

MEMORIES OF HARVEST FEST FROM BEVERLY THOMPSON

by Dorothy Newcomb

Beverly Thompson traces her family's membership in St. John's for several generations back, certainly to her great-great grandparents, perhaps beyond. It seems logical then that her memories of Harvest Fest surely contain treasures, so when Bridget suggested that members should tell their Harvest Fest stories, Beverly was understandably high on the request list. But Beverly is a modest lady, not comfortable with the idea of speaking in front of others. Her memories appeared to be inaccessible, lost to the rest of us. With slight prodding, she did agree to give me a private peek into her memory storehouse with permission to transfer discoveries into written form. What follows is a result of that meeting.

From the beginning, Harvest Fest has always been held in the Georgetown Community Center, with the exception of one year when the building was closed for repairs and improvements. That year, Harvest Fest was held here, at St. John's. In the early years there was never any outside entertainment. It just wasn't necessary. In those years there were no television sets, no video games, no cell phones, no Facebook and not all that many movies. Folks looked to each other and to their church for companionship and camaraderie, for sharing knowledge and wisdom, for entertainment, laughter and warmth, and for worshipping their God.

Beverly's eyes dance and her face lights up when she tells of the joys she experienced at Harvest Fest for the last six decades or better. For her, Harvest Fest is a homecoming, a time for being with family. Family meant not just blood relations, but the church family and longtime friends. It was a time for meeting newcomers, for welcoming them into the fold. All of the area churches supported each other, so Methodists, Catholics, Lutherans, town people, country folk, bankers, store keepers, ranchers, farmers – just about everybody was there.

The coming of Harvest Fest was anticipated as a major community holiday. Beverly remembers the excitement created from not knowing what surprising creations everyone would bring. Cars arrived loaded down with food for the meals, baked goods for sale and desserts along with handmade items the families had worked on, often secretly, for the entire year. All auction items were handmade; homemade with imagination and talent, hard work and warm feelings.

She remembers beautifully carved and constructed wall clocks, homemade deer blinds, swings, cedar chests, handmade tablecloths with beautifully detailed cutwork, bean bags and platforms for Bean



OCTOBER 2019

- Oct 5: Harvest Fest at Georgetown Community Center in San Gabriel Park
- Oct 6: Lord's Acre Sunday
- Oct 7: Family Ministry Meeting in Room #114 6:00 pm
- Oct 13: Children's Sabbath Sunday
- October 15: UMM Meeting at Bob's Catfish n More at 6:00 PM
- Oct 20: Laity Sunday
- Oct 28: Single Board Meeting in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm
- Oct 31: Halloween Festival at 5:30 pm
- Weekly Events

Financial Peace University Classes in Room #114

Sundays 5:00 pm

Tuesday 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm

Wednesdays 6:00 pm

Thursdays 1:00 pm

Wednesday Wesley Value Meal in Family Life Center at 5:15 pm

Youth Bible Study in Youth Loft at 6:00 pm

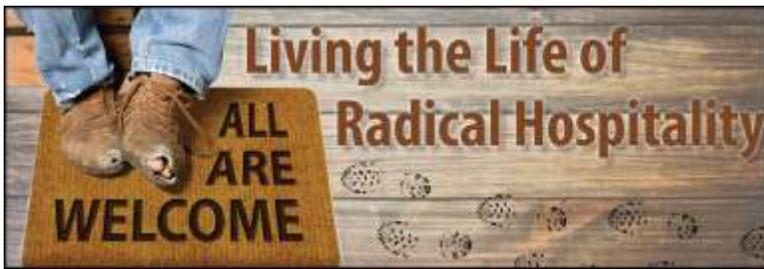
Choir Rehearsals

St. John's Ringers in Room #110 at 6:30 PM

Chancel Choir in choir room #101 7:30 pm

• Fellowship Groups

Every Wednesday evening in Room #112 6:00 pm



SEPTEMBER 2019 ATTENDANCE

2019 Total 705 with 141 average per Sunday

2018 Total 721 with 144 average per Sunday



AUGUST 2019 FINANCIALS

2019 Income \$366,446

2019 Expense \$387,147

Net (\$20,701)

