

# Methodist Messenger

*Prague/Arlington Charge*

*August, 2016*

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## One More Time

What a rare treat these last three years have been. Rebekah, Madison, Elizabeth, and I have enjoyed our time with you in Prague and Arlington. We certainly didn't expect it to end and not just after being reappointed. But in the United Methodist Church, we vow to go where sent. We do not practice a call system.

Neither did Jesus. Don't believe me? Read Luke 10. "After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'" This is the Wesleyan model for ministry. We are appointed and then sent to every town and place.

When I was ordained to ministry, I agreed to go where sent. I came to Prague and Arlington and now I go to the United Methodist Ministry Center to become the Director of Discipleship Ministries. As I go, there are some things which I want to share about my time with you:

**Staffed for excellence.** During my tenure, I believe we have had and currently have the very best people for our church on the staff. I have worked here to create a team environment where gifts were utilized and people had a chance to be as creative as they wanted to be. But what I've appreciated most was the willingness of the staff to try out all of my wacky ideas!

**Creativity in worship.** This is the first time in my entire ministry where I have felt unleashed to be the preacher I have dreamed of being. You have allowed all of my creative ideas to flourish into beautiful worship experiences week after week. AND, we tried to keep it exciting so you would never know what to expect.

**Partnerships.** What a joy it has been to see how these two churches interact and work together for God's kingdom. You model what it means to be an effective, vital two-point charge. It was such a joy to celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Bishop Hayes and the baptism of our little one. We will remember that night forever. I pray that you continue to engage together for the glory of God.

**Improvements.** In Arlington, the church interior was completely repainted giving the church a new and fresh look. In Prague, two-thirds of the building was either flooded or smoke-damaged, which allowed for some very nice renovations along the way. The installation of the camera system in the Prague sanctuary has allowed us to connect with our shut-ins in a new way as well as improve our outreach through the website.

A few years ago, I read about a concept in art called "pentimento." The literal definition is when an alteration is made in a painting, evidenced by traces of previous work, showing that the artist has changed his or her mind during the process of painting.

When I look over our congregations, it looks like a painting with a pentimento. I can see the old and new somehow together at the same time. I can see our newest members as well as people no longer here. I can see the 20 persons I have baptized and the 11 members and associates who have died since I've been your pastor. I can see persons who I've hurt and some who have left the church because of my leadership. I can see others who have lifted me up when I was down and some who continue to inspire my life.

More importantly, when I leave this place and no longer see you each day, I will still be able to visualize you in my mind's eye. When I think of Prague and Arlington, I will see your faces looking back at me. And I'll smile. Until I see you again, grace and peace.

*Pastor Derrek*

## MEET OUR NEW EPISCOPAL LEADER— BISHOP JIMMY AND MARY NUNN

On the twenty-first ballot, members of the South Central Jurisdiction elected Jimmy Nunn to be a Bishop. Later in that same meeting, the Jurisdictional Episcopal Committee assigned Bishop Nunn to the Oklahoma Episcopal Area – the Oklahoma Conference and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

He will begin his term of service on September 1.

Nunn is currently the director of mission and administration of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference, based in Lubbock. Since 1981, he has had an effective ministry career in that area, serving as a district superintendent and conference official as well as local church pastor.

Nunn earned his bachelor's degree from McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, and his master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. His wife, Mary, is a private piano teacher and they have two adult children.

At a breakfast the morning following his election, Nunn said, "The Christian faith is about the verb and the qualifier. The verb is 'Go' and the qualifier is 'I'll be with you.' And so I go."

An installation service for our new leader is scheduled for Sunday, October 23 at Asbury UMC in Tulsa beginning at 4 p.m. Watch this publication as well as the conference newspaper, *The Contact*, for exact details.



## TRANSITIONS

### NEW PASTOR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 1

Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr. has appointed Rev. Dr. Sonja Tobey to become the next pastor for the Prague and Arlington United Methodist Churches effective September 1.

Sonja and her husband, Mike, expect to move to Prague on August 29 and get settled in before her first Sunday in the pulpit – September 4.

She comes to Prague from Vinita, where she has served since 2012. Prior appointments include Cushing, Pond Creek, Canton and Union City/Cogar. She has also served on a church staff as minister to children and youth.

Her doctoral work is in the area of preaching. Her project revolved around teaching preaching to lay speakers and local pastors in the United Methodist Church. Today, she provides a year-long seminar called "EQUIP."

Her family includes three grown children.

After spending a day of orientation at the church, Sonja said, "Mike and I are looking forward to being in ministry with the people of Prague and Arlington. I believe God's at work in these churches and communities. The future is exciting and I can't wait to meet you all."





