

# the faith journal

Arlington Heights United Methodist Church

[www.ahumcfw.org](http://www.ahumcfw.org)

Spring 2016



## What is General Conference?

### How often does it meet

General Conference, which meets every four years, serves as the official law-making body of the UMC. Our polity is set forth in our Book of Discipline, which is open for revision only during General Conference sessions.

### How is the Conference organized?

For the first half of Conference, delegates are divided into 12 legislative committees to consider all of the petitions that have been submitted to request changes to the Discipline. During the second week, delegates meet in plenary sessions to vote on petitions that have been vetted by the committees. The entire Conference is bathed in prayer and worship, with different Bishops of the church presiding and preaching.

### How are petitions made to General Conference?

Petitions were submitted by any interested clergy, lay person, small group, church or agency of the

UMC prior to October 15, 2015. For the sake of expediency, similar petitions are grouped together when considered by the legislative committees. Wording of petitions is honed in committee and plenary sessions before they are voted upon.

### Who are the delegates?

850 voting delegates represent all geographical areas of our global denomination. (A significant amount of time and money is spent at General Conference on providing translators for all of the languages represented.) 58% are from the U.S., 30% are from Africa. Half are clergy and half are laity. All are elected from their home conferences. Bishops attend, but do not have a vote. Additional (reserve) delegates participate by “shadowing” voting delegates on legislative committees, or covering committees that conference delegates cannot cover. (The CTC has eight voting delegates, but there are 12 legislative committees to cover.)

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet in Portland, Oregon, May 10–20, 2016. 850 delegates from across the globe will gather as the official law-making body of the UMC. Our Senior Pastor, Mary Spradlin, was elected by the clergy of the Central Texas Annual Conference to serve as one of 11 clergy on the delegation that represents our conference at this event.

Delegations meet together daily to pool information to inform voting.

### Can I be a delegate?

Any lay person can ask to be included on the ballot for General Conference 2020. Laity are asked to complete a biographical sketch and photo. Lay members of our Annual Conference will elect lay delegates for 2020 in 2018. Prime candidates have some experience on district and conference committees. If you have an interest in participating, please let Rev. Mary Spradlin know.

### What are the “big issues” facing General Conference in 2016?

Issues of church structure (i.e. Can we continue as a global denomination?), human sexuality (i.e. Can clergy perform same-sex unions? Can homosexual individuals be ordained?), and sustainable and responsible investments (i.e. divestment from companies that

*continued on page 2 →*



### Faithful Stewards

It is with deep appreciation that we celebrate the many years of service Jeanne Boyd and Jo Ann Basham have given to prepare Holy Communion each Sunday at the 8:30 service. For many years, these two have been among the first to arrive each Sunday and have carefully prepared the bread and the juice on the altar so we can participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The sisters recently retired from this position, but we remain grateful for their faithfulness in making it possible for us to experience this means of grace each Sunday for many years. **Thank you!**

*continued from page 1*

support efforts in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict) are among the many issues facing GC2016.

### How does General Conference affect us at Arlington Heights?

While issues discussed and voted upon in Portland may have a significant impact on the structure and membership of the UMC, the ministries of our local church won't necessarily undergo any significant change. Our ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through the mission and ministries

of our congregation, in our local community and beyond, need not be diminished by changes (or lack of changes) to the Discipline. Any significant changes that are made will not go into effect until the new Discipline is published in January of 2017, so we will have a bit of time as a congregation to consider how the new Discipline will impact our congregation.

### How Can I Learn More?

There is a LOT of information to explore about the future of our denomination. You can visit our delegation's communications page: [www.rebelmouse.com/gc2016/](http://www.rebelmouse.com/gc2016/).

# Celebrate Life!

At Any Age!

### Celebrate Life at any age!

Building and exploring our community through fellowship while meeting new people.

RSVP in Sunday School, at the Welcome Desk, or call church office.

### Game Night at the Sharpes:

Thursday, April 27, 6– 8:30 p.m. Come play Dominoes, Mexican Train, Chicken Foot, Bridge, Scrabble, Rummikub, Trivia, or any other card or board games. Bring a snack to share. Maps at the Welcome Center. Contact Barbara Sharpe, 817.353.2442.

**Senior Synergy Expo, Health & Lifestyle:** Thursday, May 5, Bus leaves at 8:45 a.m. for Will Rogers Memorial Center.

**Movie Time! *The Overnighters*:** Thursday, May 5, Rm 354E, 2 p.m.

**Lunch and Birthday Bash:** Wednesday, May 11, noon–2 p.m. You're invited to light lunch and dessert! Cost: by donation. Celebrate May birthdays and joys! After lunch, those who can stay will play games.

