



THE WESLEY BEARKAT

OFFICIAL SHSU WESLEY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

Edition

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



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April 2020: Lonely SHSU Campus

A Few Quick Words from Greg

I would like to fast-forward to August as soon as possible. None of us signed up for these unprecedented and hard times. None of us, in society, in the church, have had to cope with anything on this scale.

Our home away from home is unrecognizable without the many students we served this year. We are all heart-broken about the lost semester, where Covid-19 wiped away beautiful memories we wanted to have (see the events on the back of the newsletter). But we know that nothing we did was in vain, or useless or will go to waste.

As of this point, everything we do to minister is online. We post online devotionals and workout challenges. We have created a new YouTube channel (SHSU Wesley). We are using many different social media outlets to stay connected. Our small groups use Zoom and Discord to spend time connecting to one another.

The grace, the love, the growth, the hope of our Wesley was never meant to remain at the building at 1632 University Avenue: it was meant to leave, to go out in the hearts of all those who were here, and to touch the lives of others in the name of Jesus Christ. We know that this conflict with the virus will pass. In August, students shall return to their home away from home, and we will be here for them. Can you please pray that God would multiply the desire of students to seek healthy faith-communities like our Wesley? We are praying for a huge come back, the likes of which we have never seen before.

In Christ's Service,

Greg

CONNECT WITH US!



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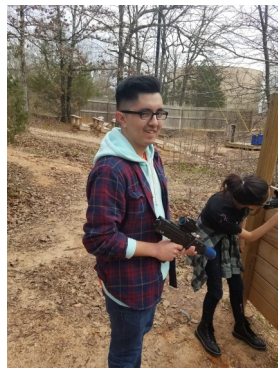
SHSU Wesley

All Campus Retreat 2020

(2/21-2/23/20)

Our students joined with about 200 other college students from other Wesley ministries from all over Texas (like Navarro College, SFA, Texas A&M, U of H, Tyler, and more). Our praise team led worship on Saturday morning. The weekend was filled with worship, small groups, workshops, fun, rest and good memories.

Special thanks to SHSU Dept of Student Affairs for awarding us a travel grant for the 4th year in a row!



A Word of Thanks to All the Churches and Groups Who Provided Meals for our Wednesday Night Dinners, 2019-2020 Academic Year:

Riverside UMC (9/18), Carolina Creek Christian Camp (9/25 & 2/5), Rev. John Burchell (10/2), Raising Cain's Chicken (10/9), Men's Ministry of FUMC Huntsville (10/16), Friends Class of FUMC (11/13), Bowen Family of Anderson UMC (12/4 & 2/26), Challengers Class of 1st UMC (3/4)

A warm thank you to the others who signed up to bring meals, but Covid-19 had other plans:

- Upper Room Class of FUMC Huntsville
- St Paul UMC, Huntsville
- Riverside UMC
- Trinity UMC



The Eighth Sammy, 4/8/20

COVID might have cancelled lots of events, programs and efforts, but one annual tradition that SHSU was able to stream on YouTube was the 26th Annual Sammy Awards, to recognize outstanding people and student organizations who served well and made a big impact in the past year. The event was pre-recorded without an audience. We watched online together when it premiered. Some of us even dressed up like we would have if we had gone in person. For the 4th year in a row, your SHSU Wesley was honored with the Sammy for Outstanding Religion and Spirituality Organization. That chalks our Sammys up to 8. We are proud of our student crew, our ministry, our supporters, and SHSU for this glorious moment!



That was a close one! 4/9/20

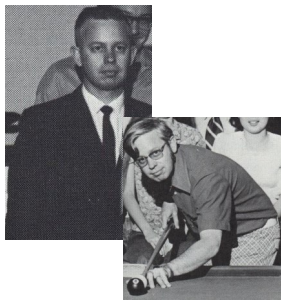
Just when we thought things weren't crazy enough, a severe thunderstorm "with tornado-like winds" hit our region hard on Thursday, April 9, knocking out power for most of us, and causing severe damage to many people's homes. Please keep them in your prayers as they recover. The Wesley had minor damage, and lots of downed branches. One almost hit our van, missing by only one foot. "And the dead branch said to the Ministry Machine, 'With my last breath, I stab at thee.' To which, the Ministry Machine replied, 'Not today, Satan!!!"

You can see the surveillance footage on our new YouTube Channel and our Facebook page.



Former Campus Minister Charles Tanner Visits the SHSU Wesley 1/14/20

In pouring rain and the cold of January, a retired United Methodist Pastor faced traffic and a long drive to visit a place that had been dear to his heart decades before. For his first time since 1974, Rev. Charles Tanner returned to see the SHSU Wesley Foundation. Charles faithfully served here as our campus minister for 7 years, between 1967-1974. He and Greg spent hours swapping stories and experiences. As a bonus, Charles also got to visit with two SHSU Wesley alumni while he was in Huntsville! We were honored by the visit, and it was a joy to hear the treasure chest of memories, stories, life lessons that Charles shared!



Baked Potato Fundraisers

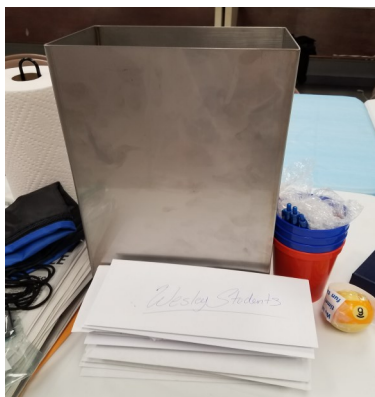
We had 8 churches who were going to host baked potato fundraisers for us this year. Due to Covid 19, we were only able to do three before our church campuses all closed. Thanks to one of the three holding a wildly successful one, we were able to raise 50% of our anticipated ministry funds from the 2020 baked potato fundraisers. We salute our hard-working students and we appreciate the people of the three churches who helped us raise \$6,400: First UMC Huntsville, Riverside UMC and Farris Chapel UMC. We will make the 2021 baked potato fundraising season a big success!



Special Thanks to the churches that would have hosted us, if not for Covid 19: FUMC Madisonville, Bays Chapel UMC, Paul Horton UMC, Wesley Memorial UMC, and Onalaska UMC!

Time Capsule Sent to 2041, 2/1/20

Just as we were blessed from a visitor from our Wesley's past, we worked on a project to bless the Wesley of the future: 21 years in the future, to be precise. What is significant about 2041? It will be the 100th anniversary of the SHSU Wesley as a full-time, sustained campus ministry. We believe that there will be a Wesley ministry on this campus, alive and well, in that era. We collected letters from the students, Wesley newsletters and picture books, newspapers, various artifacts and filled it!



Wesley Work Day & Spring Cleaning 2/29/20

The students of the Wesley not only make impacts in the community, but they spend effort taking good care of their home away from home. Our annual Wesley work-day continued the legacy of making small improvements, taking care of the grounds, painting and deep cleaning. We got most of our checklist knocked out in just a few hours!



Stamp Zone

**Next Wesley Bearkat Newsletter:
Fall Edition, Later October 2020**

