

St. John's UMC

focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2018

Meals on Wheels Delivers Love

by *Charlotte Leach*

St. John's UMC is a participating church responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels.

Jim and I resisted this calling for quite a while...We traveled so much, we just couldn't fit it into our plans, our family might need us, etc.

Finally, we decided to become subs and drive only when someone else was unable to take their route. Eventually, we figured out that we really could fit this into our lives. (There are subs available for us when needed.) What a blessing it is to brighten someone's day with a meal and a few minutes of

conversation! As it turns out, we are the ones who are on the receiving end of things...smiles, hugs, words of thanks, etc.

Our church does not have enough volunteers to fill all the routes so people from other churches fill in for us. We really wish we could fill all the routes with St. John's UMC members. But, praise God for the ones who do double duty so that our church can still be a part of this amazing mission.

If you would like to join us, please call or email Patsy Raby at 512-943-9009, jandpraby@yahoo.com

Congratulations Senior Class of 2018

Congratulations to all of our seniors on their graduation and journey forward. Joey Carroll will be going off to University of North Texas, University of Wellington, or American College of Greece. Karlyn Fraser is going to Tarleton. Elena Garcia is going to University of North Texas and her sister, Raven Garcia will be at Southwestern University. Kayla Wade will be at Austin Community College and Katie Weyant will be attending Texas A & M! We wish you all well on your journey and may God Bless your futures!

Church Events

- **June 2nd - Life Screen Event**
- **June 3rd - Congregational Care Meeting**
- **June 8th - 9th CCYM Turnover Retreat**
- **June 10th - 13th Annual Conference**
- **June 16th - USA Dance**
- **June 17th - 23rd - 2018 CTCYM Mission Trip**
- **June 24th - Church Under the Bridge**
- **June 25th - Single Board Meeting**
- **June 25th - 29th VBS Mission Possible Camp**

Little Moments of Joy

by Darren Walker

Usually, you only see them at Easter. However, if you walk by the west side of the church, you will see an Easter lily in full bloom. I wasn't expecting it. It was a surprise. God has a way of sharing little moments of joy if we are open to receiving them.

Children are masters at this. They can find wonder and delight in the oddest of places. What

may seem familiar and boring to an adult is marvelous and fascinating to them. The sky is the bluest ever seen. Ants are incredible. Chocolate pie is awesome. That "Knock, Knock" joke is the funniest ever told. Everything is new.

Maybe this is why Jesus said "You have to become like a small child to enter into Heaven." Maybe

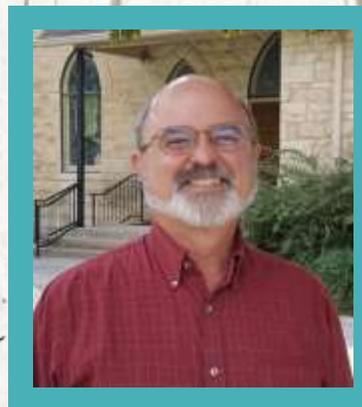
being open to Life and Wonder is necessary in order for us to experience Joy. God has filled the world with little surprises of blessings. Are our eyes open to see them? Are our hearts open to enjoy them?

Grace and Peace,

Darren Walker

~Matthew 18:3~

"(Jesus said)... Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven."



Welcome Catherine Bartoli

by Catherine Bartoli

~Matthew 5:16~

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven."

Catherine Bartoli has been a church musician and soloist for over forty years, serving churches in Nebraska and Texas as choir director and section leader. She graduated with honors from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Music Education and earned her masters in sacred choral conducting from The University of Texas at Austin in 2008. In her early years, she taught public and private school music in Nebraska and Texas. As Director of Music Ministries at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Midland, TX, her choirs presented public concerts of

Mozart's Requiem, Rutter's Magnificat, and Bach's Wachet Auf! as well as children's choir musical performances.

Catherine grew up in a musical family in the southwest corner of Nebraska, studying violin, flute and piano, and singing in church under her mother's direction. She has been active in the Austin music scene as recitalist and with her group, the Stardust Four. In her non-musical work life, she served as an Executive Assistant for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, and later for the Inspector General of the

Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Catherine's daughter, Genevieve Haggard, is a librarian in the Austin Independent School District.

As Director of Music Ministries, Catherine is excited about the possibilities at St. John's UMC and participating in its vibrant faith community. She looks forward to maintaining the outstanding tradition of music here and feels blessed to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

The Class Meeting

by Andrew Taylor

For the past six months, the youth have been modeling a portion after the early Methodist class meetings. I've had the great joy of being involved in several groups modeled after class meetings over the years, and wanted to share that experience with the students. It's been a great experience, and I think it has been a great opportunity for growth for the students in their faith and as a fellowship.

