

THE FAITH JOURNAL

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Reaching New Heights: Together, We Can!



Reaching New Heights: *Together, We Can!*

This January, our Stewardship emphasis highlights the five promises of Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness that we make when we join the United Methodist Church. What do these promises mean, and how are we challenged to live into these promises in the new year?

On 1/5, Dr. Jim Pledger brought us a message on the Witness we make. When we claim the name Christian, we say that we want to be disciples of Jesus the Christ. How are we living our lives as a witness to our faith? Many people are influenced by our words and actions. How are we, by word and deed, inviting people into a relationship with Jesus Christ?

Last Sunday, our entire worship service centered on what it means to Pray for our church. How do our prayers make a difference, both for the church and for ourselves? How does prayer help us focus less on our own needs and wants and more on what we can do to build God's kingdom for everyone? We were invited to sign up to be congregational Prayer Partners and receive a weekly invitation to pray for our church. We also introduced new Prayer Request forms, which will be located weekly in the pew pockets. In 2014, we will be more intentional about being a church that prays.

This Sunday, Dr. Pledger will bring us a message on Gifts. This is an area of faith that many people struggle with. We have a large church with a large budget. Some feel that their gifts are inadequate. It is easy to think, "My gift can't possibly make a difference." But funding the budget shouldn't be our focus: we give as a faithful response of what God has done for us. How can giving be an act of joy?

During the following week, you will receive a brochure highlighting our hopes for 2014 (via snail mail). The finance committee has approved a budget for 2014 that is essentially the same as our 2013 budget. This serves as a "base camp" budget. But we want to climb to the summit this year. Rather than remaining at the same level of ministry, we want to do more. I hope you will take time to read the brochure to learn about some of the exciting ideas we have for growth in our witness, our discipleship, and our mission in 2014.

Included in this brochure will be a pledge card. You will be asked to make a pledge in each of the areas of membership: Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness. We all have something to offer God through our membership at AHUMC in the coming year. What are your gifts? How is God calling you to use these gifts? What commitment will you make to your God and your church in the coming year?

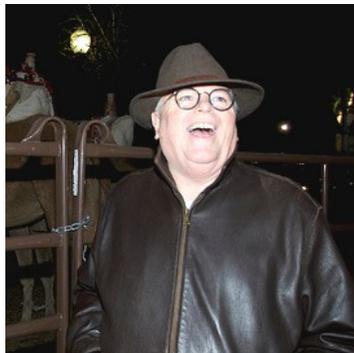
On Sunday, January 26, we will come together for a Celebration Sunday. This day, we will emphasize Service and Presence. A special brochure, highlighting many areas of service in our congregation, will be available; and you will be invited to let us know where you feel called to serve your church. Your presence is requested on this special Sunday. At our recent 90th anniversary celebration, when we had one worship service, many people commented how much energy they felt when the Sanctuary was filled. We want this kind of energy every Sunday! **Let's begin by making every effort to bring our families to worship on January 26 so we can celebrate the ministries of our congregation together!**

God Bless,

Rev. Mary Spradlin

La Posada

Photos by
Wendie Lunsford



Update about Grace UMC

This new year, Grace United Methodist Church is welcoming their new pastor, Rev. David Ferguson. This new appointment ends the five year covenant relationship between AHUMC and Grace as they begin a new chapter of ministry and kingdom building. Both congregations have been blessed through this relationship, and we look forward to collaborating with Grace in the future on events such as La Posada. And, of course, we will continue to support Grace UMC with our prayers.



Heights Nights Will be Back!

Join us this Spring for another round of Heights Nights! Every Wednesday, join us at 5:15 p.m. for dinner, followed by studies and activities for all ages at 6:15 p.m.



February 5—County Fair

Kickoff (corn dogs, Frito pies, nachos, ice cream)

February 12—Paul's Diner, A Night in Greece

February 19—Fiesta Night (taco bar)

February 26—Italian

March 5—Ash Wednesday—Soup and Salad

March 12—Spring Break, no Heights Nights this night

March 19—St. Patty's Day (Irish Stew or Corned Beef/Cabbage)

March 26—Italian

April 2—Fiesta (Fajitas)

April 9-- Fisherman's Wharf (Fishers of men theme, Clam Chowder and Shrimp Cocktail)

April 16—Abba Night (Swedish Meatballs) Get it????

