



St. John's UMC *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
MAY 2018 – VOLUME 5

Church Events

- May 3rd National Day of Prayer
- May 6th Senior Sunday
- May 12th UMW Luncheon
- May 13th Mother's Day
- May 16th Hospitality/
Evangelism Committee Meeting
- May 20th Heritage Sunday
- May 20th Town Hall Church
Conference
- May 21st Single Board Meeting
- May 28th Memorial Day - Office
Closed
- May 31st Last Day of School

The Importance of Mission

by Andrew Taylor

The youth summer mission trip is quickly approaching! This year, we'll be spending June 17th-23rd in Tucumcari, NM with Epworth UMC in Arlington, Mooreville UMC, and Lorena UMC. Our living center is just one of many living centers that will be spread across New Mexico, and all told over a thousand students from the Central Texas Conference will be working in mission in New Mexico that week.

I've spent virtually my entire life in and around youth ministry, and one of the few constants that I've observed is that mission trips are always amazing. From living in

community with fellow believers for a week, to powerful worship, to being exposed to different cultures and lifestyles, and spreading the love of Christ, mission trip does it all. Take some time and ask one of our youth about their mission experiences, and you'll be overwhelmed as a flood of amazing stories start to pour out of them.

What I wanted to talk about today, though, is being on the receiving end of Christian love. I've spent most of the past year on an insane string of bad luck. My gallbladder tried to kill me, my apartment flooded, I was in a major car accident, and I shattered my ankle,

all back to back. I've needed help with a lot of things from a lot of people, and that help has always come. More important than the tasks, though, is the attitude of love that has been displayed through them - the realization that I am not alone, but surrounded by incredible children of God looking for ways to share Christ's love. The work part of mission trips certainly helps people that can't do for themselves for any number of reasons, but the real power and point of mission is showing incredible love for God's children. The smiling faces and joy in service do more to transform lives than any simple task ever could. The task is just an outlet for that Christian love.

Kid's News

WOW! The Younglings' Sidewalk Sale was a big success! In spite of less than perfect weather, plenty of people came to buy the generous donations that were given by the church. The net amount was around \$900.00. The kids and their parents (and a few honorary Younglings) worked very hard to make this happen. Thank you to everyone involved. Discussions are underway to decide how best to use this money for the needs of St. John's UMC.

You may have seen the posters on walls and doors around campus about volunteering in the Children's Ministry programs. Volunteers are ALWAYS needed in order to have programs and events for children. You will find inserts in the bulletins on Sunday with a form on the back to choose how you can help. The most pressing need for now is to find volunteers for Vacation Bible Camp, June 25 – 29. You can sign up online at www.bit.ly/stjohnsmision2018 or let Kathryn know at kathryn@stjohnsumc.cc.

Please be in prayer for the children, and after you say, "Amen", stand up and say, "How can I help?"

“Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord!’”

~John 20:18

My parents were good Christian people who raised all four of their children in the traditions of the United Methodist Church. They lived their faith. If you had asked me as a child if I was a Christian, I would have said, “Of course, my whole family is.” What I would have meant was “Of course, my whole family goes to church.”

When I was about fourteen, I finally realized that my faith had to be more than just having Christian parents who took

me to church. What my parents had done was provide me with a solid foundation. It was my responsibility to take the next step.

For me that next step was to stand up and publicly confess Jesus Christ as my Savior at a revival in my home church. It was the first time I had ever, on my own, done such a thing. It was a turning point because it was the moment my faith became my faith and not just a borrowing of what my parents believed.

When I became a parent, I wanted to lay that same strong foundation of faith and prayer for my children. I realized that no matter how much I love them; no matter how much I wanted them to have a faith that means as much to them as mine does to me, at some point, they would have to take that next step for themselves and claim Christ as their Savior. What I have done is pray for them, live my faith, and tell them what I know to be true about Jesus. In doing so, I have tried to give them the same solid foundation in Christ’s Love my parents had given me.