**Adventure!** Fossil Rim Wildlife Center: Tuesday, May 17, 10:30 a.m.: bus leaves for Glen Rose.

# HEIGHTSights



Our youth served guests at the Fortress Literacy Fair in east Fort Worth as part of their "Rooted" Youth Retreat.



Thank you to all who donated at our United Methodist Men Pancake Breakfast. More than \$2,600 was received! Proceeds benefit the Forefathers Scholarship Fund, which is available to church members who are enrolled in higher education.



Our youth will soon send letters requesting support from the congregation for their upcoming mission trip to help with flood relief in San Marcos.

Our Haupt Preschool recently celebrated their first ArtFest, which was a wonderful success! Haupt families enjoyed a great evening together while raising \$1,200 to help with playground improvements.



Five & Two volunteers provided a Communion Service at the Patriot House on Maundy Thursday.

Celebrate your birthday in a unique way at our *Celebrate Life!* luncheons! The next lunch is May 11.



# Why I love AHUMC

“Numbers matter, but values are immeasurable ...”

Have you ever had a day when nothing seemed to go right ... you can't find the packet you prepared for the early morning meeting ... you forgot to feed the dog ... the gasoline gauge is courting empty ... your cell phone cannot be found.

And then there are days when you feel like God is orchestrating a stellar experience that ignites your soul to reach new heights in communion with Him. I had such a day recently and my “take-away” was confirmation of God's love and direction in my life and my love for Arlington Heights UMC.

Ellie Claire is a four year old in our Haupt Preschool. Her father, John Kennedy, struggles with a still-to-be-confirmed diagnosis of a disease that has robbed him of motor skills including walking, speaking and swallowing. John and Martha-Nell are also parents to Mary Alice, age 2, who has Type 1 Diabetes. These AHUMC members face daunting challenges, but they do it with humor and grace.

When their situation was brought to the attention of our church staff, the decision was made to turn our Fat Tuesday all-church event into a fund raiser for the Kennedys. It had not only the complete support of the staff, but also their active involvement. Over 50 volunteer hours were given. The crawfish arrived on time; the faithful volunteers showed up, the bread pudding and gumbo were ready to serve, the tables were set with colorful Mardi Gras centerpieces, the band was warming up. I stood in the church kitchen ten minutes before start time, breathed deeply and silently voiced a pitiful pleading prayer that the people would come.

*And Glory! Hallelujah! did they come!* John was unable to attend, but Martha-Nell and her girls, along with her mother, sisters and other family and friends, came. The generous people of AHUMC came and came and gave and gave. The Prayer Shawl Ministry presented shawls for the entire family.

A Kennedy family contact pledged to match donations raised by the event. Another pledged to match up to \$2,500. One man gave \$1,000. I left that night knowing we had made close to \$5,000. The next day, I discovered that money was still coming in. The final count will be at close to \$7,000 raised by our church. When the matching donations are added, the total will be slightly more than \$17,000. I firmly believe that the venue AHUMC provided was an impetus for some of the matching donations.

And the Grace of God keeps on coming. John will soon have a wheelchair ramp built by one of our new Stephen Ministers and The Journeymen. Licensed baby sitters from AHUMC help with the children when Martha-Nell needs to be involved with John's care. Another Stephen Minister, a Diabetic educator-nurse, will provide help with planning meals for Mary Alice. Our Congregational Care team will mobilize people to help with other needs such as yard work, cleaning, shopping, babysitting, and meal preparation.

What I have been privileged to realize from this experience is that one should never, ever underestimate the generosity of the people at AHUMC with their time, talents and money. Beyond monetary support to the Kennedys, we are giving them the blessing of our love and prayers. We give them the heart and love of Christ through our human efforts.



I know Methodists like to count to show we are vibrant congregations. However, this good day was not just about dollars and numbers. It was a good day because I was a part of, and witness to, an effort that cannot be measured in numbers. It is immeasurable ... those values of being a part of God's plan, being the hands and feet of Christ. I think those are the values that must be the foundation of all the numbers collected at AHUMC.

And what did AHUMC show the world? Our packed parking lot prompted a question from a woman walking by. Jim Pledger told her about our event and she left knowing that in her neighborhood, AHUMC is a beacon on the hill for Christian compassion in action. What did we show the strangers who came to our church for this event? AHUMC showed in action that we can be strangers and still be closely bound by the love of Christ in carrying out the love of Christ.

