Since early last fall, our church has been engaged in a type of collection process. We have been collecting information about ourselves and our community. We decided we needed to know more about who we are currently, who and what makes up the community we see ourselves serving, and what might be needed in order to be faithful to our call as a result of a journey we began in September of 2013. In 2013, we began the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) when several church members began attending a shared learning experience with other Methodists in our conference.

We realized that the understanding of church has changed in the last few decades and that we had work to do in order to stay relevant. The collection process just mentioned, which is officially called the church’s Self-Study, involved compiling our church history, community and church membership trends, community demographics collected by a professional research company, surveys of various community leaders and people in our community to hear what experiences they have with churches and their hurts and needs, an anonymous survey of our entire membership, and twelve visits from “mystery worshippers” over the last few months.

This data was then supplied to a six-person consulting team who are a mix of lay and clergy, but all United Methodists. The last weekend in April they came to our church and conducted several personal interviews, conducted two focus groups, a church-wide workshop, and compiled a report, which was presented to the church on Sunday April 24 following worship. The Consultation Report, which includes the top 5 strengths, as well as 5 challenges or concerns of our church, also included 5 prescriptions intended to help us become more fruitful in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

On Sunday, May 22 following the late worship service, we will have a Church Conference where the entire church will be able to vote to accept or reject the report.

I am very proud of the many people and the ways we have embraced the opportunities to both learn and share with one another and also with outsiders seeking to help us. It shows great spirit, a sense of commitment and unity, and a desire to improve ourselves in exciting ways as we move into our future. I want to thank you for your continued interest and commitment to our journey. I hope that you will pray about your role in our future. There is a Town Hall meeting, where questions and discussions about the Consultation Report will be addressed, scheduled on Sunday May 1 in the Fellowship Hall following the late worship service.

There may be some of us who have not yet been involved, but I assure you this process and the fruitfulness that emerges from it will affect everyone who is already a part of the life of the church, and also those who have yet to make it here, but who will come as a result of our efforts. So please get involved, not only in this process, but in the life of the church. Remember, we are all just members or parts of the body while Christ Jesus remains at the head. We all work and serve together so that the presence of Christ is felt not only in our community, but throughout God’s creation.

See you in worship!
Brian
May Happenings

Town Hall Meeting
Sunday, May 1
12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Wise County United Methodist Men
Tuesday, May 3
7:00 p.m., Oak Grove UMC

Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 5
6:00 p.m., Character Builder’s Classroom

General Conference Prayer Vigil
Friday, May 6
9:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Mother’s Day
Sunday, May 8

General Conference
May 10 - May 20
Portland, OR

Senior Recognition
Sunday, May 15
During 10:50 a.m. Worship Service

Decatur Methodist Women’s Ministry
Tuesday, May 17
6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, May 17
6:30 p.m., Character Builders Classroom

Staff Meeting
Thursday, May 19
12:00 p.m., Character Builders Classroom

DHS Senior Breakfast
Friday, May 20

Emmaus Gathering
Saturday, May 21
5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Church Conference
Sunday, May 22
12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Methodist Men’s Breakfast
Saturday, May 28
7:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Church Office Closed
Monday, May 30

CHURCH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Tim Rieger, Harold Moore, Joe Goodwin,
Ashlee Bohn, Noah Smith, Sue Spencer, Dan Dimock,
Christa Bachore, Ray Brannan, Phil Clark, Jack Schuten,
Family of Mickey Doyle, Family of Bob Boland

In the Military: Charlie Fortenberry, Michael Jordan,
Jake Logue, Garrett Muelstein, Josh Murphy,
Matthew Roberson, Kolin Rottner,
Joshua VanNoy and Matthew Broker

