

Methodist Messenger

Prague/Arlington Charge

May, 2017

Festival!

Every town has their time to shine known as a festival, rodeo, or gala. In Vinita there was the calf-fry festival, the Will Rogers Rodeo, and the Route 66 festival. Canton had a Walleye Rodeo. I never have understood how they had a rodeo with fish. Here in Prague, it is the Kolache festival. Now, I much prefer Kolaches to calf fries, and I can say I managed to leave Vinita without a calf fry tasting, but thanks to Nancy Opela, Mike and I had fresh Kolaches within a few days of moving into the parsonage.

I am excited about my first Kolache festival! I am looking forward to seeing the royalty, the dances, the booths, and parade. I think it is one of those magical moments when you can see the town at its best. When the town collectively puts on its finest and presents it to visitors from far and near. Those things which are taken for granted, like dead flowers in planter boxes, are put on the front burner so the town looks beautiful.

This is reminiscent of a family holiday when the guest towels are put out, the whole house is cleaned and spotless, the landscaping is tended to, and the loose guttering is fixed. When a special event is coming up, we tend to see those unsightly things with new eyes, and really look at what we have previously walked past without noticing. We need to do that with our church also. We need to see what a visitor sees, with new eyes, and every Sunday put on our very best. Much like anything else, our very best requires work.

We will be having a **training opportunity for greeters on May 10th at 6:30 pm**. Our worship A/V team will be receiving training as well. All members are ministers, and all members are the workers of the church. Not just the staff, not just a few volunteers. All members are needed to participate in making our church the very best it can be every Sunday. I hope you will find a way you can learn more about how you can help make our church a welcoming place and volunteer to serve.

Next Sunday, I would encourage you to come in and look at the church with new eyes. Maybe that means to come in through a different door. It means to look at the décor, the cleanliness, the worship, everything as someone who has never been in the church before. What is your impression? If you were to have a small child, would you know where the nursery is located? Would the décor look fresh or dated? Is there junk lying around that we walk past without a thought? Think about these things, and bring your observations to our May 21st Church Council Meeting to share and discuss.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of the beauty our town has to offer in the Kolache festival, not to mention tasting a few of the yummy treats.

Grace and peace, Rev. Dr. Sonja Tobey



Prague Greeter/Hospitality Training

To help guests feel truly welcome at the church, it is more than a simple "Hello, here's a bulletin." There will be a training on **Wednesday, May 10 at 6:30 pm** for current greeters and those who wish to be a greeter on Sunday mornings. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend to learn more about how to make guests feel welcomed and included.



We will be recognizing the high school and college graduates in the worship service on **May 14, 2017**.

Following the service we will have light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall where the graduates will have baskets for cards. You are invited to bring cards for the graduates to wish them well in their future endeavors. This year's graduates are:

From Prague High School:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Wanda Clark</i> | <i>Sara Martin</i> |
| <i>Graham Ogden</i> | <i>Karlee Ogden</i> |
| <i>Carlton Bond</i> | <i>William Donaldson</i> |

From college or university:

- Dillon Good (Southwestern College)*
- Destiny Donaldson (Seminole State College)*
- Ashlie Skidmore (Seminole State College)*
- Kristen Hamm (University of Oklahoma)*



Prague Church Council Meeting – May 21

There will be a Church Council Meeting following worship on Sunday, May 21st. All are invited to attend and hear about the wonderful things going on at the church. We will continue our discussion on the future of the church (see last month's newsletter). Please make every effort to attend.



This year's annual conference offering goes to Circle of Care in recognition of their 100th Anniversary. Each month in Oklahoma there are over 700 children separated from their siblings in foster care. This offering taken at annual conference will help kick-off the *Legacy of Care Centennial Capital Campaign* to build 8 new homes for large sibling groups in foster care on five sites across Oklahoma. These regional hubs for recruiting, training, and supporting foster families, will expand Circle of Care's geographic reach and ensure more siblings stay together during their trying time.

We will be taking this special offering through May. Please make checks to the church with "Circle of Care" in the memo line, or put cash in an envelope marked Circle of Care. You can donate online at www.okumc.org/acspecialoffering.