April 23— Orient Express (Chicken Stir Fry and Egg Rolls)

April 30—UMW Night, Goulash

Fun activities and studies TBA soon!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Saturday, January 25

AHUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering

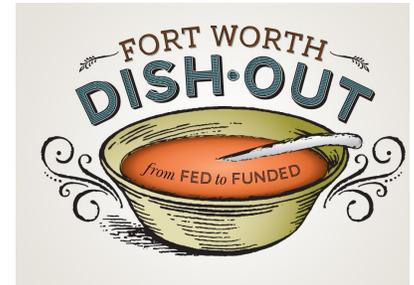
2:00 - 4:00 PM

JoAnn's Fabrics

Ridgmar Town Square

1400 Green Oaks Road

This is our regularly scheduled monthly gathering with a NEW TWIST! Since our attendance continues to grow, we will see if we enjoy meeting in the classroom at JoAnn's Fabrics.



The next Fort Worth Dish Out will be Sunday, Feb. 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center (1300 Gendy Street). The focus of the event will be building community. For \$20, attendees can enjoy a delicious meal and learn about three local non-profit organizations. Visit www.fortworthdishout.org to register.

Looking for a new Bible Study? Our Monday Morning Bible Study will start back on **Jan. 27**. Join us any **Monday from 10 to 11 a.m.** for a low-stress study. Currently we're discussing the book of Psalms. All are welcome and childcare is available by request. Contact Rev. Grant Palma at gpalma@ahumc.com for details or just come! Some Bible studies are serious. This one is a lot of fun.

Changes Ahead for Room in the Inn

Each Thursday night during the hottest and coldest months of the year, AHUMC opens our hearts and our doors as part of the Room in the Inn program for homeless people. For four years, we have hosted homeless women. However, the need for RITI hospitality has changed. This winter, the number of women who choose our hospitality has dwindled, largely due to Presbyterian Night Shelter's commitment to open their doors 24/7 to the homeless. However, the number of men who desire, but do not receive, RITI shelter each night is about 20.



Because we desire to serve where the need is greatest, and we desire to be good stewards of our resources, our church will make a change to host up to 6 men each week, beginning in February. Fifteen churches in Fort Worth are hosting males, and we are assured that, due to the extensive screening process provided by the Day Resource Center, there have not been any significant problems with male guests. Two other locations in Fort Worth are now providing RITI for women, so women who desire this hospitality will still have an option at the YWCA and Rose Hill Baptist Church.

The first Thursday of February is an all-church hosting opportunity, and we encourage you to sign up to help with a meal or hosting duties in the Atrium on Sunday.

Opportunities for a small group to host are still available for February.

You may also contact the staff liaison for RITI, Allen Lutes, at alutes@ahumc.com or through the church office (817-737-3161). Thank you for your support of this meaningful ministry of our congregation.

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org

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If you would like to have a Stephen Minister or know of someone you think could benefit from a Stephen Minister, contact, Rev. Grant Palma (gpalma@ahumc.com) or Monica Kintigh (817-528-5613).

Youth News

On Sunday, Feb. 9, we will participate in a United Methodist Youth basketball league hosted by FUMC Fort Worth. Other United Methodist churches from the area will assemble their youth teams for us to play against. Our team will play on Sunday afternoons and we will publicize a schedule as soon as we have one.

The ski trip will depart on a charter bus the evening of March 7th for Crested Butte, Colorado for 3 days of skiing. The trip costs \$575 and we are joining with Arborlawn UMC and will share lodging with them.

In Sunday School and Sunday Night Youth for the next several months we will be working through curriculum that deals with tough questions for God and for each other. See the youth website (www.ahumcfw.org/ministries/youth) to keep up with our discussions.

We're collecting items for the day laborers at the Fort Worth Stock Show. Many of these day laborers live at homeless shelters and depend on their wages to meet basic needs. With shifts that begin early and end late, some laborers miss meal times at area shelters. The Sack Lunch Chuck Wagon provides a convenient and affordable option to skipping meals or eating out. Please bring the following items to the Atrium by **Sunday, Feb. 2**. Thank you!



