

faith | WINTER 2017

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
EVENTS AT FUMCA

BIG HOPE
MENTORING

OUR MEMORIAL
HISTORIC WALKWAY

SMALL GROUP
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Steve Langford

Senior Associate Pastor

Rev. Brian A. Young

Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Rev. Kay Lancaster

Associate Pastor of

Communications & Evangelism

Rev. Kevin Wilson

Parish Visitor For Pastoral Care

Sharla Martin

Director of Missions & Outreach

Michelle Clark

Director of Music & Worship

Sean Hale

Director of Youth Ministries

Michelle Freeman

Assistant Director of Youth Ministries

Brittany Wright

Administrative Assistant for Youth Ministries

Diane Lester

Director of Children's Ministries

Rachel Patman

Assistant Director of Children's Ministries

Becky Steimle

Director of Communications

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Media Productions Director

Martika Cook

Technical Services Coordinator

Roger Stephens

Business & Finance Administrator

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Kathy Martin

Membership/Office Administrator

& Administrative Assistant to Senior Pastor

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Maintenance

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Director of Big Hope

Jill Regina

Dir. of Testament Youth Choir & Center313

Greg Haugen

Director of Children's Music

Janie Johnson

Director of Youth Orchestra,

Asst. Director of Chancel Orchestra

Arthur Busby

Senior Organist

Jamila Javadova-Spitzberg

Security

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On TV

Our television broadcast is currently unavailable.

Contact the church office for DVDs of the worship service at 817-274-2571.

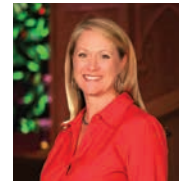
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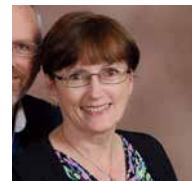
Rev. Steve Langford
Senior Pastor



Rev. Brian A. Young
Associate Senior Pastor



Michelle Clark
Director of Mission and Outreach



Cindy Sharp
Church Member



Billie Liddell
Church Member



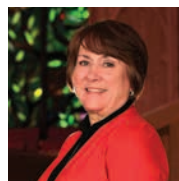
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Director of Communications



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Rachel Patman
Director of Children's Ministries



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Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

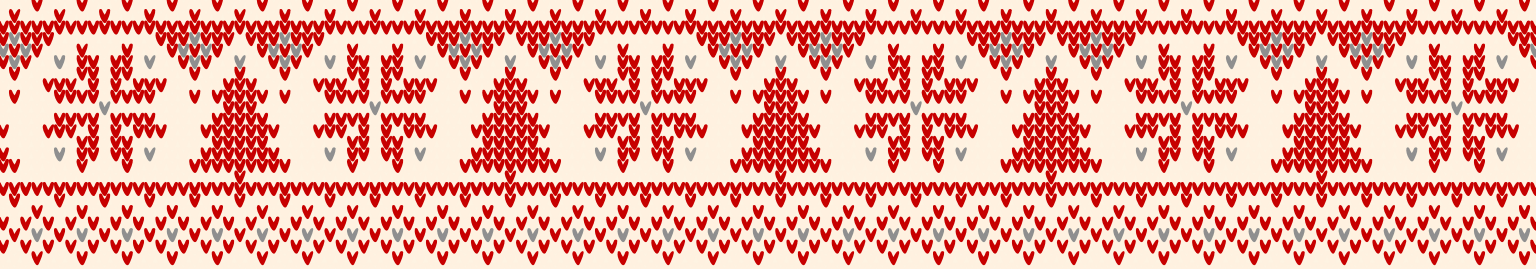


Emily Fairbanks
Church Member



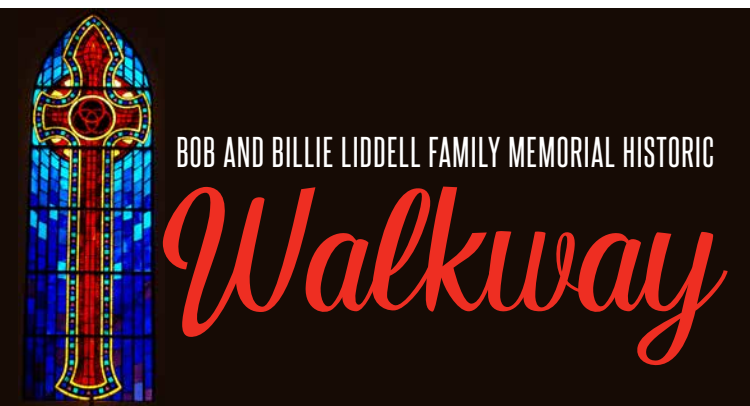
Mary Lobban
Business & Finance Administrator

Not Pictured:
Sue DeShong
Church Member



CHRISTMAS MUSIC

at FUMCA



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FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY:

BY: REV. STEVE LANGFORD
Senior Pastor



The seasons of Advent and Christmas are my two favorite seasons of the church calendar. Because I did not grow up as a United Methodist, I did not know about Advent. In my early years in ministry, I went looking for a resource that would help me have a healthy Christmas spirit. You see, in my early adult life, my attitude during the Christmas season suggested I was a direct descendant of Scrooge. Through the Spirit's work and with the aid of the Advent wreath, I experienced a major attitude adjustment. Today, I describe myself as a recovering Scrooge!