*Graham & Karlee Ogden
are graduating!
Come help us celebrate!*

Graham Ogden's Barn
980832 South 3570 Road, Prague
May 20 2017
Come-and-go from 4 to 8 pm
RSVP Alison 785-691-78143

Graham will be attending Conners State in the fall. Karlee will attend UCO in Edmond.



Dillon Gordon Good graduating from Southwestern College!

Baccalaureate: May 7 10 a.m.
Richardson Performing Arts Center
Commencement: May 7, 1 p.m.
Richard Jantx Stadium



Written by Children's Coordinator

Melinda Pruett



The Easter egg hunt followed dinner and worship time at Quest on April 12. Youth laid out the eggs all over the north and east sides of the Prague church and children from little ones on up through fifth were sent in shifts to gather what they could.



One week later, April 19, attending children and youth appreciated a traveling lesson time with four stations. Groups moved, spending only a few minutes with each teacher.

The journey began with a stop at the Last Supper. [photo unavailable]



Next was a trip to the Garden where Jesus prayed and was eventually arrested.



The crucifixion was the next step in Jesus' journey – but not the last.



Finally, came the empty tomb.

It's been great this year at Quest. We have come to the end and will start back up in August. So now to focus on Vacation Bible School, it starts June 4. We are still looking for volunteers. We have lots of fun jobs, so if you are interested, please come talk to me. We will have a VBS meeting sometime in May.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Information from secretary/treasurer Jerry Opela

The UMM met April 1, Pres. Jack Vaughn, presiding. The next potato bar was set for April 23. The **next potato bar** was set for **June 11**, after Vacation Bible School. On May 17, our UMM will be hosting the Prague Ministerial Alliance for lunch.

The next **UMM meeting** date has been changed from the usual first Saturday of the month to the second Saturday, **May 13**, due to conflict with Kolache Day festivities.

Rev. Sharon Capron presented a program with video on the building of a new chapel at John Lilley Correctional Center. The group voted to give \$250 to the project.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Information from Secretary MM Greene

The April 3 UMW meeting began with a wind-up discussion of kolache baking plans.

Member Sara Martin then offered a wonderful two-part program. First she discussed her experiences with her new position on the GBCS (General Board of Church and Society) including a trip to the United Nations building and the UMW owned and operated Church Center for the United Nations across the street from the UN building. The Church Center is both a resource center and a quiet reprieve from the hard and heavy work of the United Nations.

Sara continued her program with a book review of *Boundless: What Global Expressions of Faith Teach Us about Following Jesus* by Bryan Bishop. The review offers everyone listening one book credit on the national United Methodist Women's Reading List.

The next **UMW meeting** will be **May 11**. We will review this year's kolache baking. Also, Rev. Sharon Capron will be presenting a program on the need of a new chapel at our local prison, John Lilley Correctional Center.

A PICTORIAL REVIEW OF KOLACHE BAKING 2017



Rollers rolling.



Butter, warm, fill, sprinkle, bake.



Polka time!



Cool enough



They don't get any fresher!



Third generation baker



Tagged and ready for pickup.



Begin packaging.



Let's celebrate!



united methodist youth fellowship

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH



Youth dodge ball players! L to R are: Sponsor Mike Tobey, Leslie Clark, Kasey McKee, Alauna Parker, Aiden Brown, Constance Hicks, Madalyne Lloyd, Wanda Clark. (Sponsor Tonya Clark took the picture.)

Written by youth Wanda Clark

On March 26th, 7 youth and 2 adults traveled up to Edmond First UMC for a youth dodgeball tournament. They picked out a team name and called themselves the "Wildcats" after the team in Disney's High School Musical. After losing their first elimination round, the youth waited to play their loser bracket round for redemption. There was a room of games to play while waiting and many of the youth joined in games of "Go Fish" and large "Jenga."

