

# Alamo Heights United Methodist Church

*It's all about COMMUNITY*

## Feeling **SPECIAL** at Thursday Lunch Bunch

By Judy McMurray



All of us like to feel special, and YOU ARE special because God created you that way, but sometimes we need a little extra fellowship or a good meal to get us out of the house and interacting with fellow Christians. The Thursday Lunch Bunch provides this opportunity for us each week, and it is obviously the best deal in town, since the charge is a mere \$5 for a delicious meal which includes dessert and tea or coffee. Thursday Lunch Bunch provides myriad opportunities for us to feel special: (1) We take every opportunity to celebrate major events or holidays (Fiesta, Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, the Spurs, Holiday Delight, Veterans Day and Military Appreciation Month which is in May. (2) This year, for the first time, Rosalie Buente volunteered to remember our guests' birthdays by bringing treats, while Marsha Wells remembered our volunteers' birthdays with a card. (3) We have guests who come monthly or frequently: OWOPS (Old Worn Out Preachers), Kum Doublers' Sunday School Class, various Bible Study groups, and the Red Hat Ladies from "The Meadows." If you would like to schedule a group gathering, we will be happy to reserve a table for you and your guests (be sure to call the church office at 826-3215 to schedule an event). (4) Rosa Lee Clary leads Fun with Bingo at 10:45. (5) "Gathering time" begins about twenty minutes before the meal is served at noon, and guests are always treated to jokes from song leader David Reed and a variety of music with our two pianists, Mary Lou Russell and Verna Dietrich.

This year, our weekly average for guests and take-outs is 165. Our approximately sixty volunteers make it all work smoothly, and all profits are donated to various AHUMC missions. We also partner with RMI (Reaching Maximum Independence), a nonprofit organization that assists adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In return, these men and women assist other lunch bunch volunteers with putting up tables and chairs. It is a win-win for all.

Lunch bunch operates from September to May, and May 25 is our last lunch bunch of this, our 43rd year! Come join us as a volunteer or a guest, and **YOU WILL FEEL SPECIAL!**



**Holiday Delight -  
Donna Devoll and Geri Bannister**



**Guests - Valentine Ladies in Red**



**Carolyn Edwards,  
Head Coordinator, TLB**

*See More Familiar Thursday Lunch Bunch Smiling Faces on the Back Cover*

# MAY NEWS FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY

## Lenten Links During Lent



*Our Community  
Practicing Faith*

We were asked to replace old habits with new practices, by signing tags on a chain linking our alters and representing a unification of our two worshipping communities. Continuing on that theme, we were asked to name “simple” gifts from God and people in our community, that have blessed us. The tags have been gathered into a fishing net in the Atrium to signify that we are united 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.

## Summer Sounds Music Camp – June 19-23, 2017

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. Register at [ahumc.org/Music](http://ahumc.org/Music).



## New Zion Choir Grads



The graduating seniors of the New Zion Youth Choir and have grown up singing in the choirs at AHUMC - several since kindergarten. They have been active leaders in the youth choir and a faithful part of this worshipping community. They have served, sung, grown, prayed and laughed together and walked alongside each other. Thank you seniors and your parents for your many years of faithful service and leadership.

Seated: Lena Brysacz (Matt & Suzi), MacKenzie Darilek (Craig & Laurie), Beverly Massengale (John & Robin)

Standing: Logan Miller (Richard & Heather), Max St. Romain (Dan & Prissy) Not pictured: Alyssa Bennett (Ken & LeeAnn)

## Sunday Sounds Grads



Congratulations to our Sunday Sounds 5th graders. These young people have been involved in the Sunday Sounds Music Program anywhere from 2-6 years. Filled with wonder, confident, curious, strong and joyful are words that describe this faithful group. We look forward to them being a part of the New Zion Youth Choir as they enter the 6th grade. Thank you to their parents for supporting and encouraging them along the way. The 5th Graders graduating from Sunday Sounds are:

Top: (left to right) Emma Hetrick, Kate Ellis, Phoebe Vardiman

Bottom: Gavin Jernigan-Puett, Abby Smith, Hannah Beebe



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

## Confirmation Sunday Held May 8

AHUMC welcomed the 2017 Confirmation Class at the 9:30 Service on May 8. A full listing of the names of our youth who joined at that service will appear in the next issue of the Messenger.

# Coming This Summer: Exodus

by David McNitzky

In a recent column in the New York Times, David Brooks lamented the loss of what he called *the unifying American story*. This story is the story of the Exodus. Brooks detailed the significance of the story in American history from the time of the Puritans to the time of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement. This story is even more central and unifying for our faith.

