

the faith journal

Arlington Heights United Methodist Church

www.ahumcfw.org

Volume 10 • October 2014



Lord's
Acre

October 11
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Proceeds support missions,
Trustees Designated Funds, and
the church budget.

With the kids back in school, football season underway, and the Pumpkin Patch in full swing, we know that Fall is here! And AHUMC celebrates fall each year with Lord's Acre.

What is Lord's Acre?

It's the opportunity for our church family to come together for a great day of fun and to raise money for missions, Trustees Designated Funds, and the church budget.

Lord's Acre Schedule

This year's Lord's Acre will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, October 11.

At 9 a.m., the Blessing Country Store and Silent Auction will open.

The Blessing Country Store will feature crafts, art, baked goods, canned and pickled foods, jellies, sweets, holiday items.

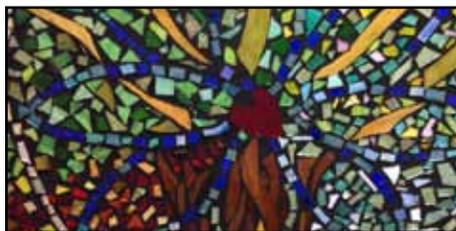
Fantastic items will be up for bid in the Silent Auction, including gift baskets, home decor, collectibles,

and handmade projects.

Children's activities, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., will include an obstacle course, face painting, and games.

The food booth, featuring brisket sandwiches and hot dogs, will open at 10:30 a.m.

The Live Auction will begin at noon. Some of the items and packages available are quilts, group dinners, reserved parking spots, radio tickets, and much more. So bring your wallet, and bid generously!



The children of AHUMC have created a beautiful stained glass window for Lord's Acre. In return for a \$5 donation to Lord's Acre, you'll get one entry in the prize drawing (or 5 entries for a \$20 donation). The winner will be announced at 12:30 p.m.

To Tommy and Gale Boyd, the 2014 Lord's Acre planning committee, and the members of AHUMC:

I can not express all my thoughts of gratitude for the honor you gave to me by naming the Blessing Country Store after me! It was a lot of work for everyone, but in the end it was such a joy to give the results to the church and the many outreach missions.

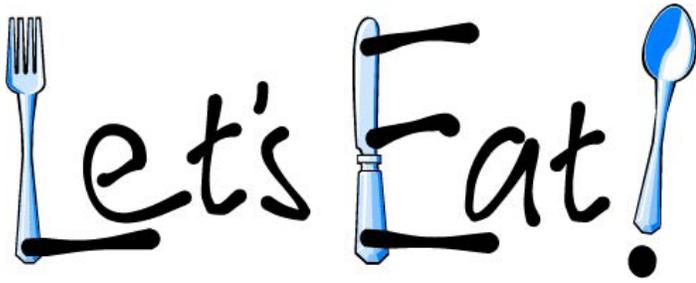
The credit for the Country Kitchen would not have been such a success without Susan Bleil who started it with me, the Genesis-Partners Class, and all of the wonderful members of AHUMC that brought all of their "OH SO GOOD" food items for us to sell!

I can't wait till this year's Lord's Acre! It will really be strange for me to not be doing the work after 12 years!

Blessings to all of you for all your hard work for the past 12 years and now!

Love and thanks to everyone in the name of Christ,

Martha Blessing



Do you like to go out to eat?

Are you tired of cooking every night?

Are you looking for dinner partners?

Want to make new friends
in your church community?

Let's Eat! is the answer to all of these! Groups of eight people (singles, couples, all ages, genders, tastes, hair-color, bikers, readers, whatever) get together for a meal (breakfast, lunch, dinner, after church, on a weekday, or on the weekend) once a month for four months. Your group can meet in homes, pot-luck-it, choose a restaurant and go out, have a picnic, hit the food truck park ... it's your choice. Family groups are welcome, and we'll do our best to match families with children in the same age-range. All other groups will be adult groups.

All you have to do is complete the form and the Let's Eat team goes to work. Groups are formed and folks start eating. After four months with one group, sign-ups begin again and new groups are formed. It's a great way to get to know your church community, to put faces with names, and to share table fellowship. And to HAVE FUN!

This round of Let's Eat! will begin in November and run through February ... Stop by the Welcome Center and sign up!

