christmas](#) by Mike Slaughter. Pick up a book at the Welcome Desk.

Sunday school classes are following along with additional discussion. Classes meet at 9:30 and 11:00 — feel free to join in!

Free Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 1st!

Everyone is invited to free breakfast at the church on Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. - noon hosted by the United Methodist Men. It is our last yard work day of 2012. We want to get our flower beds, playground and yard looking beautiful for Christmas season. Please bring your favorite tools and working friends.

Special Christmas Offering

In the past, we have used our Christmas Offering to complete our apportionments for the year. This year, we hope to use at least half of our Christmas Offering to help with local missions, such as Backpack Buddies, Carver Elementary, Caring Place, etc.

Faith in Action Caregivers Georgetown

Annual Cookie Delivery

Each year Faith in Action Caregivers – Georgetown delivers goody bags to our clients during the Christmas season. With the help of volunteers and members of our sponsoring churches we have been able to brighten our seniors' holiday with home baked cookies and small remembrances. We need 25 dozen cookies from each of our churches.

If you would like to bake cookies or help deliver them, please call the office at 868-9544. Bring your cookies to First UMC - McKinney Ministry Bldg. by 9:00 am on December 4. Thank you for your help.

From the Church Office

What Are Those??

Wellspring now has Quick Response (QR) codes -- one for the website and another for our Facebook page. Just scan the code with your smart phone and you will be instantly transported to our pages. Give it a try!



Website



Facebook

“Welcome to Wellspring UMC, How May I Help You?”

Do you have a free morning or afternoon during the week? *We need YOU!* Volunteers are needed to help with answering phones, greeting church visitors, and other easy tasks as needed -- training provided! If you would like to join our office team, please contact Jennifer Kendrick, at admin@wellumc.org or 512-930-5959.

Church Office - Holiday Closings

Please note, the church office will be closed on the following dates: December 24, 25, 31; and January 1.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Children and Family Ministries

Children's Ministry News

A very warm welcome to **Eva Marie Cogdell**, who was born on October 21! We will hold a church-wide “diaper shower” in December--more info to come. Congrats Christina, Lewis, and big brother Theao!

A huge thank you to all who took part in Wellspring Wednesdays! It was great to see familiar faces from church as well as new ones from the community. The kids' program, Family Faith & Fun Night, will resume again on January 16, and all children ages 3 years through 5th grade are welcome.

Thanks to all who have been donating to The Caring Place and The Children's Advocacy Center during the Lesson For All Ages in the 9:30 and 11:00 services! This month, the donations from the kids (and whomever else would like to contribute) will go toward our adopted Angel Tree child. Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

Children's Christmas Musical

On Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m., we will be blessed to hear the Christmas story as told by “The Fumbly Bumbly Angels.” Four delightful angels yearn to sing in the glorious heavenly choir, but discover their debut will be for a few ragged shepherds on a Bethlehem hillside. As the story unfolds through drama, musical anthems, and congregational carols, participants and congregants alike gain an enjoyable new perspective of Jesus' birth. Children ages 3 years through grade 5 are invited to participate in the musical. Rehearsals are on Sundays from 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Please contact Julia Potter at 512-919-0520 or juliapotterpaino@gmail.com.

Youth Ministries

Youth Holiday Mission Project

The youth will be working on a shoe box ministry and will need your help. If you are willing to donate shoe boxes and items to go into the shoe boxes that would be really helpful. The items that we would need help with filling the boxes can be: toiletries, hot wheels cars, snacks, and any other assorted items that would benefit kids. We will be sending our boxes to the Methodist Home in Waco, Texas.

Please bring items to donate by December 4th. If you have any questions contact Rodnei Williams, 512-963-8705 or youth@wellumc.org. Thank you!!

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 St. Helen'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:

Dec. 1 UMW Christmas Event
Breakfast and Church Work Day
Dec. 2 First Sunday in Advent
Dec. 23 Choir Cantata at 9:30
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services
3:00, 5:00, 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 Christmas Day (Office Closed)

Scheduling Events and Meetings

Please contact the office at 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.