

SUMMER
2013

faith

BIG
HOPE

BOOK
CARNIVAL

ONE MILE
MISSION
and beyond

VISION



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Senior Pastor

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Senior Associate Pastor

Rev. Brian A. Young

Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Rev. Kay Lancaster

Director of Communications & Young Adult Ministries

Jarrod Johnston

Director of Evangelism Ministries

Rezolia Johnson

Parish Visitor For Pastoral Care

Sharla Martin

Mission & Outreach Coordinator

Michelle Clark

Director of Music & Worship

Diane Hale

Interim Director of Youth Ministries

Rezolia Johnson

Business & Finance Administrator

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Dir. of Testament Youth Choir & Center313

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Director of Children's Music

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Asst. Director of Chancel Orchestra

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One Mile Mosser

By: Rev. David N. Mosser
OneMileMosser.com



On TV

Time Warner channel 96
 &
 AT&T U-verse channel 99

Sundays at 11 am (Live)
 Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
 (Rebroadcast)

CONTRIBUTORS



Michelle Clark
*Mission & Outreach
 Coordinator*



Rezolia Johnson
*Dir., Evangelism
 Ministries/
 Interim Dir., Youth
 Ministries*



Jarrod Johnston
*Dir., Communications
 and Young Adult
 Ministries*



Rev. Kay Lancaster
Associate Pastor



Amy Nelson
Dir., Communications



Emily Nixon
Communications Intern



Layne Rice
Dir., TV & Video



Cindy Salter
Dir., Children's Music



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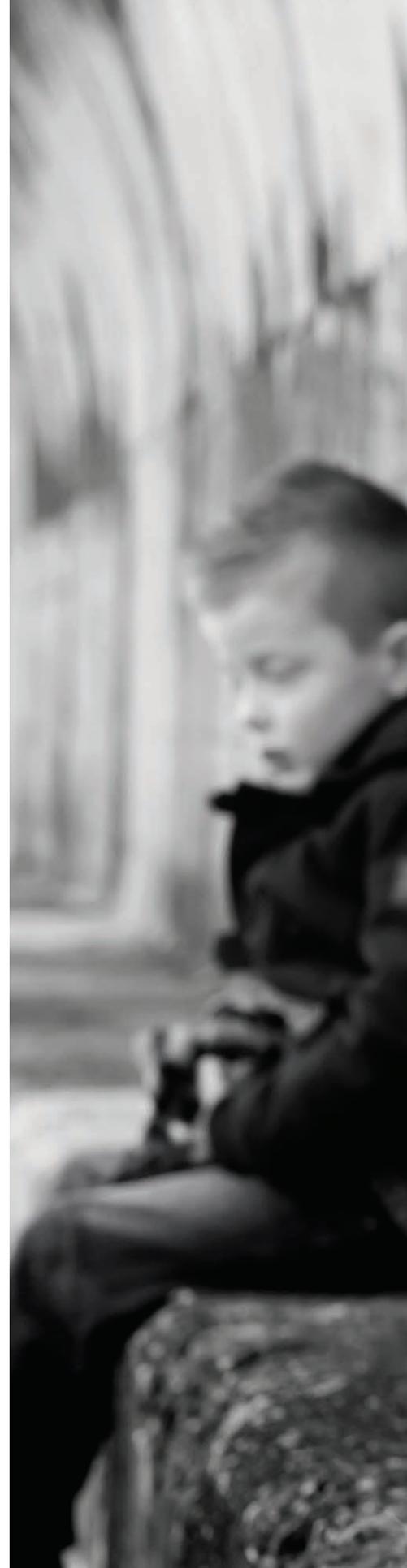
FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

STORIES OF FAITH FROM
FAR EAST RUSSIA

By: Michelle Clark
Mission & Outreach Coordinator

United Methodists often take for granted that we are a global church. After all, we are connected not only by theology and purse strings, but also by the simple edict to “do good in all the places we can.” That is what Methodists in Russia have been doing for more than a century—from early missionaries who braved brutal Russian winters and a repressive communist government to today’s pastors and church workers who awaken new generations to a faith that can not be extinguished.