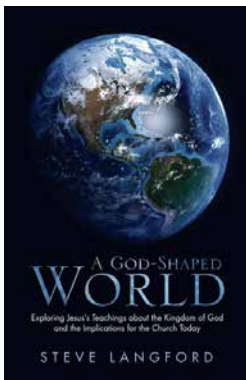
The four Sundays of the Advent season teach us to live out of hope... in anticipation of what is not yet, but will be. Hope is the forward look of faith that trusts the unfailing faithfulness of God. This forward look of faith teaches us to rest in God's deep peace in the midst of what is. Hope and peace give birth to the strength to keep on keeping on as we live in eager anticipation of the unexpected, unpredictable thing God will do next. Rooted in God's peace, we live out of a spirit of joy that is not dependent on our circumstances.

Peace and joy free us to love as God loves, even in the midst of difficult situations.

Hope, peace, joy, love – these four gifts of the Spirit are not just for the Advent season. They are the inner attitudes and spirit that mark the life of Christ followers...throughout the year! The Advent season, as the first season of the Christian calendar, reminds us that these four gifts are foundational to our life in Christ. Thus, the Advent season trains us to live faithfully in the midst of what is, expecting what will be, but is not yet.

I look forward to sharing the Advent season with you as we move toward the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. As Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, the day will be filled with multiple opportunities for worship. See the full schedule elsewhere in this magazine. As a recovering Scrooge, I am grateful for the multiple opportunities to reflect on and give thanks for the mystery of the incarnation - the Word made flesh. O come, let us adore him!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve



JUST RELEASED!

Pastor Steve's latest book has just been released by Westbow Press. *A God-Shaped World: Exploring Jesus' Teachings about the Kingdom of God and the Implications for the Church Today* explores Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom. The study, using Jesus' teachings in the gospel of Luke, identifies the four central characteristics of the Kingdom, contrasting them to the ways that are inherent to our human condition. The Lord's Prayer indicates the kingdom of God is inseparably tied to God's character and will. Thus, the kingdom of God is where life is patterned after the merciful, gracious character of God, where the ways of God are lived, and where the will of God is done—here on the earth!

JOIN US FOR A YEAR OF CELEBRATION!
140TH ANNIVERSARY

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY YEARS OF WORSHIPPING, LEARNING, AND SERVING

..... 1878-2018

stay connected with us on social media for more information!



COOKIES FOR THE TROOPS

Central Texas Conference churches will join efforts to provide dozens of homemade cookies to the troops in December 2017. Your part is easy - just pick out your favorite homemade cookie recipe and bake two dozen cookies! See below for more tips on how to best prepare your cookies.

Deliver your cookies to the church on Sunday, December 17. Regulation size boxes will be available at the church for transport to the troops. Two dozen cookies fit into each box. The cookies will be transported to Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene by the mission team on December 18 for delivery. Contact Michelle Clark for more information at 817-274-2571 or mclark@arlingtonmethodist.org

TIPS FOR THE BEST COOKIES:

Choose Your Cookies: You want sturdy cookies that can handle the long-distance travel. The best choices are chocolate chip, oatmeal, peanut butter, gingersnaps, and snickerdoodles. Use a fool-proof recipe found on the chocolate chip packaging. Nothing crumbly, sticky, or requires refrigeration.

Bake Your Cookies: Use a small scoop to make the cookies uniform. The cookies will bake evenly and be easier to pack into the zip lock bag, once they have cooled completely.

Pack Your Cookies: Separate cookie layers with parchment paper to keep them from sticking. Remove all the air from the zip lock bag and seal tightly.

No Guessing Games: Clearly label the package as to type of cookie and if it contains nuts or peanut butter.

Send it with Love: Enclose a personal letter and/or card for the recipient offering encouragement.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

BY: CINDY SHARP
Church Member

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a simple and beautiful way to share God's love. Many prayers and blessings are put into the stitches of the shawls and squares as they are made.

