

# Methodist Messenger

*Prague/Arlington Charge*

*September, 2016*

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Greetings in the name of Christ!

As you may know, I am appointed as your new pastor at First United Methodist Church in Prague and Arlington as of September 1, 2016. I look forward serving with you in ministry. I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know a little about my family and myself.

My husband's name is Mike and he is medically retired from Tinker Air Force Base. He is a great blessing and a support to me in my ministry. We have three grown children: Garrison – 30, he and his wife Holly live in Stillwater; Briana – 28, who lives in Oklahoma City; and Chelsea – 24, who lives in Puerto Rico. Our family has two dogs – Misty and Berkeley.

We are moving here from Vinita, where I have served as pastor for the past four years. I previously served for two years at Cushing, four years at Pond Creek, four and a half years at Union City and Cogar, and a year and a half at Canton. Prior to being appointed as a pastor, I was the Director of Children and Youth at Wesley United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. We originally come from the Midwest City and Choctaw area where my family still lives.

I am a second career pastor, and spent approximately ten years working in the legal profession first as a legal secretary and then as a paralegal. My undergraduate degree is from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma, and I have a Master in Divinity degree from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa. I completed my Doctorate of Ministry degree in 2015 from Phillips Theological Seminary with an emphasis in homiletic (preaching.)

I truly believe that the pastor and the congregation are a team and are in partnership in the work and ministry of Christ's church; both are necessary to get the job done. The pastor is to bring the message of God to the people to equip them to do the work of the church in the world, administer the sacraments which are Holy Communion and Baptism, and act as administrator of the church. All members of the church are its ministers by virtue of baptism into Christ's universal church. The work of the laity is to take the message of God into the world. The laity are the most important part of the church's ministry in the community.

Mike and I are looking forward to meeting you and making new friends. Please be patient while we learn your names and faces, and as I learn the customs and traditions of your churches. It is quite a change for our family to move to a new community, as we are aware that it is quite a change for your church family to receive a new family into the parsonage. We are looking forward to working with you as partners in ministry to the communities of Prague and Arlington, and to serve with you and your congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Dr. Sonja Tobey



## UNITED METHODIST MEN

Information from Pastor Derrek

The United Methodist Men of Prague and Arlington met on Saturday, July 09, 2016 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 was Camps Sunday. The UMM also volunteered to handle lawn care for the Prague church through July and August.

The final lesson from the current study book is entitled "Community" and was offered at the August 6 meeting by Jack Vaughn.

All men and boys are invited to meet at 7 am for breakfast, devotional, fellowship, and service at the **next meeting, September 3.**

## CATCHING UP on LAST MONTH



BACK Caleb, Trey, Carlton, C J, Will, Braydon, Reese  
FRONT Sharon, Riley, Leslie, Wanda, Alauna,

Because District Camp (Camp Spark) was the very last of June through the first of July, this picture missed the last newsletter. Attending youth were Caleb Bruce, Trey Litle, Carlton Bond, C J Gelm, Will Capron, Riley Waltonbaugh, Leslie Clark, Wanda Clark, Alauna Parker, and Braydon Davis. Reese and Sharon Capron served as transporters. Youth leader, Tina Thompson, was required to be in camp one day before attendees.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Information from Secretary MM Greene

The United Methodist Women of Arlington and Prague are gearing up for their first 2016 fall meeting! Ladies, please put on your calendar: **6pm, Thursday, September 8.**

Election of officers and a special program are on the agenda. Please watch the bulletin inserts for more detailed information.

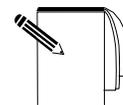
The first Backpack program delivery to the ECC and elementary school will be September 9. The next Parkland Manor birthday party will be 2 pm, September 15.

Hope to see you, ladies, very soon!