The Exodus is not only the key narrative for the Old Testament, it is also central to the New Testament as well. There is evidence that the gospel writer Matthew even saw Jesus as a new Moses. Both of our sacraments, baptism and the Lord's supper, draw from the Exodus story. Even the book of Revelation contains allusions to the Exodus. The movement from slavery to freedom and from Exile to the Promised Land is a part of our individual and corporate experiences of faith. With this in mind, I'm pleased to tell you that this summer and worship we will be retelling this critical story. May we experience its power and encouragement anew.



## Service Sunday 2017: Students & Families Love Serving Others

*Let's stop talking about serving others and go do it!* said one Jr. High student 12 years ago. Thus, your Student Ministries' "Service Sunday" event was born. Now, twice a year for the past dozen years, AHUMC students and parents have taken a Sunday morning off from Sunday school and gone into the community to serve the elderly, people with special needs, poor families, and help the hungry and homeless, or even lost cats and dogs.

*The whole idea behind Service Sunday is to get students, parents, and families into the community and discovering what their area of passion may be. Are they passionate about helping homeless people? Or those with special needs? Or even animals? We want them to try it out ... and then go back on their own to serve those whom they are passionate about serving! People receive joy in serving and I've seen entire families decide they want to help in some way. It becomes their area of service, their ministry. I've also seen individuals ... students or parents ... discover their passion this way. And then they start doing stuff on their own. That's great! That's what it's all about.* said David Roper, Director of Student Ministries for the past 17 years at AHUMC.

On the Student Ministries' most recent Service Sunday, one group went to a struggling family's home and mowed their lawn, trimmed their bushes, installed new light bulbs, cleaned their stove/oven, installed a new ceiling fan, replaced a faucet, and even washed their dog... all in 1 1/2 hours! As a surprise treat, AHUMC member Paula O'Brien then took the mom on a shopping spree at HEB to restock her pantry. *Many hugs were given and received*, said Paula's husband Tim. Another group went to another family's home and provided similar home improvements while another group went to Mission Road Developmental Center to play and worship with the special needs children. A fourth group remained at AHUMC and created shoes for children in Africa to keep *jiggers* (sand fleas) from painfully burrowing into their feet. Senior high student Emma Cate Clarkson spearheaded this project and the group of student & adult volunteers created 80+ shoes in an hour! This simple and important project is via Sole Hope (SoleHope.org) and can easily be conducted at home by families as well.

If you would like more info about Service Sunday, or would like to lead a project, or have a service project you'd like to suggest (that can be conducted on a Sunday morning), please contact Director of Student Ministries David Roper at [droper@ahumc.org](mailto:droper@ahumc.org).



## VBS is Coming! June 12-16!

Please join us in praying for our children to encounter God in powerful ways and for our volunteers to reflect the love of God to our children with energy & excitement. If you would like to serve our volunteers during the week of VBS, please bring your favorite snack to stock our volunteer break room. You can leave this in the kitchen labeled for VBS anytime during the week of VBS.



### Family Worship Days: June 4, 11, & 18

Children are encouraged to worship with their families on these Sundays; however, childcare is provided if needed.

### Wacky Wednesdays: July 12, 26 & August 9

For children entering 1st-5th grades.  
Watch for more details coming soon!

## Back to School Sunday: August 27



### Teaching Teams

Come be a part of one of our Teaching Teams next fall! We are looking for adults who love children & want to help them see Jesus. Our goal is to have teams of at least 6, so that leaders are able to teach as often as they want but also have the flexibility to teach once a month if that works better for your family. Please let Gina Beal ([gbeal@ahumc.org](mailto:gbeal@ahumc.org)) know if you have questions about being a part of a Teaching Team!

## Heart Pillow Ministry

by Frances Bain

Mission: To Know and Love God through Serving Others

*And now faith, hope and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love.* 1 Cor 13:13

Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. Room W210

Thursdays 12:30 p.m. Room W210

The Heart Pillow Ministry began in the fall of 2008 as 30 folks came together to meet and learn about the needs and uses of the large heart pillows. The group includes people from different denominations and ages to work and fellowship together. Heart Pillows soften the discomfort of coughing, part of the healing process following heart surgery. The ministry has now expanded to include four pillow sizes to meet differing needs including a slightly smaller pillow for children, yet a smaller size for Wounded Warriors, and a smaller one yet for families with children being baptized, new members as they join the church, and for those who grieve due to the loss of a loved one. There are always more of the different sizes going out as requested and needed. Each month about 64 large pillows are taken to Methodist Hospital in the Medical Center with 24 to Stone Oak Methodist Hospital. Stone Oak Methodist also receives *blankets*, large size pillows with half the stuffing used in the large pillows used by heart patients. The *blankets* are given to women following reconstruction from breast cancer.