## UNITED METHODIST MEN

Information from Pastor Derrek

The United Methodist Men of Prague and Arlington met on Saturday, July 9, with nine members and one guest present. Pres. Jack Vaughan presided and Randy Eby offered the devotional, "Authenticity" from the text *Ten Life Charged Words*.

The next potato bar was scheduled for Sunday, August 21, which is Camp Sunday. The UMM also volunteered to handle lawn care for the Prague church through July and August. If you can help with this service, please contact Randy Eby to schedule a date.

The final lesson from the current study book is entitled "Community" and will be offered at the **August 6 meeting** by Jack Vaughan. All men and boys are invited to attend at **7am** for breakfast, devotional, fellowship, and service.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Information from Secretary MM Greene

Wanda Clark represented our unit at Mission u this summer. She took the youth class on "Climate Justice." Pastor Derrek served as the registrar for the event.

The ladies are still enjoying their summer break in August, but don't forget: the **Parkland Manor birthday parties** continue. This month that time and date is **2 pm, Thursday, August 18**.

The UMW will resume monthly meetings at 6 pm, Thursday, September 8, in the Prague Fellowship Hall. There will be a great time of fellowship, refreshments, and catching up to do. Put it on your calendar, come, and enjoy!

Also, please read the article on the UMW sponsored Domestic Violence workshop on page 6 of this newsletter.



## ARLINGTON UMC

Too late to make this newsletter, but watch for pictures in next month's *Methodist Messenger* of Arlington UMC's party, celebrating 115 years of service! The event is scheduled for Saturday, July 30, with hot dogs, 'burgers, and pot luck side dishes. Yum! Hope you made it!

## Sara Martin elected to national office



Prague High School senior and church member Sara Martin has been elected as a director of the General Board of Church and Society based in Washington, DC.

The General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) is one of four international general program boards of The United Methodist Church. The General Board has headquarters on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. and at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City. The General Secretary of the Board is Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe.

Directors of the board assist in setting direction for the United Methodist's social witness and lobbying efforts. They attend two meetings per year in various places around the United States.

Sara is active in our church and conference. A certified lay servant, she has been working with the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, served as a member to the annual conference and as a leader-in-training at junior high leadership camp this year. She also studies child development at Gordon Cooper Technology Center. She plans to follow her call to ordained ministry when she graduates from college.

For more information on the board, check out their website: <https://umc-gbcs.org/>.



united methodist youth fellowship

# UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Written by Youth Team Leader

Tina Thompson



L to R, feet on ground: Caleb, Will, Leader Tina, Trey, Wanda  
L to R, standing on first bar up: Braydon, Carlton, Alauna, Riley, C J  
Hanging from above: Leslie

District camp ran the week of June 27<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup>. Ten youth from Prague & Arlington attended with one adult leader, Tina Thompson. The youth were: Carlton Bond, Caleb Bruce, Will Capron, Leslie Clark, Wanda Clark, Brayden Davis, C J Gelm , Trey Litle, Alauna Parker, and Riley Waltonbaugh.

The theme was "The Wilderness". We learned how to navigate the wilderness of our lives while following God's lead. Trey Litle made a profession of faith at camp, leading to his baptism at the Arlington church on July 31<sup>st</sup>.



Carlton Tina Trey Caleb  
Brayden Alauna C J Leslie Will  
Riley Wanda

We have another trip to the **Food Bank** planned on **August 6<sup>th</sup>**. This started out as a Youth mission project, but is now open to the entire church. The Food Bank provides the food for the Backpack program, as well as other programs for the hungry. The volunteers sort and package food; this is a worthwhile way to spend an afternoon.

**School starts** on **August 16<sup>th</sup>**, which means it's time for *Quest!* We will have the **Kickoff** in the Park on **August 24<sup>th</sup>** and our first regular *Quest* session of the new school year on **August 31<sup>st</sup>**.

Stay tuned for **reports on camps** that will be made **during worship** service on **August 21<sup>st</sup>**. We will hear from several of the children and youth that went to camp this year. I can't wait to hear about their experiences.