Journeyman

Journeyman, a men's faith development group, meets the first and third Sunday of the month, 5:30 p.m. at the Bearded Lady, 1229 7th Ave. This group, led by Van Burroughs II, discusses the practical issues of living out our faith each day. Join us for food and fellowship as we learn together how to grow into our call as Christians. For information, contact Rev. Grant Palma.



Arlington Heights United Methodist Church

4200 Camp Bowie Blvd. • Fort Worth, TX 76107

(817) 737-3161 • www.ahumcfw.org

Detailed information
about church events:
www.ahumcfw.org



/ahumc



/AHUMCFW

Click on "Calendar" at the
top of the homepage

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

Anne Bloesser | Haupt Preschool Director

Wendie Lunsford

Children's Director/Assistant to the Senior Pastor

Angela Pasquet | Nursery Director

Dr. Steve Simons | Chancel Choir Director

Tani Simons | Children's Choir Director

Frank Shroyer | Music Associate

Angela Hill | Finance Administrator

Gwen Patteson | Administrative Assistant/Office Manager

Missy Matthews | Communications Coordinator

Rick and Paula Trevino | Building Stewards

Monica Kintigh

Adjunct Staff/Licensed Counselor

Memorials and Honorariums

Anyone can make a gift to the church in honor or memory of a loved one. This is an excellent way to honor Sunday School teachers and others in the church in a way that contributes to the ministries of our congregation. Please mark your check or envelope with "honorarium" or "memorial" and state who it is from and to. For more information, contact the church office. *Thank you for your support of AHUMC Ministries.*



A Word from the Senior Pastor, Rev. Mary Spradlin: *Encourage One Another!*

“Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

— 1 Thessalonians 5:11

During his missionary journeys, the Apostle Paul would establish a church in a location, then move on. He would continue to pastor these churches from afar through his letters, which contained words of encouragement and instruction. To the church at Thessalonica, Paul sent these words, reminding the church that they are to continue in the way of encouragement.

We are still called to encourage one another as members of this body of Christ, AHUMC. This is not solely the work of the pastors, or the Congregational Care Team. It is work to which we are all called.

Over the past year, our church has performed an audit at the request of our Bishop. We removed names of people we are unable to locate, or people who have confirmed that they are no longer members of the church. To date, there are 1,845 names (children included) on our membership list. Most of these are

active, including some who are unable to attend for health reasons. However, 859 of these are considered “inactive.”

What makes a person become an “inactive” member? A recent article on the Ministry Matters website named seven reasons:

Burnout: People become so busy “doing” church that they forget how to “be” the church.

Injury: Even people inside a church can be hurtful to one another.

Distractions: Priority is given to other options.

Life Change: People grow up, get married, move, but it’s easier to remain a member at your “home church” than to attend anywhere else.

Mistakes: People mess up — sometimes publicly. Sometimes, it’s embarrassing to continue to attend your church.

Power Struggle: People who do not get “their way” at church can simply refuse to return.

Lack of Connection: People join the church, but never feel that they connect on a meaningful level with other members.

Can you think of others? It is our desire that all members would

remain active in their church home and support it continually with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Yet, over the years, AHUMC has collected a large number of inactive members.

What can we do about this? Are there people you wonder about? Do you know where your absent Sunday School class members are? What happened to the person who used to sit in the pew in front of you?

We focus often on inviting new people to our church, but I invite you also to prayerfully consider which members are missing. Could you be the person to invite them to return?

If you have a word of encouragement for someone who is absent, please reach out to them. If you need contact info, or if you are uncertain whether or not this person is still a member, please contact Gwen Patteson in the church office (817.737.3161; gpatteson@ahumc.com). As we are working to contact all of our inactive members, it will help if you will let Gwen know if you are able to make contact with someone who has been missing.

Thank you for all the ways you encourage one another in the faith.

God Bless,

Rev. Mary Spradlin, Senior Pastor



The annual Stewardship drive will begin Sunday, October 26, and will conclude on Commitment Sunday, November 16. Look for information about budget needs and how together we can continue to move our church forward. You will find information in the mail, your e-mail inbox and all over the church beginning October 19. Pray for the church daily in the weeks ahead — *God will lead us forward.*

Children's Ministries



The mission of Children's Ministries is to excite, engage and encourage children and families to worship God and live the life that Jesus taught us.

