



THE WESLEY BEARKAT

OFFICIAL SHSU WESLEY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022
Edition

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



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A Few Quick Words from Greg

Did you ever see the Lord of the Rings trilogy that came out at the turn of this century (wow, yeah, throw back, here we go)? I love the scenes in both *The Two Towers* and *Return of the King* films where the calvary of the Kingdom of Rohan comes over the hill as reinforcements at the time they were most needed. It is extremely uplifting, inspiring, hope-filled, thrilling. Just when things looked the most bleak, the reinforcements come.

Your SHSU Wesley Campus Ministry has been that for others. Case in point: FUMC Huntsville had their disaffiliation voting night on 10/26/22. It received a 58% vote to disaffiliate, falling short of the 67% required. The church tore apart. It was heart-wrenching, excruciating, extremely painful. They had their scheduled annual Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival within 72 hours of that saddening night. This obviously left them very short on volunteers. Together with my student leaders, to share Christ's light to our Huntsville, we rallied more than 20 college students to serve hundreds of people and kids of Huntsville in a time when things were bleak for our allies down the street. We had enough students to run the pumpkin patch table, all the activities of the Fall Festival, and a big portion of the Trunk or Treat. These students were Rohan in the calvary of Christ. May the thundering of our hooves continue to share the love and power of Almighty God.



In Christ's Service,

Greg

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Alumni Return (11/19/22)

For the first time since 2017, we had an Alumni gathering at the Wesley! Even though the weather was cold and rainy, the football game scheduled at Noon, and with it on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, we had a good turn out! We served a pancake brunch, shared up-to-date events of the Wesley, heard great stories and enjoyed great fellowship! We are glad our annual Alumni gatherings are resuming! Stay tuned for info on Wesley Alumni Gathering 2023!



Canned Food Drive (11/15/22)

Typically for Homecoming Week of SHSU, there is a food drive competition among the student organizations for the SHSU Food Pantry. We used our October offering, combined with funds from our service and mission budget, to purchase over 100 canned and food items for the Food Pantry. Though Homecoming did not have the competition after all, Pantry Director Dr. Kathleen Gilbert said: "Thank you to your team coming in clutch for that donation! It was soooo needed. You are a continued blessing to us! Beyond grateful to your team!"



Homecoming Parade (11/18/22)

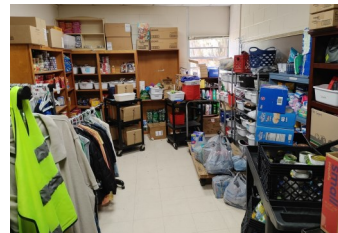
What's better than being in one parade? How about two? This semester, for the second time, the Wesley participated in two parades: the SHSU Homecoming Parade, and the Huntsville Christmas Parade. After all, we have "the Scooby Doo van!". Though we may not win awards for themes, we are always a crowd favorite with the Ministry Machine, Scooby Doo, Wesley Dino Squad, and a crew of students happy to share joy!



Supporting Huntsville

Intermediate School (9/30/22)

We live in a community where many kids go without food for the weekend, or basic hygiene products. I wish I lived in a world where schools didn't need clothing banks and food pantries for their students, but that is not what we have today. For the second year, the Wesley rallied resources to purchase food, hygiene products and clothes needed to help students of Huntsville Intermediate School's "Buzzy's Bin."



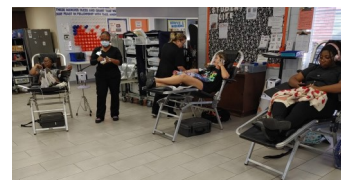
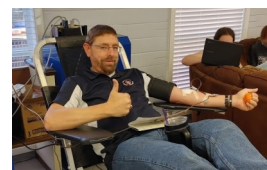
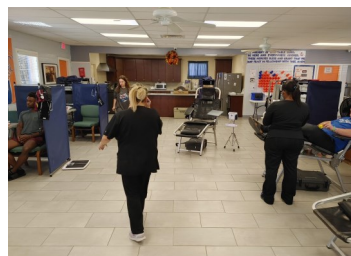
Cookies for Cops (11/4/22)

There never is a shortage of volunteers for baking hundreds of chocolate chip cookies for the men and women who protect our streets and communities. For the seventh year in a row, we delivered a big basket of bagged cookies for Huntsville PD and Sam Houston PD.



First Blood Drive (11/8/22)

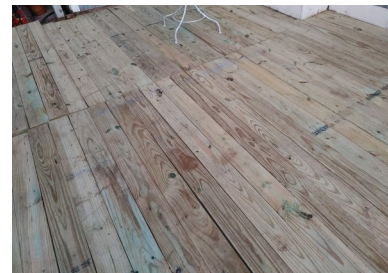
For the first time ever, the Wesley was a host site for a blood drive with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. Nearly 20 people rolled up their sleeves at the Wesley to donate blood to help give a gift of life to others. We partnered with the Kats for Christ for this, and worked well together! We hope to host a blood drive once a semester for the ongoing future!



**Gulf Coast Regional
Blood Center**

The Wesley's Great Day of Service (11/5/22)

Mrs. Charlie connected with us via our UM ARMY work and asked us for help in replacing her porch. Her front porch had been there since the 1970s and had rotted, and was unsafe to use. For our biggest service project of the year, we rallied our team at the Wesley at 8a for breakfast, headed to Montgomery, and spent the day building a new porch for Mrs. Charlie. The weather was perfect: cool and sunny. These students sacrificed an entire Saturday to be the hands and feet of Christ from 8a to 9p, with no complaining, no sitting around, no issues. We were tired and we were sore, but we were very delighted to know that Mrs. Charlie gets to enjoy her front porch without worrying about falling through rotten wood! Since then, she has texted Greg multiple times to share her new routines on the new porch!



Christmas Week at the Wesley (11/29-12/4/22)

The moment we returned from our brief Thanksgiving break, it was the final week of class at SHSU! This was our one week to do lots of Christmas cheer, light-sharing, serving and food-eating! On Tuesday, we hung our new Christmas ornament on SHSU's Tree of Lights and enjoyed a campfire and s'mores afterwards in our Wesley courtyard. On Wednesday, we had a beautiful Christmas service. On Thursday, we had our annual Wesley Christmas Party with a ham dinner, stocking decoration and crazy sock gift exchange. We also donated gifts for local kids through SHSU's Tree of Hope. On Saturday afternoon, for the first time since Covid, we were able to bring Christmas cheer to residents of Creekside Retirement Community. That same night, 20 students rallied for Huntsville's Christmas Parade and had a blast bringing joy (and lots of candy) to hundreds of kids and families. The next night, we enjoyed holiday cheer at the Wesley Parsonage (home of the Oberg's). From our November offering, we also donated 25 board games as Christmas gifts for local families through Santa's Helpers at Wesley Memorial UMC, and volunteered there on 12/10/22. The SHSU Wesley knows how to share Christmas!



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!



Wesley Foundation
Sam Houston State



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SHSUWesley-Foundation](https://www.venmo.com/SHSUWesley-Foundation)

[www.paypal.me/
SHSUWesleyFoundation](https://www.paypal.me/SHSUWesleyFoundation)

Next Wesley Bearkat Newsletter:
Spring 2023 Edition
Later April

Fall Retreat at Galveston (10/21-10/23/22)

For the first time in many years, the SHSU Wesley was able to have our Fall Retreat at Galveston. We are grateful for the amazing hospitality of Moody UMC for hosting us! We enjoyed Sat morning with Rev. Wendy Heinemann as our guest speaker. We enjoyed time at the beach, The Strand, and a couple of our musicians contributed music for their 8:30 service.