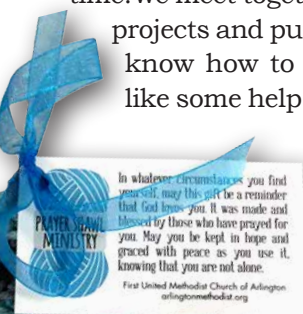
We create full size shawls that offer comfort, warmth, shelter, peace, healing, joy, and hugs. We also create small pocket prayer shawls or prayer squares that fit in a hand, pocket, purse, or even a helmet, for comfort and solace. Our squares have touched the lives of many. Several hundred squares are given out every summer during our Book Carnival and by our youth on their mission trips and choir tours. You will find many baskets throughout the church with prayer squares in them. Feel free to pick up some to pass along to someone that may need some comfort. The smaller ones fit nicely inside cards.

If you like to knit or crochet please consider being a part of this ministry. The projects are made at home whenever you have some extra time. We meet together once a month to finish projects and put tags on them. If you don't know how to knit or crochet or would like some help refreshing your skills, our members can help you.

We can always use help with attaching tags to the finished projects and you don't need to knit or crochet to help with that.

Meetings are the fourth Friday of the month, January–October at 10:30 am. Finished items may be dropped off at the church office at anytime if you can't attend the meetings. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Sharla Martin at smartin@arlingtonmethodist.org

Sharing God's Love One Stitch at a Time



Moving On



BY: REV. BRIAN A. YOUNG
Senior Associate Pastor

On Sunday, September 24 I announced that I would be retiring on January 1, 2018 and as mentioned that day, the following day marked my 40th year of (paid) ministry in the United Methodist Church.

I began my first Sunday as youth minister at Munger Place United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas on September 25th, 1977 while I was a sophomore at SMU. Since that time I have served seven churches and four campus ministries.

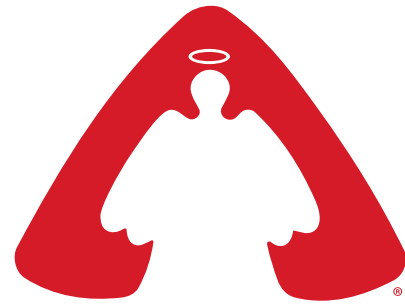
I came to First United Methodist Church, Arlington ten years ago after having been at the Wesley Foundation at TCU for 18 years. 40 years ago when I started on this journey there was no way that I could have predicted the varied and wonderful opportunities that lay before me and my family. One thing I can say is that it has been an experience filled with many great relationships and unique opportunities to serve with people on a common journey.

I've always liked the quote, "Life is a journey, not a destination" and I've tried to live by that philosophy. My time at First UMC, Arlington has been a powerful and important part of my journey. You have supported me and my family through the good as well as the challenging times and I want say 'thank you' to the congregation and staff for the great time we have had together. Yet, I look forward to the next facet of the journey and I pray blessings on the continued ministry of First UMC, Arlington.

Rev. Brian Young's last Sunday with us at FUMCA will be Sun, December 31.

Grace and Peace,


Brian



ANGEL TREE[®]
A Program of Prison Fellowship[®]

BY: MICHELLE CLARK
Director of Mission and Outreach

From December 3-17, there will be a Christmas tree located outside the church office. On the tree are Angel tags that represent a real child who lives somewhere near our church and has an incarcerated parent. They may live with their mom or dad, grandparent, foster family, or extended family and go to school in the Arlington community.

You just pick the tag that appeals to you, shop for the gift (clothing or toy) and return it unwrapped to the church office by the date specified. Won't you join us in being part of sharing the Good News to these children? To volunteer, please contact Michelle Clark at mclark@arlingtonmethodist.org.

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Here's how to sign up for the program:

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2. Choose our church from the search menu by entering **75-6000120**



OUR HISTORIC CHURCH DISPLAYS ITS COLORFUL HISTORY WITH THE **BOB AND BILLIE LIDDELL
FAMILY MEMORIAL HISTORIC**

Walkway

BY: **BILLIE LIDDELL**
Church Member

Several years ago, the City of Arlington and the Texas Historical Commission compiled a Tour of Historic Arlington. First United Methodist Church, established in 1878, is an important stop on that city tour. It was the first church established in the Original Township of Arlington, and will be 140 years old next year. It is a beautiful, traditional church with stained glass windows, some that survived a sanctuary fire in 1918. Property for the church was purchased from the railroad in 1884 and later from the Kookken Estate. The church remains on the original site. Now FUMC of Arlington will have its very own tour!

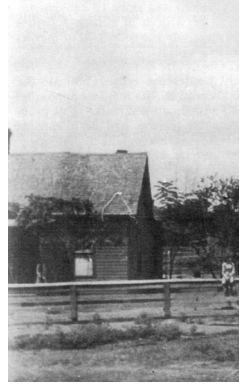
To celebrate our church's long and colorful history, a Historic walk around the block where First United Methodist Church stands is now

becoming a reality. For several years, planning has been going on to place bronze plaques in the sidewalk to tell the story of First Church's history. The Bob & Billie Liddell Family Historic Walkway is under construction and will be unveiled in the near

future. The walkway honors the history of our church and is in memory of Bob Liddell who passed away April 19, 2016.