And so again, I realize this is a GOOD DAY. I pray the next time I stand in the kitchen before start time, I will not plead with God for the people to come. I will rejoice and shout *Hallelujah!* because I know He will be faithful. I will be assured that HE will be there in immeasurable ways through the hands and feet of AHUMC servants. His will shall be done. How wonderful it is to witness his Love. It is a GOOD DAY, indeed.

— Betty Nethery

# News for Children & Families



**KIDS IN K-5TH GRADE:  
CATCH THE WAVE!  
JULY 11-14: 9am - noon**



Remember the Lord is great and awesome! — Nehemiah 4:14

**Don't miss the VBS fun!** Registration is open for kids in K-5th grade at AHUMCFW.org.

Youth and adults, find out how you can serve God and teach children the stories of the Bible at VBS as a "Lifeguard" (guides), or volunteer in storytelling, crafts, science, recreation, music or snacks. Stop by the table in the Atrium in May and find out how you can join the Surf Shack fun, or register as a volunteer at AHUMCFW.org.

Nursery and Preschool VBS are available for children of volunteers. These children must be registered with a hard copy registration form (available at the VBS table in the atrium). Space is limited — register early!

Taryn Compton, Melody Bradley and Maggie Mitchell have caught the big wave of excitement and want to invite everyone to grab a surf board and sign up for *Surf Shack* VBS fun! Volunteers need to be Ministry Safe certified. For more information, go to AHUMCFW.org or contact Melody Bradley (elementary) at [melodyjbradley@gmail.com](mailto:melodyjbradley@gmail.com) or Taryn Compton (preschool) [tarynand@gmail.com](mailto:tarynand@gmail.com).

## Heifer International Family Field Trip

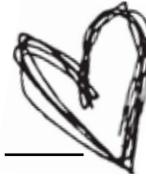
The summer starts off with a great road trip and experience on June 3-5. Students entering 4th, 5th and 6th grades, along with one parent each, are invited to find out more about Heifer International in Little Rock. We will visit the headquarters and the Heifer Ranch in Perryville.



This trip is designed to build and strengthen relationships with church friends, children and adults. We will leave Friday to stay at St. James UMC in Little Rock. Saturday we will tour Heifer headquarters, then visit the Perryville ranch to see the animals and learn first hand how Heifer teaches communities to be sustainable and self-sufficient. We will spend Saturday night at St. James and worship with them on Sunday before returning to Fort Worth.

It is our hope that by having a hands-on, memory creating experience that our children will embrace the adventure and creative compassion of how to be the hands and feet of Christ. For more information, contact Wendie.

Do everything  
in love!



— 1 Corinthians 16:14 (NIV)

## A Time for Children

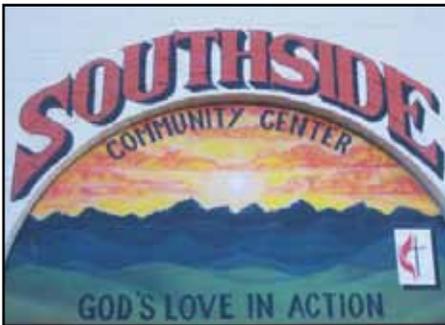
Children and families are facing challenging times today and need the love of God more than ever. AHUMC is excited to be a part of *A Time for Children*, a three-year pilot program funded by the Texas Methodist Foundation to provide spiritual support, mentoring, and coaching for congregations in the area of Children's Ministry. Dr. Leanne Hadley is working as a consultant for CTC to reach children and families and develop their spiritual life.

It is through our hard times that we are transformed by God's love. It is through relationships and Holy Conversations that children are able to talk about things that are going on in their lives, which then allows us to talk about God, stories and characters in the Bible.

By offering blessings to children each week, they learn that their church is a warm, safe and caring place — and that when things go bad in school or at home, they will find caring friends at church. We all need to be reminded each week of the love of God through worshiping in community.

We look forward to working with Rev. Dr. Hadley and *A Time for Children*, and to sharing new dreams and new possibilities!

**Wendie Lunsford,**  
Director of Family Ministries  
[wendie.lunsford@gmail.com](mailto:wendie.lunsford@gmail.com)



**Our summer mission will be serving in San Marcos with Southside Community Center, June 19-24.**



**Heights Sunday Night:** Gather for food and fellowship, 5 p.m. On April 24, we will begin a new opportunity of learning and growing together: *SQUAD*. Being a great friend is sometimes is the best way to represent Christ! Join us as we learn and grow together in what it means to be a squad with #friendshipgoals.