2018 Income \$384,345

2018 Expense \$381,885

Net \$2,460

Sunday, October 6 - Single Board Committee

Sunday, October 13 - Missions/Trustees

Sunday, October 20 - Finance/SPRC

Sunday, October 27 - Family/Children/Youth

SOUTH DISTRICT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

From Pew to Pulpit

Facilitator: Pam Phinney

Text: From Pew to Pulpit by Clifton F. Guthrie

Participant's Book • 978-0-68706-660-5•

\$10.79 (COKESBURY)

Location: Good News UMC, Leander/Cedar Park

Date: October 12-13, Leander, TX

Time: Sat. 9-5 pm; Sun. 2:30-5

To register, click on the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/91504056244148>

Spiritual & Emotional Care Training

October 19, 2019 9am-1pm

[Georgetown FUMC](#)

410 E. University Ave. Georgetown, TX.

Class Fee \$30

Registration Closes: October 15, 2019

Instructor: Rita Hotz

Register [https://ctc-reg.brtapp.com/](https://ctc-reg.brtapp.com/EmotionalSpiritualTraining1019201971)

[EmotionalSpiritualTraining1019201971](https://ctc-reg.brtapp.com/EmotionalSpiritualTraining1019201971)



October 26, 2019 9am-5pm

[Mooreville UMC](#)

206 FM 2643 Chilton, TX.

Class Fee \$30

Registration Closes: October 20, 2019

Instructors: Dan Fiero & Dave Scott

Register [https://ctc-reg.brtapp.com/](https://ctc-reg.brtapp.com/ERTRegistration10262019717154)

[ERTRegistration10262019717154](https://ctc-reg.brtapp.com/ERTRegistration10262019717154)

Be Still and Know that I am God

~Psalm 46:10

MINDFUL

by Rev. Darren Walker

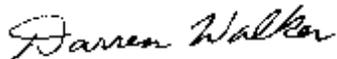
A few years ago, my wife and I were in Vermont for the wedding of one of my friends. Charlotte was amazed at all of the colors the leaves in the trees had turned. She mentioned this once or twice to some of the people who lived in the area. Every one of them said “Oh, this is nothing. You should go up north if you want to see something really beautiful!”

In Texas, as you know, our leaves change color in the Fall, too. They go from green to brown and then drop off the trees. Seeing even a slight variation in that color scheme was beautiful to us. Sadly, to those who saw it every day, it became common place, no big deal.

This is why it is so important for us to be “MINDFUL.” It is an old-fashioned kind of word that means “intentionally aware of now.” We are surrounded every day by blessings from God. How many do we no longer see because we have gotten so used to them all of the special has worn off? When was the last time you looked at the sky and had to stop because it was so blue? When was the last time you realized how many amazing people you know who love you? Or how innocent a child can be, how brilliant a rainbow or strike of lightning can be, or how good a glass of just fresh, cold water can taste? There are people who would give anything to simply be able to take one deep breath.

Whether we call it “being in the moment,” “counting our blessings,” or “being mindful,” it is important for us to make a point of opening ourselves to the miracles, the wonder, and the beauty that is around everyone of us. See with a new appreciation your family, your church, your friends, your home, your life, and especially our Savior. Then, say “Thank you.”

Grace and Peace,



PROGRAM AND PURPOSE

by Andrew Taylor, Director of Youth Ministry

School is back in swing in full force, and I recently got to witness the inevitable side effect of youth working full tilt to stay on top of school and extracurricular activities: one of them fell asleep during Wednesday night Bible study. They had come in tired, mentally exhausted, a bit grumpy, and found a (too) comfortable spot for lesson time. The youth quietly debated waking them up, and we decided that sleep would do them more good than the lesson. So we let them nap.