Easter reminds us, we need to encourage each other to take the next step in our journeys of faith. We do this by praying for each other, living our faith and telling each other what we know to be true about Jesus. This is the essence of evangelism whether we are trying to share our faith with children, friends, neighbors, or strangers. Sometimes it is as simple and immediate as Mary’s statement to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” or it may be as involved as loving someone to Christ year after year after year.

Damen Walker

God Bless You Sierra!



It is with much sadness that I will be leaving St. John’s UMC. My last Sunday will be May 13, 2018. I will miss working in the nursery and volunteering with the youth and children’s ministries. I thank you for the opportunity to work an internship with the youth and children’s ministries last summer.

However, I am excited to be graduating from

Southwestern University on May 12 with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree. I will also be getting married on May 26 in Anchorage, Alaska, to my finance, Weston Kimbro. In June, we will move to Fairbanks, Alaska where Weston will continue his schooling at the University of Fairbanks. I will be looking for a job – hopefully in youth and children’s ministries.

Again, I’d like to thank everyone at St. John’s UMC for welcoming me and allowing me to gain valuable work experience that will help me in my future goals. If you’re ever in Fairbanks, be sure to look me up!

Blessings,
Sierra De La Cruz"

God Bless You Sarah!

For those of you who I have not had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Sarah Norys and I have been blessed to have worked in St. John’s Nursery, and as the PreK Sunday School Teacher for the past year. I have absolutely loved working with the children on Sundays and Wednesday evenings! They always bring me such joy with their stories, and I am so thankful to have been a part of Children’s Ministry.

On May 12th, I will begin the next chapter of my life as a graduate from Southwestern University with a major in Elementary and Special Education. I will then marry my best friend Caleb Brimmage, and move to Dallas, Texas where I will pursue a career

as an educator and Caleb will continue his education at Perkins School of Theology, SMU.

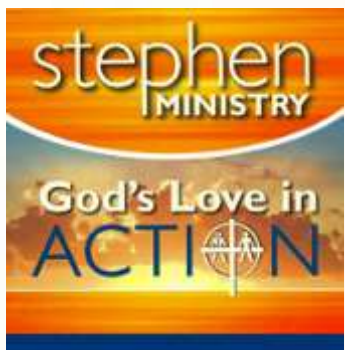
Thank you all for your continuous fellowship and kindness, and thank you for letting me be a part of you children’s lives! St. John’s will always hold a special place in my heart.

Best Wishes,
Sarah Norys



Stephen Ministry

by Nancy Bacchus



There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.—1 Corinthians 12:5

The Stephen Ministry brochure proclaims “God’s Love in Action,” but this is not the action of feeding the hungry, repairing homes, or traveling elsewhere on mission work.

Instead, Stephen Ministers offer quiet, consistent, loving care, bolstered by prayer, to those facing difficulties of all sorts. They listen and encourage, trained through a 50-hour program to be fully present. They are committed to regular contact with their care receivers. They engage in ongoing, interdenominational education to remain up-to-date about community resources. They offer a confidential sounding board, free of charge and free from emotional overlay that may exist between the care receiver and his or her family members or friends.

In Stephen Ministry, how long a relationship continues is determined by the care receivers. Some relationships may offer support during a stressful time that is resolved fairly quickly. Other relationships may continue for years because of ongoing problems, health issues, or evolving life events. Whatever the circumstances, Stephen Ministers bring one-on-one Christian care and affirmation that we need never walk alone.

If you or someone you know needs a Stephen Minister...If you feel called to be a Stephen Minister...contact our pastor or any of the following: Judy Conner (512-863-2709), Carrie Godward (512-876-7255), or Dayne Carlson (512-591-7460).

Sager Brown

by Carolyn Henry

During the week of April 8 – 13, I was blessed to be able to go with a team to Sager Brown, the UMCOR depot, located in Baldwin, La. This was our third trip to Sager Brown and the St. John’s team consisted of me, Nikki Underwood, Linda Lindell and Bridget Hancock.

