

WELLS SPRING

A Publication of Wells Church

A United Methodist Congregation

October 2018

Let Us Work 'Within' to Be Peacemakers

By Heather Hensarling
Senior Pastor

The 35th annual WellsFest is in the books and in our hearts. Your hard work and contagious energy was well-focused and kept "the main thing, the

main thing." With each passing festival, we wonder, "How can we top this one?" The fact of the matter is that we can't. As the apostle Paul reminds us in



Hensarling

Corinthians, we may do the planting and the watering, but it is God who gives the growth. Thank you, God, for giving the growth!

It is the same in our everyday, concrete, lived life of ministry. When we continue to plant and water, God gives growth. Sometimes the messiness of life and our human tendency to get distracted gets in the way of the planting and watering. We may wonder where the growth has gone. When we stop and consider where we have been placing our energy, we sometimes see that we have, in fact, gotten distracted. We discover that we have been placing most, or all, of our energy on things that only seem important. Once we remember that they are fleeting and do nothing to build up the Body of Christ, we re-focus and get back on track. This is part of the lifecycle of any church. Once we discover we are distracted, can we re-focus? With God's help, we

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Mark Hodges, chair of WellsFest 2018, pauses to listen to music during the busy day on Sept. 29.

WellsFest 2018

WellsFest Gives Gift to Community for 35 Years

By David Hampton
Pastoral Assistant

Thirty-five years ago a few WellsFolk and friends gathered at Millsaps for a little music and grilled chicken and soft drinks. On Sept. 29, a few thousand people joined WellsFolk for what has become Jackson's oldest and most successful fall festival — WellsFest.

WellsFest 2018 — the 35th annual WellsFest — was a smashing success.

"We had another successful WellsFest week, thanks to good weather and dedicated and hard working WellsFolk," said Mark Hodges, chair of WellsFest 2018. "It was an honor to serve as lead chair this year

and an even bigger honor to pass the baton to Ken Simon, who will be lead chair for 2019. Many thanks to all who played a role, and we eagerly await the final numbers that will appear on the check for our beneficiary, Growing Up Knowing."

The final tally is still not determined, but it is more than \$40,000. Since WellsFest began, more than \$1.5 million has been raised for area non-profits.

WellsFest has grown dramatically since that little party at Millsaps 35 years ago and now includes a golf tournament and an art auction. The purpose remains the same — a gift to the community.

See WellsFest Photos, Page 4, 5



- Oct. 1 Tony Quinn
- Oct. 2 Libby Garraway, Patricia Odom, Laura Taylor, Doris Beauchamp
- Oct. 6 Ashley Rogers, David Morgan, Anthony Parkinson
- Oct. 7 Turner Hays
- Oct. 8 Misty Hays
- Oct. 9 Jenifer Dendinger, Charles Perkins, Karen Pruitt
- Oct. 11 Lilly Floyd, Sam Gordon, Bernard Harbin
- Oct. 13 Beth Hodges, Jan Smith
- Oct. 14 John Henegan, Martha Rogers
- Oct. 16 Carol Ann Williams
- Oct. 18 Leonard Blanton
- Oct. 19 Ken Hodges
- Oct. 20 Janet Anderson, Craig Cullum, Evelyn Araujo
- Oct. 21 Elizabeth Baine, Jameri Ruffin
- Oct. 22 R.D. Boggans, Morella Henegan
- Oct. 24 Keith May
- Oct. 26 Damini Bedi
- Oct. 27 Chris Sartin
- Oct. 28 Jan Garrick
- Oct. 30 John Gressley, Terry Thornton
- Oct. 31 Christina Bach, Anne Karges, George McDonald

If your birthday is in October and isn't listed here or is listed incorrectly, please let us know.

Peacemakers

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can. In Philippians, Paul proclaims:

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort in love, any sharing in the Spirit, any sympathy, complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other. Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus.

— Philippians 1:11, 2:1-5 (CEB)

Conflict is one of those things that can get a church off track. Paul knew this. As Easter people, Jesus commands us to be peacemakers. Occasional conflict is a part of even the healthiest churches. Resolution does not come from the peace we seek "without" in actions, but from the peace that is "within;" within our individual heart and spirit.

In the next few weeks, I invite all of us to consider these questions from the book *The Anatomy of Peace*:

When considering the behavior of others, instead of judging and blaming, we might ask the following questions: "What are this person's or these people's challenges, trials, burdens and pains? How am I, or some group of which I am a part, adding to these challenges, trials, burdens and pains? In what other

ways have I or my group neglected or mistreated this person or group? In what ways are my 'better-than,' 'I-deserve,' 'worse-than' and 'must-be-seen' boxes obscuring the truth about others and myself and interfering with potential solutions? What am I feeling I should do for this person or group? What could I do to help?" (186-187).

