

Methodist Messenger

Prague/Arlington Charge

November, 2016

Gratitude and Enough

We are coming into the season of thanksgiving and thankfulness. That is closely followed by the season of consumerism and materialism. The time of year leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus was never intended to be a time of consumerism, but the brokenness of humanity has made it that nonetheless. Now we try to wrap it up in the bows and ribbons of gift giving in honor of the birth of Christ, but often it turns into what looks more to be a celebration of us instead. How did we get here? What can we do to change it?

I have been working through a morning journaling routine that has me intentionally listing that for which I am grateful. In the past, I often expressed this with things or circumstances. I am thankful for my family, my house, my job, etc. I find that while these are all good things to be thankful for, I often feel like something is missing—that next big thing for which I am striving. I refer to it as the “when this happens then...” syndrome. You know, “when I get my degree, then...” “when I get this promotion, then” “When we get married, then...” “When we have children, then...” “When the kids move out, then...” I know I should be thankful for what I have, where I am, and just be, but then that next thought of when this happens, then... comes around.

Recently, I began to understand that real gratitude, or true thankfulness, comes from the realization that “I have enough. There is nothing more I need.” This has something to do with “stuff,” but it has more to do with a mindset. If I don’t get something I want, I am still happy, joyful, content...grateful. Maybe some of this awareness has come with age, but I think more than anything it came with reframing my way of thinking. I don’t want more things or better circumstances, I want enough. There is a poem by Bob Perkins entitled *I Wish You Enough* that explains this thought.

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright
no matter how grey the day may appear.
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more.
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting.
I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger.
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye.

For us to truly appreciate the gift of life this holiday season brings, we must first give thanks for what we have, which is enough. It is doubtful our children need more. What we need to give our kids is enough, not more. The gift of enough love that comforts them when they are lost, enough contentment and enough ambition to be well balanced. I image God parenting like this, not giving us everything we think we want, but enough. For this holiday season, I wish you enough.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Sonja



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Information from member Jerry Opela

The UMM met October 1, 2016 with ten members present and pres. Jack Vaughan officiating. Rick Martin offered the devotional, "Invitation to Intimacy."

Primary in their discussion was what to do with the money presently in their account. No decision was made.

The next **potato bar** was scheduled for **November 13.**

Next month's **meeting** will be **November 5, 7 am**, in the Prague Fellowship Hall. All men and boys are invited to attend.

CPR & FIRST AID CLASS COMPLETED



About 25 men, women, and children (12 years and up) participated in an all-day CPR and First Aid class, sponsored free of charge by the Lincoln County Health Department. Prague church staff provided lunch to keep the participants going through the afternoon. Many of the participants were from the Shawnee chapter of American Heritage Girls. Others were Prague/Arlington charge workers with children and youth.

Did you miss it? Don't worry. Another class is in the planning. Watch for news in newsletters and bulletin inserts.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Information from member Rev. Sharon Capron

The UMW met on Thursday, October 13 with an excellent program and lots of planning for future events.

Melinda and Molly Pruett presented a video and lead the group in dialogue on "American Heritage Girls." A new chapter is opening in Prague with a few folks, currently commuting to the Shawnee chapter, eagerly looking forward to Prague's first meeting. The UMW agreed to sponsor the group with both funding and encouragement.

Other business concerned the **Harvest Dinner**. Eric Capron has accepted responsibility for leadership in cooking the meal. The dinner will be **November 17**. The ticket price will be \$15, funding the Backpack program.

Due to the change in kolache pricing made by the Kolache Day committee and to the increase in the cost of ingredients, a dozen kolaches will cost \$15 this spring. There has also been a favorable change in packaging. Patrons this spring will be able to order two flavors in a single dozen, that is, six each of two different flavors.

Several other minor issues were considered and resolved. The next UMW **meeting** will be **November 10** and the Parkland Manor **birthday party** will be **November 17**. Due to an overrun of special programming at the Manor in December, there is no birthday party in that month.



ARLINGTON UMC

Regrettably, the annual fall Arlington Church dinner, which occurred on Saturday, October 29, was too late to make this month's newsletter. Please watch the December issue for story and pics!



united methodist youth fellowship

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Written by Youth Team Leader Tina Thompson



Standing on brick elevation: Lauren Fried, Brianna James, Diana Kinzey, Kasey McKee, Jordan Collins, Robert Thompson,

Standing at ground level: Youth Director Tina Thompson, Wanda Clark, Riley Waltonbaugh, Madalyn Lloyd

A total of 10 people went on the interfaith tour this year. We visited the East Sixth Street Christian Church, the Masjid Mu'min Mosque and the Vien Giac Buddhist Temple. The Christian Church was an African American congregation; they told us about their history and how it is a part of their church culture. Mission is very important to them and they like many different types of music. However, the point was made that the preacher is not musically inclined! The Mosque is a new building still under construction. They talked about their separation from Islam & their aversion to violence. The Temple consisted of Vietnamese people. The speaker spoke in Vietnamese with an interpreter. They do not believe in God. They believe in improving yourself. They also believe in reincarnation. The choices you make determines your species in your next life. They had many statues and adornments. This trip was very informative for the youth and the adults.