When completed, the ten stops on the tour will begin at the church's entrance on Center Street. A plaque that marks the sanctuary, built in 1956, is imbedded in the walkway and marks the first stop.

Walking South on Center, stop #2 is the Memorial Plaque. Also, at this stop, the plaque awarded by the Arlington Landmark Commission tells the history of this church. Stop #3 is the Methodist Education Building built in 1949. It is the oldest building remaining on the block. The Vandergriff Chapel built in 1965 was a gift of the Vandergriff family and included furnishings and the contemporary stained glass windows. Three different churches were built at different times around the corner of Center and Division. The first church, white frame with a spire and bell tower built in 1885, was moved over for the first brick church to be built in 1907. After a fire destroyed this church in 1918, a second brick church was built on the same foundation. This church was graced with art glass windows and Arlington's first pipe organ, a gift of the R.A. Covingtons. The J.P. Fielders financed the organ pipe room and the choir loft. In 1954, another fire consumed the 1918 church. The present sanctuary was built after this fire. Stop #8, further around on Division, was the 1897 Revival Tabernacle which was financed



and used by several of the town's churches. Revivals and other large gatherings were held there. On Mesquite Street, a plaque will be embedded in front of the Family Life Center, our latest addition in 1996. Stop #10 is at the North Street Entrance to the church. Here two prominent brass plaques on columns, already installed, tell the history of the church and list our 47 past ministers, our "keepers of the faith." Throughout the history, names of prominent Arlington families filled the church's membership rolls: J.D. Cooper, Mike Ditto, James Preston and Delia Rose, C.B. Berry, J.P. Fielder, John Yates, Martin and Alexin Shults, Carrie Coleman Rogers and Mattie Goodwin among others.

The Historical Committee is preparing a Tour Guide for use in walking the tour. The history of each stop will be expanded along with photos of the different structures. This will be a self directed guide available from the church office and from hallway locations. You can also download the tour guide at arlingtonmethodist.org/HistoricWalkway.

Watch for announcements of the completion of this Memorial Historic Walkway! Our church family and Arlington historians will soon be celebrating the history of our church in a new and different way--by taking a walk through the history of the first church built in the Original Township of Arlington.

OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT: Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church, South 1907; Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church, South 1885
THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT: Tabernacle; Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church, South 1918; Stained glass window in the Vandergriff Chapel, Front of the Sanctuary, built 1956; Copy of the Memorial Historic Walkway Brochure





BIG HOPE

BY: MARY GIBSON
*Director of Communications,
Big Hope Mentor*

Mentoring

No hard math problems or tutoring. Just one hour a week, eating lunch, playing games, and building a relationship with a pretty cool kid that's looking forward to hanging out with you.

Webb Elementary (a little over a mile northwest of our church), has many students who are considered "at-risk" of failing academically or dropping out of school in the future. There are a number of reasons for this: they may have tough home lives, may not be getting the attention and care that they need to thrive academically or socially, and/or may be struggling with self-esteem and confidence. These are kids who need a little extra support and encouragement to help them stay on the right track in life and realize their full potential. That's where you, a Big Hope mentor, come in!

Big Hope is a combination of Kids Hope USA and Big Brothers Big Sisters. It's a faith-based program where a mentor is matched with a "Little", but instead of meeting outside of school and going places, you meet with your Little one day a week, during lunch, at their school (Webb Elementary, in our church's case). As a mentor, you have access to all of the support resources offered by Big Brothers, Big Sisters. If you're worried that you don't have enough experience with children, or wouldn't know how to respond to certain situations, there are trained

professionals available to help you, as well a dedicated match support specialist, who checks in with you and your Little on a regular basis.

This is a program that can make an enormous difference in the life of a child, and all it takes is a little regular commitment and support on your part. Kids in the Big Hope program are there because they want to be. Many say that it's their favorite day of the week - it's a special time that's all about them, when they might otherwise get lost in a busy home or classroom. As a mentor, you don't have to spend your time tutoring them, or working on homework. You can play games, read together, do arts and crafts, or just simply eat lunch and talk about what's going on in your lives. The fact that you're there for them each week is the most important part, and your dedication to them is what they'll appreciate the most about your time together.

There is a long list of children waiting to be paired with their perfect match, which could be you! If you're a member of the church and have an hour to spare, this is a great opportunity to help make a hands-on difference in a child's life.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful ministry, contact Jill Regina, in the church office at 817-274-2571, or at jregina@arlingtonmethodist.org.

What some of our mentors have to say...



