



THE WESLEY BEARKAT

OFFICIAL SHSU WESLEY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

Edition

*A newsletter designed
to be experienced in 9
minutes, for people
on the go!*



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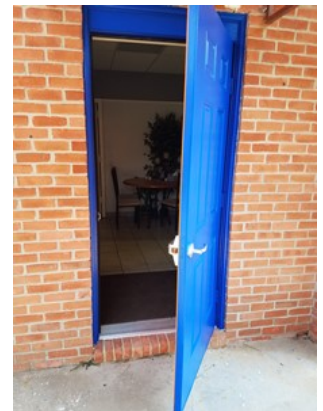


4/15/19- Resurrection Week Dinner

A Few Quick Words from Greg

Our facilities improvement this year was four brand new doors for the Wesley! The old ones were literally falling off the hinges, and we did everything we could to extend their lifespans as far as possible. Compared to the many building improvements we've had over the past several years, this might not seem that exciting, but it definitely makes a difference in the day-to-day life of our ministry!

That made me think: We hold doors open for people to be courteous, especially here in Texas. Have you ever met someone you held the door for and they didn't want to step through at all? Me neither. Yet, that is what ministry is about: opening doors for others to experience hospitality, joy, peace, beautiful memories, hope, and ultimately: a life filled with Jesus Christ. We do our part as best as we can, and the rest is up to the individual to step through the door on faith. I wish there was a magic spiel that would cause 100% of every college student we meet to commit to a life of Christ, discipleship and step through that door. There isn't one universal spiel because everyone's story is different. Yes, the old adage is true: "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink." We can only graciously invite others, to "hold the door," and leave it open to them to decide to step through.



In Christ's Service,

Greg

CONNECT WITH US!



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SHSU Wesley Ministry Receives TWO More Sammy Awards (4/10/19)

In the season of Academy, Emmy and Grammy Awards, Sam Houston State University hosted their 25th Annual "Sammy" Awards to recognize achievements, commitments and service of students, faculty, staff and organizations. This year, the Sam Houston Wesley Foundation received their sixth Sammy for Outstanding Religious Organization. **To add to that, the Wesley at SHSU also received the award for Outstanding Overall Student Organization of the 270 student organizations of SHSU!**

The university's newspaper, the Houstonian, had this to share about the Sammy Awards: "The Sammy's most fundamental purpose is to award those for their zealous efforts in giving back to the community." "The dedication and focus are hard to beat. The Wesley Foundation and the individuals of 'Wesley' truly are a blessing to SHSU and the community," said Dr. Roger Abshire, who served as the faculty advisor for the Wesley Foundation for several years and had also served as Wesley Board Chair for multiple terms.

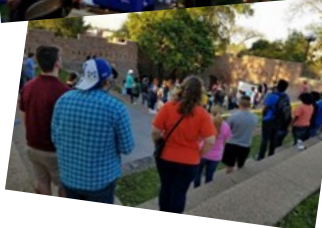
"I'm still on cloud 9 after that night," said Hailey Finn, a freshman Mass Communications major from League City, TX who also serves as the Wesley Representative. "I'm a part of an organization that has completely changed my life for the better since the day I stepped through that door last semester. I had the privilege to go up on stage with a few fellow council members to accept both awards. I'm beyond grateful for this org and wouldn't want anyone else to be on my journey in finding God."

"To receive the Outstanding Overall award was a gigantic feat," said Greg. "As I listened to what other student organizations had done to be awarded their category's awards, I was blown away by the impact and dedication of their crews. The selection committee certainly had an abundance of fantastic student organizations to choose from, and we cannot overstate what an honor it was for Sam Houston State University to observe and recognize what our Wesley college students do to bring glory to God and increase the fame of Christ Jesus."



SHSU Easter Service Brings Together Christian Groups (4/15/19)

It is beautiful to see nearly a dozen campus ministries come together as one family and one church to eat together and worship together on a university campus. We had absolutely beautiful weather this year for our annual Resurrection Week dinner and worship. Your Wesley ministry graciously organizes an Easter service for the SHSU community on the Monday before Easter. This year, there were more ministries represented than any previous year. In a time when Christian organizations are disbanding each year, this brings hope and encouragement to one another.



Potato Fundraisers Raise \$10,700 for Wesley Ministry

In a time where the UMC is having to make lots of cuts due to dwindling resources, we are trying our hardest to raise as much as we can to keep up with the costs of ministry. Nearly 20% of our ministry funds come from outside of Annual Conference apportionments. A big chunk of that is from our annual baked potato fundraiser. A HUGE thank you to our supporting churches:

2/10/19- FUMC Huntsville

3/4/19- Stoneham UMC, Navasota

3/4/19- Farris Chapel UMC

3/22/19- Riverside UMC

3/24/19- Paul Horton UMC

3/31/19- Madisonville UMC

5/5/19- Bays Chapel UMC

5/5/19- Richards UMC

5/5/19- Wesley Memorial UMC



Finishing Strong: End of Year Event Sees New Handprints, Launches Graduates (4/28/19)

We really wish you could witness our student crew ending strong for the academic year! Every year, the memories are powerful. Saying "see you later & God-speed!" is never easy in campus ministry. We conclude the year with a nice dinner at Olive Garden, then head back to the Wesley. There we give out superlative awards, view the picture movie of the year, all the new people of the year put their hand prints on the Wall of Fame, and we share memories with our graduating seniors and present them their Wesley chord, signed picture frame, and dedicated cross.



