

the faith journal

Arlington Heights United Methodist Church



www.ahumcfw.org

Volume 6 • June 2014



June Sermon Series: **Change Your World in 52 Days**

The prophet Nehemiah led God's people back from captivity to Jerusalem, but the city was in ruins.

With God's help, Nehemiah led the people to rebuild God's temple in only 52 days.

There's a slice of the world just waiting for your imprint. How will you shape it?

Learn how you're uniquely qualified to make a difference in *Change Your World in 52 days*.

June 8: *The Leader in You*

June 15: *Defeating Discouragement*

June 22: *Finishing Strong*



We're having a **SIZZLING Summer** at Heights!

We've planned a special summer at Arlington Heights UMC, and you won't want to miss any of it.

We'll observe "casual dress" this summer, so come in your comfortable clothes. This is a great time to invite your friends and neighbors to church!

June 8: Pentecost • Heritage Sunday BBQ: Wear your blue jeans and boots for Heritage Sunday. We'll have a down-home BBQ with fixin's at noon!

June 15: Father's Day: Bring your father for special *Donuts with Dad* in the Atrium!

June 22: Missions Weekend: We'll do our part to Change the World for the better, with a variety of mission opportunities Friday-Sunday.

June 29: Patriotic Indoor Picnic: Bring a dish that starts with the first letter of your last name. We'll share in an indoor picnic after worship.

July 6: Wesley Sunday: The Wesley family gets the spotlight today, as we celebrate the founder of Methodism.

July 13: Sunday School Sunday: What can you learn on a Sunday morning? Quite a lot! Learn about our existing and *new* Sunday School classes for adults.

July 20: Spirituals: Give me that old-time religion! Gospel spirituals will provide the musical framework for our worship.

July 27: VBS Showcase: WOW! Our children take center-stage as we showcase our Workshop of Wonders!

August 3: Focus on Youth Missions: Our entire congregation is invested in our youth in mission. Come hear stories of how lives have been changed this summer.

August 10: Mark Winter: All-Star Baseball Revival: Play Ball! Evangelist Mark Winter shares his unique take on the story of Nathaniel and Jesus.

August 17: Ministry Fair: Learn about the many small groups of our congregation at our Ministry Fair.

August 24: Back to School Sunday: Students, bring your backpacks for a Blessing of the Backpacks. We'll also honor our educators as we begin a new school year.



A Word from the Senior Pastor, Rev. Mary Spradlin: *Growing in Grace and Knowledge*

“This is why you must make every effort to add moral excellence to your faith; and to moral excellence, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, endurance; and to endurance, godliness; and to godliness, affection for others; and to affection for others, love. If all these are yours and they are growing in you, they’ll keep you from becoming inactive and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – 2 Peter 3:5-8

Few people come to church seeking to “stay where they are” in their faith. Most, I believe, come seeking something more: more knowledge about God, more understanding of God’s will for their lives, more opportunities to serve Jesus Christ in this world. We come to church to be challenged, to be inspired, and to grow.

This summer, AHUMC will offer many opportunities for spiritual growth. Instead of anticipating a

“summer slump” in attendance, we are intentionally giving each Sunday a special focus designed to encourage attendance. We are adopting “casual dress” and offering a variety of different musical experiences in worship. Children’s Sunday School will feature a “Summer Camp” theme, with Black Belt Bible Study and games that kids will not want to miss.

We are also offering a number of new small group studies this summer. Women are invited to participate in a new spiritual growth group meeting on Tuesday evenings. The Wednesday morning Companions class, open to all, will begin a new study on Mary and Martha in late June. And beginning in July, clergy will lead small groups in a new Adam Hamilton study called “Making Sense of the Bible.” Small groups give us opportunities to help one another grow in our faith.

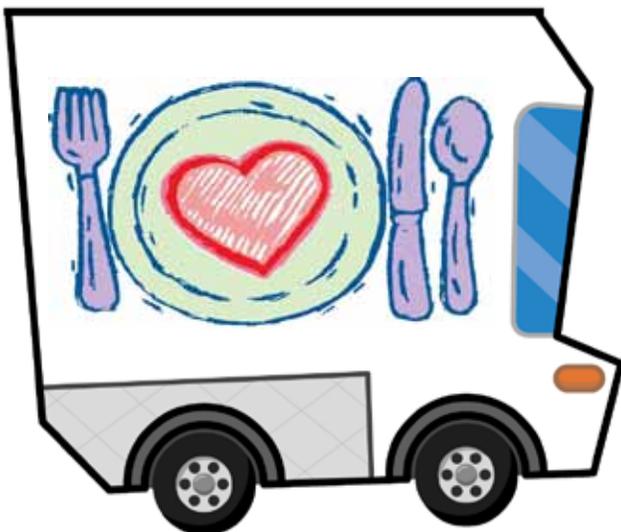
Continued growth is necessary for

clergy, too! Jim Pledger continues his commitment to personal study and reflective writing. Grant Palma will begin his Residency Program with the UMC, a final step towards ordination. Allen Lutes continues his studies at Brite Divinity School, and I will begin a Doctor of Ministry Program, with an emphasis on Preaching and Worship, at Perkins School of Theology at SMU. We ask your prayers as we pursue these efforts to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). And we will continue to pray for the members of our congregation, as we grow in faith together.