I have been with my little sister for 4 years and I look forward to seeing her every week. She has always been a bright spot in my life. Even though life isn't always easy, she surprises me with her ability to deal with life's circumstances and it is gratifying to see the progress and growth that she has made over the years. I've probably learned as much from her as she's learned from me! **At-risk students can easily take the wrong path that could cause them a life-time of problems. A consistent, reliable mentor can greatly increase these students chances of making even the smallest of decisions, or big ones, too, that can change the course and direction of their lives in a positive way.**

-Holly Hattendorf



It's so important to mentor at-risk students because many come from unstable homes, some with only one parent who works long hours or multiple jobs. One on one time may be hard to come by. Just spending an hour a week sharing interests, playing games, or helping with questions about school work can mean so much to these children.

-Gary Lancaster

As a former elementary school teacher, I know that for many of these students just a little extra individual attention goes a LONG way. In many other aspects of their daily lives, in class and at home, they may not get as much adult attention as they might need. It's nice for them to have someone spend some time every week to ask how are YOU doing, read, play games, and LISTEN to them. I think it gives them more confidence and improves their self-esteem to know someone else cares!



-Lori Davis



Why do you enjoy mentoring?

I enjoy mentoring because it seems like I can be a positive influence to a kid who doesn't have many (or any) good role models.

What does it take to be a good mentor?

To be faithful, consistent, and genuinely interested.

-David Martin



Why do you enjoy mentoring?

Children who are "at-risk" need someone they can depend on to be their cheerleader. They need to be able to know they are loved, even if they make mistakes or don't fit into the "normal"

mold that is expected of children. They need someone to listen to them and to care about them.


Why do you think that mentoring at-risk students is important?

Not all students have the same privileges. Not all students have someone that will support their education and encourage them to be their best, even when things are challenging.

What does it take to be a good mentor?

Patience, caring, and a joyful heart. Willing to pray for your match, to listen & support, and to give an hour a week to share the love of God with a child.

-Kay Lancaster



CHRISTMAS MUSIC

at FUMCA



BY: SEAN HALE

Director of Music and Worship

The music of Christmas is one of the absolutely defining characteristics of the season. Here at FUMC of Arlington, there are many opportunities to participate in some great Christmas music. Here are some of the major musical events to check mark on your calendar for this year:

THE MUSIC OF JOHN RUTTER

On Sunday, December 3, in all three Sanctuary services, the Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present Christmas music composed and arranged by one of the most prolific and celebrated composers of our time, John Rutter. There will be many familiar classic Christmas carols that have been set for choir and orchestra by Rutter as well as newly composed songs. This is always a highlight of the year as we come to worship and celebrate the coming Christ through music. Make plans to attend and invite a friend!

CAROLING WITH THE CHOIR

We are always looking for ways to connect with those who live near the church and caroling is such a

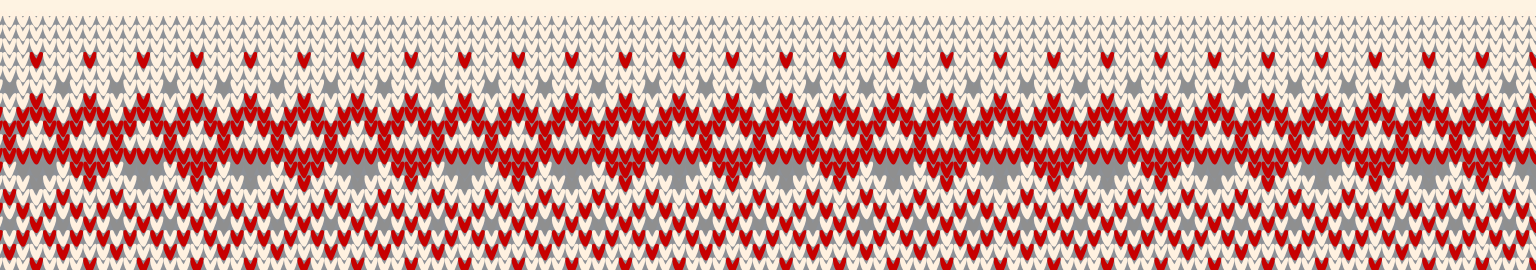
great way to do that. On Wednesday, December 6, join members of the Chancel Choir as we share the joy of Christmas with the neighborhood around the church. Everyone is welcome! We will meet in the Choir Room at 7:30 pm.

CENTER313 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Saturday, December 16, at 6:30 pm, Center313 will be performing a Christmas concert in the Sanctuary. The band will be doing songs from their brand new *Christmas* album! It will be a fun, celebratory night for sure! If you are interested in purchasing their CD, check out their website at center313.com.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On Christmas Eve, the Children's Choirs will lead worship in the 4:00 service in the Sanctuary. The Chancel Choir sings at 6:00 and 8:00 pm, and the youth Testament Choir sings at 11:00 pm. Come celebrate with us!