# AHUMC Community Caring Corner

## News of Our Church Family

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

Linda Brown  
Vicki Wilson  
Ann Kuykendall

**Baptisms** (Includes Confirmands):

Mary Weakley	Chloe Crosby
Jordyn Swift	Morgan Musgrove
Elizabeth Kelley	Ethan Michalak
Madeleine Wiley	Brynn Bader
Camille Wiley	Lila Newburn
John Chisholm IV	Sarah Lyssy
Ryan Zuehl	

**Prayers of Comfort** for the Family of:  
James Schulte

*(Heart Pillow Ministry Cont.)*

The Heart Pillow Ministry gathers together for fellowship and making pillows 4 times each month. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings and the 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons. Sewing is not a requirement! One can cut out, match fronts and backs, stuff and hand stitched closed. I want to say a huge Thank You all who have made monetary, fabric, thread, sewing machines, tag making supplies, ribbons and fiberfill donations as well as come and give of themselves with time and desire to do for others. Without all of these donations we would not be able to serve God through serving others in this way. So, *Come One, Come All* and join in the fun of fellowship and doing for others.

There is a lovely display of the Heart Pillows in the wall cabinet outside the Sanctuary in the West Wing. For more information on joining this ministry, contact: Frances Bains at 210-247-8842, pebble3@twc.com



## New Generator for AHUMC by Chris DiSabato

When this church was built over 20 years ago church leaders and planners installed a natural gas electrical generator.

This unit was designed to provide critical power to exit and emergency lights in the event of a power outage. Although the years were very kind to our old Generac 30KW unit we were forced to replace it this year. The new natural gas powered 40KW unit is technologically up-to-date and will power enough lights to help us see to navigate the building during night power losses. The unit also provides power to run some critical technical systems like phones, servers etc...as needed.

## Rio Texas Annual Conference June 7-10 Corpus Christi, Texas

Our AHUMC pastors and delegates will join the 1200+ members of the Rio Texas Conference in our annual meeting at the Corpus Christi Convention Center. The event includes business meetings, worship services, and celebrations of retirement and ordination. Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, will be guest for three teaching sessions. The Retirement Service in which Rev. Donna Strieb will participate is Friday, June 9 at 11am. Please be in prayer for the clergy and lay delegates as they work for the good of the larger Church and make decisions for our own Conference.

## Taizé Services Take Summer Break

Led by Rev. Donna Strieb, our monthly Taizé Services will not be offered during June and July but will resume **Wednesday, August 2 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Garden Chapel. This contemplative service of music, prayer, and Holy Communion offers a quiet respite in our busy lives. Come join us in August!



# Project Transformation is back for Summer 2017!

by Ryan Jacobson

Project Transformation is a summer day-camp program for children hosted at United Methodist churches located in the heart of low-income neighborhoods. The purpose of the camp is three-fold: 1) To help meet the academic, physical, social-emotional, and spiritual needs of the children in these neighborhoods, 2) provide meaningful ways for college-age young adults to explore ministry opportunities, and 3) to help revitalize churches in these neighborhoods.

The site churches for the camps are Laurel Heights UMC, St. Paul UMC, Northern Hills Ministry Center, and Boerne UMC. Alamo Heights UMC is not a site church, but is a partner church in this effort. Here are the main ways we can help:

Read One-on-one with children - 10:00am – 12:00pm, Mondays through Thursdays, June 12-July 25. You can sign up for one time only, a weekly time, or every day for a week -- whatever fits your schedule! Bring dinner to 25-35 college interns at their community living site- Sunday through Thursday evenings, May 28-July 27. Pray for Project Transformation! Whether or not you are able to serve directly with Project Transformation, please pray for the children, college interns, families, churches, and volunteers. Signing up is easy! Go to the website listed below and click on the green heading for the volunteer opportunity you are interested in. If you need help with sign-up or to complete the required background check, contact Pamela Young at [pyoung141@gmail.com](mailto:pyoung141@gmail.com) or 210-896-0455. <https://projecttransformation.org/rio-texas/get-involved/volunteer/>



## Launch Retreat Sept 22-24 at Camp Tejas!

by Josh Gill



Each year, the Student Ministry department puts on the Launch Retreat for students 6-12th grade. It's the biggest retreat of the year with over 100 students and a fantastic group of parents and adult leaders just like you. The word LAUNCH perfectly describes what we try to accomplish for our students. This weekend is a launching point into the school year to help students know who they are in Christ and in community. Our goal is to get these students PUMPED for the year ahead.