Written by Director of Worship Arts Barbara Holman

The UMC Bell Choir and Vocal choir are slated to resume rehearsals for fall and Christmas activities **September 7.** Please join us in the preparations for a wonderful musical season during this important time in our Christian year!!! Watch the weekly church bulletin for the starting date to make plans for attending our rehearsals. Please join us in making this one of our most memorable church years:-)



## THANK YOU!

Written by Barbara Holman

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have helped at different times thru this past year by assisting with the church decor either by donating items and/or helping to set up the many different chancel area sets for sermons, the Narthex area, and Fellowship Hall!!! It wouldn't have been possible without your generous offerings of prop pieces and time helping in the set up and I truly appreciate all the help!! Once again a heartfelt thank you to all :-)



## SIGN LANGUAGE

Written by Director Rev. Sharon Capron

Regular programming for *Quest* begins Wednesday, August 31. Children's signing class will begin the same day, 3:45 – 4:15.

Some interest has been expressed in a YOUTH sign class. Would that be you? If so, please contact Rev. Sharon Capron ([capron@windstream.net](mailto:capron@windstream.net) or text 405-627-8636) and let me know what day and time frame works for you. My personal preference is Wednesdays, 4:30 – 5pm, but I can be flexible.



### **ARLINGTON UMC CELEBRATES 115 YEARS and THREE BAPTISMS, and SAYS "GOODBYE" to BELASES JULY 31, 2016**

On Saturday, July 30, the Arlington church celebrated 115 years in the Lord's service and the recent re-painting of the church's interior. Brad Ogden did the painting, freshening the interior in a light and welcoming color. Buck Poteet grilled the church-provided burgers and dogs. Other parishioners brought a wide variety of side dishes and desserts.



Madison, Rebekah with baby Elizabeth, Derrek

They also recognized Pastor Derrek's re-assignment to the Oklahoma Ministry Center and the Belase family's impending move to OKC.

Arlington also celebrated three baptisms!



Derrek Jean Trey Wanda JoeAnn Norman

Pastor Derrek officiated. Lay leader, Jean Bradburn and retired Certified Lay Minister JoeAnn Pritchett assisted with the service. The baptized were Trey Litle and Wanda & Norman Hasel.

Trey Litle is the grandson of Glen and Paula Brauer. Although Trey lives in Shawnee and attends Shawnee High, he fondly regards Arlington as his home church and attends as often as possible. Trey enjoys music. Previously, he sang in his school choir. More recently, he has sung for other groups as requested. While the Prague church was still holding Sunday services in Fellowship Hall, following our sanctuary fire, Trey sang "Bread of the Angels" one Sunday morning. Trey also enjoys playing clarinet in his high school band.

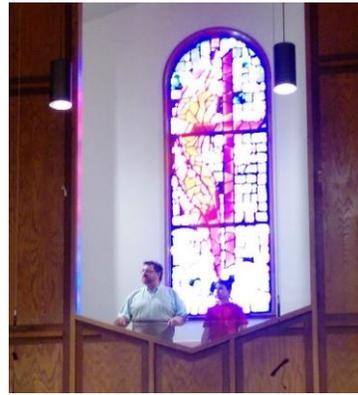
Norman and Hazel came from Guthrie and have lived in the Arlington area for the past year and a half. They have a grown son and daughter and one granddaughter. The Hasels have enjoyed camping and trail riding for many years, often going with friends to places like Cedar Lake, Robber's Cave, and Prague Lake. Of the many animals they have owned, they still have five mules. By the way, Wanda makes a mean apple pie!

Congratulations to the newly baptized and to the Arlington church.

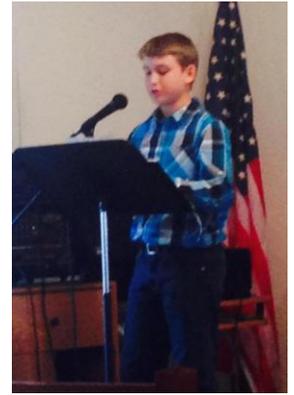


Especially for this occasion in the life of the church, Rheta Smith created this mini-display, simulating the Arlington church. She

bought a small yellow church some time back at a yard sale, painted it white, and ran an old cord of battery-powered lights in it. The streets are burlap strips; the lawn, an old green tablecloth she had on hand. She had to make the Arlington Church sign and the street sign, but was able to find the vintage miniature cars in a commercial store. Her cars are: 1960 Chevy Impala, 1953 Studebaker truck, 1949 Studebaker truck, 1949 Mercury custom sedan, and 1955 Dodge Lancer. Rheta also decorated the tables with red & white checked cloths, various candies in mason jars, and festive balloons. Nearly fifty folks were present to enjoy it all in one grand celebration. Hope you were one of them!



