

# Alamo Heights United Methodist Church

*It's all about COMMUNITY*

## RESURRECTION: A BIG DEAL

by David McNitzky



Most of us as Christians believe that the resurrection of Jesus is a pretty big deal. First of all, it serves as evidence for the divinity of Jesus. Further it displays the power of G-d over death. It also guarantees that our own mortal bodies will be resurrected one day as well. However, the resurrection of Jesus may be an even bigger deal than we realize at first. In Romans 8:22, Paul says that all of creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth. In other words, all creation is longing to be set back in the right order. Imagine a world where towns are not destroyed by floods, bodies are not ravaged by cancer or disease, terrorists have no reason to strike and relationships between people are not strained. That world is the world that is coming and the sign of its coming is the resurrection of Jesus. It is, in a manner of speaking, the first shot than our Lord is firing in the campaign against the chaos, disorder, and pain of our world. Jesus's body is made new as a sign that not only our bodies, but our relationships, and even our very world shall be made new in G-d's time. Yes,

Easter is a big deal and my feeling is that my understanding of Easter barely scratches the surface of just how big a deal it is! - David

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**April 13 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Maundy Thursday**

**April 14 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Good Friday**

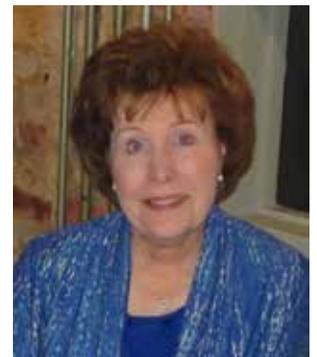
**April 16 - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**  
**Easter Sunday**

### **Rev. Donna Strieb to Take Retired Status July 1**

Dear AHUMC Family,

According to The Discipline of the United Methodist Church, clergy are required to retire no later than age 72. After 36 years of full-time ministry among you, and as I am approaching that age limit, I have decided to take my retirement from the Rio Texas Conference effective July 1, 2017. There will be a Retirement Service at Annual Conference on Friday, June 9 at 10 a.m. **However**, I do not plan to retire from AHUMC but rather move to part-time status effective that same date. At that time, I will remain active in assisting in worship on Sunday mornings and plan to be in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays after a short summer break.

Our church family has been a part of my life since my parents moved to San Antonio when I was two years old. I grew up here through college, heard my call to ministry here as a youth, and have been so blessed to have returned in 1980 to minister with and among you. Thank you for nurturing me all these years and the opportunity to serve Jesus Christ with all you wonderful saints who have and continue to be very dear to me. I praise and thank our wondrous God for the privilege of being a part of AHUMC, and I look forward to serving among you as we work together to bring God's Kingdom here on earth and make disciples for Jesus Christ. With much love and blessing - Donna



# NEWS FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY

## A Flute Recital by Bette Richards

Tuesday, April 25  
7 p.m. in the Garden Chapel



### Lent Link

You may have noticed the purple chain around the Atrium from the Sanctuary door to the door of the CLC. The chain represents a uniting of our altars and a unification of our two worshipping communities. White hang-tags, some preprinted with suggestions for new actions to practice during Lent, and others left with space to write your own new practice are available in boxes in the Atrium and along the chain. For Easter, the “new practice” tags will be replaced with tags for your prayers for “Help, Wow, and Thanks.” Tie your tag to the Chain that links us as one church, one people in prayer, one people in our love for God and others, and one

people in our work to partner with God to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

### Fiesta Medals

Get your 2017 AHUMC Fiesta Medal before they're gone! The limited-edition medal is available for sale in the Atrium on Sunday mornings or in the Music Office during the week. The cost is \$10 and proceeds will benefit the New Zion Choir Summer Mission Trip.

### Lunch on the Lawn

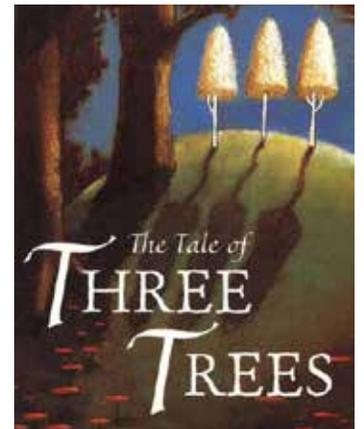
**Sunday, April 23**

The New Zion Youth Choir would like to invite you to have Lunch on the Lawn on Sunday, April 23. We'll serve between 10:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Come before or after worship! The menu is Chicken Enchilada Casserole, Salad, Tea or Water, and a Cookie for \$8 per person. Proceeds will benefit the New Zion Choir Summer Mission Trip.