May Birthdays

1 - Caleb Bennett
2 - Megan Suffling, Debbie Waggoner
3 - Tricia Hooe, Carol Marrs, Ty Williams
4 - Deroy Bennett, Treasa Evans
5 - Andrew Bastian, Alexis Wright
6 - Ethan Fennwald, Sharon Walker
10 - Stephen Parker
11 - Jim Cunningham
12 - Jeff Anderson, Marie Evans
13 - Elise Keller, Jeffrey Seal
14 - Elaine Boyer, Mike Roberts
15 - Brennan Williams
16 - Cheri Boyd, Laura Cates, Will Klose,
Lauren McCurdy, Dick Pitman
17 - Marty Keller, Lance Moody, Andy Waggoner
19 - Carlye McQuiston, Bob Russey, Don Stone
20 - Sam Renshaw, Curtis Stone
21 - Sean Browning, Dave Peterson, Angela Smith
23 - Elizabeth Highlander, Karen Hutson, Tom Tumelty
24 - Clay Patterson, Ron Pemberton
25 - Jeanie Argo, Mary Lambert, Jase Reeves
26 - Stephen Irish
27 - Linda Laird
28 - Rose Baker, Jaxon Deaton, Chris Fostel,
Mike Jordan, Cathy Peters
30 - Mary Frizzell, Evan Kirkpatrick
31 - Sheryl Keller, Jason Sanders, Wiley Stone
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

May 1st
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Barbara Haley
Communion Servers: Virginia Caraway & Sharon Meyer
Acolyte: Audree Knox
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Murvelle Chandler
Communion Servers: Ron & Dena Silvers
Acolyte: Kathryn Highlander & Kennedy Hafer
Counters: Cary Bohn

May 8th
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Virginia Caraway
Communion Servers: Marguarette Roberts & Thomas Laird
Acolyte: Noah Holt
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Valleri Sewell
Acolytes: Nolan & Shelby Sewell
Counters: Casey Edwards & Mason Woodruff

May 15th
8:30 Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Youth
Communion Servers: Youth
Acolyte: Wiley Stone & Emma McAlister
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Youth
Acolyte: Noah Holt
Counters:

May 22nd
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Rita Tucker
Communion Servers: Asa Johnson & Ronnie Walker
Acolyte: Eleanor & Ben Bond
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Fred Renfro
Acolytes: Julie Stone & Parker Deaton
Counters:

May 29th
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Wanda Stone
Communion Servers: Jack & Sharon Smith
Acolyte: Audrey Knox
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture Reader: Sally Rieger
Acolytes: Zoey & Lane Craven
Counters:

May Communion Set Up: Unnamed Class

Donations for WARM
Paper Goods (Toilet Paper & Paper Towels)

Sunday Refreshments
Cross & Flame

Sunday Morning Greeters
Open Doors

Visitor Follow-Up
Barbara Swan

Care Corp
Mardell Schaible, Sue Heaberlin,
Betty Champion, Sis Renshaw,
Virginia Caraway & San Dee Pitman

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Every Monday, 1:00 p.m.
At the home of Mary Lambert
197 Emma Call Ct., Decatur, TX
Willing hands needed to knit or crochet prayer shawls
for the elderly and/or ill.
Demand is up and supplies are dwindling.
Call the church for more information.

All Men Invited
We invite all men in our church (feel free to bring a guest) to
meet in the Fellowship Hall on the fourth Saturday of every
month at 7:30am for a time of fellowship and share a great
hot breakfast prepared fresh by several of the guys in the
group. Our next meeting will be May 28th.

Need Help with Something at Your Home?
The Methodist Men’s group in our church is offering to lend a
hand or two or three to help you with a chore or small
project, something which one or a few of us could
accomplish on a Saturday morning. Contact the church office
and leave a message for us describing what we could help
you with and we will get back with you to set it up.
WARM is in need of volunteers that could drive their van to Fort Worth to pick up food from Tarrant County food bank. No special driver’s license needed. The van leaves WARM on Mondays around 5:30 am and returns around 10:00 or 11:00 am.