## INFANT CRISIS SERVICES of OKC

Information from

Danielle Morgan

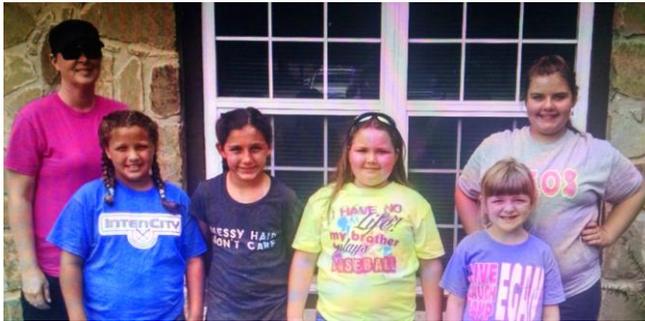
Our own Danielle Morgan has been working with Infant Crisis Services of Oklahoma City. Their babies need a lot of things most of us take for granted. If you can help, a big box is available in the Prague church narthex from now through Sept. 4 to receive:

- Diapers, preemie to size 6
- Baby wash
- Baby wipes

*Thank you!*



Information from Children's Team Leader Melinda Pruett



Kara Rhyan Lexsey Hannah Madison Audrey

Five of our children, third through fifth grade attended "Growin' in Grace" at Camp Egan, June 27-29. They were Rhyan Waltonbaugh, Lexsey Trevizo, Hannah Davis, Audrey Bruce and Madison Belase. Attending adults were: Kara Davis (pictured), Destiny Donaldson and Pastor Derrek.



Molly Jaxi

Two other youngsters from the early elementary grades enjoyed the two-day, one-night, Sunshine Camp that took place, July 23 and 24. They were Molly Pruett and Jaxi Smith.

Children's Coordinator Melinda Pruett and Amber Smith served as adult sponsors. The camp focus was on the birth of Jesus all the way through to when he went to heaven to be with his Father.

Camp season is over for another summer, but the schedule is still exciting through August. Back-to-School Sunday will be August 14. David Nichols (Tish Malloy's husband) will be preaching. On August 21 the sermon will be superseded by the children and youth who will

be offering their reflections on their camp experience.

The **Quest Kick Off** in the park will be **August 24, 5:30 to 7:30**. We will also have a short informational **Quest meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>**, immediately after the Prague worship service. The first night for **regular Quest programming** is scheduled for **August 31<sup>st</sup>**. Don't miss any of these exciting end-of-summer events!



### Worship Calendar

- Aug. 7** Rev. Sharon Capron preaching Hebrew 11:29-12:2 "Troublemakers!"
- Aug. 14** Back to School Sunday Dave Nichols preaching Joshua 1:7-9 Matthew 10:13-16 "The Kingdom in the Classroom"
- Aug. 21** Camp/Youth Force Sunday Testimonies and stories from children and youth who attended camp
- Aug. 28** Rev. Dr. Rockford Johnson Crossroads District Supt., preaching Acts 27 "Storm Companions"



*Many Thanks* to Melinda Pruett and Tina Thompson for the photos they provided for this issue of *The Methodist Messenger!*

**Domestic violence is not just a women's issue.**  
It is an issue of faith.

**We proclaim...** that violence against women exists in all communities, including our own, and is morally, spiritually and universally intolerable.

We commit ourselves to working toward the day when all women will be safe and abuse will be no more.

**does your partner:**

- look or act in ways that are frightening?
- try to control what you do, who you see or talk to or where you go?
- try to stop you from seeing friends or family members?
- try to take your money or Social Security checks?
- make you ask for money or refuse to give you money that is supposed to be shared or yours?
- make all of the decisions in your relationship?

If you answered **YES** to even one of these questions, you may be in an abusive relationship.

**one in every four** women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime

**more than three women and one man** are murdered by their intimate partners in the United States every day

**less than one-fifth** of victims reporting an injury from intimate partner violence sought medical treatment following the injury

**approximately one-quarter** of all physical assaults perpetrated against females by intimate partners are reported to the police

**more than two-thirds** of the restraining orders against intimate partners who raped or stalked the victim were violated

**approximately one-half** of the orders obtained by women were against intimate partners who physically assaulted them

Reprinted from the National Domestic Violence Resource Center, available at [www.ndvrc.org](http://www.ndvrc.org)

If you are in danger, please call 911 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233); TTY 1-800-767-3224. For more information and to get involved, visit [www.unitymethodistwomen.org/domestic-violence](http://www.unitymethodistwomen.org/domestic-violence)

 **United Methodist Women**  
MAKING HOPE - LIVE IN ACTION



## BELL CHOIR

Information from Director

MM Greene

The bell choir will be continuing their summer break through the month of August. Watch for an email from MM as they take up again in September.

Are you interested in playing one of those bells? This September would be a very good time to try out that dream. Why not?



