

# Methodist Messenger

Prague/Arlington Charge

September 2017

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## Happy Anniversary!

This past month Mike and I celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We chuckle at how far we have come in the past 20 years. First, we had children (and pets) from previous marriages and had to *blend* this collection of personalities in a way that makes for peace (as much as possible). Blending a family is not easy work. Many people will not do the necessary work to successfully accomplish the task. Sometimes it is because we feel the other person(s) should simply know how we are feeling and assume that everyone has the same ideas of what is considered "normal." Blending a family is much like blending in art. You keep all the colors, but as one color joins another, rather than having a sharp edge, you blend the edges to create something beautiful. People keep their personalities, they just learn how the personalities work together, and when they don't, showing grace, respect, and tolerance of idiosyncrasies are important.

In addition to blending our family (and we did a spectacular job if I do say so myself), we went into ministry shortly after getting married. Not only did the kids have to blend together in the new family, they were suddenly PKs (preacher's kids). We went from living in a metropolitan area where the graduating class was 1,000 to a rural area that was an hour away from "real stores" (aka Wal Mart). We went from relative anonymity, to living in a fish bowl. It was difficult, but with the same understanding of blending, we respected differences and tolerated what we considered to be odd idiosyncrasies. What we discovered, however, is that those who were in the communities we went to didn't have that understanding of blending. Some places it was difficult, others it was easier.

Every place we lived though had a predictable pattern. When we came in we were the new parsonage family, the new kids, and everyone was curious and excited to meet us. As the first year progressed, we became the outsiders. No longer new and exciting, and definitely not considered "locals." This is the rough spot of ministry. The honeymoon period is over and you must work through those edges to blend. The honeymoon period would last varying lengths of time, some short, others longer. Around a year though is when we recognized that we are no longer new, but not part of the group. I was never sure how much the congregation recognized this pattern with pastors, but it is very normal. Working through the rough spot can bring some outstanding ministry.

Another anniversary Mike and I are celebrating is our one-year anniversary with you, the fine people of Prague and Arlington UMC. This is the time where we recognize that things are not quite at the comfortable point, but this isn't really a problem. It is an opportunity to continue to learn about one another, to unite in cooperation to accomplish the ministry God is calling our congregation. It is a time to practice grace, respect, and tolerance. It isn't time to wear our feelings on our sleeves or to practice the unhealthy and destructive practice of gossip. Mike and I have enjoyed our time here, and are looking forward to learning more about you. We love you, and with love we can work together for a future with hope as disciples of Christ.

Grace and peace,  
Dr. Sonja



## CONFIRMATION and YOUTH COVENANT CLASS

The youth will continue having covenant class on Sunday evenings at **7 pm starting September 10<sup>th</sup>**. For a youth to participate in this class, they must sign a covenant to become more committed followers of Jesus Christ. This year we will be including a confirmation component to this class. Confirmation is that time when youth are instructed in the faith and are encouraged to make it their own. Their faith is made firm. This is a wonderful time for youth as they learn about faith, make professions of faith, and join the church (if this is their choice).

If the youth have already been through confirmation, that is okay. They may learn something new, and they are always encouraged to be student leaders in discussion. For the youth who have not been through confirmation, we will meet with youth and their **parents on Wednesday evening, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**. Please **contact the church office** if your child is planning on participating in confirmation and the youth covenant class.



## UNITED METHODIST MEN

Information from secretary/treasurer Jerry Opela

The UMM met Saturday, August 5, Pres. Jack Vaughn presiding. Jack also offered the devotional, "What are You Looking For?"

Two **potato bar** dates were set: August 20 and **September 17**.

Randy Eby will offer "Who do You Say I Am?" at **next month's meeting, Sept. 9, 7 am**, in the Prague Fellowship Hall. All men and boys are invited to come and see.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Written by president Lisa Hefner

UMW meeting will be held **Sept. 14 at 6 pm**. We will have a potluck and invite all the women of the church to come enjoy this wonderful fellowship. Please consider this your personal invitation to come explore what UMW is about.



## UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Written by Youth Team Leader Destiny Donaldson

Getting back in the groove of things is sometimes difficult, but for me I am jumping into this groove head first. This year, the youth are going to focus on lessons based around Confirmation. They have been wanting to learn about Confirmation for some time now, and I am happy to be starting off as youth coordinator with something I enjoy talking about. Confirmation topics will include the early church, faith, a call to follow, and many other glory-filled lessons throughout the year.

We have a big year planned and an exciting one at that. Our first few lessons of Quest will be focused on traveling, living, loving, and belonging together. During the first month of Quest, we will focus on encouraging one another and building each other up through our relationship in faith. I am also thinking about a fun activity for the youth on the evening of October 27<sup>th</sup>, maybe popcorn and snacks, and, of course, a surprise.



**Thank you** to Melinda Pruett, Destiny Donaldson, and Lisa Hefner for *The Methodist Messenger* pictures!



Written by Children's Coordinator Melinda Pruett

So exciting! School has started and the Back to School and Camp Sunday was great.



Thank you to everyone who made cookies for our teachers.