To step into a Russian United Methodist church is to experience the epitome of tenacity. Daily, these congregations face adversity from a society indifferent to religion, a government that relishes red tape and persecution by a state-sponsored church. Yet, our brothers and sisters in Russia continually move beyond these obstacles and seek new ways to be understood, accepted and trusted. They must be creative in meeting the needs (spiritual and physical) of their congregation and that is where partner churches play a big role.

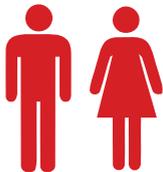




DID YOU KNOW KHABAROVSK...



IS ONLY 30 MILES FROM
THE CHINESE BORDER



HAS A POPULATION OF 577,000



HAS A CHILD POVERTY RATE
OF 9.8 PERCENT

Mission Possible Russia (MPR), founded at FUMC of Arlington in 1999 by Bill and Pat Shelton and Lee Bibb, pairs our church with Svetlaya UMC in the city of Khabarovsk, located in Far East Russia. This small church ministers not only to individuals and families during Sunday worship, but also to local street children. Weekly, orphans, and children whose parents cannot take care of them, come to hear Bible stories, receive moral guidance and eat a hot meal under the leadership of Rev. Elena Sokolova and faithful volunteers.

But, because the church is located in an area of high poverty and unemployment, congregation members have little extra money to fund this necessary and fruitful outreach. So, throughout the more than ten years that we have been committed to the building of disciples in Russia, FUMC of Arlington has raised funds to purchase the ministry apartment for Svetlaya UMC and worked with our youth group and Butler Elementary to collect essential items including hundreds of pairs of jeans, socks and underwear.

Through partnership and networking with the UMC's Russian Mission Initiative, the MPR committee was also introduced to 16-year missionary Sue Fuller, who works with orphans in and around Khabarovsk. Sue's work includes children's ministry and humanitarian aid distribution, along with teaching English to children and adults at a language school. Sue has also been involved in the discipleship and mentoring of orphans after they leave the orphanage and transition to adult life. The MPR committee also sends funds to Sue through The Mission Society in Norcross, Georgia to continue God's work in Russia.

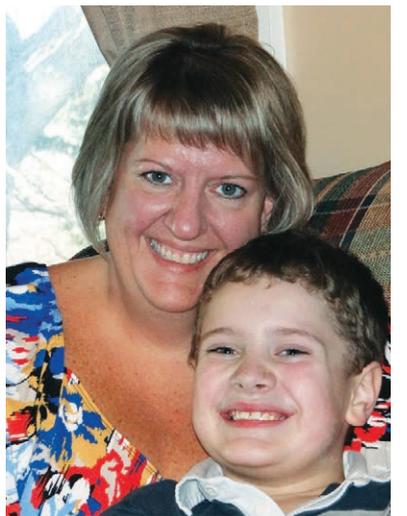
Because of the faithfulness of the MPR committee and FUMC of Arlington, a foundation has been laid in Khabarovsk that, with prayers, will allow boundless faith to take root. But the journey is not over. Daily, the church and its disciples struggle to sow seeds of faith and we must continue to support them as they proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!

HOW TO HELP

To make a financial contribution to Mission Possible Russia, please visit the church office.

Committee members are available to speak to Sunday school classes and small groups about this ministry. If interested, please contact Michelle Clark, mission and outreach coordinator, at mclark@arlingtonmethodist.org.

DAILY, THE CHURCH AND ITS DISCIPLES STRUGGLE TO **SOW SEEDS OF FAITH** AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEM AS THEY PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST!



Images:(Top–Bottom and L–R) Children at Svetlaya UMC; Street children enjoying a hot meal; Rev. Elena Sokolova; Youth at Svetlaya UMC; Rev Elena Sokolova reading to children; Missionary Sue Fuller.