Vienna Sausages,
 pop-top cans of tuna or other meat,
 individual packs of pretzels,
 fruit cups, fruit roll-ups, apple sauce,
 individual packs cookies,
 beef/turkey/chicken jerky,
 granola bars,
 Peanut Butter Crackers,
 pudding cups,
 pop tarts,
 fruit juice,
 jello cups,
 individual boxes of cereal,
 case of water bottles

Lord's Acre 2014 Harvest Festival

Planning is underway for the Lord's Acre Harvest Festival. Mark your calendars for October 11, 2014. It is not too early to start preparing items for the auctions, crafts, and store. Events will include: live auction, silent auction, and "Blessings Country Store" with baked goods, jams, pickles, sweets, craft items and other goodies. There will also be our traditional BBQ sandwiches and a children's fun area. If you have items to donate to the auctions, please contact Tommy & Gale Boyd at 817-296-5629.



Thank you, AHUMC!

Dear AHUMC Family of Faith,

Thank you so much for your prayers, friendship, visits, emails, phone calls, the food, cards, caring and words of encouragement during the recent loss of my mother. Mother always said that church family is as important as our blood family. You reinforce that ideal each day.

Blessings,
 Barbara Sharpe

Dear AHUMC,

In my very first thank you note I must first recognize my church family at AHUMC. From the Mr. and Mrs. Companions Class who welcomed and loved us as spiritual warriors who had been wounded in another congregation, to the three young mothers who brought their young ones by on the last day of school to Carol Papa Charles (which brought a smile to his tired, old face.) In between these two events are more than 15 years of opportunities to serve, to learn, to worship, to celebrate with some and feel the sorrow of others.

Pastors and associates were truly our friends as were custodial staff. Many helped us raise our grandson Josh—some skiing the black trails and others giving him an opportunity to earn some money by helping at their home.

As a congregation, you walked with us through losing a son-in-law in a hunting accident and through a daughter's struggle with cancer. You ARE our family, and you did what was asked or even hinted at during Charles' last illness.

Thank you for a beautiful Celebration of Life for Papa Charles and a reception giving all of us an opportunity to visit with each other and swap Papa Charles stories.

Thank you for loving us all these years and for the special concern for me during the last few months. Thank you for practicing what Jesus taught us.

You have blessed us with your love and I thank God for each of you.

—Mama Joy Perry

Thank you to Frank Shroyer and Kakkie Cunningham for all your hard work both decorating the church and putting it back to order after the holidays. Your extra effort was noticed and appreciated. —AHUMC

Thank you to all my church family and friends for the prayers and support you have given me on my cancer journey. I have completed chemotherapy and will be starting radiation very soon. It has been a long journey, but it has been made easier by your support and prayers.—Bettie Carol Burroughs

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

[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

[Sue McCuiston](#), Finance Administrator

[Sarah Boyette](#), Communications

Coordinator

Rick and Paula Trevino, Building Stewards

Monica Kintigh, Adjunct Staff/Licensed

Counselor

(For an appointment with Dr. Kintigh,
call 817-528-5613)



**Arlington Heights
United Methodist Church**

4200 Camp Bowie Blvd.

Fort Worth, TX 76107

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Church Phone: 817-737-3161 ·

www.ahumcfw.org · Also find us
on Facebook and Twitter!

Save the Date

United Methodist Men Pancake Brunch
Sunday, March 2

Fat Tuesday Crawfish Boil
Tuesday, March 4
(Options available for the mudbug averse.)



Our condolences go to:

Joy Perry and family on the death
of her husband, Charles.

The Rosas family on the death of
Rachel's father, Rev. Vasques.

Friends and family of Jim Toal,
who recently passed away.

Friends and family of Martha
Bennet, who also died.



AHUMC has partnered with the Tarrant Area Food bank to help provide a mobile food pantry for our neighbors in Como. Once a month, volunteers from our congregation join in fellowship with others as fresh and healthy food is distributed to families in need. The program started in October and 386 families were served. In November and December, 478 and 510 families were served, respectively. If you would like to volunteer for this meaningful ministry, contact Allen Lutes at alutes@ahumc.com or through the church office (817-737-3161).