Quest Kick-Off was great! Thank you to all the volunteers who came and helped. If you would like to volunteer for Quest, it is not too late, to come see me.

### QUEST KICK-OFF Wednesday, August 23, 2017



From set-up...



...to the final swo-o-o-p!  
Food – Fun – Fellowship!

**We have a new Quest Schedule this year. The program will be letting out at 7 instead of 7:30.** We are going to have a great school year! Thank you! Melinda.

## YOUTH GARAGE SALE SUCCESS!



Thanks to many contributing folks and to the faithful ones who cleaned, rearranged, and set up the great display of items, **\$874** was raised for missions! Way to go, friends!



## BACK to SCHOOL & CAMP SUNDAY



Students and teachers gather at the rail for the blessing of backpacks and people.



Youth Force 2017 was also recognized.

Destiny Donaldson, Alauna Parker, Wanda Clark, Gage Powell, Leslie Clark and God Squad Leader, Jonathan Walker, from Venita.



The Frances E. Willard Ministry Center and Circle of Care will be **celebrating 100 years** of service to youth and families on **Saturday, Sept. 9**, from 11 am to 2 pm. The Center is located at 1616 N. Gilcrease Museum Road in Tulsa. **Free lunch** at 1 pm, open house tours, Pearl's Hope and Child SHARE program tours, miniature horse petting, children's activities, and more. Bring the family!

See flyer in narthex and **RSVP** at [circleofcare.org](http://circleofcare.org) or call 928-583-9506.



a completed chapel similar in design to Lilley's dream

## LILLEY CHAPEL CONSTRUCTION BEGUN! The foundation is poured!!

1. Construction volunteers are needed for a "barn raising," scheduled for **Sept. 18-29**. Whether you can work for a single day or for two weeks (meal prep, electrical, carpentry, masonry, roofing, or even just picking up trash), please contact Sharon Capron for details.
2. Several churches have been asked to prepare three meals for one day for 40 people. I volunteered for **Friday, Sept. 22**. On Sunday, Sept. 3, I will have a sign-up sheet for various foods needed. Can you fix a dish? Would you help serve the meals? Would you like to join the party and work several days? They will take anybody's labor from an hour to a full two weeks. Please pray and go for it. This is a mission trip in our own back yard! Contact me at 405-627-8636, [capron@windstream.net](mailto:capron@windstream.net) God's grace...

# SEPTEMBER 2017

## Friday, September 01

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Saturday, September 02

7am United Methodist Men  
BD Chris Sands  
WA Bruce & Vicki Pfeiff

## Sunday, September 03

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington  
Sunday school/worship – Prague  
BD Elizabeth Belase  
WA Bruce & Vicki Pfeiff

## Monday, September 04

BD Ruby Holik

## Tuesday, September 05

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Reed Hefner

## Wednesday, September 06

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
5:30- 7:30 pm Quest  
6:30 pm vocal choir

## 6 pm Confirmation parents meet

5 – 7 pm QUEST  
BD Debra Kinslow

## Thursday, September 07

6 pm United Methodist Women  
BD Caleb Bruce

## Friday, September 08

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Connie Knoepfli

## Saturday, September 09

7am United Methodist Men  
11 – 2 pm Circle of Care (pg 4)  
BD Audrey Bruce

## Sunday, September 10

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington  
Sunday school/worship – Prague  
**7 pm Confirmation class**  
begins

BD Margie Harms  
BD Montrey Bond

## Monday, September 11

## Tuesday, September 12

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Malik Thompson

## Wednesday, September 13

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
5 – 7 pm *Quest*  
6:30 vocal choir  
BD Madge Bowman

## Thursday, September 14

6 pm United Methodist Women

## Friday, September 15

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Saturday, September 16

## Sunday, September 17

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington  
Sunday school/worship – Prague  
**POTATO BAR**  
7pm Confirmation class

## Monday, September 18

BD Orvis Pritchett  
BD Tonya Clark  
BD Molly Pruett  
BD Danielle Carter

## Tuesday, September 19

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
WA Stanley & Sheila Powell

## Wednesday, September 20

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
5 – 7 QUEST  
6:30 vocal choir

## Thursday, September 21

BD Wanda Hasel

## Friday, September 22

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
BD Robert Thompson

## Saturday, September 23

## Sunday, September 24

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington  
Sunday school/worship – Prague  
BD Brianne Stricklin  
7pm Confirmation class

## Monday, September 25

## Tuesday, September 26

6 - 7 pm AA & Al-Anon  
**5 – 7 QUEST resumes regular schedule.** Kids may ride van from school for study time, recreation, sign or music time, until Quest (dinner, worship, and lesson time) 5 – 7 pm.  
BD Debbie Grissom

## Wednesday, September 27

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out  
5 – 7 pm QUEST  
6:30 vocal choir  
BD Butch Carver

## Thursday, September 28

BD Charlotte Fouquet

## Friday, September 29

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

## Saturday, September 30

## Sept 18 – 29

Lilley Chapel barn raising

## October 27

Fun Youth Activity (*What???*)

BD = birthday  
WA = wedding anniversary