Have you met my son, Wesley?
He's a handful.



Meet Jarrod Johnston

By: Jarrod Johnston
*Director of Communications and
Young Adult Ministries*

 @jarrodjohnston

Leanne and Wesley love hanging out at church.



Greetings First United Methodist Church of Arlington!

It's my pleasure to join this amazing staff and faith family as Director of Communications and Young Adult Ministries. The Holy Spirit has definitely been moving in the life of my family lately, and we know it was a huge factor in bringing us to Arlington.

Called To Ministry

I first felt called to the ministry of the church as a sophomore in college. I was majoring in vocal performance at Tarleton State University when I felt God calling me to something different, to use my musical talents to serve the kingdom. With the support of my family and a few amazing professors in the music school, I discerned that the next step was to continue my studies in the Master of Sacred Music program at Perkins School of Theology at SMU.

Our family.



Church Opportunities

Upon graduating from TSU, I was blessed to direct children's music and contemporary worship at my home church, Christ United Methodist Church of Farmers Branch. During my three years in seminary, it was wonderful to have the support of a church family who challenged me to be excellent in my ministry. After graduation from Perkins in 2008, I was offered the opportunity for a new adventure as director of music ministries at Aldersgate UMC in Slidell, Louisiana.

I arrived three years post-Katrina. Aldersgate had been one of only a few churches along Lake Pontchartrain that had not flooded during the storm and, so, had become a center for UMCOR's

Meet my wife, Leanne.



“ Our goal is to see that Wesley has the same wonderful opportunities to grow up in the church as we did. ”

relief efforts in Slidell, New Orleans and the surrounding communities. It was an amazing experience to work at a church that not only flourished under extraordinary pressure, but that truly lived out the call from Christ to love your neighbors.

Family

I met my wife, Leanne, during my second year of seminary. She was considering starting at Perkins the next fall and was visiting the campus. She began at Perkins my last year and we were friends, but didn't really hit it off. The summer I moved to Louisiana, we both ended up in Oklahoma City as part of the wedding of mutual friends. While there, we realized God was calling us to a serious relationship. We were engaged four months later and married on July 4, 2009 after Leanne received her master of theological studies degree.

I spent three years in Louisiana, the first place Leanne and I called home together. At the end of that time, Leanne and I decided we were ready to expand the family, so we took steps to move back near my family in the Metroplex. We were blessed to accept an opportunity in Duncanville, where I served the last two years as Minister of Worship and Music. At the same time, Leanne began her career as Coordinator of Youth and

Young Adult Ministries for the Central Texas Conference. Leanne and I have a 15-month old son, Wesley, and our goal is to see that Wesley has the same wonderful opportunities to grow up in the church as we did.

Something New

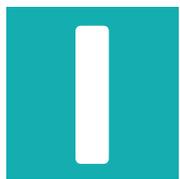
As I became involved with more and more ministries at First Duncanville, I realized God was calling me to something new. I'd been a worship minister for eight years, but it seems that the whole time God had been preparing me for where I am now—in ministry with young families and adults of my generation. God has put the call not just in my heart, but also on my family to advocate for and minister to the young adults around us. God has put the call on us to evangelize to our generation and make disciples of young people so the church of God will continue to grow and flourish.

To that end, I've begun the ordination process to become an Elder in the United Methodist Church, in the Central Texas Conference. My family has already been blessed to begin the real work of the ordination process as a member of this faith family. Thank you for blessing us with the opportunity to be in ministry here. We'll have some fun together!

CATCH THE VISION

**One Mile Mission
is impacting
our lives,
our church &
our community**

By: Rezolia Johnson
*Director of Evangelism Ministries/
Interim Director of Youth Ministries*



I have been fascinated with One Mile Mission since first hearing about its inception from Dr. Mosser not long after I began my internship (Perkins School of Theology, Master of Divinity candidate) here. The idea of getting to know our neighbors, and vice versa, along with an annual renewal of focus and motivation to intentionally serve the community within a mile (and now a little beyond), has been both fantastic and effective.