### Summer Sounds

**June 19-23, 2017**

The annual Summer Sounds Music Camp is June 19-23. Children entering grades 1-6 are invited to join us as we bring the Bible to life through music, movement, drama, instruments and art. We meet daily from 9:00-12:15 and rotate through the various classes as we prepare for a musical presentation on Friday night. Our week concludes as we share with you our presentation of “The Tale of Three Trees” followed by an informal pizza dinner. We hope you will join us!



### Music/Health Connection

#### Singing Changes Your Brain

“Group singing has been scientifically proven to lower stress, relieve anxiety, and elevate endorphins. Group singing is cheaper than therapy, healthier than drinking, and certainly more fun than working out. It is the one thing in life where feeling better is pretty much guaranteed.” Stacy Horn, author of “Imperfect Harmony: Finding Happiness Singing with Others”



AHUMC Sanctuary Choir, Women's Chorus and Joy Singers Choir are open to everyone: those involved in a school/church music program in their youth, those

who *never* studied music *ever*. It's open to you if you sing along with the radio, or if you “sang along with Mitch”. Don't worry if you don't read music, you can learn on the job.

# MOBILE GIVING IS HERE!

The Finance Committee is pleased to announce two new ways you can give to your church. You can now give by **text**: #210-361-0793 and through our **mobile app** partner: ShelbyNext Giving. The leadership of our church acknowledges the fact that technology has made it much easier to give digitally, and we are committed to providing a variety of giving options so that all members of our community have an opportunity to honor God with their tithes and offerings.

These two new giving methods come at an important time in the life of our church. As of the end of the first quarter, our giving was down significantly. It is our prayer that these new options will make it easier for our church community to give. As a bonus, you will be able to track your e-giving right on your phone.

Your gifts are important to the life of the church! Please pray for our ministries and for God's providence. May you and your family be blessed this Easter Season.

## Text Giving Instructions:

1. *Text the amount you would like to give to our number #210-361-0793. You can save this number in your contacts for future use.*
2. *The first time you give through text, you will be prompted to visit a secure URL.*
3. *Once you click the registration link, you will enter your credit or debit card information.*
4. *Your donation will process!*
5. *You will see a confirmation text showing your donation and registration were successful.*
6. *For subsequent gifts, enter the dollar amount you wish to give as the message.*
7. *Text "reset" should you wish to remove your card info or change cards. Otherwise, your card info will be retained for future use.*

## Mobile App Giving Instructions:

1. *From your App Store, download Shelby Next GIVING (there are more than one Shelby Next apps so be sure you look for Giving)*
2. *Make sure your location services are turned on. When the app is launched, you can search for Alamo Heights or you can input our zip code: 78209.*
3. *Login or create a donor profile (first timers)*
4. *Once logged in, you can make a donation by tapping the "+" icon.*
5. *Enter your donation.*
6. *Select payment method or add a payment method. You can use a credit card or a debit card.*
7. *Choose between a single gift or recurring gift.*
8. *Tap Give to process your donation.*
9. *View your mobile contribution history by tapping the history tab.*
10. *Use the settings tab to manage your profile or to log out of the app.*

Questions?- contact Valerie Slade- [vslade@ahumc.org](mailto:vslade@ahumc.org)

## Sermons for April-May In the Sanctuary/New Heights

Community – It's worth practicing

**April 23** (Matt Scott/Darrell Smith Preaching)

Title: Opened Eyes

Text: Luke 24:13-35

Topic: When we understand the scriptures in community, we will recognize the presence of Jesus.

**April 30** (Donna Strieb/Dinah Shelly)

Title: Thanks for Nothing

Text: Romans 8:18-37, James 1:1-8

Topic: Gratitude in the face of disappointment

**May 7** (Dinah Shelly/Matt Scott)

Title: Promises Worth Making

Text: Genesis 9:8-17

Topic: What difference does a covenant make? (The difference between covenant and contract)

**May 14** (David McNitzky/Dinah Shelly)

Title: Why Bother?