If we are truly committed to peacemaking, the first thing we must do is to step out of the box that traps us in attitudes and behaviors that demonize others and work for a heart that is at peace. Then we must build relationships, both with others who might be able to influence the situation and with those we have treated as enemies. As we listen to and learn from those with whom we have been in conflict, they may become more open to our attempts to communicate our experience and point of view. When we more fully understand one another, we will be in a much better position to deal with the things that are going wrong and work together to make things go right (211).

Wells is a marvelous, God-gifted, grace-filled, place of unconditional love. What an honor to walk with you. As I am walking the journey of St. James in Spain, I will be asking myself the above questions and praying for God's will in my heart and life and in the life of our congregation. I'll see you on Oct. 14.

Write Heather at
heatherhensarling@wellschurch.org

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Learn About Wells and Membership

Have you been attending Wells Church, and might be interested in becoming a member? Want to know more about Wells?

Join Senior Pastor Heather Hensarling at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 21, for coffee and an informational session on membership.

“Joining Sunday” will take place the following Sunday, Oct. 28. For WellsFolk who may have been around a while, but not joined, it is an easy way to make it official. Please consider becoming a member of Wells.

Charge Conference Set for Nov. 4

The annual business meeting of the church is the Charge Conference, at which time all church committees and leadership positions are set.

This year’s Charge Conference will be a joint, district-wide meeting and worship service with a cluster of other UMC churches in the West Jackson District. The same business will be conducted along with other churches, presided over by District Superintendent Stephen Cook.

The Charge Conference will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 4, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Aldersgate is located at 655 Beasley Rd. in Jackson.

If you have questions or are interested in serving on a Wells committee, please contact the office.

2018 Wells Church Giving

Based on the approved 2018 Budget, \$67,104.50 is needed monthly to support the church’s operations and ministries.

2018 Tithes and Offerings:

Jan.	\$48,264.13	July	\$60,039.12
Feb.	\$45,265.00	Aug.	\$45,481.33
March	\$42,221.00	Sept.	\$
April	\$54,527.48	Oct.	\$
May	\$48,540.49	Nov.	\$
June	\$45,343.44	Dec.	\$

Because of You, Wells

By Dr. Jeff Parker, Minister of Counseling

It is tempting this night to write at a cool remove about some mental health topic. But there are times when the harder thing is the better thing. I testify for myself alone.



Parker

Although I was raised in a Methodist Church, I didn’t visit or continue attending Wells because it was Methodist. I had at various times attended a variety of denominations and while I had an affinity for the Methodist perspective on grace, it was not the determinant factor. Like many of you, I came to Wells on the suggestion of friends — friends who highlighted the congregation’s deep acceptance and lived faith.

Keith Tonkel nurtured my faith. He saw things in me that I couldn’t see myself. Or maybe it was that he created conditions for things to appear — sort of like making soup from stones. I loved Keith deeply and continue to miss him acutely. His phone number is still on my Contacts list... Still, Keith was only part of the reason I committed myself to Wells, and not the major reason at that. That’s the way he wanted it — he said it again and again, and I believed him without question.

John Brashier brought me gifts of spiritual value in his time with us. He preached with increasing authority in an appealingly plain-spoken way. He and I share an appreciation for the ability of music to communicate what nothing else can, and that meant a great deal to me. Despite my love for John, though, I did not stay at Wells because of him. I stayed because of who we are as a Community of Faith, and because of what our Community of Faith means to my spiritual integrity.

I have come to trust in the goodness of Heather Hensarling’s heart, the earnestness of her faith and her willingness to be a servant. I know she wants nothing more than that our vibrant Community of Faith thrive. Yet, I do not remain committed to Wells because of Heather. It is you that I laugh and weep with and whom I am called to love, care for and share with. I don’t just want it — I need it.

We did not become who we are by shying away from difficult things, and we have daunting difficulty ahead of us. Take grieving for example. Grief brings anger, and great grief brings great anger. The bargaining dimension of grief demands answers and when answers are lacking or conflicting, we in our human nature fill in the blanks as best we can. Can grace run through it? We each personally need grace, and love dictates that we extend grace to others.

I am committed to Wells because of all the rest of you, my brothers and sisters in faith. Together with you I “lick my wounds” from a week in the world and equip myself to return to the world as a representative of Christ. Which then leads me to the altar seeking forgiveness for how far short I’ve fallen...