A slogan like *Start Now-Be More* can act as a mirror for the entire weekend. It's as if we are telling the students, *this is the start but there is much more in this walk and much more in this journey.* We want them to have fun, learn, and look back at that weekend as a time they really got fired up for the Lord. One student recently explained that Launch is where his faith became real; now he's leading other students to do the same!

Youth come from many different schools in San Antonio and are put in purposeful groups so they get to know each other, even if they didn't know anyone at first. Whether it's joining in the worship and great teaching, feeling the excitement of the drop off the zip line, laughing at crazy games & skit characters, challenging oneself at archery or others on the Basketball court, or one of the many other exciting activities, your student is sure to have a great time while learning about their faith in a relevant and fun way. To ensure your student has a safe and enjoyable experience, each adult leader goes through background checks and safety training; while Camp Tejas provides trained staff and excellent facilities so your student can just focus on the fun!

**Save the date, September 22-24, and we look forward to seeing your student there!**

## National Day of Prayer Remembered

A Big Thank You is extended to all who helped make our 2017 National Day of Prayer a special success! Those who participated in leading worship and prayers included Rev. Darrell Smith, worship leader; Rev. Janet Weatherston, guest preacher; Susan Hickey and Andrew Gignac, musicians; Gordon Brewer, Rev. Donna Strieb, Natalie Jones, Carol Sobey, Charles Hooper, Rev. Robert Ortiz, Matt Dixon, Barrett Miller, and Ella Burkey.

Following the service, a delicious dinner from Church's Fried Chicken was served along with extra salad, apple cobbler and ice cream on the lawn on the west side of the Garden Chapel. All enjoyed the opportunity to pray for our nation and society as well as share Christian fellowship. This could not have happened without the wonderful coordination by Cynthia Scofield and Karla Davis along with their great team of helpers - Margo McCaleb, Holly Marshall, Christy Bridgman, Jerry Worden, Janie Keator, and Mary Keller.

This event was sponsored by the AHUMC Spiritual Life Committee, Lance Freeman chairman. If you would be interested in being a part of this group that plans spiritual experiences for our congregation, contact Lance at lancefreeman@att.net.



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## AHUMC Foundation Celebrates 40 YEARS!

### Craig Darilek is New Chair !



In 1977 –our church had some far sighted members who were concerned about our future ministries –and out of that grew the AHUMC FOUNDATION! The original Articles of Incorporation were signed in 1977 by **Vernon Willoughby, Virginia Corrigan, Rev. Calvin Froehner and S. Jackson Fisher!**

Our Foundation which started with a few thousand dollars – has now reached FIVE MILLION Dollars! Most of the funds are invested at the Texas Methodist Foundation- and funds from the earnings of the investments are distributed each year to our church to help undergird its mission and ministries. This year that distribution was \$128,000. There are a few special designated funds given by families for special purposes – which are also managed by the Foundation.

And forty years later we're still moving ahead – and our newly elected Chair is Craig Darilek . Craig is originally from Austin, Texas and a graduate of the University of Texas in Accounting and is a CPA. He's been employed with Valero Energy Corporation for 15 years. He and his wife Laurie have been married for 21 years and Laurie is an elementary school librarian. Craig and Laurie joined AHUMC in 1999. Their two daughters, MacKenzie and Avery, both attend Ronald Reagan High School, and MacKenzie will be attending the University of Texas in the Fall. Craig and his family enjoy traveling and many outdoors ventures.

As Craig leads the Foundation forward - he states that his vision is “to increase the awareness of the Foundation, and promote the opportunities to leave a lasting legacy to our church’s ministries and mission.”



# 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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## Coming Up

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

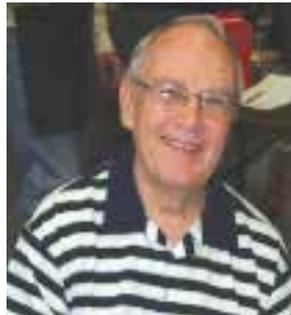
Annual Conference  
**June 7-10**

VBS  
**June 12-16**

New Member Class  
**June 4, 11 & 18**



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



**David Reed,**  
Song Leader



**Holiday Delight Kum Doublers, Gloria Schwanenberg, Rosa Lee Clary, and Mary Grim**



**Judy McMurray,**  
Special Events  
Coordinator



**Retired Pastors, Bob Price and Harold Burkhardt**



**Dedicated Cooks: Darr King, Barbara Flippen, DeeDee Grogan, Joan Schmidt, Louise Cates, and Jim Russell**