What we did during the week was work on cleaning buckets. It was no surprise since we knew how damaging the hurricanes of 2017 had been. We not only made buckets, but we “verified” buckets. By verifying, I mean that we had to assure that the buckets were made exactly according to the specifications. Unfortunately, there were literally hundreds of buckets that we had to ‘re – do” because the sponges were incorrect. Each kit contains 7 sponges, and there were buckets made with what is known as “cellulose” sponges, which leak, get everything wet, and eventually create mold and mildew. Not a good situation. My job during the week was to stuff in the 7 sponges – it was a hard job! Over the course of the week, we produced 69 pallets of cleaning buckets, or a total of 2484 buckets. From now on the cleaning buckets made in local churches will not contain sponges – it is requested that money be sent to purchase the sponges locally and they will be added on site.

Pastor Darren recently asked us this question “Where are you seeing Christ today?” While you’re at Sager Brown you see Christ in many ways. As you walk the sacred grounds, you can almost hear the laughter of the small orphans who once lived there. As you enter the cafeteria, you can see the children who once went to school there lining up for their noon meal. You can see Christ in the faces of the other volunteers, as they experience the joy that comes when helping others. You can see it in the faces of those in the community who you have served.

So if any of this sounds like something you’d like to be involved in, there’s another trip planned with us next February (10 thru 15) Please see Nikki for more details.



Nikki Underwood (L)
& Linda Lindell (R)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The church office will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2018 in observance of Memorial Day. Enjoy your holiday.
- The Wesley Value Meal is held every Wednesday evening from 5:15 PM to 7:00 PM. The menu will be posted each week through e-mail and on the website at <http://www.stjohnsumc.cc/wesley-value-meals>. If your group or committee would like to host a Wesley Value meal, please contact Rejeanna Fraser at flamingolady64@gmail.com
- June newsletter articles are due to Michelle at michelle@stjohnsumc.cc by Friday, May 18th 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.

Town Hall Church Conference

Sunday, May 20, 2018
12:15 PM

All Church Conference to discuss the Trustee's recommendation to sell the Edge House

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer Team Note

By Martha Arizpe

I am a big fan of "Grey's Anatomy". One of my favorite characters is Dr. Miranda Bailey, a spunky, talented surgeon. Her husband is also a doctor, but has recently switched to training to be a firefighter - clearly a flagrant over-achiever.



In a recent conversation between them, doctor/firefighter spouse was voicing concerns that the other firefighters might not be taking him seriously,

and he desperately wanted their respect. The ever-wise Dr. Bailey gave him this advice:

"The only way to prove that you're any good is just that - be good."

It has occurred to me that this is relevant advice for Christians: the only way to prove that you're a good Christian is just that - be a good Christian. That way, your fellow man will not have to wonder - and neither, of course, will your Creator. Smiles all around.

Attendance for April 2018

2018

Jan - Avg 180

Feb - Avg 188

March as of the 18th - Avg 190

2017

Jan - Avg 187

Feb - Avg 209

March through 31st -Avg 192

March Financials

Period ending 3/31/2018

Income \$156,472

Expense \$150,728

Total \$5,744

UPCOMING UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EVENTS

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN GENERAL MEETING

Salad Luncheon (everyone bring a salad to share)
In Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, May 12, 2018 @ 11:30 am
Hostess & Decorations: Charlotte Walker

Program: "Recycling"
Guest Speaker, Debbie Bruner,
a member of the Sun City
Recycling Committee



MAY MISSION PROJECT:

SANDWICHES

During our February 10th UMW General Meeting, Shirley told us about sandwiches needed through "Helping Hands" of Georgetown for the homeless and wonder if we were interested in making sandwiches one day to help out. We said, "Yes, we can!"

So, come and join us for this special MISSION project on May 24th at 2:30 in the kitchen of Fellowship Hall.