The youth decided to start the Noisy Offering again. We will be collecting coins on the first Sunday of each month for a different mission each quarter. Our first collection resulted in \$111.50; a total of three collections

will be sent to UMCOR for Oklahoma earthquake victims. Please don't forget your coins (or paper) on the first Sunday of each month for these worthwhile missions, chosen by our youth!

The youth had their second youth council meeting, with over a dozen people in attendance. They are planning some fun activities for the youth, as well as a fundraiser for Haiti hurricane relief. We also have volunteers to hand out candy for Downtown Trick or Treat.

We have been trying out a new curriculum in Quest that is going very well. It is "Back to the Basics" about what it means to be a Christian, including some fun activities to complement the lessons. Coming up is a session on Native Americans. This group of lessons will begin in November and run through December.

Our Sunday school class will be learning Wesley's rules of "Earn, Save, Give," beginning on October 30th. This should be an exciting curriculum, along with some valuable financial lessons!

We have nine youth signed up to volunteer at the OK Regional Food Bank on October 29th; more about that trip in the next newsletter.

Please take a look around and see what the youth of our church are doing! You will see them preaching and teaching during Quest. They volunteer their time to prepare food for the backpack program. They help in the sound booth on Wednesdays & Sundays. They serve and help clean up when we have church meals. They fill candles, clean the sanctuary, help Barbara prepare for service, and many other things. Please thank them when you see the youth serving the church! Much of what they do is behind the scenes and not even noticed, if you don't look for it!

YOUTH AUCTION for HAITI

Written by Youth

Leslie Clark

When Hurricane Matthew hit the country of Haiti, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) was one of the

first to respond to the tragedy. We, the youth of this church, want to help with UMCOR's continued efforts with relief for a country that seems to have a never ending barrage of tragedies. We are going to have a labor auction on October 30th, after the Prague church service. At this auction, members of our youth group will be auctioned off to do work, for 30 minutes to 4 hours, to the highest bidder. The type of work and the time, will be determined between the buyer, the youth, and the youth's parent. We will also have a donation based refreshment area. If you don't intend to bid, please stay for refreshments. Please help support our efforts to aid the people of Haiti. For more information, contact Tina Thompson at tina.thompson405@gmail.com or 405-850-9581.

YOUNG PREACHERS FESTIVAL & CONFERENCE JULY 21ST - 22ND, 2016

Written by youth Sara Martin

"And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news." – Romans 10:14 CEB



The conference events were held at the 22 Student Ministry Center. Pictured here is the Wesley Covenant Chapel where we had worship and core sessions. For more information about the church, google www.cor.org/campus/Leawood?C=5

In February, I received an email from Rebecca Belase about an event in Kansas City. The "Young Preachers Festival" is part of a movement to raise up the next generation of

young preachers for The United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection is honored to host this second annual event in partnership with the General Board of Higher Education Ministry (GBHEM).

I decided to register and attend the conference for young adults discerning their calls to ministry. The event provided an opportunity to connect to peers, learn preaching strategies, and enjoy amazing worship services.

The sessions were lead and taught by prominent United Methodist Preachers from across the country. They spoke of growing new churches, including building physical plants, as well as revitalizing and growing existing ministries. Everyone had great advice and life lessons from their experiences in ministry.

Kansas City, Kansas is a bustling, beautiful city. The Church of the Resurrection is gorgeous! The staff is wonderful and their hospitality is fantastic. Be sure to go online and check out their new sanctuary.

The Reverend Adam Hamilton is a well-known name within the domination. He is the author of many well written books that offer small group study material. I enjoyed Rev. Hamilton's preaching and teaching so much, I purchased his book, *Unleashing the Word*. I highly recommend checking out his books.



LESLIE CLARK

Leslie sang again on a beautiful October Sunday. Her selection for Rev. Sonja's sermon was "Holy Spirit." Thank you, Leslie, for offering your gift to God!



Written by Children's Coordinator Melinda Pruett

We have had lots of fun in Quest. We have been learning about Noah and the Ark. The kids got to build boats in science class and even got to see if they would float! Lots of fun!



In the kitchen, during the study of Noah's ark, children created boats of aluminum foil and then tested how many animals (coins) they could carry without sinking. Good thing, Noah had gopher wood.



When we were kids, we used to build "arks" with construction paper. Today, it's Lego! Wish I was a kid today!



Molly and Alison with Melinda assist Pumpkin Festival participants as they make paper pumpkins.

We had a great turnout for the Pumpkin Festival this year. The kids were able to build paper-strip pumpkins and write on them what they were thankful for. Also, want to thank Molly and Alison Ogden for coming and helping Sharon and me at the Pumpkin Festival.

SPECIAL NOTICE: No Quest on Nov. 16th because of the Community Service and no Quest on Nov. 23rd because of Thanksgiving.



Molly Pruett and Madison Belase are ready to serve as acolytes on October 23, while the congregation sings the closing hymn.



