

THE FAITH JOURNAL

VOLUME 4

FEBRUARY 2014



Beautiful baptized babies

This month, our church has celebrated baptisms of four precious infants.



Baby Nola Bennett Nichols is shown with big sisters Adelaide and Ruby and parents Jennifer and John Nichols.



Twins Linnea Spring and Anna Elaine Chipman are shown with their parents, Gary and Jeri Chipman.



Baby Kaleb Matthew Roady is shown with his mother Tyler, also a new member.

Join Us as We Enter the Season of Lent

The United Methodist Men will sponsor another delicious pancake brunch **Sunday, March 2 from 7:30 to 12:30**



p.m. Proceeds from the brunch will go to fund the Forefather's Scholarship in honor of all the United Methodist Men of our church's history.

Celebrate **Fat Tuesday, March 4**, with your AHUMC Family. We'll be serving an authentic **Cajun Crawfish Boil**, along with other Bayou Specialties for the "mudbug averse." Fun starts at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. *Laissez*



Bon Temps Rouler!

Ash Wednesday, March 5

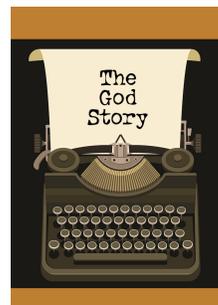
Soup and bread meal
5:30 p.m.

Bible studies at 6:15 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Worship

Service at 7 p.m.



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**



Lent 2014
Calendar of
Worship
Activities
inside

A WORD FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR



There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone...Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many.
(1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 12)

If you've been a Methodist for a while, you've probably heard the inevitable Methodist jokes: "You might be a Methodist if...you, your brother(s), your sister(s), your significant other, your parents, and your children are all on different committees in the church and none of you remember how you got there." "You might be a Methodist if...you need a committee to start a committee," etc.

Ah, committees! It's hard to imagine church without them. And for good reason. But are committees *always* the most effective way to do ministry? Probably not. Our *Book of Discipline* requires us to have a number of administrative committees, which include (at AHUMC): Discipleship Council, Trustees, Finance, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and Nominating Committee. In the past, we have had committees for other ministry areas, as well, including: children's ministry, adult ministry, missions, senior adults, etc.

This year, we will continue to operate with the required administrative committees. However, we are not going to have standing committees in the different ministry program areas. Instead, we are going to encourage people to share their gifts in ministry teams that are organized around a particular ministry event or purpose. For example, rather than having one committee that meets throughout the year to plan *all* children's ministry events, we will have teams that focus on separate events: one team to organize VBS, one team to plan mission events for children, one team to plan an Advent event, etc. Volunteers may share their gifts with more than one team, because this approach gives laity the flexibility to engage in ministry that fits their interests and uses their gifts. Teams will also be able to incorporate people who have passion for diverse areas of ministry (i.e. The team planning the Easter Egg Hunt can include people who feel passionate about ministry with children and families, people who feel passionate about ministry with our community, and people who feel passionate about evangelism).

This new structure will benefit the ministries of our congregation in a number of ways: it will allow members to engage their gifts and passions, it will help us avoid burnout among the laity, and it will help keep some of our perennial ministry events fresh. It will also make it easier for church members and staff to initiate new ministries.

Recently, church members were asked to complete a blue "Opportunities to Serve" form. This information will help church staff identify the gifts of members, which will help us identify members for ministry teams. If you have not yet turned in your form, I hope you will do so soon. Forms are available [online](#) at the Welcome Center, and in the Church office.

I look forward to an inspirational year of ministry together!

God Bless,

Rev. Mary

New Staff Responsibilities at AHUMC

With the new year comes some changes in our staff job descriptions.

Gwen Patteson will continue as our Office Manager, and she will serve as Administrative Assistant to our Associate Pastors, Dr. Jim Pledger and Rev. Grant Palma, along with Ministerial Intern Allen Lutes.

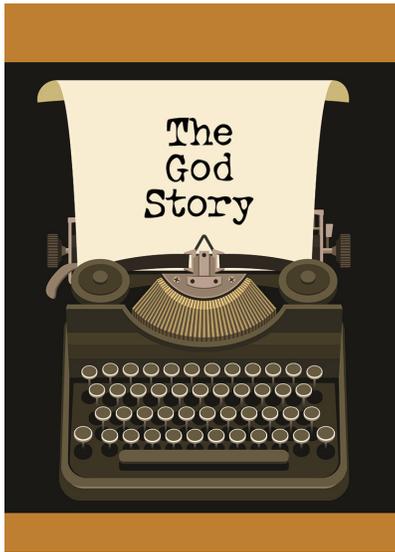
Wendie Lunsford will continue as our Children's Ministry Director; however she has additional responsibilities for the church calendar and also serves as Assistant to the Senior Pastor, Rev. Mary Spradlin.