God Bless,

Rev. Mary Spradlin
Senior Pastor

Food Truck Ministry Update



AHUMC will take church outside our walls in a vital and unique way – a Food Truck will feed the hungry and form community in our city! Our Food Truck Ministry team has been researching all the practical questions as to what it will take to make this dream a reality. We have secured an off-site commercial kitchen to meet local food laws and are looking into grants to secure the bulk of our financing. Several used food trucks have been located in the DFW area that meet the requirements of this ministry. Our goal is to have grants written by the end of the summer, funds secured by the fall and to have an official roll out of the AHUMC Food Truck in spring 2015. Your prayers for this new ministry are appreciated. For more information, contact Allen Lutes, alutes@ahumc.com



Thank you to my church family for all the cards, kind expressions of caring and gifts honoring Jerry's memory.

In Christ,
Bonnie Blaylock & family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the wonderful reception. It has been an honor and a joy to serve my church family for several years. As I move onto the next phase of ministry, I take a bit of you all with me. (And we get to come back to visit!)

With love and gratitude,
Sarah Boyette
sarahboyette.blogspot.com/

Church Wide BBQ Lunch: June 8

No need to make lunch plans on June 8! As part of our Pentecost Sunday celebration, we will enjoy a BBQ lunch after worship. A dedicated team of BBQ pit masters will provide the main dish, and small groups and individuals will be asked to provide the side dishes pot luck style. To offer a side dish to share, contact Allen Lutes.



AHUMC Great Weekend of Service

As part of our "Sizzling Summer," you're invited to participate in our Great Weekend of Service beginning June 21. The weekend will kick off at the Como Community Center as we distribute food to hundreds of families through the Mobile Food Pantry. Continuing on Saturday, there will be opportunities to serve both our church and our neighbors. A field trip to the Day Resource Center to deliver much-needed water bottles and find out where our guests for Room In The Inn spend their days is also planned. For more information, contact Allen Lutes.

Room In The Inn Coming Soon!

During the two hottest and three coldest months of the year, AHUMC hosts our homeless neighbors through our RITI program. From July through the end of August, we will host 12 homeless men each Thursday evening, providing meals, a warm bed and fellowship. The success of this program depends on the support of dedicated volunteers. We will host RITI training as part of our Missions Weekend on June 22. We will also have a table in the atrium during June for small groups and individuals to sign up to help with this important ministry. For more information, contact Allen Lutes.

Ministry Staff:

Rev. Mary Spradlin | Senior Minister

Rev. Grant Palma | Associate Minister

Rev. Jim Pledger | Associate Minister

Allen Lutes | Seminary Intern

Josh Ingram | Youth Director

Wendie Lunsford

Children's Director/
Assistant to the Senior Pastor

Anne Bloesser

Haupt Preschool Director

Angela Pasquet | Nursery Director

Dr. Steve Simons

Chancel Choir Director

Tani Simons

Children's Choir Director

Frank Shroyer | Music Associate

Gwen Patteson | Administrative
Assistant/Office Manager

Sue McCuiston

Finance Administrator

Missy Matthews

Interim Communications Coordinator

Rick and Paula Trevino

Building Stewards

Monica Kintigh

Adjunct Staff/Licensed Counselor

Choir Members Travel to Hawaii

Twenty Chancel Choir singers and accompanying family members will cruise the four Hawaiian Islands on Norwegian Cruise Line June 22-29, singing along the way.

"This is a unique choir tour experience since we've never done a cruise before," says Steve Simons, Director of the choir. "It is exciting for us to see all of this beautiful state, plus stay in luxury on The Pride of America ship."

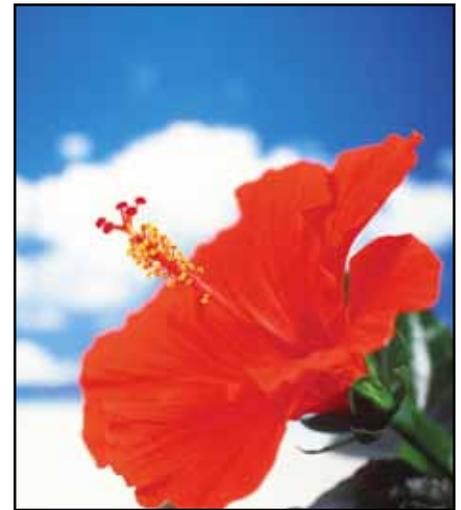
The Cruise Line has granted the choir permission to sing a special concert of popular music in a

lounge on one of the evenings.