Worship is the WORTH we give to God. This is what we share each week when we gather together in a space that honors our God as a community.

We send our children to be with their peers for an hour to hear a story from the Bible, but the seeds we really plant about how important OUR God is begins when we gather as a community to focus on the one and only God.

We offer our best for an hour with our prayers, our songs, the words we sing are prayers set to music, the scriptures that are read and the thoughts that are offered during this time. God offers so much grace. The least we can do is offer our best to Him in worship, once a week.

Wendie Lunsford,
Director of Children's
Ministries



Wendie.Lunsford@gmail.com
817-891-5290



Monday, October 13 • 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We will use our hands to live and serve others. Cost is \$10 and includes lunch. Wear "yucky" clothes and shoes, we might get "messy." Invite your friends to come and join in the fun!

RSVP to Wendie.Lunsford@gmail.com or 817.891.5290.
(Mark your calendar for November 10 for our next adventure!)

Make a Joyful Noise

Our awesome Children's Choirs are up and ready to go for fall and getting ready for Advent. The Children's Choir (grades K-3) meets on Sunday afternoons, 4-5 p.m. The Junior Choir (grades 4-6) meet Sunday for dinner at 5 p.m. and rehearse 5:30-7 p.m. For more information, contact Tani Simons at tsimons@burlesonisd.net.

GPS for Kids: *Holy Moly!*

Holy Moly! Bible Study and Homework Helpers for elementary kids in grades K-5 happen on Wednesday nights starting at 6:15 p.m. Hanging out with church friends is a great way to take a break AND study, too. We learn about sharing and teaching others with gifts that God has given us.

Sixth Grade: Changes for Good

Sixth graders are "tweens" – between children and youth. In order to bridge this gap of being seen as a child to a youth, this year's sixth graders have been asked to be leaders and role models in Junior Choir AND are now included as Middle School students in the youth department on Sunday mornings. They are also participating in Middle School youth group activities with 7th and 8th graders, 4-5 p.m. Sundays. AHUMC will not have an "official" Confirmation class for two years because of this change. By delaying this commitment, our students will be even better prepared to make the choice to become faith followers and worshippers. They will have a deeper understanding of their faith journey and what it means to be a part of the Methodist church as a youth.



A Word from Josh Ingram, Youth Director

Now that school is back into full swing I get to look forward to one of the coolest weekends of the year, when the youth, some adults, and I will all slow down and camp for the weekend. We leave the comfort of our homes and beds and trade them for tents and sleeping bags. When we get away from the business and hurriedness of our lives, God can show us some pretty amazing things.

We'll spend the weekend working together to accomplish group goals and challenging ourselves individually to push through some personal limits.

I know it sounds crazy and not very responsible to tie a teenager to the end of a rope and dangle them from a cliff to help them find God — but in a way, that's part of what we do. Mineral Wells State Park offers some excellent rock climbing and rappelling opportunities to help



us learn how to trust ourselves and each other. We'll also spend time canoeing, fishing, hiking and taking in God's beautiful creation.

I always love the moment when a youth who spends most of their time in the city can get out and see the stars, smell the trees, and hear the sounds of life all around them. It's neat when a youth realizes that God made all of those really cool things.

It's really cool to see him or her process how long it must have taken, and how big God must be to do all of that. The most awesome part is, however, when a youth acknowledges that God made all of that AND made

him or her, that God loves him or her way more than any of those other things, and that there's a purpose behind all of it.

From the beginning of creation mankind has been travelling into the woods to reconnect with God. Just like Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist, and Jesus, we're going into the wilderness in search of God.

A campfire serves as our alter, our fear serves as our sacrifice, and a guitar and tired voices serve as our worship. Its about as Biblical as you can get — and we get to roast marshmallows.! Please keep us in your prayers the weekend of November 14-16.



Arlington Heights UMC "Fun" Raising Golf Tournament

November 16 • White Stone Golf Club, Benbrook

Mark your calendars — the Stewardship Team will hold our first-ever Golf Tournament on November 16. Proceeds will be used complete the year's financial needs and to help fund the purchase of a food truck.