Sarah Boyette continues as our Communications Coordinator. She will now be in the office three half-days a week: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. She will also be responsible for the worship bulletins each week.



Have an Event for the Church Calendar?

If you are planning an event or meeting and need to reserve space at the church, please contact Wendie Lunsford: 817-891-5290 or wlunsford@gmail.com.



Lent 2014

Find your place in God's story. From the beginning of Genesis to the ministry of Jesus Christ, the Bible shares a compelling plot that includes more than a few surprise twists. This

Lent, as we watch the plot of scripture unfold, we will be invited to consider how our story fits in the greater context of **God's story**. Come each week to see how your own purpose is revealed in scripture. Invitational postcards are available at the Welcome Center. Why wait for Easter Sunday? Invite a friend to worship with you this Lent!

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Soup and bread meal at 5:30 p.m.

Bible studies at 6:15 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7 p.m.

Creating a Life with God Lenten study will be led by Rev. Mary Spradlin **from 6:15-7:15 Wednesdays, beginning March 5 and 4-5 p.m. Sundays beginning March 9 and** in the Parlor. This study will introduce a variety of ancient prayer practices.

Prayer

A unique opportunity for prayer will be available during Lent as we turn the RITI Room on the youth floor (some know this as "the cloud room") into a Prayer Room. A variety of prayer stations, inviting you to engage in different prayer practices, will be available. You may visit the Prayer Room any time the church office is open. Please visit the office first. It will also be available on Wednesday evenings and Sundays.

Other Lenten Study Opportunities:

Many of our Sunday School classes will be participating in a Lenten study together. Even if you attend another class, you are welcome to join in any of these studies.

- *Final Words* by Adam Hamilton
Participate in this study with the Joint Venturers (Room 255), the Cornerstone class (Room 252), or the Sojourners class (Room 253).

- *Following at a Distance* by Kimberly Dunnam Riseman

Participate in this study with the Companions class (Room 201).

Life-Application Bible study
The Group Class (Room 202) has created their own curriculum for this season

Family Day of Prayer Sunday March 30 from 3-6pm Come as a family to experience the Prayer Room. There will be several stations with directions of ways to connect with God through prayer. Children learn by what adults model for them. The Children's Sunday School curriculum has just talked about Jesus and praying in the Garden. Take a few minutes to share in several hands on prayer experiences. This is for preschool, elementary, youth, and adults of all ages. Share prayers during the season of Lent.

Taize Worship Service,

Sundays, April 6 and 13 at 5:15 p.m. in the Prayer Chapel

This worship service is a quiet interlude in the busyness of life. Our prayer labyrinth will also be open all day on these Sundays.

Lenten Noon Concert, Tuesday, April 8

Join us for a light lunch and a time of seasonal music performed by local musicians. Lunch is \$5.

Service of Healing and Hope

Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

This will be a contemplative time to bring your burdens to God.

Parable of the Peeps

All-Ages Diorama Contest

Bring your diorama to church on Palm Sunday, April 13.

Choose your favorite parable from the Bible and describe it in a diorama using Peeps marshmallows!



The base of each entry cannot exceed 3 feet by 2 feet. Entries must be able to be carried up and down stairs (no wheels, please). Make sure all materials are securely fastened.

Include on the entry the creators' names, and ages. Prize winning categories will be K-2nd grade, 3-5 grades, Middle and High School, Adults, and Family. Scripture: chapter and verse must be included. You may also include, in 100 words or fewer, a few sentences about the creation of the diorama or why it is your favorite.

All entries will be on display on Saturday, April 19 at Thomas Place Community Center. We will have a fun Egg Hunt, and share our stories with friends in the neighborhood.

Holy Week Activities

Maundy Thursday

April 17 at 7 p.m.

Communion will be served as we remember the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples.

Good Friday Worship Service

April 18 at 7 p.m.

This worship service will be contemplative, with quiet music and prayer.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Thomas Place Community Center

Saturday, April 19 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join us as we help strengthen our relationships in the community by participating in the Thomas Place Easter Egg Hunt.

Easter Sunday

April 20

Worship Opportunities at 7, 8, 9:30 or 11 a.m.