**Holy Conversations:** In May, we are investing in preparation for our summer mission with Holy Conversations. These conversations will be 4-4:30 p.m. and 4:30-5 p.m. Sundays. All youth who are going on the mission trip should reserve their spot for these important conversations. Per the mission trip requirements, these conversations are mandatory for all participants.

---

## Update on Camp Bowie Land

In 2002, our congregation purchased two lots located across the street on the south side of Camp Bowie. Periodically, we take time to consider what we will do with this property.

For the past year and a half, the Trustees have been in discussion with the owner of Sally's Flower Shop about potential lease/sell/buy opportunities that would involve all three lots.

After much discussion among the Board of Trustees and consultation with interested members of the congregation, we have not yet determined what our best use for this property will be. However, we have learned a lot in this discerning process, and we are

continuing to explore options.

A number of options are available to us, including: 1) Sell the land – we have had two offers to purchase the property which are contingent on also purchasing the adjoining flower shop lot; 2) Purchase the flower shop lot – this would expand our holdings and make it possible for us to put a larger building on that property at some point in the future; 3) Keep the land – this could involve developing the space across the street as a park which would feature our Five & Two food truck.

The Trustees are in conversation with potential buyers and also with the City of Fort Worth regarding options #1 and #3.

It is important to note that, per the UMC Book of Discipline, church property technically belongs to the Central Texas Conference. In order for us to sell this property, we will need a vote of our Charge Conference and also permission from the District Committee of Building and Location and our District Superintendent.

The Trustees met with the District Committee in February and received permission to sell, if we so choose. As we learn more about these options, we will keep the congregation updated.

If you have questions or ideas about our land across the street, please contact Cindy Fergus, Trustee Chair, at [cindyfergus@att.net](mailto:cindyfergus@att.net).

# My Faith

I believe it started for me at a very young age. In my childhood home, we had a glorious oak tree on which my father had built a tire swing. I loved that swing and was grateful to the tree for allowing me to become a part of it. I would climb onto the lowest branch and watch the world go by. It was my favorite pastime. As you can see, I was not your usual child, playing with dolls or pretend games. Instead I was, and still am, a very pensive and curious person. I am always asking, “why?” and, “how?” ... to the dismay of all the adults around me at that time (and even now)! Appeasing answers didn’t satisfy me. I needed more. One day while sitting in the tree contemplating nature’s many wonders, I experienced something quite profound. All of a sudden I felt as if a golden ray of sun shining through the leaves of the tree embraced me with a marvelous indescribable warm embrace. I heard the words, “Keep steady.” No one was around me, but I was not afraid. On the contrary I felt loved,

and within that moment, without hearing any verbal answers to my many questions, I had all the answers. Every answer I would need throughout my life was answered for me at seven years old.

This simple beautiful knowledge has empowered me and has become my Guide to handle many of life’s problems and worries. Most recently a devastating diagnosis proved to be an opportunity to reach for my Reserve and Inner Guide for direction. The answers came to me when it was meant for them to be revealed. The Blessings (answers) have come to me in many forms. It’s exciting for me to watch for them. I look at these Blessings as puzzle pieces to my recovery. One of them has been Arlington Heights United Methodist Church.

Today, right now (which is all we have) is the most important



moment. To be able to express how important my faith and AHUMC are to me is a joy and a privilege. Here at AHUMC this discussion can take place and be received with open arms and minds. I cherish both and am certain of one thing: God is with me, guiding me, loving me and watching over me, embracing me with His bright warm light of love. Just like He did that day in the big oak tree with the tire swing my father made for me swaying in the breeze. I am on the road to recovery to the joyful exclamation of my doctor. My faith has sustained me and AHUMC has empowered me to share my story.

— Martha McMullen

---

## Congregational Care Team: *Sharing God's Love with Those in Need*

The Gospel of Mark tells the story of four individuals who desperately wanted to carry their paralyzed friend to Jesus so he could be healed. They found Jesus in a home, but could not get to him because of the large crowd.

These four individuals did not give up and go home; they climbed on the house and lowered their friend on a mat through the roof. Jesus was moved by their faith, and he healed their friend.

We are trying to live into this example of sharing God’s love with

the world through the work of the Congregational Care Team.