As we look ahead, we might take to heart these words from Paul to the Corinthians (I Corinthians 3:21-23, NRSV): *So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos, or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.*

Write Jeff at drjeffparker@comcast.net

WellsFest 2018

Benefitting Growing Up Knowing





October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Supper 7 p.m. Children's Power House, Youth Group, Adult Classes	4	5	6
7 8:30 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	8	9 8 a.m. Neighborhood Ministries	10 5:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Supper 7 p.m. Children's Power House, Youth Group, Adult Classes	11	12	13
14 8:30 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 Council on Ministries Meeting	15	16 8 a.m. Neighborhood Ministries	17 5:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Supper 7 p.m. Children's Power House, Youth Group, Adult Classes	18 6 p.m. Nominating Committee Meeting	19	20
21 7:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast WellsFest Check Presentation 8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Meeting for anyone interested in joining the church	22	23 8 a.m. Neighborhood Ministries 5:15 p.m. Working Together Jackson Bridges Meeting	24 5:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Supper 7 p.m. Children's Power House, Youth Group, Adult Classes	25	26	27
28 8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School Joining Sunday 5 p.m. Trunk or Treat 	29	30 8 a.m. Neighborhood Ministries	31 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting 			



Joy Gates opens up a "Jesus Loves Me" themed trunk complete with hearts and pumpkins in her Trunk-or-Treat display last year. WellsFolk dress up their vehicle trunks and themselves for Trunk or Treat.

Get Your Trunks and Your Treats Ready!

By Ashley Rogers
Director, Children's Ministry

Do you have a vehicle? Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but *do* have a heart for our kids at Wells. Either way, we want YOU to join us on Sunday, Oct. 28, for our annual Trunk-or-Treat event here at the church.



Rogers

Each year, we aim to fill the parking lot with cars, trucks, SUVs, or just friendly faces to hand out candy to young people from the church and our neighborhood.

My hope is that this time of fun and fellowship is used as an opportunity for us to invite neighbors, family members and friends out to see what this congregation is all about. We're so good at showing generosity and hospitality, and Trunk-or-Treat is one of the times we do it best!

This is always one of my favorite times in our church life and each year has been more amazing than the last. It

is such a treat for the kids to see the adults decorate their vehicles, get dressed in a costume and spend an evening treating them to some sweets, goodies and games.

If it's daunting to decorate your vehicle, no worries! Grab a friend or two or make it a group initiative with members of your Sunday school class and do what you can. Like last year, we'll have an inflatable for the kids to play on and friendly faces all around to show love and friendship to our weekly and extended church family.

I look forward to seeing you on Oct. 28. Please let me know if you plan to participate so we can reserve a parking spot for your vehicle! If you'd like to make a donation of treats, wrapped candy, small toys or food items for supper, feel free to drop them off at the church at your convenience. Thanks as always for your love and dedication to our young people!

Write Ashley at
ashleyrogers@wellschurch.org

Prepare for Christmas By Singing

By Nancy Moore
Choir Director

There's no time like Christmas to put a song in your heart!



Moore

This is your invitation to come and join the choir as we prepare music for the Advent-Christmas season. John Wesley says it clearly: "Sing all...Sing lustily and with good

courage....Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing...so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven."

Rewards in heaven? That's one good reason to sing in the Wells Choir!

Much research has confirmed that singing in a choir offers a wide range of psychological and physiological benefits. Singing in a choir can lower stress levels, improve immunity, promote mental acuity and strengthen social connections. And that's just the beginning!

Come sing this beautiful music of the Christmas season to gain an even more personal connection with your Creator. We will be offering many familiar carols including arrangements of "Joy to the World," "Sussex Carol" and "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming."

If you have an open heart, a spirit willing to learn, a love of community, can match pitch and LOVE Christmas, come join us at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. You'll be connected to your Creator in a new way and I promise you will experience the joy of the Christmas season in an even richer way.

Write Nancy at
nancymoore@wellschurch.org

Return Service Requested

Once Upon a Time...

By John Brashier

"Once upon a time, is our time," writes Buechner. I've always felt that the best way to characterize my journey of faith would be as a "story." I loved reading the stories of all the characters in the Bible as much as I enjoyed hearing the characters like Jack from the Beanstalk, Hansel and Gretel, etc. Maybe the point of having a story is that you and I get a clean, fresh piece of paper to write our lives with a pen that won't run out of ink or a computer screen with a blinking cursor and we get to write our own stories.

Whether chapters or books, our lives do scream to be lived out, written down and cherished from that pen or blinking cursor. And maybe it is for us to find how Jesus' stories point to the truth about you and me and our stories. That's been one of the best things for me as I have served at Wells. I was able to share my story and



you shared yours with me. It's a connection, a solid connection that can't be severed.

For a while we shared some time on the journey together, and now, we continue on the journey to that same destination but through a different means. It was a good road on which to travel with you all. There were some

rough places and our lessons in love's pain brought us closer together.

I will always be fond of my time at Wells and I am eternally grateful and changed forever from the events and people and places we all have shared together. I don't necessarily know where I will be next, but I do know I am a better human being from having been here at Wells with you all.

Thanks for loving me and my family! Thanks for caring for me and my family! And, thank you for sharing the greatest gift you could ever share with me, **yourselves!**

In the words of the great theologian, the Right Reverend Thomas Petty, "I gotta move on, gotta get going, what lies ahead I have no way of knowing..."

Peace and Love,

John