I recall asking Dr. Mosser how this all got started and, with a certain gleam in his eyes and an undeniable passion for this mission in his voice, he began like he often does, “Have I ever told you...?” Now, this may not be exactly how he told the story, but this is how I remember it.

“My friend Ken Diehm*, who used to pastor at First United Methodist Church of Grapevine, and I were talking one day about how we, as a community of faith, could make a positive impact on the individuals and businesses surrounding our churches. How could we get to know our neighbors and how could our neighbors get to know us? We discussed the

changes and demographics of the surrounding community and how a shared focus and vision within our churches would be wonderful. Out of that discussion, an idea to create a specific mission to serve those within a one mile radius of the church was born—known simply as the One Mile Mission.

“We care deeply for the congregation and those in the community, so with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and baptism in mind, we mapped a one mile circle from the Sanctuary. We then created a map to show members where this circle reached and every small group in the church, from Sunday school classes to the choir to the Church Council, was challenged to find different ways to reach out and serve within that circle.

“One Mile Mission was initiated, leaving the ideas and options up to the creative minds of groups participating in this local mission. As a result, in addition to the national and global mission involvement that we are already very effective in, our church has become more intentional about getting involved in the community.”



5K

MISSION PROJECTS

BIG HOPE

BOOK CARNIVAL

ONE MILE MISSION and beyond

VISION



Volunteers at the F.I.T. To Serve 5K in March 2013

“It is important to ask ourselves how we can continue the One Mile Mission with as much excitement and dedication as when the program began four years ago.”

From its inception, the One Mile Mission has promoted the goal of introducing us to our neighborhood and introducing our neighborhood to us. We have seen this fulfilled as our members serve in various ways. We just have to look at some of the great ministries at our church.

The Shield-a-Badge program, which matches members willing to pray for Arlington police officers by name, has been a huge success. Big Hope, which pairs mentors from our church to meet weekly with Webb Elementary students, is another successful program. Each mentor has the added support of a prayer partner, who prays with and for the mentor. We hold an awesome annual book carnival, where church members donate books, host a party and give away over 4,000 books (in both English and Spanish) to

children and adults in the community. We also recently held our first 5K walk to benefit AISD’s Families in Transition. And these are just a few!

Other ways and places we serve our community are through Angel Tree, The Salvation Army, Webb and Wimbish elementary schools, The Arlington Life Shelter, SafeHaven of Tarrant County, adopting a student at University of Texas at Arlington, trash pick ups and different services for nearby apartment complexes, police departments, fire stations, nursing homes and many, many more!

In 2013, it is important to ask ourselves how we can continue the One Mile Mission with as much excitement and dedication as when the program began four years ago. This is why we have “One Mile Mission 2.0 and beyond.” The aim is to encourage, uphold and motivate every sort of group in our church—whether it is OWLS, choir, families, Sunday school classes or Bible studies—to continue their One Mile Mission work in Christ’s name. From this, relationships are formed which help in God’s mission for the transformation of the world, starting right at our own doorstep.

We encourage new groups to become involved this year. Remember this verse, “For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them” (Matthew 18:20) and join with fellow members to develop a mission and set forth in our neighborhood to accomplish it. We can do it! Let’s continue to make a positive impact on our community. Let’s get out and be intentional about meeting our neighbors by sharing the love of Christ that we have to offer.

You’re probably reading this and thinking, “That’s wonderful, I’m so glad our church is doing this.” It is wonderful. And now, if you’re not already involved, we would love for you to get involved. I know we all have very busy lives, and it is easy sometimes to just come to church, fellowship with each other and then leave. Let’s be intentional and commit! There is good news in the fact that Jesus Christ is building the church and we are privileged to share in this work.