Text: Genesis 22:1-19, James 2:20-26, Hebrews 11

Topic: The benefits of keeping promises (Doing what we say we will do)

**May 21** (David McNitzky/Darrell Smith)

Title: Say What You Mean

Text: James 3:5-12

Topic: The importance of vulnerability and authenticity in conversation

**May 28** (David McNitzky/Chris Estus)

Title: Do What I Do

Text: Ephesians 4:1-16

Topic: The importance of living out Truth in community. We not only believe, but we live our faith



**Need Prayer?  
Call 826-4628  
Our 24-Hour Prayer Room!**

# NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Gina Beal, Director

## Welcome to the world, Tommy!

Children's Ministry is thrilled to welcome Thomas Wayne "Tommy" Lair into our church family! Danielle (Associate Director of Children's Ministries) and her husband, Chris, welcomed Tommy into the world on Jan. 27. Please join us as we rejoice and pray for this sweet new family of 3!



## VBS 2017 - June 12 – 16

Mark your calendars! Online registration for VBS 2017 will begin on **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Spots fill quickly, so make sure you register early!! For questions about our VBS program, or VBS registration, please contact Gina Beal: [gbeal@ahumc.org](mailto:gbeal@ahumc.org).

Would you like to volunteer and be a part of all the VBS fun? Please contact Natalie Jones for more info: [nataliesjones@hotmail.com](mailto:nataliesjones@hotmail.com).



## Journey to the Cross ~ April 14

Good Friday, April 14  
Prayer Path begins @ 6:00 pm  
Good Friday Service @ 7:00 pm

Come as a family and JOURNEY TO THE CROSS in a multi-sensory spiritual experience exploring Holy Week. Each station will explore a specific event during Holy Week. This hands-on, guided experience is a beautiful way for families of all ages to JOURNEY TO THE CROSS together. Our Journey will conclude in the Sanctuary for the Good Friday service at 7 pm. We pray you will join us for this beautiful experience that your family will never forget!

\* Children of all ages are welcome and encouraged to attend with their parents. But if desired, nursery care will be available for children under the age of 2. Please make a childcare reservation with Dana Hawkes: [dhawkes@ahumc.org](mailto:dhawkes@ahumc.org)

## Children's Ministry - Contact Information:

We want to make sure we have everyone's current contact information so we can keep you up to date with all ministries and activities. If you haven't already, please go to [www.ahumc.org](http://www.ahumc.org) and click on the Children's Ministry page to find the link where you can complete this form online.



Pilgrim applications are now being accepted for both the men's and women's Emmaus Walk sponsored by our Care Bexar Community. Pilgrim applications can be found at [www.ahumc.org](http://www.ahumc.org), The City, or in the brochure racks in the East and West Wing hallways. The men's walk is April 20<sup>th</sup>- April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Mt. Wesley in Kerrville. Ed Gelsone (from Bulverde UMC) is the Lay Director and the Spiritual Director is Ralph Mann. Both of the gentlemen are from Bulverde UMC.

The women's Emmaus Walk will be September 28<sup>th</sup>- October 1<sup>st</sup> and will also be at Mt. Wesley. Valerie Slade is the Lay Director and the Spiritual Director is Dinah Shelly. Other members of the AHUMC family serving on this walk are:

Robert Ortiz- Asbury Campus  
Janet Weatherston- Asbury  
Nicholas Weatherston- Asbury  
Diane Ortiz- Asbury  
Denise Whistler- Riverside Campus  
Linda Marceau- Riverside Campus  
Judy Zimmerman- Riverside Campus  
Gloria Dear- Basse Road Campus

Kathryn Hancock- Basse Road  
Lani McEwen- Basse Road  
Janet Funari- Basse Road  
Monica McNitzky- Basse Road  
Jack Wright- Basse Road  
Chip Slade- Basse Road  
Michelle Vernone- Bethany UMC

Please keep the teams and future pilgrims in your prayers. Valerie Slade ([vslade@ahumc.org](mailto:vslade@ahumc.org)) will gladly help you with any questions you may have about attending the walks as a pilgrim or questions you may have about supporting the walks through prayer, pilgrim sponsorship or acts of agape.