"We submitted a CD of a recent Pops Concert and were granted this opportunity due to the quality of that concert, so I personally feel privileged that we are allowed to perform on board," says Simons.

The usual excursions on Maui and the other islands are scheduled, with the final day touring Honolulu and, of course, Pearl Harbor.

"I've never been on a cruise ship or to Hawaii, so I am particularly excited about the trip," says Simons. "Touring with special choir family



members and friends should prove to be a high point for Tani and myself this summer."

AHUMC Budget Update

Chad Bradford

Christian stewardship begins with God at the center. This quote fits Arlington Heights UMC as we completed our stewardship campaign during the first quarter of 2014 with a focus on gifts of both financial support and service. Each stewardship commitment is a blessing to Arlington Heights and its ministries. The 2014 stewardship campaign resulted in 161 individual commitments. Additional commitments were made by members through either their Summit giving or the gift of time to the many volunteer opportunities within the church.

For 2014, an annual budget of \$1,055,761 was approved by the Finance Committee; this is even with the 2013 budget. A summary of the 2014 budget is provided at right.

As of April 30, 2014, our giving is 29% of the annual budget and our expenditures have been 32% of the annual budget. The Finance Committee and ministry team appreciate your generosity and financial support during the first

2014 Budget	
Receipts	\$ 1,055,761
Connectional Giving	\$ 124,310
Administration	38,876
Christian Formation	4,200
Evangelism	16,700
Personnel	544,500
Trustee	294,400
Worship Team	13,275
Children's Ministry	12,000
Youth Ministry	6,000
Missions	1,500
Total Expenses	\$ 1,055,761
Net Receipts (Deficit)	\$ —

portion of 2014. As our giving is trailing our expenditures for the year, we ask that you pray and consider additional gifts to ensure that the church meets its monthly expenditures. Explore the online giving tools as a convenient method to continue your financial support when life's events may keep you from attending every week.

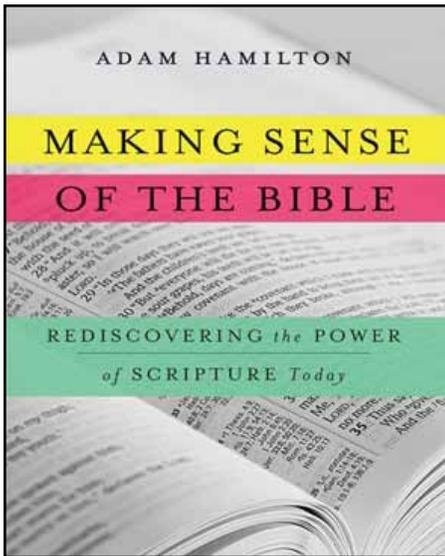
Thanks again for your support. If you have any questions regarding financial matters, please reach out to any Finance Committee member.

Christmas in July Monday, July 14 • 7 p.m.

Joshua First UMC
(nursery provided)
All are Welcome!
Ticket: \$2 donation

Give "Christmas" gifts for the United Community Centers:
school supplies; paper goods; pantry staples (canned goods and other nonperishable foods); personal hygiene; hand sanitizer; laundry supplies; school uniform tops and bottoms (K-5th grade, new or very gently used); disposable diapers (all sizes), baby food and toiletries; socks and underwear for children and youth (boys and girls).

There will be a collection table in the Atrium June 29, and July 6 and 13. Cash donations are welcome (make checks to UMW, memo: "Christmas in July"). All proceeds benefit ministries of the United Community Centers.



Making Sense of the Bible Study Begins in July

The world's best-selling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing.

How are we to understand passages from the Old Testament that do not resonate with our lives today? How do we understand the nature of scripture and how should we interpret it?

All are invited to this study, led by Rev. Mary Spradlin, Rev. Grant Palma and Allen Lutes. Classes will be Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., July 9 through August 13. (If you are interested in a mid-day online study, please email revspradlin@gmail.com so we can accommodate you.)

Books (\$15) are available at the Welcome Center. Register at the Welcome Center, or email gpatteson@ahumc.com.



A Word from Josh Ingram, Youth Director

Most of you know that I'm a huge Rangers fan and lately they've been struggling a little with starting pitching. Pitchers in the Major Leagues are curious to me, because so much of their execution has to do with their routine. When they have to be so precise with pitch placement – within fractions of an inch – they prepare for that job with a specific regimen, day in day out, without exception.

