



THE WESLEY BEARKAT

OFFICIAL SHSU WESLEY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020

Edition

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



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Sept 2020– Gradual Return from Exile



A Few Quick Words from Greg

It's a different semester, that's for sure! SHSU was bracing for a loss of enrollment due to Covid fears, but fortunately, enrollment went slightly up to 21,917 students (a 1.67% net increase compared to Fall 2019). With that said, campus foot traffic is way smaller. Most of the 22,000 enrolled are virtual only, having remained in their home towns and cities. The good news for us: we still have met lots of new people who have connected with the Wesley this semester!

Our aim to move forward in these challenging times was to take reasonable and sustainable precautions, with reasonable risk, with common sense, based on the data and facts. We have done well to do great ministry while working to prevent the spread of Covid-19 through our ministry.

Before the Covid-19 Era began, our society and college campuses were already experiencing extreme isolation, lack of social interactions, and the tertiary effects of that such as depression, anxiety, loneliness, addictions, suicide and unhealthy lifestyle habits. I fear the response to Covid has made all of those things even worse and more severe. We choose to be a part of Jesus' solution to a hurting world and a hurting society. We will be a faith community that helps make the love of Christ real to others in such a time as this.

In Christ's Service,

Greg



SHSU Campus ministries praying together at the Wesley for National See You at The Pole.
A rainy day couldn't stop us from praying!

CONNECT WITH US!



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Welcome Week Draws

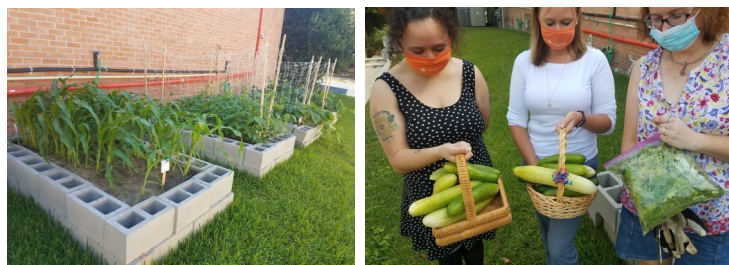
More New Faces! 8/17-8/21/2019

There were no in-person orientations this summer. This means, we were unable to recruit incoming students at the student org fair during each orientation. Fortunately, we had reached out to 50 churches to connect with their recent graduates. We recruited several, plus plenty of new faces for Welcome Week events! It was still one of our strongest Welcome Weeks, despite the challenges that 2020 has brought us!



First Harvest (9/1/2020)

September 1 was a historic day for our Wesley ministry. It was our First Harvest! Nearly three months of effort led to this day, and have also set the stage for other future harvests too. The SHSU Food Pantry had their ribbon-cutting ceremony right next door to us in February. We had a vision to use the green alleyway between our two buildings as the location for 12 vegetable garden beds. Thanks to missions funding from the West District of the UMC, we installed the watering system and 5 vegetable beds. Wesley and SHSU Food Pantry students have been daily watering them since July. The sole purpose of these veggie beds is to alleviate food insecurity on our college campus. Our veggie garden was also featured in 4 different publications, including the Huntsville newspaper, the Walker County magazine and the SHSU news network!



Now streaming on Facebook Live!

Would you like to join us live, online, for Weds Worship? We now use Facebook live to stream our worship services! It has been a joy to see parents, alumni, current students and guests joining us at 7p every Weds for worship!



Wesley Steeple Remodeled!

Another building project that was years-in-the-making is now completed! Thanks to funding from a Wesley alumnus, the rotting wood of the steeple has been replaced, and one of our key landmarks now looks absolutely gorgeous. Special thanks to Wesley Perla and his team of Updated Home Remodeling!



Three Baptisms Celebrated at the Wesley, with More on the Way

Our main purpose is to help college students discover the greater life in Jesus Christ. Many of our Wesley crew did not have a background in the church or the Christian faith before joining our Wesley. Jesus is certainly moving our ministry!



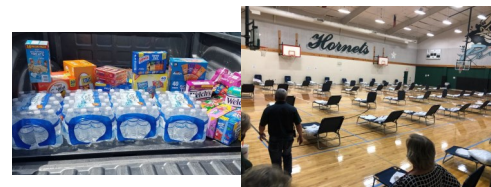
Covid-19 Couldn't Stop Us From Serving!



SHSU had 3 Move-In Days in August. We served over 400 people with free water, lemonade and snow cones in 100+ degrees heat.



On multiple days in June, students of the Wesley and SHSU Food Pantry worked together to build Phase 1 of the Vege-



Huntsville High School hosted evacuees from Hurricane Laura. Our Wesley donated water bottles and food items to help them.

Throughout May and June, our students joined forces at the SHSU stadium with other volunteers to help the Houston Food Bank give away 364,700 pounds of food to 7,294 vehicles affected by the financial consequences from the response to Covid.



Our August and September monthly offering helped us buy 30,000 sheets of paper to donate to a Huntsville school: Gibbs Pre-School.



We spent a Saturday morning helping sort and arrange at the Come Center Resale Shop (9/26/20).



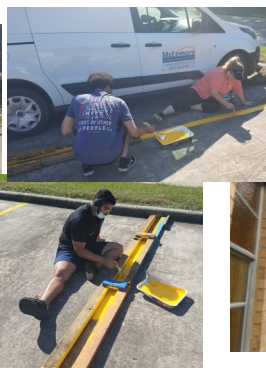
We sent a team to First Methodist Huntsville to help them in their Saturday workdays at the church (9/19/20).



We helped unload 988 pumpkins at 1st Methodist for their annual Pumpkin Patch (9/29/20).



A Wesley alumnus from '95, serving in the National Guard, was serving evacuees at the Walker County Storm Shelter. He asked us if we could donate socks, and we did!



In early October, we sent two teams for different painting projects. One team went to New Waverly Elementary to repaint parking stripes. Another team went to Galilee Church of God to help paint the eaves and their front door. Both projects came to our attention through Wesley students who asked the question: "What if this was something our team could do?" This Saturday project was a stand-alone effort of the Wesley.

**The Wesley Foundation at
Sam Houston State University
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**Stamp
Zone**

Generosity Corner

New Donation Options Available!

If you use PayPal, Apple Pay, Google Pay, or Venmo, you can use your phone to scan the QR codes to donate electronically to support the ministry of the Wesley! Our students also use these apps to help support our Weds night offering, since many do not carry cash on a regular basis!

www.SHSUWesley.org



www.venmo.com/SHSUWesley-Foundation



www.paypal.me/SHSUWesleyFoundation



Our Dates/Events on the Horizon:

- 10/31/20- Halloween Party
- 11/6/20- Great Day of Service w/ 1st Methodist Huntsville
- 11/8/20- Drive-In Movie #4, Wesley Parking Lot
- 11/13-11/15/20- Fall Retreat, Lakeview Conf. Center
- 11/22/20- Thanksgiving Potluck
- 12/1/20- SHSU Tree of Lights on YouTube Live
- 12/2/20- Wesley Christmas Service
- 12/3/20- Wesley Annual Christmas Party, 6-9pm
- 12/7-12/9/20- Final Exams at SHSU, Finals Games, Free Lunches at Noon
- 12/12/20- Santa's Helpers w/ Wesley Memorial UMC
- 1/12/21- Welcome Back Bash
- 1/13/21- First Day of Spring 2021 semester; 1st Worship
- 1/16/21- Leaders Planning Meeting

**Next Wesley Bearkat Newsletter:
Spring 2021 Edition
Later-March**