There are a ton of activities and programs that make up youth ministry, and each of them seeks to improve an aspect of the youth's life. There's a lot of thought and work that goes into each and every one in order to hopefully maximize our time together to do as much good as possible in the lives of the youth and others around us. After all that work, it can be hard when the ministry that needs to happen in the moment isn't covered by the program. It can be tempting to try to force them to respect the work that has been done, stay within the rules of the program, put their needs aside and suck it up. But when we do that, haven't we missed the point? The program is a tool, not the purpose in and of itself. And when a tool starts to get in the way, sometimes you have to cast it aside and find another way to get the job done.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL AND ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER

All Wesley Value Meals are held weekly on Wednesdays 5:15 - 7:00 in the Family Life Center

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Wesley Value Meal Hosts: **East View High Band Moms**

Menu: Meatballs with gravy, Rice, Mixed Vegetable

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Wesley Value Meal Host: Youth Ministry

Menu: Sloppy Joes, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Wesley Value Meal Host: Open

Menu: Chicken Dorito Casserole, Spanish Rice, Beans

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Wesley Value Meal Host: Gospel Guys

Menu: Pizza Pasta, Corn, Garlic Bread

Weekly Activities:

Home Fellowship Group meets in Room #112 at 6:00 PM

Financial Peace University Class in Room #114 at 6:00 PM

St. John's Ringers Rehearsal in Room #110 at 6:30 PM

Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room #101 at 7:30 PM



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Bag Toss, a popular game of the day. Someone brought a Christmas Tree decorated with handmade "Chris-manns", padded fabric ornaments in shapes of traditional Christmas symbols – the Crown of Thorns, crosses, candies, fish, doves, roses. Her Daddy made wreaths from the original barbed wire collected from her family ranch. This barbed wire was a treasured historical relic, part of early America's history, valuable for those reasons. They sold high.

One year Beverly's mother gifted a most unusual auction item – a box filled with mud-pie making utensils! Small spoons, tiny pans, miniature bowls. This was a coveted item for little girls of that period and it was snapped up after a spirited bidding war. This particular memory is nostalgic for me because I am of that vintage myself. We little girls of long ago sat on the ground, often in the shade of a live oak tree, mixing dirt and water to just the perfect consistency, scraping dirt-dough into pans, placing the pans in the sun to bake.

Back then, just as remains true today, certain baked items were mandatory! Swedish Brown Bread has always been a huge favorite and generated famously long lines of folks hoping for a loaf along with an abundant variety of homemade pies, cakes, and all manner of baked creations.

Listening to Beverly and watching her face brought such a joy to me. Although I have yet to experience Harvest Fest for myself, I see a beautiful picture through her eyes. When I see in my own newly formed "Memory of Harvest Fest" is a little girl, about 10 years old, maybe 12. She's wearing a dress sewn by her mother from a cotton feed sack. On a trip to the feed store with her father, she chose the feed sack herself because it was printed with such a pretty design. In my mind it has blue checks, and I think maybe some tiny pink flowers. This little girl's heart is full of happiness, she hugs her aunts and uncles, she runs and plays with her friends, she meets new people, inspects every donated item, samples all the goodies she can hold. She laughs. She shares her joy. She spreads abundant warmth and love. And she grows up knowing and loving her God.

Six decades of Harvest Fest contributed to the formation and ultimate character of the woman Beverly Thompson is today. I would say that is evidence enough of the significance and consequence of what Harvest Fest is and can do, and why it is so important to keep it going, and keep it growing.

Here's to the success of Harvest Fest 2019!



THE FALL

by Michelle Cousineau, Communications Coordinator

I love Autumn. The beautiful colors, the smells, the great boots all bring back cozy memories with family and friends. I love when the temperature cools and you spend an afternoon with a warm blanket, maybe a cup of hot chocolate or tea, reading a good book. It is a comforting and peaceful feeling. Do you know what I mean?

While thinking about this, I realized that I have those same feelings of comfort and peace when I sit with God. Now don't get me wrong, I am extremely inconsistent with this discipline and am working on it all the time. But when I do it, I love it. As I sit reading His Word and realize He is speaking to me through His Word. I love sitting

in the quiet and trying to hear His voice. It is a comfort to know that He always wants to hear from me and to bring peace to my weary soul.

I went to Beth Moore in September and she quoted a friend of hers that stuck with me. It is "Imagine all of that sweetness and wonder from the One who makes thunder." Imagine the One who makes thunder thinks you are just as beautiful as the Autumn season. Imagine the One who makes thunder wants to bring you peace and comfort for whatever you are going through.

So, this Autumn I invite you to take the time to just sit with God and allow Him to shower you with peace and comfort.

Family Ministries October Events

by Kathryn Price, Director of Family Ministries

As we move into October with (we hope) cooler temperatures and fall colors, there are some fun activities in store for children and their families.

