

# Methodist Messenger

*Prague/Arlington Charge*

*August, 2017*

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## Reverse Bucket List

Several years ago, as part of some research I was working on, I looked up what people put on their bucket list. As it turns out, there's a website for that. (<http://bucketlistjourney.net/my-bucket-list>) I was looking through some of the things that people put on their bucket list, partially as related to the research, and partially for ideas for my own bucket list. Some of the ideas I had no interest in, but others were intriguing.

If you are unfamiliar with the concept of a bucket list, it is a list of things you want to do before you "kick the bucket." What I discovered looking through the ideas people had put forward was that I had already done quite a few of the things listed as ideas for a bucket list. I began to think of how many things I had accomplished in my life that others were still waiting to do. There were 886 ideas on this list, so I began to count how many of them, I had already checked off. Of the 886 ideas, I had done 200 of them. Then I began to think of this as a way to count blessings. I came to the realization, I have a great life. I may not have everything, but what I have is pretty good.

When you focus on the positives and what you have, you will find you are very rich indeed. When you only focus on what you do not have, the negative things in life, you will always feel as if you do not have enough and that your life is not good, not happy, not complete or fulfilled. This applies no matter who you are or what is going on in your life. It is a way of celebrating the good and joyous, and diminishing that which brings sorrow.

Over the years I have found that this applies to people as well. You can focus on everything a person is not and they will always be found lacking. Or, you can focus on all the positives about a person, and even they will begin to see what is good in themselves. It is simply a matter of choice and remembering. Sometimes we would rather complain about what isn't right, than celebrate what is working. Many of the people that focus on all that is wrong with the world often find they have a hard time connecting with God. I believe there is a connection there.

Are you a person that focuses on the negative? One that looks for the worst in people, that spreads stories about others that are only in the worst possible light? If you find you are guilty of this, I would suggest you look at yourself. Look at all that is good in you. Make a reverse bucket list of all the things in your life you have done, experienced, seen, and accomplished. When you focus on the good that is yours, you will find it easier to see the good in others. Your relationships will blossom around you, and you and others will be better for it.

The bible expresses it this way, "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Phil. 4:8 NRSV) Look for the good in yourself and others, and you will find God there.

You are glorious beloved children of God,

Rev. Sonja Tobey



## Ice Cream Social

The Prague, Arlington, and Seminole churches will be coming together to fellowship over food and fun. Join us on **Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at Seminole First UMC** (910 W Wrangler Blvd, Seminole). Prague and Arlington will be providing freezers of ice cream and the Seminole congregation will be providing hot dogs, sides, and drinks. There is a large playground for the kids, a volleyball court and even a covered pavilion. If it is too hot, we will gather in the fellowship hall. **If you will be bringing a freezer of ice cream, please let Terri know at the church office.**



## UNITED METHODIST MEN

Information from secretary/treasurer Jerry Opela  
The United Methodist Men met on Saturday, July 1. Pres. Jack Vaughan officiated and member Randy Eby offered the devotional, "What are You Doing Here?" Eight members and three guests were present. Guests were David Johnson and William from Africa who presented the morning's program and Kade Martinez, grandson-in-law to Reese & Sharon Capron. There was no old business. No potato bar is scheduled for July. Jack Vaughan bought \$145 worth of sausage for UMM breakfasts and requested help with the expense.

David and William's program centered on the genocide in Uganda, which devastated that country a few years ago, and their work assisting the children. The men voted to help bring the children's choir back to the United States with a contribution of \$200.

The **next meeting** of the UMM will be **Saturday, August 5, 7 am**, in the Prague Fellowship Hall. All men and boys are invited to attend.



## SARA MARTIN'S CONFERENCE REPORT PUBLISHED in CONTACT

Sara Martin spoke at this year's Annual Conference. Her words were published in the July 7 issue of the OKUMS Contact newspaper. You can also read Sara's article at: <http://www.okumc.org/newsdetail/we-are-ready-to-lead-now-8649668>



united methodist youth fellowship

## UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Written by Youth Team Leader Tina Thompson  
*The editor regrets the accidental omission of Tina's farewell article, which was intended for July issue.*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION



Wanda Leslie Kasey Carlton Tina

We celebrated my last activity as Youth Director during Sunday School on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed a hot breakfast of breakfast casserole & biscuits, where we enjoyed fellowship and sharing memories. Leslie Clark enjoyed planning game time, which included water balloons! We played water balloon dodgeball and a game of tossing the water balloon to catch on a pillowcase. It was great fun and everyone got a little wet! Then, the youth broke out the silly string and bombarded me, but I stole a can, so they each got a little silly string, as well. Thank you Prague UMC youth, I enjoyed my time with you and plan to continue spending time with you as a volunteer!



**DESTINY DONALDSON  
QUEST YOUTH COORDINATOR**

As the summer winds down and Quest is soon to start, the ongoing search for a full-time youth director continues. Blessedly, we have one in our number who is willing to take on the responsibility for youth at Quest. Although Destiny's assignment is currently limited to the Quest program, her being in place before school begins fills the most critical need. For those who might not know her well, Destiny has written her own biographical note.

My name is Destiny Cheyann Donaldson, I was born on the 15th of May 1997. I live with my 8-year-old little sister, Emily Ann Donaldson, and my dad, Tim Donaldson. I have raised my little sister all her life and have enjoyed being her role model and her best friend. I started helping with the church during my time in high school. I have enjoyed every moment of being a member and being able to touch so many lives. A few years ago, I began working at the church as Melinda Pruetts' right-hand-gal with the children. I have been the nursery attendant for about a year. I love having the opportunity to teach the kids about the word of God and seeing different ways they can spread his love. I have gone to children's camps for the last two years and love the leader experience that comes with it. This year I had the opportunity to attend youth district camp and had such a

moving experience. I received a calling to work with children or youth within the church. On May 5, 2017, I graduated Seminole State College with my Associates in Arts degree and a 3.5 GPA.