Pastor Derrek & Gage  
prepare for baptism



Gage (file photo)

Also celebrated in the service was the baptism of Gage Powell. Gage, the son of Stanley and Sheila Powell, was a member of the spring confirmation class, but was unable to make the date set at that time for baptism. Gage has lived in the Prague community all his life. His church involvement includes regular attendance at both Sunday morning worship and Wednesday Quest evenings. He is now a member of the youth group and has participated as such in both Youth Force and Food Bank service days, as well as JEM, our junior high leadership camp. Gage's primary outside interest is baseball.



**PRAGUE CHURCH  
CELEBRATES ONE BAPTISM  
and SAYS "GOODBYE" to BELASES**



Last Sunday in the pulpit – July 31, 2016

Although the Prague and Arlington churches normally celebrate communion on the first Sunday of every month, because of the August interim without an elder, Pastor Derrek celebrated on his last Sunday, July 31.



Tina, Gage, Derrek, Sharon, Leslie  
Ryan was unavailable for photo.

At the same service, the three members of this year's confirmation class, Gage Powell, Leslie Clark, and Ryan Waltonbaugh, put together a gift to the church. The collection of pictures formed a central cross surrounded by other, lighter pictures of the trio in various youth activities and services.

After the morning service, folks from both churches enjoyed a grand dinner, great meats, and wonderful sides by many, many church members who made their best for the occasion.



united methodist youth fellowship

### UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Written by Youth Team Leader Tina Thompson

And we're off! Another school year has started, which means the Quest program is back in session! We started with the Kickoff in the Park, which actually occurs after this article was written; more about that in next month's article. Our first group of lessons focuses on the Creation story, with Sara Martin preaching at our first worship service of the school year.

We had another trip to the Food Bank with one youth and 7 adults. We were part of a group that packed pantry boxes; these are used for food closets and emergency rations. We finished that project so quickly, that we had time for a second project. We got to peel onions! Onions that don't look good enough to sell are donated to the food bank, where the rough layers are peeled off to make them look as good as fresh! It was definitely a tear jerking experience! Our group worked with 5,949 pounds of food, which is the equivalent of 4,957 meals! Wow! It's wonderful to be a part of such an awesome mission.

We celebrated all of our summer camps on Camp Sunday, August 21, when the youth and children talked about their camp experiences. If you missed it, you might want to see the recording. It was very exciting to hear what camp meant to all of these kids!



#### PRAGUE UMC

Gage Sara Tina Riley Leslie Destiny  
Wanda Molly

- Following is the list of camps and speakers
- Sunshine Camp – Molly Pruett & Jaxi Smith
- Growin' in Grace Camp – Audrey Bruce
- Camp Spark (District Camp)
  - Riley Waltonbaugh and Caleb Bruce
- JEM (Junior High Leadership) Camp
  - Gage Powell
- CYME (High School Leadership) Camp
  - Wanda Clark
- Youth Force – Leslie Clark
- Leader in Training – Sara Martin
- First Time Leader – Destiny Donaldson



### SEPTEMBER WORSHIP CALENDAR

- SERIES: New Beginnings – A Fresh Start!
- Sept. 4 Deuteronomy 30: 15-20  
"Two Roads"
- Sept. 11 1 Timothy 1: 12-17  
"Being Honest"
- Sept. 18 Numbers 21: 4b-9  
"Discouraging Progress"
- Sept. 25 1 Timothy 2: 1-7  
"God's Way"



#### ARLINGTON UMC

Destiny Caleb Tina Leslie  
Gage Wanda Sara Audrey



Written by Children's Coordinator Melinda Pruett

We are back in School! We had an awesome turnout of children and youth for Back to School Sunday.



MOST of the children and youth are in this picture. There were a few more on the right. Wonderful turnout!

David Nichols, a fifth-grade teacher and public speaker, gave the Back-to-School sermon to the delight of all. Prayers were offered to bless the backpacks, the students of all ages, and the teachers. Youth leader Tina Thompson orchestrated the event.