Close to the end of the tournament, the team had a chance to play another game of dodge ball. While this game fared better than the previous, they still lost. The day was fun and even the losses were filled with laughter. The youth headed home to miss the weather and stopped at McDonald's for an early dinner. It was a fun experience and a great way to interact with the other youth in this area; everyone that went had a great time and cannot wait for their chance to play again and win. *Go Wildcats!*

Written by youth

Leslie Clark

On April 1, Robert and Jordan Thompson took ten youth to an event in Oklahoma City called Winter Jam. We started out the evening by eating at Cici's pizza and then we stood outside of Chesapeake Arena, waiting impatiently to get in. We heard devotions from many different people, one of them being Sadie Robison. We also listened to some moving bands such as Tenth Avenue North, Britt Nicole, Andy Mineo, and by far my favorite, Crowder. This was my second time going to Winter Jam and I have enjoyed it every time. On behalf of all the youth who attended Winter Jam, "Thank you, church!" for letting us attend. We were blessed by the messages and all the music we heard, so thank you. Many of us look forward to attending next year.

Written by Youth Team Leader

Tina Thompson

We have completed another year of Quest with enrollment ranging from 15 to 30 youth on Wednesday night. We have enjoyed worship services, classroom learning, and recreation time. We appreciate all the meals cooked by our volunteers and the service that they provide during mealtime, including delivering desserts to our Youth Council Meetings. I would like to thank Hilary Spears, Robert Thompson, Brian Baker, Mike Tobey, JoeAnn and Orvis Pritchett for their help with the youth. Our program would not be successful without all of the people who help out!

We have many things planned this summer, starting with the high school graduation of Wanda Clark, Sara Martin, and Carlton Bond. May is going to be a busy month for our youth with all the end of school year activities.

Wanda Clark delivered a powerful message about Easter and Christ's love for all of us at the Quest service right before Easter. We had many youth help with the kolache baking. Their help certainly made the baking easier on everyone! Summertime; here we come!

MAY 2017

Monday, May 01

Tuesday, May 02

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

Wednesday, May 03

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out

6:30 pm vocal choir

BD Carlton Bond

Thursday, May 04

11:30 Nat'l Day of Prayer
at City Hall

Friday, May 05

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

WA Bob & Tina Thompson

Saturday, May 06

KOLACHE DAY

Sunday, May 07

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington

Sunday school/worship – Prague

BD Sonja Tobey

WA Jerry & Nancy Opela

Monday, May 08

WA Chris & Kristen Hamm

Tuesday, May 09

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

Wednesday, May 10

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out

6:30 pm vocal choir

6:30 GREETERS' TRAINING

BD Bob Thompson

Thursday, May 11

6 pm United Methodist Women

BD Ken Bond

Friday, May 12

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

BD Sharon L. Smith

Saturday, May 13

7am United Methodist Men

7am ~ 6 pm Sharon's 100-mile
bicycle ride for Lilley Prison chapel

Sunday, May 14

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington

Sunday school/worship – Prague

MOTHER'S DAY

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

BACCALAUREATE

Monday, May 15

BD Destiny Donaldson

Tuesday, May 16

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

BD Sunny Weddle

Wednesday, May 17

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out

Noon – Prague Ministerial Alliance

6:30 vocal choir

Thursday, May 18

Friday, May 19

GRADUATION for PHS

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

Saturday, May 20

BD Rick Martin

Sunday, May 21

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington

Sunday school/worship – Prague

NOON POTLUCK & PRAGUE CHURCH COUNCIL

BD Juanita Coffey

Monday, May 22

WA Billy & Jamie Bruce

Tuesday, May 23

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

Wednesday, May 24

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out

6:30 vocal choir

Thursday, May 25

Friday, May 26

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

Saturday, May 27

Sunday, May 28

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington

Sunday school/worship – Prague

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEGINS

BD Rhyder Mendoza

BD Abbey Warren

Monday, May 29

MEMORIAL DAY

BD Madison Belase

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 05/29-06/1

Tuesday, May 30

6 - 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

Wednesday, May 31

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out

6:30 vocal choir

BD Sue Smith

BD = birthday

WA = wedding anniversary

IMPORTANT JUNE DATES

6/04-09 Vacation Bible School

6/11 Potato Bar

6/18 Father's Day

Saturday, May 13

-weather permitting

Rev. Sharon rides 100

miles for Lilley Prison

chapel.

Please pray for safety, and
endurance.