The CCT equips and empowers laity to share God’s love with those in need. For over a year, the members of our team have visited the hospitalized and homebound, made prayer shawls, hand written birthday cards, sent sympathy cards, and given care to our church in many other vital and creative ways.

Our Stephen Ministers help provide extended care for those who are experiencing difficult challenges and changes in their lives. The CCT

also organizes the Prayer Partner list each week. We are glad to serve God and the church and are constantly looking for new ways to care for our congregation and the community.

Many of these ministries have been operating for several years, but we are organizing our efforts to prevent needs from going unnoticed.

If you know of a need within the church, or would like to receive the Prayer Partner list email each week, please contact Gwen Patteson in the church office, [gpatteson@ahumc.com](mailto:gpatteson@ahumc.com) or 817.737.3161.

# Stay Connected Through



We have reached the first anniversary of our Elexio database! To date, 211 people have registered to use the database on their home computer or phone. That's a great start, but we hope many others will take the time to register by going to our website ([www.ahumcfw.org](http://www.ahumcfw.org)). Click on "Elexio" on the far right of the home page and follow the directions to register your account. If you have any questions, please contact Gwen Patteson ([gpatteson@ahumc.com](mailto:gpatteson@ahumc.com)).

**Why should you register for Elexio?** Lots of reasons! Logging into Elexio on your home computer enables you to:

- Add/update your personal information (including individual and family photo), so the church will be able to contact you via email,

phone and text.

- Access contact information for other church members through the online directory.
- Check your online giving record at any time.
- Make a one-time or recurring donation online, anytime.
- See a roster of all members of your ministry group(s); send an email to all group members easily. (Ministry leaders can send a text to all group members and also update group attendance for events.)

**But wait, there's more!** Installing the "My Church by Elexio" app on your smartphone gives you easy access to church information:

- Church Directory (with photos)
- Events calendar
- Giving History and "Donate

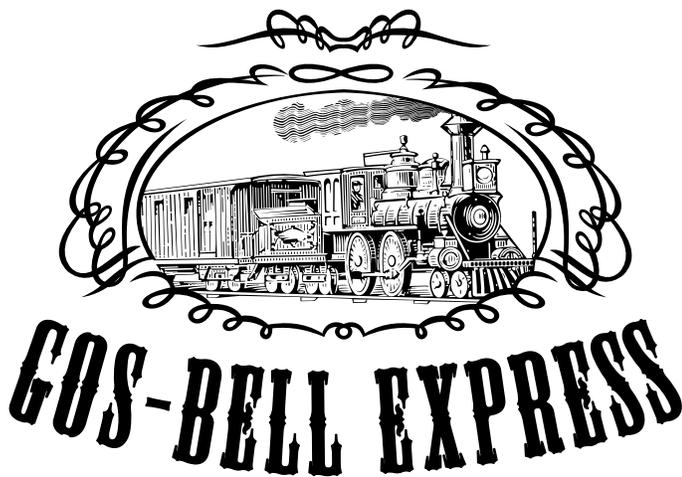
Now" capability

- Check-In capabilities: register your attendance at church events (available until the event ends). Parents of children birth-5th grade can pre-register their children and receive a QR Code on their phone which can be scanned in for quick check-in at the Elexio station on Sundays.

- Ministry leaders have "Group Check-in" capabilities and can take attendance for their entire group.

- Connect with updated church info, including this week's announcement page, live stream of services, ministry forms, and the latest info on the Five & Two Food Truck.

**There are so many benefits to accessing your Elexio account. Create your account today!**



**Presenting the Great Gospel Hymns of the Church**

**Sunday, May 15 • 7 p.m.**  
**Reception to follow in the Atrium**

**Presented by AHUMC's Handbell Ministry  
Bell Conte Ringers  
& Instrumental Ensemble**

The Handbell Ministry of AHUMC will present *Gos-Bell Express*, a spring concert by Bell Conte Ringers on May 15. The bell choir will be joined by other instruments throughout the concert, including clarinet, violin, percussion, string bass, piano and organ.

Sherman-based composer Anna Laura Page (a member of Dr. Pledger's former church) was raised among the Baptists in the mountains of Kentucky. As a result, nobody composes gospel-hymn music for handbell choirs any better than Ms. Page, and several of her pieces will be featured on the concert.

If you like *When the Roll is Called Up Yonder, He Keeps Me Singing, Down by the Riverside, It Is Well With My Soul, Standing in the Need of Prayer, and His Eye is on the Sparrow*, you will want to be present for this concert.