The One Mile Mission has had a wonderful impact on our community, on our church and for the kingdom of God. We would love to hear your ideas and the different projects you’ve done or are currently doing. Please continue to pray for our mission efforts in general and remember, as Dr. Mosser says, “We live in the midst of a large mission field.”

*Dr. Ken Diehm’s life on earth came to an unexpected end on February 19, 2011, due to acute leukemia. However, his dream and passion lives on through others in meeting the needs of the congregation and being diligent in missions, both locally and globally.



Choir during the Great Day of Service in April 2013

5 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Choose a One Mile Mission idea located inside each worship guide.
2. Get your Sunday school class involved.
3. Join one of the projects listed in this article.
4. Contact Michelle Clark, mission and outreach coordinator, at 817-274-2571 for mission opportunities.
5. Be creative! If you see a need in our community, share it with us.



Volunteers packing shoeboxes at Operation Christmas Child in December 2012

A Home Away From Home

By: Emily Nixon
Communications Intern

Google will tell you that the Wesley Foundation is just a three-minute drive from FUMC of Arlington. I know from experience that this is true, unless of course you have to stop for the occasional train or not-so-occasional desire for Shipley's doughnuts. I know this route well because I am a student (senior!) at UTA and the communications intern at FUMC of Arlington. I'm also a member of the Wesley Foundation at UTA. Throughout my years at UTA, I have experienced and witnessed the impact the Wesley can have on college students. As a Wesley member, I have participated in many events made possible by members of FUMC of Arlington and understand how important this service is to our ministry.

The Wesley Foundation at UTA is a campus ministry sponsored by the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Wesley, led by Campus Minister and Director Joseph Nader, is located across the street from the UTA campus. Students are invited to attend Tuesday evening worship services, hangout throughout the week, have fun at events such as camping trips and whirly-ball games and, most importantly, grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

I was fortunate to find the Wesley Foundation during my freshman year. I came to UTA from the distant lands of Lubbock, Texas (I know what you're thinking—but Texas Tech was never an option because dad went to major rival UT Austin). At the time, I remember struggling as I experienced the challenges college freshman face frequently: missing family, feeling overwhelmed,

trying to figure out where to fit in at a new school and even thinking about returning home. When I found the Wesley, everything changed. I discovered other students experiencing similar challenges and an environment that encouraged me in my walk with Christ. I soon realized that returning home no longer made sense because I had found my new home at the Wesley.

Many Wesley students have a similar story to mine. Both students from Arlington and those from distant towns have found a second home at the Wesley. The Wesley is comprised of students who also are part of honor societies, sororities, student congress, intramural teams and many other special interest groups. We have diverse backgrounds and interests, but are united by our desire to be part of a community that seeks a deeper understanding of Christ.

The Wesley Foundation is dependent on the support of local Methodist churches. Many FUMC of Arlington members understand this need and have stepped up to the challenge in a variety of ways. Some have chosen to participate as leaders of the Wesley. Church members Rev. Brian Young, Cathey Wise, Pete Barnett and Mark Brown serve on the Wesley Foundation Board of Directors and support our ministry with their encouragement and hard work. Other FUMC of Arlington members have invested in the lives of students by leading small groups and Bible studies. Church members Mark and Karen Brown have opened their home to students by hosting pool parties, cooking classes and the



“When I found the Wesley, everything changed. I discovered other students experiencing similar challenges and an environment that encouraged me in my walk with Christ.”



Images: (Top–Bottom and L–R) Students at the Wesley; Associate Director of the Wesley; Emily Nixon and Director Joseph Nadar; Students enjoying a meal after Tuesday night worship.

annual Wesley Banquet. Dianna Mischnick has become both mother and mentor to many Wesley students through her involvement in small groups, girls’ retreats, worship services and by cooking her homemade cobbler on a regular basis. In addition to these services, FUMC of Arlington members often cook dinner for Wesley students on Tuesday nights as well as help with building maintenance around the Wesley.