If interested please contact Rene Ashmore at 940-626-4676

DEADLINE FOR THE STRASNICE UMC VISIT AUGUST 2016

The deadline to sign up for the trip to the Czech Republic to take part in Strasnice UMC’s summer camp is May 8th.

Contact Dave Eaton at 817-403-3177 or david.g.eaton@gmail.com with a firm commitment if you desire to make the trip.

CZECH COMMITTEE SPAGHETTI DINNER AND DESSERT AUCTION

MAY 15, 2016

The Czech Committee is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner and live dessert auction to be held on May 15th at noon in the Fellowship Hall to raise funds for our mission trip to the Czech Republic.

Come enjoy a great meal and help us in our mission.

The next Gathering will be HERE!

May 21st at 5:00 p.m.

Let’s have a great showing from FUMC Decatur!

Pot luck dinner in the fellowship hall with worship to follow.

All are welcome!

2016 Walk Dates

If you are interested in attending a walk or would like more information about Emmaus, go to Red River Emmaus on Facebook or redriveremmaus.com.

2016 First Quarter FUMC Financial Standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN-MAR 2016 NET INCOME STATEMENT – GENERAL OPERATING FUND</th>
<th>YTD JAN-MAR, 2016</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>YTD 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>ACTUAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
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<td>Staff Expense</td>
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<td>Program Expense</td>
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<td>Administration Expense</td>
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<td>Conference Apportionments</td>
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<td>Total Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</td>
<td>(48,545)</td>
<td>(31,384)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN-MAR 2016 SELECTED DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES</th>
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<td>Fund Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunshine Fund</td>
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<td>Memorials Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Improvements Fund</td>
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<td>CTV (Building) Fund</td>
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<td>Ambassadors Fund</td>
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<td>Czech Rep. Ministry Fund</td>
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<td>Church Chest Fund</td>
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<td>Local Missions Fund</td>
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<td>Scholarship Fund</td>
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## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, May 1**  
Bible Study at Laura’s 5:00—7:00

**Wednesday, May 4**  
UMYF—Wesley Center @ 5:30 - 7:30

**Saturday, May 7**  
Northwest District Youth Day

**Wednesday, May 11**  
UMYF—Wesley Center @ 5:30 - 7:30

**Sunday, May 15**  
Honor Seniors during Late Service  
Top Golf Trip and Sing in Church

**Wednesday, May 18**  
UMYF—Wesley Center @ 5:30 - 7:30

**Friday, May 20**  
Senior Breakfast for DHS 8:00

**Sunday, May 22**  
Game Night at Laura’s 5:00—7:00

**Wednesday, May 25**  
UMYF—Wesley Center @ 5:30 - 7:30

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**Senior Sunday**  
**May 15th**

**Late Service**

Join us as we honor the hard work of the graduating class of 2016.

There will be a breakfast in the Wesley Center during the Sunday School hour for the graduates and their families.

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**NEWS FROM THE YOUTH**

### Service

- Only $5.00 per person

### Northwest District Youth Day

- **Saturday, May 7, 2016**
- **Check in @ 9:30**
- **Leave @ 5:00**
- **Location: Bridgeport Camp**

### Games

- Swimming
- Service Projects
- Basketball
- Volleyball

### Worship

- Bring work gloves
- Swimsuit
- Towel

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

We are sponsoring a Youth Day at Bridgeport Camp for all youth of the Northwest District on May 7th. Please consider helping with the day. You can come out and enjoy the wonderful camp!

Donations Needed - Cookies, Hamburgers and fixings, water, and chips. We also need people to help grill and chaperone. Please contact Laura if you can help. 254-216-0124
Join us as we grow in our ministry!

Join us to celebrate all our mothers, Sunday May 8th during both services.

RED OUT DAY
Pentecost Sunday is MAY 15th. Please join us in wearing as much red as you can as we celebrate the birthday of the Church!

Children’s Choir will be teaming up with the Youth Ministry Sunday May 15th, to perform a special song during the late service. Hope to see you then!

