

## Dr. Wylie E. "Buff" Hearn

Dr. Hearn was born in San Angelo, Texas and grew up in a small town in Central Texas. Buff was raised in the United Methodist Church, continuing the family tradition of five generations of faithful followers of Christ in the Methodist Church in Texas. He graduated from Ballinger High School in 1962 and attended Texas A&M University graduating with a degree in Animal Science. While at Texas A&M, Dr. Hearn served on the Wool Judging Team and received a Distinguished Student Award from the university.

After graduating in 1966, Buff was employed by an international textile company and moved to South Carolina. During time he entered military service in the Texas Army National Guard and received an honorable discharge in 1972. In 1968, Dr. Hearn resigned his position with J.P. Stevens in South Carolina and moved back to Texas to join his father in business in his home town. While working with his father and living on the family ranch, Buff received a call for fulltime pastoral ministry. He was accepted as a student at Asbury Theological Seminary and moved to Wilmore, Kentucky in 1972 to begin training for ministry. While at Asbury Seminary, Buff served as a youth pastor and was on staff at a black Presbyterian church in Atlanta, GA during the summer of 1973. He was elected student body chaplain in 1974. Graduating from Asbury in 1975 with a Master of Divinity degree and accepted an associate pastor position in Amarillo, Texas. Buff returned to Asbury in 1984 to begin work on a doctoral degree at Asbury Seminary, graduating with a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1987.

Dr. Hearn served United Methodist congregations in Texas and New Mexico, retiring from pastoral ministry after 38 years of service. Congregations served by Buff are: San Jacinto UMC, Amarillo, TX, (1975-1976), First United Methodist Church, Follett, TX (1976-1978), St. Matthew UMC, Lubbock, TX (1978-1981), First UMC, Memphis, TX (1981-1985), Central UMC, Dalhart, TX (1985-1988), 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, Snyder, TX (1988-1994), St. Paul UMC, Amarillo, TX (1994-1998), Grace UMC, Alamogordo, NM, (1998-2003), Kingswood UMC, Amarillo, TX (2003-2008). Dr. Hearn continues to serve as adjunct faculty at Asbury Seminary where he has taught on congregational revitalization and leadership for the past six years. In the Fall of 2010, Dr. Hearn served as interim senior pastor at First United Methodist Church, Durango, CO. Presently, Dr. Hearn is serving on the staff of St. Stephen UMC, Amarillo, TX, as Pastor of Spiritual Formation.

He also is involved in missions on the local church level having lead mission teams to India, Russia, Mexico, Costa Rica, and the all over the United States. Dr. Hearn has served the United Methodist Church on the district, annual conference, and jurisdictional level. Buff has been the Chairperson of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference Council on Ministries, Volunteers in Missions Coordinator for both the Northwest Texas Annual Conference and the New Mexico Annual Conference. Dr. Hearn has also been president of the South Central Jurisdictional Volunteers in Missions Council and a member of the South Central Jurisdiction Ministry Council. Buff is presently serving as Volunteers in Missions Coordinator for the Northwest Texas Annual Conference.



Buff has been married to Sandy for 31 years and enjoys his four children and four grandchildren who all reside in Texas. Buff and Sandy now reside in Amarillo, Texas. Dr. Hearn is a professional potter with a state of the art studio behind his house in Amarillo. Buff's pottery graces homes and churches all over the world. His involvement in ceramics began in 1988 at Western Texas College where he joined the fine arts teaching staff and became part of the adjunct faculty. Dr. Hearn's works in clay can be seen on his website: [www.parsonspottery.com](http://www.parsonspottery.com).

Dr. Hearn has continues his love of hiking, fly fishing, and camping, returning almost every year to backpack all over the Rocky Mountain wilderness around Durango, CO.