Without going into a longer account of the history than I have space for, the brief description is this: class meetings were a staple of early Methodism, and centered around believers meeting together weekly to "watch over one another in love" and to ask the question "How is it with your soul?" (which is has been rephrased more recently as "How is your life in God?" or "How is your spiritual life?") The classes generally consisted of 7 to 12 people, and at one time attending class meetings was required for entry into the greater Methodist society.

These groups provide an amazing platform for spiritual development, outreach, and fellowship. The experience of meeting with fellow believers regularly to share what's going on, how God has been active in your everyday life, and generally "watch over one another in love" is amazing and (at least for me) life-changing. It's also the simplest activity imaginable – no one has to do extra work to prepare, there are no expectations beyond showing each other love and knowing that God is at work, and you're surrounded by friends with whom you can grow a deep connection. Just taking the time to weekly reflect on your spiritual life and walk together on your faith journeys is powerful and motivating for a strong spiritual life. Finally, these groups provide a great way to invite others that have questions about faith or even just need some fellowship to come and enjoy a group of friends that love God and love each other.

This may all sound very familiar to many of you, as we have begun to start up Home Fellowship groups which are also based on the class meetings. Some of you may already be part of a similar group through Emmaus reunion groups or other discipleship groups. For those of you who are, I hope that the experience has enriched you as much as it has me. For those of you who aren't, I encourage you to look at joining one of our home fellowships. The Holy Spirit does amazing work through fellowship with other believers, and regularly looking at how your relationship with God exists in your life outside of church leads to amazing growth.



Kid's Corner

by Kathryn Price

May was a busy month for the **Younglings**. They made almost \$1000 with the Sidewalk Sale with which they purchased the frames for all the signs outside each classroom door, they paid for the material used for the modesty curtain in the choir loft, they bought a computer for the church to replace the one that was damaged and the rest goes to the missionary family, the Ntambos.

To celebrate their hard work they enjoyed a fun day at Austin Park –n- Pizza on May 19th.

Next up – **Vacation Bible Camp!** "Mission Possible" is the theme this year. The campers will learn of local and international mission organizations including the **Texas Children's Home, Drops of Grace (clean water), The Wilco Animal Shelter and our own missionaries from St. John's to Nicaragua.**

The dates are **June 25 – 29 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.** We are still in need of volunteers, but even more we need Kids! Please don't wait to get a registration form and turn it in for your kids and grandkids and their friends. Forms are available in the church office, online, or the Children's Office.

It's going to be a great summer!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Wesley Value Meal is on hiatus for the summer. Our next Wesley Value Meal will be July 18th from 5:15 PM - 7:00 PM. We will have food, games for all ages, and end the evening with an epic snowball fight! Come join the family for fun, food, and fellowship!
- July newsletter articles are due to Michelle at michelle@stjohnsumc.cc by Friday, June 15th at 12:00 PM.
- If there is an emergency on the weekend, please contact one of the staff members. Their phone numbers are in the directory for your convenience.
- If you are coming on campus during office hours, please check in with a staff member so we know you are here. This is for your safety in case of any emergency. Thank you for your consideration.

Average Attendance for 2018

2018

April- Avg 211
May - Avg 173

2017

April - Avg 252
May - Avg 170

April Financials

Period ending 4/30/2018

Income	\$209,942
Expense	\$195,920
Total	\$14,022

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer Team Note

By Martha Arizpe

When my sons were growing up, our family always knew when Father's Day was: it was the Sunday in June when the boys' Scout troop left for summer camp. Every - single - year. So we always celebrated the Saturday right before, so Hubby would know how much he was valued. It was never lost on me that not every man wants to date - much less marry - a woman with two small children. And then raise those children, love those children, go to every

school/sports/scout/ music/social event they ever had, and step up proudly to be the father they needed him to be. My own father was excellent, and until I found Hubby, I worried that my boys would never really know what a father's love was like. Silly me - when God gave Joe (AKA "Hubby") to me, he gave my boys a Dad. Happy Father's Day, Honey. (AKA "Joe" or "Hubby")

If you have a prayer request or a blessing in your life you want to share, please e-mail prayerteam@stjohnsumc.cc or fill out a prayer/blessing request card at service on Sunday mornings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 10 - Wednesday, June 13

Annual Conference at Waco Convention Center in Waco, TX

Sunday, June 17 - Saturday, June 23

CTCYM Mission Trip to Tucumcari, NM

Please be in prayer throughout the week for our youth and adult mission participants as they go out into the world to spread God's Love to others.

Sunday, June 24

Church Under the Bridge, Austin, TX