CHILDREN'S

Christmas Events

BY: RACHEL PATMAN
Director of Children's Ministries

CHRISTMAS IN NARNIA

During Advent, children in Kindergarten-5th grades will be invited to take a journey through the wardrobe as we explore Christmas themes in C.S. Lewis' classic children's book, *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*. Our second floor rooms will be turned into the magical land of Narnia as children encounter Aslan (the lion who represents Christ in the story). There will be readings and devotional materials for families to use together at home, as well as in an on-line discussion forum. The books *Advent In Narnia* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* will be available for purchase in the church office or on Amazon (both paper and Kindle versions). Contact Rachel Patman at rpatman@arlingtonmethodist.org to reserve your copy today.

SECOND ANNUAL LA POSADA FESTIVAL

Join us on Friday, December 8, from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Great Hall! La Posada re-creates the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem through a processional parade and singing, followed by a party when the Holy Family finds a room at the Inn. Activities for families will include: games, crafts, singing, face painting, piñatas, and lots of fantastic foods! We will also have some special visitors joining us, so make plans now to come and bring your friends!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 17 at 9:30 am (during the Sunday school hour). We will be doing some rehearsing as a part of our Sunday school rotation, as well as a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 16, from 10 am-noon. For more information, contact Janie Johnson at 817-239-3763 or Janie@johnson-cpas.com

Are you part of a SMALL GROUP COMMUNITY?

BY: REV. KAY LANCASTER
Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Now is a great time to join a Sunday morning or weekday small group as we prepare for the Coming of Christ using a variety of Advent studies and activities.

As we look toward answering the call of Jesus to make disciples for the transformation of the world, we also look inward as to how we can be the disciple Jesus calls us to be. A great way to grow in understanding of who we are as disciples of Jesus is to be a part of a Small Group Community. In January we will be launching new Small Group Communities as well as recruiting new members for our existing Communities. If you are not currently a member of a Small Group Community, then plan on joining us to find the community that is right for you. The goal is for every member of our congregation to be a part of a Small Group Community in order to grow in faith and to keep each other in prayer. Small Group Communities are better able to keep participants connected to the church as well as to hold each other accountable for following the will of God for our lives in a loving and caring manner.

For more information on joining a Small Group Community or Advent studies, contact Rev. Kay Lancaster at klancaster@arlingtonmethodist.org

SAVE *the* DATES!
SUMMER 2018 EVENTS

VBS: June 25-29 (Mon-Fri)
9:00 am-Noon



Music Week: July 23-27 (Mon-Fri)
9:00 am-Noon
The musical will be held on Friday, July 27 at 7 pm

SMALL GROUP COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

FAIRBANKS & BUCEK COMMUNITY

BY: EMILY FAIRBANKS
Church Member

When and where does your small group meet?

We meet every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm at Johnnie Sue & Mike Bucek's home in Central Arlington. Most of our members are from the neighborhood (76013). We try to keep our group time to one hour, but we have dessert and socialize a little before and after.

Who is your small group geared towards?

We don't have a particular focus in terms of the make-up of the group, all are welcome. We are a very diverse group, including singles and married couples, young career people and retirees, men and women. Our focus is to share our walk with Christ together, grow in our faith, and pray together.

How many people are in your small group community?

We have 14 members, we meet weekly and usually have 8 or so in attendance.

What has your group been studying recently?

We use a modified Lectio Divina protocol to study and meditate on a selected passage from the week's lectionary. The leader usually picks it out and sends it to members before our gathering. One of the most meaningful parts of our sequence, according to one member, is comparing the wording in the different versions of the Bible that everyone brings. We are always amazed how this simple structure is used by the Holy Spirit to give

us some important and helpful insights about our everyday lives.

For example, in our last meeting we read Matthew 22:34-46 about the time Jesus silenced the Jewish leaders after they had been trying to trip him up, and we got a new appreciation with how learned and astute Jesus was in handling naysayers, and also got into a pretty deep discussion about what he meant by loving God "with all our hearts" and our neighbors as ourselves. We were bold enough to discuss the LGBT issue, even though we have strong opinions on both sides!



Is your group involved with One Mile Mission or other mission work?

When it was recommended that our small groups take on a project, we discussed it and decided we were all involved in various volunteer work, so our best approach would be to support each others' endeavors as the need arises. Most of our members have such busy lives they do well to come every week!

The greatest strength of your small group is:

Learning from each other through respectful listening and sharing. As one member said, "I like that we're a very diverse group, yet we still can listen to each other without getting mad or defensive." Another member commented, "I think our group is about nurture. When we hear someone telling about what bothers them, we identify with that feeling and try to build them up".



Describe your small group in three words:

Diverse, supportive, insightful

Anything else you'd like to share:

The prayer time at the end is particularly rich, in that we go around the circle twice and everyone has an opportunity to participate, first with praise and thanksgiving, then with petitions. We don't "share prayer requests" first, we just dive in and spend the time in group prayer.