Currently, the Rainbow Sunday school class at FUMC of Arlington is leading a special program at the Wesley encouraging students without family in Arlington to be “adopted” by Sunday school class members. Genny Crotte is one of the 16 student participants in this program. Genny, who is from El Paso, was adopted by Denise Gage and Ronnie Abrams, and has enjoyed time with her “family” as she completes her freshman year. I spoke with Genny at the Wesley and found that she was excited to share her thoughts about the program. For her, Denise and Ronnie have been an important source of encouragement and support throughout her second semester at UTA.

In fact, Denise and Ronnie played a particularly important role for Genny on Easter Sunday by inviting her to spend the day with their family. Says Genny, “Spending Easter with them was nice and comforting, because it was my first time being away from my family on such a special holiday.” Genny’s experience is a great example of how members at FUMC of Arlington have impacted the lives of UTA students.

The Wesley Foundation is an incredibly important ministry to students at UTA. Now that the time has finally come for me to graduate, I can look back on my years at UTA and see clearly how the Wesley has radically affected my college experience. The work done by FUMC of Arlington members has been vital to the ministry of the Wesley. I encourage you to consider the Wesley when you look for ways to serve the community through One Mile Mission. With the continued support of FUMC of Arlington, the Wesley will continue to fulfill its mission to create disciples of Jesus Christ and raise a new generation of leaders for the church and the world.

L.O.S.T.