The youth and I have been working on, and talking about, how to build a regimen into our lives that strengthens our faith, and the ability to draw on this regimen when things get tough.

We are all likely to fall down and pray when life doesn't go our way, but that's like cramming for an exam or pulling an all-nighter before a project is due. It can be helpful, but not as productive or fulfilling as if we had

spent time daily on accomplishing our goals.

One of the biggest struggles our youth have is time management and feeling overloaded. Between homework, extra curricular activities, jobs, church, family, and friends, our youth are struggling to juggle priorities in a fast-paced and high-pressure environment.

They'll tell you how often I bother them about finding time to pray and read scripture. While it may seem like they – and we – have no more time to add anything else in, it's in these times where our spiritual development is even more crucial.

You also hear us talking about our annual mission trip ... this year's trip is nigh upon us. On June 15, we'll load up the vans and head to Natchez, Miss. In Natchez, we'll find homes that need repair, yards that need cleaning, and hearts that need love.

The things we won't find are the obligations of home. When we exit the vans in Mississippi, we will have already cleared our schedule for the week. We will surrender the cell phone and have a wide-open agenda, void of complications, so we can develop a new routine for the week.

Every day has a schedule and the group living environment requires that we all abide by it. Each day we will have three meals, work schedules, assigned chores at the living center, showers, recreation, and rest time. It may sound like a full day already, but by scheduling these activities, we also have time to worship in the morning, have a lunch devotional, and worship each night before bed. You've never seen teenagers so focused on God's will for their lives and serving one another in God's name.

When people talk about the mission trip, they talk about what an impact it has on everyone. I wonder how much of this impact has to do with being together in worship, prayer, service, and community with a regular routine. Since we're creatures of habit, maybe this experience would stay with us year-round if we developed a routine or habit that involved daily worship, service, and community building.

I know I'll never pitch in the major leagues, but I can be an example to the youth in our church by showing them how to prioritize and "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness," so that we can continue to raise up faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Children's Ministries



Sundays!
9:40–10:30 a.m.

Are you ready to get your Bible Black Belt? Have fun with some really camp cool crafts? Play some games, and hang out with church friends? Don't miss a minute ... **Summer Camp Sundays** — every Sunday morning this summer!



Vacation Bible School

July 20-24 • 6-8 p.m. • K-5th Grade

Join the fun of the *Workshop of Wonders* at VBS this year! We will Imagine! Build! Grow! Work! and Walk! **with GOD!**

Register/volunteer at www.ahumcfw.org, or call the church office, 817.737.3161.

Wednesday Workshop of Wonder!

Wednesdays in June and July • 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Come work on decorations and prepare crafts for VBS. Painting, cutting, decorating ... the possibilities are endless! Help make VBS week special as we get ready to welcome friends. Designed for 2nd-6th graders (permission slip/sign in needed); adults are welcome any time. Child care for younger children can be arranged with two days notice by calling the church office.

Mission Makers Play Days

Mission Makers do "Mission" work. Often doing God's work can "Make" things a little "Messy," but when we work together we can do a lot to make a difference. Some activities are on campus, others are off site.

We will have make and take activities, too. Bring a sack lunch; drinks will be provided. Cost is \$5 per child.

Play Days are open to all 2nd-6th graders. Younger friends are welcome to join us with an adult. Wear clothes that you can get messy in, and closed toe shoes. Friends are welcome.

Please RSVP; space is limited. Permission slips are online at www.ahumcfw.org/calendar

Thursday, June 12: 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.: Science Program: Light

Friday, June 20: 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.: Field Trip: Mobile Food Pantry

Thursday, June 26: 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.: Phoebe the Comfort Dog

Safe Sanctuary Training: July 2, 10, or 19

Safe Sanctuary Training is required for all adults who work with children and youth at AHUMC, including VBS.

The 1.5 hour training includes a review of AHUMC policies and procedures and a background check.

Call the office to register, 817.737.3161, for Wednesday, July 2, 9:30 a.m.; Thursday, July 10, 6:30 p.m.; or Saturday, July 19, 10 a.m.

Family Fun Nights

Gather as a community of friends to play and have fun together during the summer! All activities are 6:30–8:30 p.m.; come and go as your family needs.

Bring a snack of some sort to share unless otherwise noted.

We might even make NEW friends AND learn something along the way!

Wednesday, June 11

Board Game Night: Bring a game to share, teach and learn.

Wednesday, June 25

Minute to Win It!

Wednesday, July 9

Bigger Better Game (*Snack provided*)

THURSDAY, July 24

VBS Chick-Fil-A Night