# AHUMC Community Caring Corner

News of Our  
Church Family

**Prayers of healing** for those hospitalized in  
March:

Ann Kuykendall  
Doris Miller  
Sally Scott  
William Buck  
Lawrence Thames

**Prayers of Comfort for the Families of  
those who died since January 1, 2017:**

*(In January)*

Carole Thompson  
Rosalyn Stewart  
Ivan Ralph Jenkins  
Barbara Wright  
Jerry Jetton  
Patsy Brown

*(In February)*

Gary Gaut  
Terry Thrift  
Dorothy Thrift  
Cynthia Hawkins  
Bruce Thompson  
William Hanson  
Lorayne Fleet

*(In March)*

Keith Rollins  
Blair Carroll  
Jennifer Parrish

**Baptisms:**

**February:** Victoria Sprague, Daniel Easdale

**March:** Alexandra Tomlin, Myra Tomlin,  
Madeline Marshall



Kate & Tays Heyer

**WELCOME  
TO OUR  
NEWEST  
MEMBERS!**



Randy & Debbie Boggs



Molly Lewis



Elaine Dager &  
Michael Simpson



Lisa Ortiz &  
John Flanagan

## WEDDING NEWS

by Nance Haney

Congratulations to the following couples who were  
recently united in marriage!

February 18 Amy Dulling to Benjamin Scharff  
March 27 Elizabeth Haase & Joseph Brock

If anyone would like to volunteer to be on the *Wed-  
ding Guild*, please contact Nance Haney at 391-5841.  
Members of the Wedding Guild assist with wedding  
rehearsals, preparations and wedding ceremonies.

## STARTING POINT CLASS

Specially designed for those persons desiring to unite with  
AHUMC. Upcoming Classes will be offered April 9 and June 4,  
11 & 18. There will be no classes in May, July, or August. For  
information, contact Troy Dunn (tdunn@ahumc.org) or Dana  
Hawkes (dhawkes@ahumc.org) in the Community Life Office.

## Do You Have an Article to Submit?

Please send all information for publication in  
*The Messenger* to Rev. Donna Strieb (Interim Editor) at  
dstrieb@ahumc.org. Please note that if a name is not  
connected to an article, it has been written by the editor.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AT AHUMC!

## Smiling Faces Needed!

The church has been very fortunate in recent years to have a group of folks who have graciously served as part-time volunteer receptionists at our front desk. These willing servants are often the first contact a visitor or prospective member has with our faith community. Receptionists transfer calls to departmental offices, receive packages, give directions and just generally try to “be Christ” for those who call or visit us.

We are in need of willing volunteers to help in this area right now. No experience is necessary. All you need is a caring attitude and a desire to help. Staff will teach you everything you need to know. Shifts are often handled by pairs of volunteers...bring a friend or make a new one! Serving as a volunteer receptionist for a few hours each week is a great way to learn about all the ins and outs of the life of the church. We would love to have your help! Call Chris DiSabato or Leah Jayne at 210-826-3215 if you want to know more about this great opportunity for service.



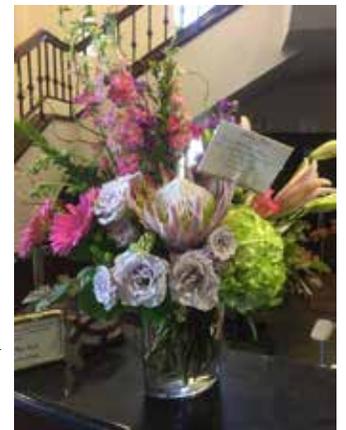
## New Pumpkin Patch Leader Needed!!!

Our able Pumpkin Patch coordinator, **Allan Ross**, who has been leading this effort for us each fall for the past four years, is moving on to serve in other ministry capacities. Thank you Allan for your hard work over the last several seasons! A new Pumpkin Patch coordinator is needed in order to keep this tradition alive. If you would like to step up and lead this worthwhile ministry, or if you would like to know more about what this volunteer opportunity entails, contact Chris Disabato at 826-3215 or [cdisabato@ahumc.org](mailto:cdisabato@ahumc.org).

The AHUMC Pumpkin Patch is an important and fun fall community tradition that is loved by families all over our area. It began in 1995 and has raised almost \$350,000 in funds to support different AHUMC ministry and mission efforts over the years.

## The Flower Ministry is Blooming! Help Is Needed!

Our Flower Ministry provides beautiful arrangements to members who are in the hospital, homebound, or just need a touch of love. Each arrangement is fashioned under the guiding hand of Bill Fitch from flowers given to the church at Sunday morning worship, weddings, and funerals. Volunteers such as Kay Kennell, Doran Dennis, and others then take the flowers to the various persons. *But they need help!* If you would like to assist with this special ministry, please contact Bill Fitch at [fitch@satx.rr.com](mailto:fitch@satx.rr.com) or 210-822-9057.