My main hobby is doing all sorts of art. I mainly sketch and paint realistic to imaginative works. I am always carrying my sketchbook with me and my mind is always buzzing with ideas. I am more than happy to do commissions and greatly enjoy doing art projects with the youth.



**DISTRICT (SPARK) CAMP**



Arlingtonite Caleb Bruce with Camp Director Ali



The WHOLE camp!  
Crossroads District (Spark) Camp  
June 26 – 30, 2017

Every year, our youth participate in our district camp, now called "Spark." This year was no different. Attending were Caleb Bruce, Leslie Clark, Wanda Clark, Kasey McKee, Alauna Parker, and Riley Waltonbaugh. The theme? FEAR LESS by FAITH!

**YOUTH FORCE 2017 COMMISSIONED**

On Sunday, July 23, four youth were commissioned to serve with Youth Force in Grove, Oklahoma. The group, along with family and friends, attended the Prague service. Rev. Sonja offered the blessing and prayer of commissioning as supporters from the congregation gathered to lay on hands.



Rev. Sonja prays over the committed youth as supporters stand with hands laid on.

Very soon after the benediction, the youth climbed aboard the church van, driven by Mike & Rev. Sonja, and headed to Grove for five days service.



Alaina Parker      Gage Powell      Wanda Clark      Leslie Clark

Be in church **August 13** for **"Back to School" & "Camp" Sunday!** Children and youth will speak of their experiences.



Our push lawnmower has bit the dust. If anyone would like to donate one to the church it would be greatly appreciated.

Written by parent

Sheila Powell

**COLD SANDWICHES on a HOT DAY**

On Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 8 people from our church traveled to the Regional Food Bank to volunteer to aid in the battle to help Oklahoman's that are food challenged. The Regional Food Bank has started a new program to address the children who are food challenged through the summer months, by opening sites where food can be picked up daily. The group of eight packaged 1,877 turkey and cheese sandwiches on this day, which equaled 1,877 meals for hungry children. The Regional Food Bank is attempting to open a site in the Shawnee area. When more information is available, we will pass this along for any of you, who may know someone who could benefit from this outreach program. We would like to invite all of you to come and join us on our next Saturday adventure at the Regional Food Bank.



Written by Children's Coordinator

Melinda Pruett

Excitement is in the air. Camps are done and God has blessed us in so many ways. Look forward to coming to worship on **August 13**. That is our **"Camp" and "Back-to-School"** Sunday. Make sure to be here on that Sunday, because we have back-to-school gifts for the little ones through college.

August is always fun. We are getting ready for Quest! If you would like to come and join in the fun by volunteering this year, come see me. It is such a blessing to help the kids learn about God and Jesus. We will be having our **Quest Kick-Off, August 23rd** in the park, 5 – 8 pm. There will be a **Quest meeting** on the **30th of July** right after church. Thank you, Melinda

# AUGUST 2017

## Tuesday, August 01

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Schuyler Hamm

## Wednesday, August 02

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
5:30-7:30 *Quest*  
BD Joe Ann Pritchett  
WA Orvis & Joe Ann Pritchett

## Thursday, August 03

BD Hubert Smith

## Friday, August 04

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Charlene Jezek  
BD Margaret Parks

## Saturday, August 05

7am United Methodist Men  
BD Ted Capron

## Sunday, August 06

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington  
Sunday school/worship – Prague  
**5:30 pm Ice Cream Social at Seminole UMC**

## Monday, August 07

## Tuesday, August 08

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Wednesday, August 09

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
WA Mike & Sonia Tobey

## Thursday, August 10

## Friday, August 11

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Saturday, August 12

BD Ryan Anderson  
BD Judy Coleman  
BD Maxine van Brunt

## Sunday, August 13

**"BACK to SCHOOL & CAMP"**  
Worship/Sunday school – Arlington  
Sunday school/worship – Prague

## Monday, August 14

BD MM Greene

## Tuesday, August 15

### SCHOOL STARTS

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
WA Glen & Paula Brauer

## Wednesday, August 16

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out

## Thursday, August 17

## Friday, August 18

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Saturday, August 19

BD Dennis Good  
BD Stan Redding

## Sunday, August 20

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington  
Sunday school/worship – Prague

## Monday, August 21

BD Dean Baker  
WA Glen & Paula Brauer

## Tuesday, August 22

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Reese Capron

## Wednesday, August 23

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
**5 – 8 pm  
QUEST KICKOFF in PARK**

## Thursday, August 24

## Friday, August 25

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Saturday, August 26

BD Jerry Troutman

## Sunday, August 27

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington  
Sunday school/worship – Prague

## Monday, August 28

BD Lindsey Fridrich

## Tuesday, August 29

6 - 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Wednesday, August 30

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
**5:30-7:30 Regular *Quest*  
schedule resumes**

BD Seth Pruettt

## Thursday, August 31

BD = birthday

WA = wedding anniversary

## SEPTEMBER DATES

13 United Methodist Women  
resume meeting with food,  
fellowship, and officer  
elections

18 – 29, Mondays through Fridays  
Lilley prison chapel "barn  
raising." Anyone willing to  
help is invited to join the  
effort to turn that concrete  
slab into a frame, walls, and  
roof in two weeks' time!  
Many volunteers needed for  
meals, housing of out-of-  
staters, and construction help.  
Contact Sharon Capron for  
more information.