Happy to report that our children attending Summer Camp at Lake Bridgeport have successfully raised all of their funds!!!

Our annual VBS will be June 26 - 30th! Please join us for this amazing event as we follow Jesus, the light of the world. Join me for our VBS training May 21st at 4:00 pm. We will meet in the children’s meeting room.

Children’s Ministry summer field trips to be announced next month. Feel free to contact me with any ideas you might have for the kiddos this summer.

This months focus for our children’s ministry is ACTS 6: 1-7 They praised God and demonstrated God’s goodness to everyone.

We are in need of Children’s Ministry Volunteers for Sunday School as well as VBS. Please contact me by email at ashleycraven0406@gmail.com if you are available to help.
5 Marks of a Methodist

During the second half of Reconnect this spring, I have been teaching a study called, “The 5 Marks of a Methodist” by Steve Harper. In the study, we are examining the 5 “marks” or character attributes that John Wesley once said all “Methodists” should have. We have had a good time in the study. We have also learned a ton of great things, so I would like to share with you the 5 marks that all Methodists should have.

First, a Methodist loves God. First and foremost, John Wesley said that a good Methodist loves God and puts God first. Jesus even said that this is the first and most important commandment of all the commandments. We are to love God. Everything else comes after that. One of the activities the first week was to come up with and list the ways we can love God with all my heart, all my being, and with all my mind. I had never before thought about trying to break these apart and coming up with lists of ways we can love God, but this activity was extremely helpful.

The second mark is that a Methodist rejoices in God. This character trait means that we find our source of joy in God, who is the true source of joy. This is extremely important to remember because, if you think about it, how many times are we looking for joy in something other than God. We think that if we just get __, whatever it is, then we will be happy, but a good Methodist always remembers that we find our true joy in God.

The third mark is a Methodist gives thanks. While it might seem like a pretty simple thing to say that we are thankful because most of us are thankful, this study reminded us that we need to give thanks ALWAYS. This is where this mark kind of hit home for me and many in the study. It is easy to give thanks when things are going good, but it is another thing entirely to give thanks when things aren’t going so well. John Wesley said to give thanks always, in the good and the bad, because God is always with us.

The fourth mark is a Methodist prays constantly. This mark reminded us of our need to stay in connection and communication with God because we so often get busy and distracted that we forget about keeping a healthy prayer life. It also reminded us that this is something we can all improve on, and I love the example it gave of a basketball player and a musician. Each of them, to be good at their crafts have to constantly practice. Endless free throws and practice session. That is what we need to do in order to work on our prayer lift.

The fifth and final mark of a Methodist is a Methodist loves others. Just like how we are supposed to love God, we are also called to love others. The study also reminded us that this mark is one of the most visible ones. The other four traits are more internal, but this one, loving others, is something that others can and will see.

In Christ’s Service,
Zack

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One Worship Service on May 29

On Sunday, May 29th, we will combine our usual 2 worship services into 1 combined experience at 10:00 am.

Our coming together on that Sunday will help foster a spirit of unity throughout our church and be an important part of recognizing the work that God has called us to. Sunday School on that day will begin at 9:00 am. with coffee time at 8:30 a.m.

Make sure to mark your calendars and tell your friends of the change for May 29 only.

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Church Conference Set for May 22

Dr. Marvin Guier, Superintendent of the Northwest District, has called a Church Conference for Sunday, May 22nd at noon.

The main purpose of this Conference is to consider the approval of the Healthy Church Initiative Consultation Report for Decatur FUMC. Every member of the church is able to vote that day to approve or reject the report, which was presented to the church on April 24, 2016.

Copies of the report are available in the Church Office or online at the church website, www.decaturmethodist.org.
THIS NEWSLETTER CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!

Monday, May 23 at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 26
8:30 a.m.—Character Builders Classroom

For any submissions in The Voice, email administrator@decaturmethodist.org or call the church office at (940)627-3362.