## Love Working with Children??

AHUMC now hiring Child Care staff for Sunday mornings. Looking for adults who love working with children and have reliable transportation. Please contact Dana Hawkes [dhawkes@ahumc.org](mailto:dhawkes@ahumc.org) or (210) 445-1803

# AHUMC CHURCH GOVERNANCE

by Chris DiSabato

The AHUMC Board of Stewards (BOS) functions as the Administrative Board of the church. Three other decision-making and/or oversight groups called for by the Methodist Church are also contained within the BOS. They are the Trustees group, the Finance group and the Staff-Parish Relations group. BOS members, who are voted for by church members at the annual church conference at the start of each year, are generally assigned to serve on one of the three groups based on interest level and gifting. Board members serve three year terms.

The **BOS Members for 2017** are:

Tom Wright, *Administrative Chair*

Mrs. Susan D. Brysacz, *Secretary*

Clarence Bray - *Outreach*

Craig Darilek, *Chair Foundation*

Lori Place, *Chair - Finance*

Chris Hodge - *Finance*

Jamie Patterson - *Finance*

Tracy Vardiman, *Chair - Pastor Parish*

Jamie Patterson, *Lay Leader - Pastor Parish*

Lisa Caldwell, - *Pastor Parish*

John Hannah, *Chair - Trustees*

Roger Lind - *Trustees*

Jay Lewallen - *Trustees*

Helen Dear - *Trustees*

Matt Scott - *Pastor*

Chris DiSabato - *Staff*

Valerie Slade - *Staff*

David McNitzky - *Pastor*

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## TORNADO HITS CHURCH!

The night of Sunday, February 19th was more exciting than most for night custodian Lupe Reyes. She and her crew were on duty at the church as an F2 tornado struck the campus late that evening. The church was on the 4.5 mile long path of the twister, one of four that struck our region. It also damaged homes of several church members.

The church campus suffered quite a number of damaged trees that had to be removed or worked on to remove large broken branches. Our church office complex suffered significant water damage as the metal roofing over that space was stripped away, ending up in a jumbled pile out in the parking lot. The wooden fence that surrounds the mechanical yard was partially destroyed. Damage totals as of this writing have reached more than \$30,000 with more expenses yet to be tallied. "Fortunately, the church is blessed to have adequate insurance to cover much of our recovery cost. Even so, the event will be an unexpected financial blip because we have a fairly high deductible and damage to landscaping is not covered" said Chris DiSabato, church Director of Business Operations. As Debbie Chesney reminded us in her church blog immediately following this event, *God's Signature doesn't JUST rest on the 9 ft. cross that remains untouched....It is Everywhere. May we see where trees did not fall.....as His Signature. May we see our family and friends today..... as His Signature. May we see the blessings that are poured all over and around us...as His Signature.* Thanks be to God!





# Alamo Heights

United Methodist Church  
825 E. Basse • San Antonio, TX 78209  
visit us online at [www.ahumc.org](http://www.ahumc.org)

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ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SAN ANTONIO,  
TEXAS  
PERMIT NO. 1794

## Coming Up

visit [www.ahumc.org](http://www.ahumc.org) for details on these and other upcoming events

**April 9**

**Palm Sunday**

**April 13**

**Maundy Thursday**

**April 14**

**Good Friday**

**April 16**

**Easter Sunday**

Worship: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

**May 4**

**National Day of Prayer**

**May 14**

**Confirmation Sunday**

**Mother's Day**



Join us at [ahumc.onthecity.org](http://ahumc.onthecity.org)

## Join Us For The National Day of Prayer 2017

The 66th annual National Day of Prayer will be celebrated Thursday, May 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Chapel. This year's theme is **For Your GREAT Name's Sake!**

The National Day of Prayer is an ecumenical annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, and designated by the US Congress. It is a call for all people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation".



Please join us here at AHUMC as we pray for America, our government and leaders, the Church, families, military, businesses, educators, youth, media, and culture. Let's join together to humbly seek Christ for transformation in America!

After the prayer service there will be a time of food and fellowship on the church lawn. This service is sponsored by the AHUMC Spiritual Life Committee.