

The Wesley Foundation at
Sam Houston State University
1632 University Ave, Huntsville, TX
77340

Stamp
Zone

The Wesley Bearkat

The Official Newsletter of the SHSU Wesley Foundation

Fall 2016 Edition

A newsletter designed to be experienced in 7 minutes, for people on the go!



The Wesley Foundation at
Sam Houston State University
1632 University Ave,
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A Few Quick Words from Greg

Our Wesley staff and crew have received a wonderful blessing this semester: the addition of a temporary, volunteer, part-time associate campus minister! Pastor Jennifer Webber comes from Maryland. Her husband, Rob, became the director of the Lohman Student Center. They moved to Huntsville for his job in May, never having lived this far from home. In the meantime, the Cabinet of our Annual Conference has been working to find her a church somewhere near Huntsville. Until that church appointment is secured, she has graciously volunteered her gifts and time to help our ministry grow more! It is so awesome having two United Methodist elders at our Wesley. Jen is a great female role-model to our students, leads Cookie Tuesday, helps advertise for us in the SHSU Mall Area, has supported many of our special events, preached and led worship on Oct 19 when I was on my vacation, and will also be our speaker for our Fall Retreat! She will also be our preacher for our Christmas service on Nov 30.

I wish there were funds available to bring her on full-time! At least we've given her an office, a parking spot (which are at a premium at SHSU), and as many perks as we can think of! At the same time, she gets to use her ministry gifts to impact the lives of our college students. Whether she is with us for the Fall Semester or until June, it has been a tremendous blessing welcoming her into our Wesley family, and benefiting from her gifts, character and work!

In Christ's Service,
Greg



Generosity Corner

Cyber Monday is coming soon!
If you are among the many online shoppers who use Amazon, on Cyber Monday or the other 364 days of the year, we would love for you to select the Wesley as your charity of choice for the Amazon Smile program. This is where Amazon gives a portion of your purchases back to the Wesley Foundation. If you don't use Amazon, but know someone who does, please pass this on to them!

"How do I sign up?" Go to:
www.smile.amazon.com



In the search engine to find us as your community organization to support, type out: **Sam Houston State Wesley Foundation**. Pick us! It will not find "SHSU Wesley," etc.

Dates/Events on the Horizon:

Nov 11-13: Annual Fall Retreat; this year: Camp Hoblitzelle in Midlothian, TX
Nov 20- Thanksgiving Pot-Luck
Nov 28- Decorate the Wesley for Christmas
Nov 30 - Last Dinner of 2016; Christmas Worship
Dec 1- Wesley Christmas Party
Dec 3 - Nursing Home Carling
Dec 4- Parsonage Christmas Open House
Dec 5-8- Finals Week
Dec 9 & 10- SHSU Winter Graduation
Dec 10- Participating in Santa's Helpers @ Wesley Memorial UMC
Late Dec- new flooring to be installed in Dining Area and Living Area
Jan 17- Welcome Back Bash
Jan 20-22- Leadership Planning Retreat
Feb 17-19- All Campus Retreat @ Sky Ranch
March 12-18- Spring Break

**Next Wesley Bearkat Newsletter:
Spring Edition
Mid-March 2017**

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Welcome Week

We recruited hard during the summer. We stayed in touch with all of our prospective freshmen. Then August 20 came. We held our breaths. We prayed for God to bring us a great harvest of new friends. He did! We had nearly 40 new people, transfers and freshmen, connect with the Wesley in our first month. We made sure that Welcome Week was filled with fun activities like our first water war, as well as our traditional ones such as the Pancake Breakfast on Monday, and the Ice Cream Feast on Tuesday night. With a strong recruiting class, and a strong Welcome Week, we would enjoy 50+ students in Weds Worship for over two months. Every great journey begins with a great first step, and Welcome Week certainly did that for us!



Wesley Students join others in Baton Rouge Trip (9/2-9/4/16)

The director of the Baptist Student Ministry came to my office with something on his heart: the people of Baton Rouge, and their homes ravaged by the floods of August. That was the moment our Wesley joined in an effort to send students to help in recovery efforts during Labor Day Weekend. Several of our Wesley students joined with dozens of others from several SHSU Christian organizations. Their goal: serve together to be the hands and feet of Christ to a disaster zone. They demoed. They mucked-out houses. They cleaned up debris. They came back with stories! This is reason #882 to be proud of your Wesley Bearkats!



Wesley Bearkats support F.U.M.C. Huntsville's Great Day of Service (11/5/2016)

We want to do whatever we can to bless our nearby churches, as they have blessed us this year! First Methodist of Huntsville has a "Great Day of Service" every fall. As we have in previous years, we sent a contingent of college students to aid in their efforts to share Christ with Huntsville through acts of service. Our students helped pack flood buckets for Louisiana flood relief, packed hygiene kits, as well as helping at a Habitat for Humanity site. It was a beautiful morning to serve God, side by side with ministry partners!



Fourth Annual Parents'/Families Lunch Another Success

Let's face it: we parents have fond memories of those meet-the-teacher nights with our children when they were in elementary school. It is in a similar spirit that we had an open house and program for parents and families of our students on October 29. Parents (and grand-parents alike) see their students' home away from home, meet their friends and campus ministers, and hear about the many ways the Wesley is to benefit their lives.



Time Capsule Un-Earthed at Fifth Annual Alumni Lunch



On October 15 we had another great Alumni Lunch! Multiple alumni who came hadn't been to the Wesley in many years, and were delighted to view our legacy posters (each displaying a decade of the life of their Wesley). We even had three student presidents in a row, from '71, '72 and '73, participate! Our younger alumni dug up a time capsule from ten years ago. Though most of the contents had been destroyed by water, this inspired our current students to create our own in 2017. Expect a newsletter article on that in March!

Halloween Party (10/31/16) Breaks Records



For many years, the Wesley has hosted countless Halloween parties that are good, clean fun compared to other college student gatherings on this big night of the year. Our annual event broke all records- we enjoyed the participation of 74 students. We ate well, we had costume contests, played multiple games, and enjoyed delicious Farmhouse pie! It came together exceptionally well! Plus, we met many new people too!

Homecoming Parade: Another Glorious Wesley Adventure (10/13/16)



This year, SHSU and Huntsville High combined our Homecoming parades. Thousands of people lined the streets of Huntsville for this huge event. We had 30 people on our float crew. The theme was "Superheroes". Right up our alley! We were the only faith-based organization in the parade. We also won "Committee's Choice Award"! Wow!

Service Project: Cookies for Police (10/8 & 10/9/2016)



Current events show us that now would be a great time to go out of our way to share support for the men and women of our police departments. Our students baked many dozens of cookies, and delivered them to both the Huntsville and University Police Departments. We ensured there were enough bags for all police officers to get at least one. We also included encouraging notes and other acts of love to show them they are in our prayers.