Sunday, October 13th, we will celebrate **Children's Sabbath**. The newly assembled Children's Choir is planning to sing at the **Awakenings** service. We hope you will join them in the Family Life Center at 11:00 to support their efforts.

The **Family Ministry Council** is hosting the Wesley Value Meal **October 30th**. We will be making Jack-o-Lantern puppets and (who knows?) there may be some treats to be had for all.

For the last two years, **Trunk-or-Treat** has been rained on and we had to move indoors. So this year, on **October 31st**, we will have a **Halloween Festival** in the **Family Life Center**. Instead of choosing a parking space, you can set up a table or space in the FLC. Food will be in the **Fellowship Hall** so there will be lots of room for games, treats and fun. Be looking for sign-up opportunities soon!

See you at Harvest Fest!



SPOTLIGHT ON HARVEST FEST CHAIRPERSON, BRIDGET HANCOCK

by Carolyn Henry, Congregational Care Coordinator

This month's spotlight is on the hard-working Bridget Hancock, who led our congregation in 2018 and now in 2019 to produce a very successful Harvest Fest.

Bridget was born in Morgan City, La, the third of seven children (and first female child) Her family owned a hardware store, and most days you could find Bridget there helping out. She learned a lot about people there – how to communicate with and help them.

When Bridget was in 3rd grade her parents got divorced, and when Bridget was in 7th grade her mother moved the family to Houston. They spent 3 years in Houston and then moved to Pennsylvania. There Bridget attended Susquehanna University, and that's where she met her future husband, Walt Hancock. The couple graduated in 1983 and then moved to Bridget's hometown in Louisiana.

After some years in Louisiana, Bridget and Walt decided to move to Texas and soon settled in Austin. In 1991 they decided to adopt a child – they ended up with 3 children, who were siblings – Jessica, age 4, Allison, age 3, and Matthew, 17 months. They got the three children on the same day - Bridget became an “instant” Mom. From that point she became a “stay at home” Mom busy raising the three children.

In 1995 the family moved to Georgetown looking for better schools. They are now settled in Granger. They came to St. John's on a recommendation from a friend. Being an accountant, Bridget soon became involved in church finance. And they are now both very active in many of the church's activities.

Bridget had heard about Harvest Fest – so she showed up in the community center kitchen asking “What can I do to help?” Larry Bingham immediately put her to work making cornbread dressing. Much to her surprise, the next year she found Larry had put her in charge of the dressing making operation. When she asked Larry why she was in charge after only one year he told her that the year before was the first time the dressing had been made “in house”. In prior years folks had always made the dressing at their own homes and brought it in, but due to inconsistencies, they'd decided it would be better if the recipe was always the same.

In 2018 Bridget stepped up to the chairmanship of Harvest Fest. When asked why she said “It's an odd reason. As an accountant, I couldn't let 59 be the last one. There had to be a # 60”. Now she's working on #61! Bridget is spending about 30 hours/week at this point working on Harvest Fest for 2019. And what does she love about Harvest Fest? She answers “I love the way the whole church works together”

Acts 2:46 “Day by day , as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day God added to their number those who were being saved”.





Laundry Love is a community outreach that provides laundry opportunities for the less fortunate in the Georgetown area. Two laundry service events occur each month...the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Mr. Laundry and the last Thursday of the month at U Wash Em, At these events, between 6 - 8 p.m., laundry detergent, dryer sheets, and quarters are provided to operate the washing machines and dryers. Additionally, a casual dinner of pizza and ice cream is offered to the participants. The word is spreading and at the a recent event over \$500 of laundry was serviced.

St. John's UMC is hosting the October event at Mr. Laundry.....October 8th. There are cardboard washing machine models spread across our church campus designed to collect quarters to support these events. We also have the proceeds of a Wednesday Value Meal in early May.

If you are interested in participating in our October 8th event, please contact Denise Evers at deniseevers@suddenlink.net or (512) 635-6611. We need a minimum of 6 volunteers to successfully host the October 8th session. Denise will provide you with more details once you become engaged.