Bell Conte Director Frank Shroyer says people often ask him, "What are those sticks you play or how do they make that sound?" The evening will begin with a discussion of the art of English Handbell ringing and an explanation of the equipment and techniques.

Invite your family and friends to AHUMC for an evening of great gospel tunes with the *Gos-Bell Express*!

# Update: United Methodist Men of AHUMC

You may have heard that there have been some exciting changes recently concerning the future of AHUMC's United Methodist Men. As the newly elected president, I want to provide an update about our plans for the future.

The changes to UMM were not intended as a complete upheaval, but rather a "meeting of minds" in an effort to reinvigorate the ministry in the belief that it can become an element for change and growth through Christian fellowship and community works.

Jack Smith is still playing a vital role as treasurer, and other roles have been filled by new additions to the Methodist Men, veterans of the Journeymen group that has been meeting for over a year. They are Brandon Rodgers, Communications; Jason Pitts, Missions Coordinator; and myself as president.

We have a plan for UMM to create an environment which breeds faith leadership, conscientious involvement, humble evangelism, and solid presence of support – both for each other and our community.

To do this, we will create teams, composed of a broad spectrum of the men of our church. We hope to create a greater sense of camaraderie and community within our church congregation. We hope that the cumulative results of our efforts to serve will further the kingdom of God by deed and example.

Proverbs 11:14 tells us, "Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in the abundance of counselors there is victory." In that spirit, eight volunteers have stepped forward to serve as team leaders. These leaders will coordinate monthly mission and faith development events. The faith development will be provided by our

clergy, but delivered by the leaders, with all teams receiving the same message. The mission work will vary. We are establishing a dynamic "mission database" that will be managed by our missions coordinator. Team leaders will choose mission projects from the list which best suit the talents of their team members.

There are many tasks that need be done around the church and in the community which can be accomplished by talent present in our congregation. Through this database, we hope to match needs with talents through organization, coordination, and communication.

Our plans are ambitious, and our goals are high! All it will take to make them a reality is for you to take part. All men are invited to come share their faith as part of UMM.

— Van Burroughs II  
(van2@bettico.com, 817.944.9334)

## Mexico Mission: Transformation!



In March, AHUMC was privileged to join University UMC and the TCU Wesley Foundation to serve in Acuna, Mexico. James Hinsey, Shirley Gangwere, Ole and Debbie Nygaard, and Gabriel and Allen Lutes represented AHUMC. The group worked with Casas Por Christo to build a three-room home for the Vasquez family.

Daniel, Cindy and Jaime Vasquez were present each day, helping with construction and being a vital part of the process as we got to know them and they us. This was

a powerful witness to the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

While the Vasquez family may not remember every person who helped build their home, for generations they will be reminded of the love that God has for their family. The group was also blessed to spend time in an orphanage, playing with the children living there and sharing the love of Christ with them.

We are blessed to be the church locally and internationally. Please consider joining our next mission trip!



Arlington Heights  
United Methodist Church

4200 Camp Bowie Blvd. • Fort Worth, TX 76107

(817) 737-3161 • [www.ahumcfw.org](http://www.ahumcfw.org)

Detailed information about church events:  
[www.ahumcfw.org](http://www.ahumcfw.org)

Click on "Things to Know" at the top of the homepage



/ahumc



/AHUMCFW

# A Note from the Trustees

**Project Refresh** has created some great improvements at AHUMC this year! Please take a moment to admire the repairs to the wall on the southeast corner of the Sanctuary. Not visible are repairs that have also been made to the roof to keep water from entering the building at that location. Our Sanctuary also looks brighter and more comfortable, as our new pew cushions have been installed! Thanks to all who have sponsored a pew, kneeler, or choir chair. We have received more than \$13,000 in donations, and pews are still available for sponsoring. A Book of Gratitude will commemorate memorials and honorariums given for this project.

Thank you to classes and small groups who participated in the **Clutter Buster Challenge**. This is a continual work in progress, but some changes have helped to open up our space and improve the flow of traffic on Sunday morning. If you have questions about changes (or if you have some more clutter to dispose of!), please contact Trustee Chair Cindy Fergus ([cindyfergus@att.net](mailto:cindyfergus@att.net), 817.863.3522) and she will be happy to help.

Our **Landscape Project** is underway, and our building is looking better with all of the needed attention it is receiving! The Bradford Pear trees on the west side of the church were removed due to their age and the concern that roots would soon be pushing up the sidewalk, creating a tripping hazard. This change has really made our church visible from Camp Bowie and Hillcrest!