Seth, Molly, ECC secretary Rhonda

The following Tuesday, the first day of school, Molly and Seth Pruett helped deliver the cookie trays to all the teachers.



At least nine different kinds of cookies were delivered to each of four locations. Hungry yet?

Thank you for taking the time to bake cookies!

Also, we celebrated Camp Sunday on August 21. The kids and youth did a very good job. [See youth report for detail.]

Wednesday, August 24, was Quest kick off !! First night of regular Quest programming will be Wednesday, Aug 31<sup>st</sup> ! "Thank you!" to everyone who comes and gives their time to feed, teach, guide, or transport the children and youth in the service of the Lord.



138 hot dogs, plus chips, brownies, fellowship!



The rolling log champion – for a few seconds!



Waiting for water on the water slide! A quick duct tape fix and the fun resumed.



Thank you to Lisa Hefner, Melinda Pruett, Tina Thompson, and Pastor Derrek for the many photos in this edition of *The Methodist Messenger*.

# SEPTEMBER 2016

## Thursday, September 01

## Friday, September 02

BD Chris Sands  
WA Bruce & Vicki Pfeiff

## Saturday, September 03

7am United Methodist Men  
BD Chris Sands  
WA Jack & Rose Vaughn

## Sunday, September 04

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20  
"Two Roads"  
9:15 Arlington worship  
9:30 Prague Sunday school  
10:30 Arlington Sunday school  
10:45 Prague worship  
BD Ruby Holik

## Monday, September 05

BD Reed Hefner

## Tuesday, September 06

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Debra Kinslow

## Wednesday, September 07

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
Quest  
3:30- 5:30 pm Recreation  
3:45- 4:15 pm Sign & Music  
5:30- 6:30 pm Dinner/Worship  
6:30- 7:30 pm Classes  
6:30 pm Vocal Choir practice  
7:30 pm Bell Choir practice  
BD Caleb Bruce

## Thursday, September 08

6 pm United Methodist Women  
BD Connie Knoepfli

## Friday, September 09

BD Audrey Bruce

## Saturday, September 10

BD Margie Harms  
BD Montrey Bond

## Sunday, September 11

1 Timothy 1: 12-17  
"Being Honest"  
9:15 Arlington worship  
9:30 Prague Sunday school  
10:30 Arlington Sunday school  
10:45 Prague worship

## Monday, September 12

BD Marisa Thompson

## Tuesday, September 13

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Madge Bowman

## Wednesday, September 14

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
*Quest*, vocal & bell choirs

## Thursday, September 15

2 pm Parkland birthday party

## Friday, September 16

## Saturday, 17

## Sunday, 18

Numbers 21: 4b-9  
"Discouraging Progress"  
9:15 Arlington worship  
9:30 Prague Sunday school  
10:30 Arlington Sunday school  
10:45 Prague worship  
BD Orvis Pritchett  
BD Stephenie Burleson  
BD Tonya Clark  
BD Molly Pruett  
BD Danielle Carter

## Monday, September 19

WA Stanley & Sheila Powell

## Tuesday, September 20

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Wednesday, September 21

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
*Quest*, vocal & bell choirs  
BD Wanda Hasel

## Thursday, September 22

BD Robert Thompson

## Friday, September 23

## Saturday, September 24

BD Brianne Stricklin

## Sunday, September 25

1 Timothy 2: 1-7  
"God's Way"  
9:15 Arlington worship  
9:30 Prague Sunday school  
10:30 Arlington Sunday school  
10:45 Prague worship

## Monday, September 26

BD Debbie Grissom

## Tuesday, September 27

6 - 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Butch Carver

## Wednesday, September 28

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
*Quest*, vocal & bell choirs  
BD Charlotte Fouquet

## Thursday, September 29

## Friday, September 30

BD = birthday

WA = wedding anniversary

## OCTOBER DATES

- 01 OK Conference Day  
Meet the bishop
- 08 Pumpkin Festival
- 15 CPR & first aid class - FREE
- 23 Bishop Nunn  
at Asbury UMC, Tulsa