The entry fee is \$50, which includes everything — greens fees, cart, lunch and a goody bag. Lunch will be served starting at 12:15 p.m. and will continue until the shotgun start at 1:30 p.m.

Come to church November 16 and then you can go directly to the course. Call Jim Pledger or Darrel Carver for information, or to register.

Kairos Ministry Completes Eighth Weekend at Estes Prison Unit

By Paul Cox, Kairos Volunteer

The Greek “kairos” means *God’s Special Time*. Kairos is an international Christian ministry addressing the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, and children; their families; and those who work in prisons. AHUMC members volunteer in a variety of ways with this ministry, both inside and outside the prisons.

Recently five AHUMC members participated in a three-day Kairos weekend at the Estes Unit in Venus, a Texas prison. Robbie Patton led the outside support team, while Joy Perry and Tabatha Bruton served as “worker bees” in that phase. Bryan Bruton and Paul Cox were on the inside team, serving as assistant table leaders and giving talks to the inmate participants.

The 42 participants were selected from many applicants by the chaplain, a committee of Kairos leaders, and prison officials. Joy also represented “Kairos Outside,” which is a two-day weekend for women impacted by the incarceration a male in their life.

Robbie’s support team volunteers prepared meals, organized posters, thousands of cookies, and hundreds of letters of encouragement that were delivered to the prison several times a day. Support team volunteers were also assigned a participating inmate as a “prayer partner.” They prayed for the inmate and his three-day experience, and also offered prayers at the inmate’s request. During the Sunday closing ceremony, the participants repeatedly said how moved they were by the letters of encouragement from people they don’t even know. Bryan and Paul gave talks relating to their walk with Christ and the personal benefits of their relationship with him.

Volunteers, especially those in direct contact with the inmate participants, find the experience to be very gratifying and even “addictive” in a Christian way. Kairos is an ecumenical international ministry with more than 35,000 volunteers, focusing on the common Christian beliefs of all denominations. Numerous denominations and independent congregations are represented, however, by the end of the tenth weekend at Estes next July, five of the weekend leaders will have been Methodists: three from tiny Sardis UMC and two from AHUMC.

The ultimate goal of the weekend is to inspire and motivate the participants to participate weekly in accountability groups called *Prayer & Share*, which are fashioned after John Wesley’s brotherhood groups.

What the experience does for the volunteers is often a deeply spiritual connection with the Holy Spirit that so often benefits their walk with Christ as no other experience has. The volunteers may receive more from the experience than the participants. For information about how to get involved in a small or large way, contact Paul, 817.239.3932, or Robbie, 817.909.2584. Additional information is available at www.KairosPrison.com.



*I was in prison
and you
visited me ...*

— Matthew 25:36



Welcome, Angela Hill!

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is very pleased to introduce our new Finance Administrator: Angela Hill. Angela is a native of Lubbock, and has a B.S. in Accounting and a M.S. in Auditing from Texas Tech University. She lives in Arlington with her husband, David, and her daughter Avery (7), and sons Dylan (6) and Connor (2). Please keep Angela in your prayers as she transitions into this role on our AHUMC Staff. The SPR would also like to extend our deep gratitude to Renee Seeds, who has kept our finances running smoothly during this time of transition, and to Chad Bradford, Finance Chair.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

October Gathering:
Lana Halpin’s home: Saturday,
October 25, 2–4 p.m.

For more information about this ministry, contact Lana Halpin, 817.738.8879. Anyone who is interested is welcome to participate.



• Grow • Pray • Serve •

Wednesdays:

Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; classes – 6:15 p.m.

Wings of the Morning

On September 14, AHUMC hosted a dinner with Rukang Chikomb, a missionary with Wings of the Morning. AHUMC supports the United Methodist mission, Wings of the Morning, through our covenant relationship with Gaston Ntambo, a missionary who works with Chikomb in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Rukang and Gaston are both pilots who provide much-needed transportation for hospitals, educators, mission teams, church leaders, and other mission needs. Rukang shared details of his ministry with the group of 50 church members. His country lacks developed roads and relies on airplanes to serve as ambulances for the sick and transportation for medication and supplies for remote areas. His family's work with a local orphanage helps provide food, shelter, education and spiritual development for dozens of children.