Our 7 a.m. Sunrise worship service will be youth-led. At 11 a.m., we will have traditional worship in the sanctuary and alternative worship in the Fellowship Hall.

AHUMC Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 20 at noon

Immediately following 11 a.m. worship services, please join us on the front lawn for an old-fashioned egg hunt.

Post-Easter Events

Children's Musical

April 27 at 6 p.m.

Our children's choirs will present *The Big Fish, Jonah's Whale of a Tale*.

Fort Worth Dish Out

May 4 at 5:30 p.m.

www.fortworthdishout.org for details.

This Time Broadway

Handbell Concert

Music from the great Broadway shows
Saturday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 18 at 2:30 p.m.

Vacation Bible School

July 20-24

6 to 8 p.m.

Join us this summer as we learn at the Workshop of Wonders!

Heights Nights This Spring

Join us for Heights Nights, our Wednesday night time of food, faith, fun, and fellowship. At 5:30 p.m., join for a delicious meal! Here's what we have planned:

March 5 (Ash

Wednesday) : Bread and Soup

March 12— Meal TBA

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)

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

April 30—UMW Night, Goulash



At 6:15 p.m., stay for our small group activities:

Preschool children are invited to sing songs, play games, and experience Bible stories in a unique way.

Elementary age children are invited to attend *Elementary Kids Rock!*, a time of mission, service, and applying the Bible to daily life.

Youth (sixth-12th graders) are invited to a life application Bible study with Josh Ingram.

Adults are invited to attend a Bible study led by Rev. Grant Palma and Clay Flaim.

During Lent, Rev. Mary Spradlin will also be leading a Bible study, *Creating a Life with God*. This study is an exploration of ancient prayer practices.

Also during Lent, the Prayer Room will be open on the youth floor each Wednesday night.

Andrews Team Formed

The Andrews Team is the new evangelism and new member recruitment group. The group has begun its work by contacting past visitors as well as new guests that attend each Sunday. A "guest bag" containing information about Arlington Heights UMC and all its ministries will be given to each first time guest each Sunday. An every-other month informational brunch will be held for guests. Finally, we are planning four "Company is Coming" Sundays which will emphasize asking members to invite friends to visit the church that Sunday.

Please introduce yourself to anyone you don't know and invite someone to church or Sunday school each week.

—Rev. Dr. Jim Pledger



Supplies needed:

During the week, we often have homeless and hungry people stop by the church office for assistance. Our policy is to give them each a "Grace bag," which consists of a bottle of water, a pop-top protein (like tuna), some crackers, and a granola bar, all in a Ziploc bag.

Our Grace Bag pantry is nearly

empty. If you could help, please drop supplies off at the church office. Thank you!



Girl Scouts at AHUMC

Recently AHUMC Girl Scouts worked together to sell cookies in the atrium. Thank you to all who showed your support.

Our church will soon host a council-wide Girl Scout event. Current Girl Scouts and future Girl Scouts, are invited to attend a Barbie Birthday Party on the lawn and in the atrium on Wednesday, March 12th, 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Come and find out how you can begin your Girl Scout journey. All girl attending will receive a Barbie "I can be" book and patch. For more information contact Yolanda Rivera at yrivera@gs-top.org or 817-735-5337.

Confirmation Retreat

Our sixth grade Confirmation class recently traveled to Hurst UMC to explore their faith off-site. The event included team-building games, drumming breaks, communion, and ended with sparklers. Everyone had a great time!

Photos courtesy of the Lunsford family.



PackASack Update

The extravagant generosity of the AHUMC congregation is very apparent in the successful start up of this new ministry. PackASack has distributed approximately 500 bags of snack foods to children at North High Mount who might otherwise have gone hungry over the weekends. Our congregation has come forward with volunteer helpers, foodstuffs, and monetary donations which allowed us to meet our goal of sending food home with 50 children each week. The response from the school, the children, and their parents has been positive and the need will continue to grow.

We currently need peanut butter to go (Jif brand is the most readily available and is at Walmart and Target) and **Vienna sausage**. We also need **Walmart gift cards** to use at Walmart and Sam's to purchase additional PackASack items. Food item donations may be placed in the labeled container in the Atrium. Gift cards may be placed in the Cornerstone Class mailbox, marked to the attention of Gale Boyd. We thank you for your generosity and ask that you continue to support this ministry with your prayers, your service, and your gifts as we reach out to be the light of God in our community.



—Jane Melms

Welcome New Interns for our Youth!

We at AHUMC are blessed this year to welcome Brooke Bybee and Maegen Mayfield to our youth staff. They both come to us with experience and a dedication to the discipleship and mentoring of teenagers.