Is there something special about your Sunday school class or Small Group Community that you would like to share? Email Mary Gibson at mgibson@arlingtonmethodist.org to nominate your group.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

BY: MARY LOBBAN

Business and Finance Administrator

On the first Sunday of every month, during Communion, we take up a special offering for a designated charity, in addition to other offerings throughout the year. Below are the offerings we received for each special offering during 2017. Thank you for your incredible generosity!

Arlington Life Shelter (2/5)	\$ 780
Debt Reduction	\$67,800
One Great Hour of Sharing (3/5)	\$ 816
Heifer Intl. (Lenten Mission)	\$ 5,837
Providence Place (4/2)	\$ 403
Stock Sales	\$20,206
World Communion Sunday (10/1)	\$ 191
Wesleyan Homes (5/7)	\$ 372
Golden Cross (6/4)	\$ 339
Justice for our Neighbors (7/2)	\$ 238
Arlington Charities (8/6)	\$ 405
Lydia Patterson Institute (9/3)	\$ 290
UMCOR (Hurricane Relief)	\$35,032
Families in Transition (AISD)	\$ 3,183

Your daughter is in
a serious car accident...

You have just been
diagnosed with cancer...

You lost your job...

Then what?
LET US PRAY FOR YOU

BY: SUE DESHONG

Church Member

As we face difficult situations in our lives, our church Prayer Ministry wants to pray for you. There are a number of ways to let the prayer ministry know you want prayer.

One way is to call the prayer line and leave your prayer request at 817.860.1083. A second way is to fill out a prayer card that is found in the pew in the sanctuary, put it in the offering plate, or leave it in the office. A final way is to put your request in the Prayer Box that is located in the church office.

Once you have submitted your confidential request, there are a number of people who will faithfully pray for you or those you love. Please allow us the privilege.



CHANCEL CHOIR BEING SILLY



IPHONE FUNDAMENTALS CLASS



2017 CONFIRMATION CLASS



AMAZING GRACE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



PALM SUNDAY PICNIC



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



SMILE! WOMEN'S RETREAT



TRUNK OR TREAT



CHILDREN'S MUSICAL



CONFIRMATION CLASS RETREAT



KICKOFF SUNDAY



COOKING CAMP



PALM SUNDAY PICNIC



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



CONFIRMATION CLASS FOOD DRIVE



KICKOFF SUNDAY



TESTAMENT CHOIR



8TH ANNUAL BOOK CARNIVAL



DISCIPLE NOW RETREAT

A YEAR IN PHOTOS



SUNDAY MORNING AT FUMCA



SMALL GROUP COMMUNITY KICKOFF



KICKOFF SUNDAY



DISCIPLE NOW RETREAT



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



DISCIPLE NOW RETREAT



8TH ANNUAL BOOK CARNIVAL



ART CAMP



TRUNK OR TREAT



LA JORNADA SERVICE



CONFIRMATION CLASS MISSION PROJECT



CENTER313 IN REVIVE WORSHIP



YOUTH MISSION TRIP



DISCIPLE NOW RETREAT



CHILDREN'S MUSICAL



YOUTH MISSION TRIP



PALM SUNDAY PICNIC

Keep up to date with all of our events!
Events are regularly posted in the worship guide, e-newsletter, and social media

Advent & Winter

EVENTS

CHANCEL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

DECEMBER 3 | ALL SANCTUARY SERVICES

The Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present some of the Christmas music of John Rutter in the 8:15, 9:30, and 11:00 Sanctuary worship services.

CAROLING WITH THE CHOIR

DECEMBER 6 | 7:30-8:30 PM | CHOIR ROOM

Come and join the choir as we go caroling in our neighborhood! We'll meet in the Choir Room at 7:30 pm.

LA POSADA CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 8 | 6:30-8:30 PM | GREAT HALL

Join us on Friday, December 8, for our second annual La Posada Christmas Festival! La Posada re-creates the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem through a processional parade and singing, followed by a party when the Holy Family finds a room at the Inn. Activities for families will include: games, crafts, singing, face painting, piñatas, and lots of fantastic foods! We will also have some special visitors joining us, so make plans now to come and bring your friends!

ARLINGTON HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE

DECEMBER 9 | 6:00-7:00 PM

Join us on the church float which is provided by the Men@First for an evening of fun and holiday cheer in downtown Arlington! We need kids, youth, and adults of all ages! Registration is online!

TESTAMENT CHOIR PECAN SALES

DECEMBER 10 & 17 | MAIN HALLWAY

The annual Testament Choir Pecan Sale returns on December 10 & 17, just in time for Christmas holiday preparations. They will have New Crop pecans, assorted nuts & mixes. If you miss the sale in the hall-

way please check in the office as product may still be available. All funds raised are in support of Testament Tour 2018. For more information please contact Roger Stephens.