Rukang Chikomb and Gaston Ntambo, along with countless other UMC missionaries around the world, are sharing the love of Jesus Christ through medical missions in the most needed areas. Your contributions to connectional giving make a difference in the world through ministries such as Wings of the Morning.

Come find your place on Wednesday nights during our new GPS program. A soup dinner is provided each Wednesday night by Allen Lutes and small groups at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds from the dinner (\$5 adults, \$2 children, \$15 family maximum) go toward our connectional missional giving. Following dinner, programming begins – including long term, short term and one-night studies:

Disciple I Bible Study

Who is this Man? Bible Study, led by Rev. Grant Palma

The Shack Book Study, led by Clyde Hemminger

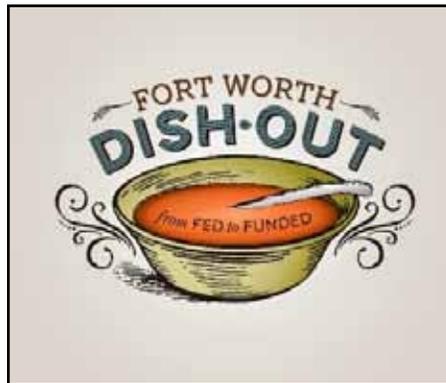
Meeting Faith in the Media, led by Allen Lutes

Holy Moly is a fun way for children in grades K-5 to learn more about God and get caught up on their homework and the youth meets for their weekly Wednesday Bible study.

There are ways for the entire family to Grow, Pray and Serve on Wednesday nights at AHUMC. See you there!

November Dish Out

November 9, 5 p.m. • Marquis at Magnolia



Come hear from three local groups who are working to address the need of hunger in our community. \$20 buys a delicious meal, and a vote for your favorite group. The project with the most votes receives 60 percent of the night's net proceeds from ticket and T-shirt sales; the remaining 40 percent is split evenly between the other two projects.

Volunteer at Union Gospel Mission: October 18

Every third Saturday, members of AHUMC gather at the Union Gospel Mission on Lancaster to help feed dinner to our homeless neighbors. This volunteer opportunity is open to all ages. Meet at the Mission at 4 p.m. For more information, please contact Allen Lutes, alutes@ahumc.com



Children of all ages are invited to Trunk or Treat on October 26!

Dress in costume and parade through the trunks to gather treats.

We expect many guests from our neighborhood to share this special event.

ALL families, small groups and

Sunday School classes are invited to host a trunk and offer sincere hospitality to our neighbors.

The UMW will serve stew and cornbread (hot dogs, too!) for supper!

For more information, contact Wendie.Lunsford@gmail.com.

Pet Blessing



Sunday, October 26, is a special time to bless the creatures God has given us to love. Our clergy will meet, greet and bless your animal family members on the front lawn of the church at 5 p.m.

The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye-to-eye, a man and his dog, or a woman and her cat, are two creatures of love.

No wonder people enjoy the opportunity to take their animal companions to church for a special blessing! Church is the place where the bond of creation is celebrated. Join our clergy at 5 p.m. on the front lawn for your pets to be individually blessed on this special day.



AHUMC's annual **PUMPKIN PATCH IS HERE!**

Sign up with your **friends** and **family** to help support the ministry and missions of our church by selling pumpkins.

Sign up for volunteer spots at www.ahumcfw.org



Save the Date!

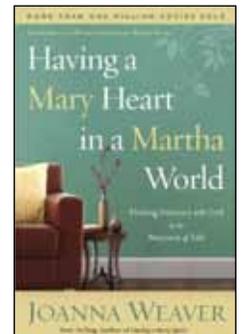
Holly Daze Bazaar Handcrafted Gift Show

Saturday, November 8
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Arlington Heights
United Methodist Church

Free Admission! 45 vendors!

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World



**M&Ms, A
Women's
Spirituality
Group**, will

begin a book study on *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver on October 21. The group meets the third Tuesday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. New members are welcome. For information, please contact Linda Allen, lallen1475@aol.com.

A new young adult Sunday School class meets at 9:40 a.m. in room 205. The group will study how to apply faith in everyday life, impact our community through mission and grow together in friendship. For information, contact Grant Palma, gpalma@ahumc.com.