**St. John's United Methodist Women
Berquist/Carlson Circle Meeting**

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

2:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Presentation

"Sisterhood of Grace through the Reading Program"

by Bonnie Elder



**CHURCH
DIRECTORIES
AND PORTRAITS**

Date: Wed 10/23 - Thu 10/24

Link: https://account-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/ap/ap_admin_v2/login.php?action=log_out&custom_id=1&brand_id=

Contact Christine with questions or if you can man the table for an hour or two.

United Methodist Men Meeting
St. John's invites all men:
Discussion of future programs,
planning and events
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER
15TH, 6:00PM**
- BOB'S CATFISH 'N MORE



ST. JOHN'S UMC HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31ST **5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

St. John's has been a part of the Georgetown Community for over 140 years.

We started as a group of Swedish immigrants who joined together in their homes to study, worship and pray and built our first church building in 1882. At that time, we were known as the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Brushy Church (Svenska Metodistkyrkan at Brushy).

The original church stood at the intersection of Westinghouse Road and FM 1460. Our church cemetery is still at this location.

In 1906 we moved to town, to our present home at 311 E. University Avenue, and in 1938 we changed our name to St. John's Methodist Church.

In 1968, when the Methodist Church joined with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, St. John's became St. John's United Methodist Church.

Come join us and share in our rich history and heritage of celebrating God's love.

St. John's United Methodist Church
311 E. University Avenue
Georgetown, TX 78626
Phone: 512-863-5886
Website: www.stjohnsumc.cc

Follow us on



A NOTE FROM THE PRAYER TEAM

by Martha Arizpe, Prayer Team Chairperson

When our boys were school age, we attended the Texas State Fair every October. (This event is where I learned the value of a fanny pack.) We went early to park in a safe area, and left mid-afternoon before absolute exhaustion set in. We always made time for our favorite sites: the automobile exhibition (apparently the fascination with cars starts at an early age); the animal barns, where our education on the types of chickens grew; the Women's Building, which housed the exhibition of arts and crafts participants and winners, including the ever-popular "butter sculpture" refrigerated booth; the midway, with all the rides, games, and food; and then, on the way out, the Birds of Prey exhibit, where these amazing birds would be released from atop the Texas Star Ferris wheel, and fly **DIRECTLY OVER YOUR HEAD** to land on the arm of the handler. Super-cool!! We have seen the Budweiser Clydesdales up close and personal; petted the beautiful black horses ridden by the Canadian Mounted Police, with a maple leaf stenciled on their rump; watched a border collie herd a group of sheep into a specific area; had a ball on the tilt-a-whirl; won stuffed animals on the midway games; and eaten more corny dogs and turkey legs than a normal person should. Thank you, Dear Lord, for the great state of Texas, and it's amazing state fair. It turns out that Big Tex is quite a blessing to a lot of folk.

Blessings,
Martha Arizpe

If you have a prayer or blessing you would like to share, please e-mail prayerteam@stjohnsumc.cc.

MONTHLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

	Sunday, Oct. 6 Lord's Acre	Sunday, Oct. 13 Children's Sabbath	Sunday, Oct. 20 Laity Sunday	Sunday, Oct. 27
8:30 Traditional in St. John's Sanctuary				
Worship Leader	Rev. Darren Walker	Rev. Darren Walker	Rev. Darren Walker	Rev. Darren Walker
Liturgist	Dayne Carlson	LouAnne Case	Pam Gardner	Carolyn Henry
Ushers	Gordon Eurom & Dick Wood	Bob & Peggy Radford	Clark & Nancy Bottlinger	Doyle & Shirley Channell
Communion	Clark & Nancy Bottlinger			
11:00 Traditional in St. John's Sanctuary				
Worship Leader	Rev. Darren Walker	John Aleman	Rev. Darren Walker	Carolyn Henry
Liturgist	Stu Leonhart		Carolyn May	Nancy Bacchus
Ushers	Charley & Rita Cherry	Dean & Carolyn May	John & Kelly Kluberg	Dean & Carolyn May
Communion	Dean & Carolyn May			
11:00 Awakening in St. John's Family Life Center				
Worship Leader	David Pencil	David Pencil	David Pencil	David Pencil
Preaching	Katie Lamoreux	Rev. Darren Walker	Ken Sommerville	Rev. Darren Walker
Greeter (s)	Bill & Annette Holland	Denise Williams	Ashley Cousineau	Michelle Champion
Communion		Bill & Annette Holland		