AMAZING GRACE LIVE NATIVITY

DECEMBER 10 | 9:00-11:00 AM | ROOM 153

Come and walk through the Manger Scene performed by our very own Amazing Grace members.

ARLINGTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS WINTER CONCERT

DECEMBER 12 | 7:00-8:00 PM | SANCTUARY

ACC is an elementary honor choir of AISD comprised of 4th-6th graders. Come and see this great choir in concert at our church!

CENTER313 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 16 | 6:00-7:30 PM | SANCTUARY

Come and celebrate with Center313 as they sing music from their newest Christmas album!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 17 | 9:30-10:30 AM | GREAT HALL

Everyone is invited to the Children's Christmas Play, followed by refreshments! Please note, the pageant is being held during the 9:30 hour on Sunday morning this year.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HEALING

DECEMBER 17 | 4:00-5:00 PM | CHAPEL

A time of quiet reflection and prayer in the style of Taizé for those who have lost loved ones in the past year.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

DECEMBER 24 | SANCTUARY

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year! We will be

having only one service Sunday morning, at 10:00 am, in the Sanctuary. In the evening, we will have services at 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, and 11:00 pm, as we have in the past. Invite your friends and family to come celebrate the day together!

WINTER MYSTERY LOCK-IN | DECEMBER 29-30

The youth will be having a fun lock-in at the church with a mystery theme this year. Register online.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

JANUARY 4 | 6:00-7:00 PM | PARLOR

A seven-week support group for those who have suffered loss. Facilitated by Greenwood Arlington Funeral Home. Meets in the parlor from 6-7 PM every Thursday.

BLOOD DRIVE

JANUARY 11 | 11:00 AM-3:00 PM | BANQUET ROOM
Carter BloodCare will be holding a drive in our building on Thursday, January 11 from 11:00 to 3:00. Donate the gift of life!

DISCIPLE NOW (D-NOW) | JANUARY 12-14

Small group discipleship for youth in a home setting for a weekend of prayer, Bible study, recreation, food, and relationship-building.

MARK: GOSPEL OF THE SECOND TOUCH STUDY

JANUARY 17 | 1:30 & 6:15 PM | ROOM 151
Pastor Steve will lead a study on the Gospel of Mark each Wednesday starting on January 17 at 1:30 and 6:15 pm (out in time for choir rehearsal!)

SMALL GROUP COMMUNITY LAUNCH

JANUARY 21 | 12:15-1:45 PM | BANQUET ROOM
Small Group Communities are opportunities to grow in relationship with other participants as well as to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ. Groups meet in homes or other convenient locations during the week. Each member of the group is able to share how they have experienced Christ during the week through experiences

in study, devotionals, worship or just day to day living. Prayers for each member are requested as the community commits to keeping each other in prayer between each meeting. We will be celebrating existing groups as well as creating new groups on January 21. During lunch we will introduce Small Group Community leaders/hosts, then each group will have an opportunity to spend some time getting acquainted with their community. For more information, contact Rev. Kay Lancaster.

WOMEN'S RETREAT:

SEA SIDE ESCAPE AT STILLWATER LODGE

JANUARY 26-27 | GLEN ROSE, TX

Girls of all ages (youth+) are invited to attend this year's retreat at Stillwater Lodge in Glen Lake Texas. Our theme will be Sea Side Escape as we imagine ourselves at the beach in the midst of winter. Participants can enjoy an overnight stay for \$100, or just come for the day on Saturday for \$40 (includes materials and lunch). We will have time for fun and conversation, study and worship, plus a mission activity. Registration is online. For more information contact Rev Kay Lancaster.

CHANCEL CHOIR KICKOFF REHEARSAL

JANUARY 27 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM | CHOIR ROOM

Come and join the Chancel Choir as we begin rehearsals for a major work with orchestra.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 14 | VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

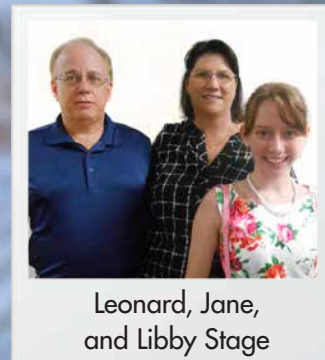
The evening worship service for Ash Wednesday will be at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Chancel Choir and Orchestra will be leading the music. At noon, there will be Scripture, prayer, reflection, and song, in the Chapel. We will also offer a come-and-go Imposition of the Ashes in our parking lot at 11:00 am and 3:15 pm.

For a full listing of upcoming studies and events, visit arlingtonmethodist.org

Welcome!
NEW MEMBERS



Janet Jennings



Leonard, Jane,
and Libby Stage



313 N Center Arlington, TX 76011

p: 817.274.2571 | f: 817.459.0579

arlingtonmethodist.org

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Christmas Worship

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

SUNDAY MORNING, ONE WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 & 11:00 PM

— in the Sanctuary —