Phase II improvements are underway and include: trimming of live oak on the west side of our building (done), removal of live oak on the south side to make the rose window more visible, lighting to enhance the rose window, and addition of plants to provide color to the south side of the property.

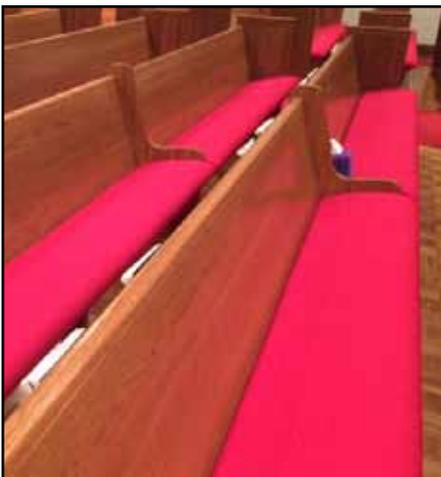
The north side of our property is also receiving some attention. The west side of the children's playground has new artificial turf, which has the dual benefit of being beneficial for our kids and also helping alleviate drainage problems which have caused flooding in our building in the past.

Additionally, improvements have been made to our security system that will benefit all church

members. For maximum safety and security, our outside doors are kept locked throughout the day and evening. We now have the ability to give out codes to church members so they can access the west entrance for specific times related to their ministry event (i.e. children's choir, youth, chancel choir, etc.). Soon, members of these ministries will receive codes that will allow us to keep the door locked while making it easy for those who need to be here to access the building

Thank you to all who have provided support for these projects. Costs have been covered through pew cushion donations, The Lightfoot 100, our Children's and General Endowment Funds, and Preschool fund raisers. Golf Tournament proceeds will help pay for Phase II of our landscaping.

This has been a significant effort, and is the culmination of plans that have been discussed for many years among members of the Trustees and the congregation. We have a beautiful (and sometimes demanding!) building, and we are excited to make improvements that show the love and care we share for AHUMC.



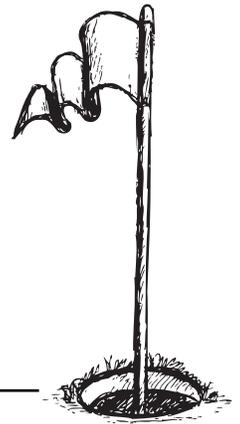
**The Sanctuary Refresh is well on its way!** Daniel Pascu and his son Joshua of Church Interiors, Inc., have done a great job installing the new upholstery on the church pews in the sanctuary and the chairs in the choir loft. Thanks to their craftsmanship, the pews and chairs look beautiful. The Landscape Refresh is moving forward also. Thank you to Camille Thomason and other Prayer Garden volunteers for planting and mulching around the AHUMC sign on Camp Bowie. The landscapers have begun the refresh on the flowerbeds and brick planters on the south side of the building facing Camp Bowie. New flowers and shrubs will be added to provide color that shouts "come join us at church"! Thank you to the 84 families to date who have contributed to the Project Refresh! To contribute, contact Angela Hill in the church office, [ahill@ahumc.com](mailto:ahill@ahumc.com).



# Arlington Heights UMC JIMMY JONES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, May 1, following worship

All are welcome — AHUMC family, friends, men and women, all ages.  
Register in Atrium or Welcome Center (Sundays) or the church office (weekdays).



## Endowment Update

by John Thomason,  
2015 Endowment Chair

Endowment distributions in 2015 and in previous years were made possible by the generous donations and bequests the AHUMC Endowment Fund has received over the past 25 years.

The Endowment Committee has distributed \$176,000 from 2006 through 2015. Since only the income is spent (never the principal), making a bequest or gift to the AHUMC Endowment is an easy way to perpetuate the ministry of the church.

The Endowment Committee had \$29,596 available for distribution in 2015.

- The Children's Ministry received \$1700 to help in purchasing and installing artificial turf on the playground. Another \$496 was given

to purchase a tablet and keyboard for an Elexio check-in station on the Blue Floor.

- The Youth Ministry received \$1,000 to pay for registration for a Youth Workers Conference. Another \$1,600 will be used for an in-house leadership training weekend for six youth and two adults. \$500 will be used to add an Elexio check-in station for the youth. Youth Ministries also received \$2,921 for new furniture in the Activity Room and Senior High classroom and wall mounted TVs.

