



THE WESLEY BEARKAT

OFFICIAL SHSU WESLEY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021

Edition

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

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

The SHSU Wesley Staff:

Rev. Greg Oberg
Campus Minister / Wesley Director

Georgia Oberg
Business Manager

Nic Hendricks
Connections Intern

Rebecca Chuckran
Kitchen Intern/ Chef

Natalie Fellers/Sydney Fillip
Interim Worship Leaders, Fall 2021

Nathan Atterberry
Custodian

Halloween Party, 10/30/2021



A Few Quick Words from Greg

I heard a wise quote that said: "You can learn a lot about a person by how they treat animals." No doubt, you and I have seen plenty of cruelty and neglect of animals in our lifetimes. Yet, there are many times we get it right as humans. We got it right with Wesley Cat, a Huntsville feral cat who found his way to our parking lot in 2014 and found a home with us when our business manager fed him. She also used her own money to vaccinate him and fix him. At least he forgave us for that and continued being a greeter to countless students and guests of our parking lot over 7 years. Before he came we had a mouse problem. After he came: no more mice. He was also our official SHSU Wesley mascot. I have countless memories of him greeting me in the morning. I also was glad to trudge through the ice and snow during Snowvid 2021 to feed him and care for him each day.



Sadly, Wesley Cat passed away on National Cat Day, 10/29. We held a service of remembrance and thankfulness for him, as alumni chimed in and offered their memories, too. He was laid to rest to oversee the parking lot he cared for, where he had seen all the people he cared about over the years. I am glad that we he was loved by so many good humans called the Wesley. We are also glad he was our greeter, mouse-deterrent, mascot, and most of all: our friend.

In Christ's Service,

Greg



CONNECT WITH US!



Team Wesley Serves Over 400 People for Move-In Weekend

This was the second year that SHSU move-in covered three different days. Our snow cone and water station provided cooling relief to volunteers, parents and new students. We served over 400 people across those three days. We also provided free parking, and some free labor to help people move in too!



Wesley Ministry Receives Third Place in SHSU's Homecoming Week

With SHSU bringing back activities and traditions, we were ready to be a light in such times. The Wesley shows up. We love our campus and want to do our part to support SHSU, and sharing the light and love of Christ as we do it. For Homecoming Week, we donated the most canned goods of a student organization. We were at the Homecoming Carnival. Stephanie Wagon and her team worked hard on our banner. The Wesley was the only SHSU campus ministry in the parade. With all this involvement, SHSU awarded us Third Place in the spirit competition among the 200+ student organizations.



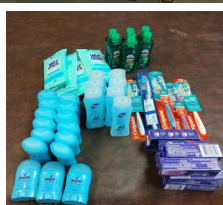
Serving the Kingdom with First UMC of Huntsville

We are grateful for the many churches who support us and we partner with. The closest church to our campus ministry is First UMC Huntsville. We have enjoyed a strong relationship with them since our beginning, 80 years ago in 1941. This semester was another great semester of bridge-building. The Wesley hosted two different FUMC Youth Ministry outings. The Wesley crew helped unload 1,300 pumpkins for FUMC's Pumpkin Patch. And then they helped at Trunk or Treat. And then they helped at FUMC's Great Day of Service. Meanwhile, several Sunday Schools of FUMC provided Wednesday night dinners for the Wesley. FUMC has graciously selected the Wesley as a recipient of the 2021 Christmas offering. Our ministry partnership continues to remain strong and growing!



Supporting Huntsville Intermediate School

Two Wesley students and one alumnus work full-time at Huntsville Intermediate School. There is lots of poverty and great need in Huntsville and Walker County. This also is apparent in our schools. Huntsville Intermediate responds in many ways, including Buzzy's Bin, a collection of clothing, hygiene products and school supplies. The Wesley Campus Ministry gathered resources and purchased much-needed items.



Fall Retreat at Forest Glen

We had our annual Fall Retreat on November 12 and 13. This time, we did it in 27 hours. It included Whataburger, a faith-based movie (I Still Believe), three great conversations with Rev. Max Mertz, hatchet throwing, canoeing, archery, smores, good eating and good memory building! Special thanks to Forest Glen Camp of Huntsville for their amazing hospitality, to First United Methodist of Huntsville for letting us borrow their trailer, and to Rev. Max Mertz for being our guest preacher! We were well-blessed this weekend!



Cookies for Cops (11/5/21)

We enjoy serving those who protect and serve. We also needed a good reason to visit the new Huntsville Police Station! What better reason than bringing sweets to those who are about to hit the streets? We baked hundreds of chocolate chip cookies for both Huntsville and University Police Departments. This was the sixth year we have done this service project of encouragement.



Thanksgiving 2021

Eating together is more important than ever before. There is power and love in the breaking and sharing of bread. "Hungry college students" is a famous and humorous old phrase, but it rings true nonetheless! Our Thanksgiving pot-luck, held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, wasn't just another meal; it was a shared experience of comfort, laughter, love and joy. In the midst of struggles, trials, division, hurts, the shared feast brings people together and closer to Christ, Lord of the Feast.



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Generosity Corner

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!



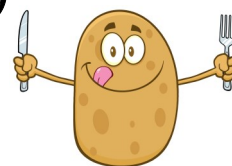
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The 2022 Tater Tour: (SHSU Wesley baked potato fundraisers)



2/6/22—Riverside U.M.C.

2/13/22— F.U.M.C. of Willis

2/27/22—F.U.M.C. of Huntsville

3/6/22—Bays Chapel & Farris Chapel U.M.C.s

3/27/22—Madisonville U.M.C.

4/10/22—Paul Horton U.M.C.

6/12/22—Onalaska U.M.C.

**Next Wesley Bearkat Newsletter:
Spring 2022 Edition
Later April**