Brooke Bybee

From the mid-cities, Brooke and has more than a decade of youth ministry behind her and has worked with Josh at Glen Lake Camp. She will be focusing her talents on our Junior High ministry as the

recreational demands of Jr. High students play right into her strengths as a P.E. teacher. Brooke's presence on our staff will serve the purposes of helping to customize a Junior

High youth ministry addressing the issues that are unique to that age group for the students already in our church family, and provide a method by which our Jr. high youth will feel equipped and empowered to invite

their friends, who don't have a church home, to join with us in fellowship.

Maegen (Mae) is from Hico, TX and brings a lifelong passion for living the gospel in everyday life. She grew up in a family that embraced God, sports, and music in that order and she excels at relating to our youth. She has led and participated in a variety of small group studies and experiences so naturally she will assist in the development of our youth small group ministries.



Maegen Mayfield

Maegen and Brooke are strong additions to our youth staff and were both handpicked by Josh for their individual strengths. Please pray for their hearts and spirits to stay red hot for the edification of our teens as God has called them

to do. If you would like to know more about the youth staff please email Josh at JIngram@ahumc.com or call 817-614-7548.

— Josh Ingram

RITl resumes this summer

AHUMC's ministry with the homeless celebrated an exciting and smooth transition this winter. After nearly five years of hosting female guests during our Room In The Inn program, this February we began hosting male guests every Thursday night during the month. Our church became aware of a growing need for host churches for male guests, and after ensuring that our female guests would be taken in through other programs, we adjusted our program to serve the greater need. Each Thursday night in February, we hosted six men. Beginning again in the hottest three months of the summer, we will host up to a dozen men each Thursday. We would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who organized and oversaw this transition and the countless volunteers who spent time showing our guests radical hospitality. — Allen Lutes



Notice: All entrance codes will be changed March 1. Due to recent break-ins, we will keep the security alarm set when there is nothing scheduled in the building. In the future, anyone getting an entrance code will also need a security code and training on how to use it. If you use the entrance code to enter the building and would like to be issued a new entrance code and security code please call Gwen Patteson (817-737-3161) in the church office.

Thank You AHUMC!

Just when I thought the folks at church had given me 110 percent of their love and care- BOOM! A surprise birthday party!!!! You folks are way more giving and loving and caring than I can imagine. Many thank yous to all who wished me a happy birthday by card, or voice, or smile, or wave, and a very special thank you to Robbie Patton for getting it all together and to Roxana, Betty N., and Jan for the flowers and the cake. The pictures by Sarah were outstanding. I am one blessed old lady!

— Joy Perry

Dear Church Family,

I wanted to give a great big THANK YOU given to the "Created by God" event. We had 13 tweens (11 and 12 year olds) and six mentors working together for a fun-filled, fact-loaded exploration of a "God Created Me" and "I Am Perfect Just the Way I Am" experience.

Thank you to the courageous parents whose children are going through puberty for allowing us to 'torture' your child. Thank you to Josh Ingram and his helpers for the leadership games on Sunday evening. Thank you to the church staff for praying, supporting, and guiding our endeavors. A special thanks to the Trevino family for preparing the room and facilities. A shout-out and thanks to Wendie Lunsford for her optimism, patience, and presence. Thanks to the Hecker family, Lee and Dr. Stella, for the good food all weekend, and Mary Annelle Hammer for providing food-allergy alternatives.

I want to give a super-duper thank you to the Drs. Hanson, Greg and Natalia, to Adam Boyette, and Sharon Ward for mentoring, presenting, listening, playing, and time preparing for this workshop. My thanks to the Hanson, Boyette, Ward, Lunsford, and Brown families for sharing your family members with the tweens of this vibrant church family.

— Laura Brown

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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fort Worth, TX
Permit No. 1333

Church Phone: 817-737-3161 ·
www.ahumcfw.org · Also find us
on Facebook and Twitter!

Welcome New Members!



Brooke Bybee (above left) recently joined the church.
At right, Rick and Traci Alley also joined the church.
If you see them on campus, make sure to welcome them and invite them
to your small group!

Our condolences go to:

Monica Kintigh and Kate on the
death of Steve Kintigh.



**AHUMC Mildred Haupt
Preschool and Mother's Day Out
is registering for next school year –
2014- 2015.**

Children who turn 1,2,3 and 4
by September 1 are eligible for our
program. More information
regarding our school can be found
on the website, ahumcfw.org.