SHSU at Lakeview Summer Camp!

Throughout the summers, many of our college students serve as youth/church summer interns, many others work at various Christian camps throughout Texas. This year, the SHSU Wesley had a strong presence at the Jr High-Age level of Session 3 at Lakeview Summer Camp. They helped 4th & 5th grade campers stay on a camp schedule, stay hydrated, stay safe, and connect well with God. Greg was the co-director for the group of 160 programs staff, adult volunteers and youth campers. Our Wesley also sponsored a huge care package of products for a prison ministry called Syndeo (see SyndeoMinistries.Com). Back in May, the Wesley also sponsored one of eight picnic tables built for Lakeview by Boy Scout Troop 114 of Huntsville.



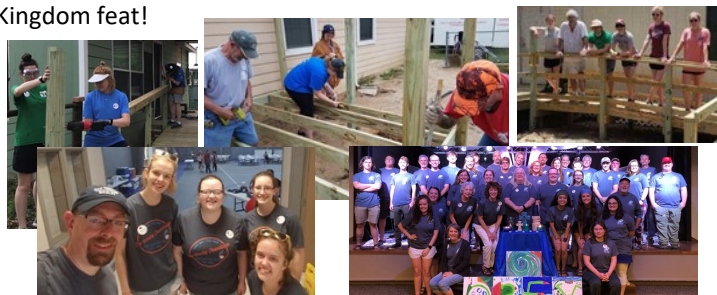
Special Thanks to all of the Sunday Schools/churches who sponsored Wednesday night dinners for the 2018-2019 Academic Year:

- 10/10/18— St Paul's UMC, Huntsville
- 10/24/18— Inquirers Class of First UMC, Huntsville
- 11/7/18— Friends Class of First UMC, Huntsville
- 11/14/18— Madisonville UMC Youth Group
- 1/16/19— Upper Room Sunday School of First UMC, Huntsville
- 1/23/19 & 1/30/19—Farris Chapel UMC
- 10/17/18 & 2/27/19— Riverside UMC, Riverside
- 11/28/18 & 3/6/19— The Bowen Family of Anderson UMC
- 4/24/19— Raising Cain's Chicken/Mr. Ryan Pruitt
- 5/1/19— Trinity UMC

If your church/UMW/Men's Ministry/Sunday School would like to bring a meal, please call us at 936-295-5463, or email shsuwesleyfoundation@gmail.com.

College UM ARMY in Athens, TX May 19—25, 2019

This year for College UM ARMY, dozens of college students and older adults gathered in Athens, TX for their week-long mission camp. What made this College UM ARMY Camp unique was the amount of wheelchair ramps that were built for kids with cerebral palsy. Every dollar mattered, since a wheelchair ramp cost can range between \$900 to \$1,500, depending on the size and length. We built 5 of them! Four were for kids with special needs, and another for a fantastic 80-years-young veteran. Two other families with special needs kids were also helped. We also cleaned out lots of debris and filled a dumpster in just two days. Payne Springs UMC stepped up as an outpost for us to use, thus reducing our trip distance and time to the dumpster. We helped the Athens Food Pantry, and collaborated well with local ministries. In all, our UM ARMY Camp served 14 clients with 5 work teams! An impressive Kingdom feat!



Stamp Zone

To register by phone: Call 1-800-576-4377, Select #3, tell the person you want to register for Community Rewards. Have available: your Zip code, Name, Address, Kroger card number, & LC384

8/3/19- SHSU Summer Graduation
8/17/19- SHSU Move In Day!
8/17-8/22/19- Welcome Week Events: Move-In Movie, Messy Sunday, Campus Tours & Pancake Brunch, Luau Party, Hide and Seek around SHSU Campus
8/21/19- First Weds Dinner & Worship of the year
8/23-8/25/19- Fall Leadership Retreat @ Montgomery
9/13-9/15/19-Wesley Fall Retreat @ Carolina Creek
9/21/19- Family/Parents' Lunch @ The Wesley, 11a
10/5/19- Battle of the Piney Woods, NRG Stadium
10/17/19- SHSU Homecoming Parade
10/19/19- 8th Annual Wesley Alumni Lunch TBD
10/31/19- Annual Halloween Party

**Next Wesley Bearkat Newsletter:
Fall 2019 Edition
Early November**