BELL CHOIR

Information from Director

MM Greene

Bell choir practice has resumed for the 2016-17 school year, but there is a change in practice time. Bell practice is now on Sundays, 5 – 7 pm. Come, and make those bells ring!



NORMAN HASEL

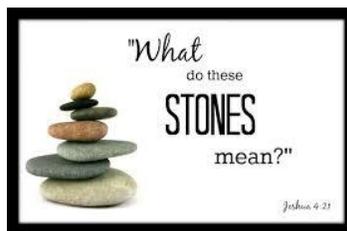
The Arlington Church mourns the loss of Norman Hasel, who passed away September 23. Norman and his wife, Wanda, were baptized and joined the Arlington church on July 31 of this year. Although the Hasels have been in the Arlington area only a year and a half, they were regular attendees. Norman was particularly well known because of his passion for and expertise with mules, five of which he still owned. Besides Wanda, Norman is survived by a son, Harold Hasel of Kinta, daughter, Belinda Chamber of Guthrie, Granddaughter, Amanda Chambers of Guthrie, and many others who will long remember him.



JOHN COLEMAN

Long time resident, John Coleman passed away, leaving a legacy in the Arlington area (Sparks) that will long outlive him. He married a Heinzig girl, JoAnn, in 1949 and the couple stayed together until death parted them on September 15. They were blessed with a daughter Phyllis Martin of Sparks, two grandchildren, Cassidy and her husband Jesse Tolleson of the Arlington area, and Ashley and her husband Kenneth Riddle of Shawnee, and five great-grandchildren.

John was community-active. The Arlington Volunteer Fire Department, the Prague Round-Up Club, and the Masons knew him well. Many friends and family will long remember him.



**NOVEMBER WORSHIP CALENDAR
STONES OF REMEMBRANCE**

Nov. 6 All Saints Sunday
Text: Joshua 4:1-24
Sermon: We Remember

Nov. 20 Christ the King/Thanksgiving
Text: 1 Samuel 7:1-12
Sermon: Remembering to Give Thanks

Nov. 13
Text: Judges 2:6 -10
Sermon: Our Children Remember

Nov. 27 1st Sunday of Advent
Text: Matthew 13:31-33
Sermon: Discover the Treasure
of Christmas

NOVEMBER 2016

Tuesday, November 01

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

Wednesday, November 02

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

BD Robert Holman

Thursday, November 03

BD Wanda Clark

Friday, November 04

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

BD Christie Jones

BD Rebekah Belase

Saturday, November 05

7 am United Methodist Men

BD Sara Martin

Sunday, November 06

ALL SAINTS DAY

9:15 Arlington worship

9:30 Prague Sunday school

10:30 Arlington Sunday school

10:45 Prague worship

5 – 7 pm Bell Choir practice

Monday, November 07

BD Ciara Sturm

Tuesday, November 08

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

BD A.J. Stricklin

BD Timmy Gile

WA Danny & Kealise Linville

Wednesday, November 09

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out

3:30 – 7:30 pm *Quest*

6:30 pm vocal choir

Thursday, November 10

6 pm United Methodist Women

Friday, November 11

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

BD Genise Fridrich

BD Logan Maddox

Saturday, November 12

Sunday, November 13

9:15 Arlington worship

9:30 Prague Sunday school

10:30 Arlington Sunday school

10:45 Prague worship

POTATO BAR

5 – 7 pm Bell Choir practice

BD Lenaye Inman

Monday, November 14

BD Wanda Carlson

BD Tim Brauer

BD Mary (Brauer) Dennis

Tuesday, November 15

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

Wednesday, November 16

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out

BD Rebecca Bond

Thursday, November 17

HARVEST DINNER

2 pm Parkland Birthday Party

Friday, November 18

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

Saturday, November 19

BD Randy Eby

BD Macyn Anderson

WA Sheila & Stanley Powell

Sunday, November 20

CHRIST the KING

9:15 Arlington worship

9:30 Prague Sunday school

10:30 Arlington Sunday school

10:45 Prague worship

5 – 7 pm Bell Choir practice

BD Keith Hodge

Monday, November 21

BD Jerry W Smith

Tuesday, November 22

6 - 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

BD Dorothy Feltman

Wednesday, November 23

Thursday, November 24

THANKSGIVING DAY

BD Janet Baker

BD Lisa McCarthy

Friday, November 25

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

Saturday, November 26

BD Lisa Hefner

Sunday, November 27

1ST SUNDAY of ADVENT

9:15 Arlington worship

9:30 Prague Sunday school

10:30 Arlington Sunday school

10:45 Prague worship

5 – 7 pm Bell Choir practice TBA

Monday, November 28

Tuesday, November 29

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

Wednesday, November 30

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out

3:30 – 7:30 pm *Quest*

6:30 pm vocal choir

BD = birthday

WA = wedding anniversary



DECEMBER DATES of NOTE

Dec. 4, 11, & 18 Advent Sundays

Dec 13 school band concert

Dec 14 Christmas Caroling
& Jesus' Birthday party

Dec 19 – 30 Christmas break

Sat., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Sun., Dec. 25 Christmas Day