## COOKIES NEEDED FOR "BACK TO SCHOOL" TRAYS

For the last three years, we have provided cookie trays for each Prague school site's teacher's lounge on the first day of school. We are going to do that again this year. If you could make two or three (or more!) dozen cookies for this project, please contact Janet Baker (932-4265) to get your name on the list.

We are looking for 30 dozen cookies. **Cookies** need to be brought to the Prague Church **by noon on Monday, August 15.** The trays will be prepared and delivered to the schools so the teachers can enjoy them during that first (and sometimes) stressful day. We receive many positive comments for this simple outreach project. Thanks for your help in making this project a success.

## UMW to host Domestic Violence Prevention event on August 13

This year's conference UMW Social Justice Event will focus on the church's response to the issues of domestic violence.

"It happens in church: A faith-based response to domestic violence" will feature two action and advocacy workshops, opportunities to worship, and a morning session with an overview of domestic violence.

The event begins with **registration at 9 a.m.** and ends with a panel discussion and closing worship at 2:25 p.m. Lunch is included with the registration fee of **\$20.**

Childcare is available for children through preschool age. Children must be registered by August 1 and a snack lunch must be provided. The event will be held at Sunnyside UMC in Del City.

See Rev. Capron for a registration form. This will be a great event to attend.

# AUGUST 2016

## Monday, August 01

BD Schuyler Hamm

## Tuesday, August 02

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Joe Ann Pritchett  
WA Orvis & Joe Ann Pritchett

## Wednesday, August 03

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
BD Hubert Smith

## Thursday, August 04

BD Charlene Jezek  
BD Margaret Parks

## Friday, August 05

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Ted Capron

## Saturday, August 06

7am United Methodist Men  
Noon – 5 pm Food Bank trip

## Sunday, August 07

*Rev. Sharon Capron preaching*  
9:15 Arlington worship  
9:30 Prague Sunday school  
10:30 Arlington Sunday school  
10:45 Prague worship  
BD Crystal Peters

## Monday, August 08

BD Bud Thomas

## Tuesday, August 09

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Wednesday, August 10

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out

## Thursday, August 11

## Friday, August 12

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Ryan Anderson  
BD Judy Coleman  
BD Maxine van Brunt

## Saturday, August 13

UMW Domestic Violence event in  
Del City (Sunny Lane UMC)

## Sunday, August 14

*Back-to-School Sunday*  
*Dave Nichols preaching*  
9:15 Arlington worship  
9:30 Prague Sunday school  
10:30 Arlington Sunday school  
10:45 Prague worship  
Quest & Flame meetings  
BD MM Greene

## Monday, August 15

12 noon cookie tray deadline  
WA Glen & Paula Brauer

## Tuesday, August 16

**SCHOOL STARTS**  
6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Wednesday, August 17

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out

## Thursday, August 18

2 pm Parkland birthday party

## Friday, August 19

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
7 – 11 pm *The Flame*  
BD Dennis Good  
BD Stan Redding

## Saturday, August 20

BD Kayla Major

## Sunday, August 21

*Camp Sunday*  
*children & youth reflect on camp*  
9:15 Arlington worship  
9:30 Prague Sunday school  
10:30 Arlington Sunday school  
10:45 Prague worship  
Noon UMM Baked Potato Bar  
BD Dean Baker  
WA Randy & Kathy Eby  
WA Bill & Terri Tackett

## Monday, August 22

BD Reese Capron

## Tuesday, August 23

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Wednesday, August 24

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
5:30 – 7:30 *Quest* KICK-OFF

## Thursday, August 25

## Friday, August 26

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
7 – 11 pm *The Flame*  
BD Jerry Troutman

## Saturday, August 27

## Sunday, August 28

*District Superintendent preaching*  
*Rev. Dr. Rockford Johnson*  
9:15 Arlington worship  
9:30 Prague Sunday school  
10:30 Arlington Sunday school  
10:45 Prague worship  
BD Lindsey Fridrich

## Monday, August 29

## Tuesday, August 30

6 - 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Seth Pruett

## Wednesday, August 31

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
*Quest* schedule  
3:45 - 4:15 pm Sign & Music  
3:45 - 5:30 pm Recreation  
5:30 - 6 pm Children eat  
and youth worship  
6 pm - 6:30 Youth eat and  
children worship  
6:30 – 7:30 pm Classes

BD = birthday

WA = wedding anniversary

## September dates

Sept. 3-5 Labor Day weekend

Sept. 4 Rev. Dr. Sonja Tobey will  
preach for the first time at  
Arlington and Prague.  
Reception will follow  
Prague service.

Bell & Vocal choirs resume  
Watch for dates & times.