- From the Permanent Endowment, the Learning Community received \$1,500 for learning and training sessions. \$2,500 will be used for art supplies, music and musicians. \$2,000 was given to offset the cost of the *Jesus Project – A Red Letter Year* brochure.

- Third Space Worship received \$3,961 for a DLP projector, a

motorized 92-inch screen, accessories and electrician installation cost.

- The Trustees received \$5,000 to upgrade the audio equipment in the sanctuary. \$4,000 will be used to replace the exterior double doors (two sets) leading into the building from the playground. Finally, \$2,418 was used to replace a water heater and sump pump.

Endowment distributions made a big impact in the church this year by enhancing worship, supplementing the budget, and providing goods and services that would not otherwise have been available.

The Endowment Chair for 2016 is Jack Klemm. If you have questions about the AHUMC Endowment Fund, please contact him at [klemm@flash.net](mailto:klemm@flash.net) or 817.229.0353.

### What is the Endowment?

The Endowment Fund comprises three separate funds: General, Youth and Children's. Income from these funds is made available to the church to spend on projects outside of our budget that further the ministries and mission of our congregation.

### Who oversees the Endowment?

The Endowment Committee meets quarterly to review our investments and make decisions about distributions.

### Where is the money kept?

According to a formula established by our Endowment Charter, funds are split between the Texas Methodist Foundation and Wells Fargo.

### A contribution to the Endowment funds provides a lasting legacy.

The capital is not spent, so your gift provides long-lasting income to further AHUMC's mission and ministries. This is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize a loved one. Consider including the Endowment Fund in your will, to make a lasting impact for Jesus Christ.

## We Are Family!

On April 9, the Five & Two Food Truck was invited to be a part of a literacy fair at Fortress Youth Development Center on the east side of Fort Worth. AHUMC Youth served with the Five & Two as part of their *Rooted* Retreat. Words can't begin to describe how awesome our youth are. They arrived and immediately took ownership of this mission. More than 120 kids and families came through the fair, which celebrated literacy and the joy of reading with games and giving away 623 books! Our youth prove that we are all family by immediately becoming a part of this community celebration. They all have servants' hearts that we could learn from. Thank a youth or youth leader when you see them. Remember — *we are family!*



# FIVE & TWO

It's hard to believe that it's only been a little under two years since Arlington Heights UMC began dreaming of a new and unique way to bring the church outside the walls into our community.

The Five & Two Food Truck ministry is an extension of AHUMC, and is recognized as "the church" by many of those whom we serve.

We have established a relationship with the Presbyterian Night Shelter, where we serve great meals and develop relationships with almost 200 women, children and veterans each month. We have also supported other non profits such as WestAid and First Street Methodist Mission by partnering for various events.

Rev. Allen Lutes strongly believes in the power of food as an instrument of grace. By breaking bread together with those in need, we are able to break down barriers and more authentically share the Gospel. The Five & Two Food Truck is the vehicle that allows the

hope and grace of Jesus Christ to be shared by the people of AHUMC over a shared meal.

The Five & Two Food Truck has served more than 5,000 meals to date, and our volunteers have contributed almost 500 hours to make this ministry a success.

The Food Truck ministry has been the recipient of two large grants, and the business model also allows the truck to serve as a traditional food truck in order to provide a "catering" experience for many events.

These events allow the "client" to make a donation to the ministry. Examples of this have been a neighborhood Halloween Party and events at local businesses and churches. Due to this model, the Five & Two Food Truck ministry is currently financially self-sufficient.

We are ahead of schedule in terms of dreams and goals for this ministry. We were able to serve disaster relief following the tornadoes that hit Ellis county in December 2015, for example, well

[ahumcfoodtruck.blogspot.com](http://ahumcfoodtruck.blogspot.com)  
[fiveandtwofoodtruck.com](http://fiveandtwofoodtruck.com).

before we thought we would be ready to do so.

We are still dreaming, and some of our goals for 2016 are to expand the footprint of our presence in the Lancaster area, offering cooking classes to the clients of WestAid and other food pantries, and exploring new partnership opportunities in the Como neighborhood.

We are always looking for new people to volunteer with the Five & Two Food Truck ministry. There are two volunteer opportunities at our ministry events: food handlers (serving/cooking food on the truck) which require a Fort Worth Food Handlers card, and hospitality (visiting with and forming relationships with our clients).

Regardless of age or ability, there is a place for you to make a difference!

For more information on how to volunteer and become a part of this ministry, please contact Rev. Allen Lutes, [alutes@ahumc.com](mailto:alutes@ahumc.com) or 817.737.3161.