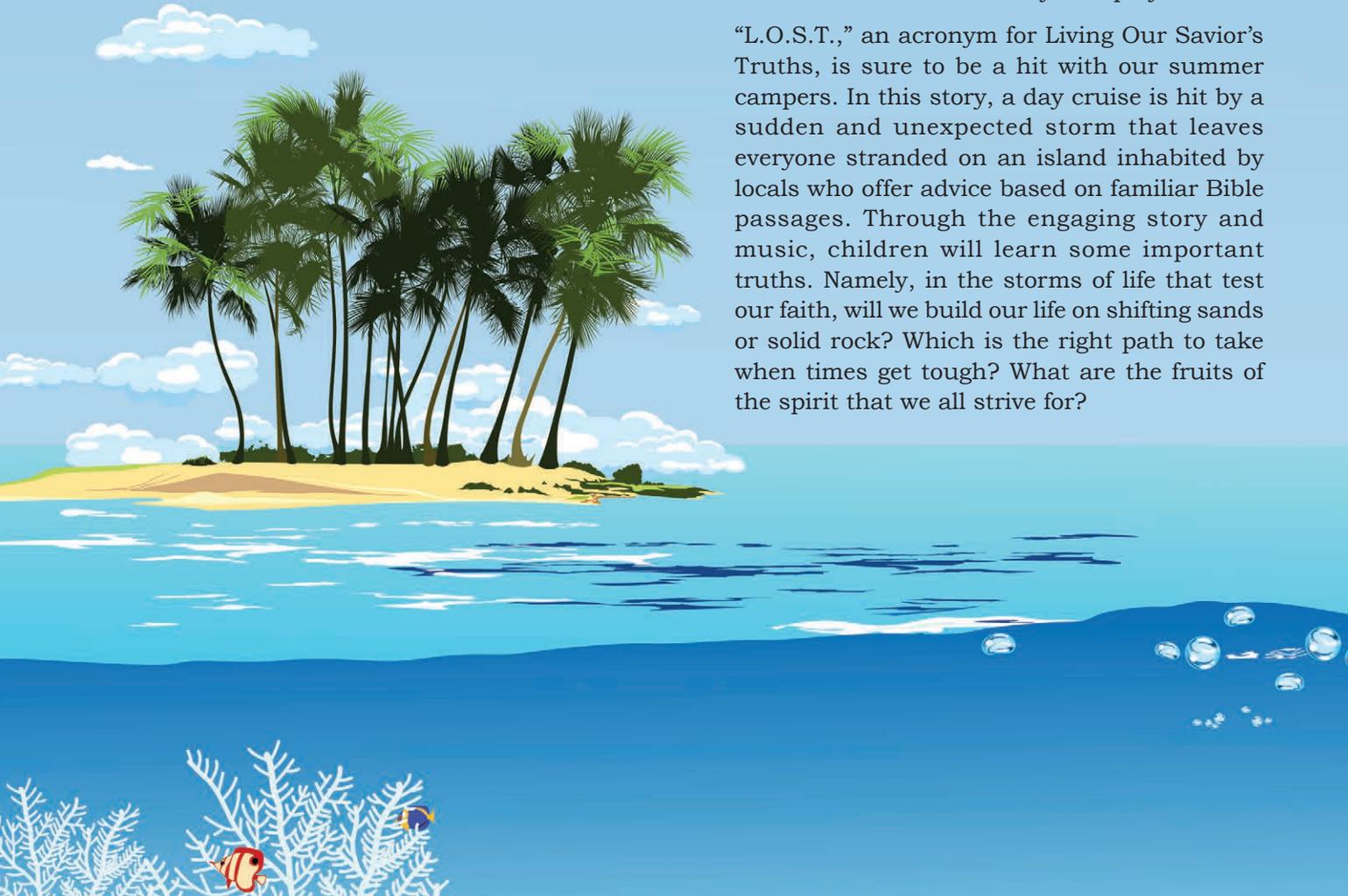
BUT NOW I'M FOUND

By: Cindy Salter
Director of Children's Music

**SUMMER IS RIGHT AROUND
THE CORNER, AND THE
CHILDREN'S MUSIC
MINISTRY IS HEADING BACK
TO HENOTES ISLAND!**

During last summer's Music Week, we traveled to the mythical island of Henotes in "We Are United," where we not only had a great time, but also learned that we can survive the challenges of life by pulling together in unity as the body of Christ. This July, we set sail again, this time with a brand new set of adventures in "L.O.S.T. But Now I'm Found," created by the same team who wrote last year's play.

"L.O.S.T.," an acronym for Living Our Savior's Truths, is sure to be a hit with our summer campers. In this story, a day cruise is hit by a sudden and unexpected storm that leaves everyone stranded on an island inhabited by locals who offer advice based on familiar Bible passages. Through the engaging story and music, children will learn some important truths. Namely, in the storms of life that test our faith, will we build our life on shifting sands or solid rock? Which is the right path to take when times get tough? What are the fruits of the spirit that we all strive for?



It is never too early to address these fundamental questions, especially in the context of whimsical characters and catchy tunes. Some of these include favorites in creative, new renditions, such as “Amazing Grace,” “Deep and Wide” and “This Little Light of Mine.” The show is full of adventure, music, laughter and, most importantly, the Word of God. The tradition of Music Week, with the goal of praise through music, fits into the rich musical tradition of FUMC of Arlington.

Music Week, July 22–26, is for children entering grades 1–6. Most of our beloved team of volunteers are returning, and we’ll meet every day from 9:30 am–noon. Younger campers will learn some of the songs, as well as enjoy crafts, storytime and snacks. Older kids in grades 4–6 will learn the entire show and be on stage (and get snacks, too!). Putting together an entire show in a week is what we often call our “Christmas miracle” in July.

Older children will have the opportunity to get started early during “Terrific Tuesdays,” which begin June 11, right after school lets out. For the Tuesdays leading up to Music Week, children in

grades 4–6 can learn the show and audition for a role or part in the ensemble. We work on the show and then have lunch together and enjoy a fun activity, such as field trips to Theatre Arlington, Putt Putt, Creative Hands and a pool party. Children look forward to our weekly events, coming every Tuesday morning humming the tunes they’ve been listening to all week.

The Music Week show has been part of our summer program for many years. Not only do the children enjoy our time together working on the show and in activities, but they also learn biblical truths. In addition, there is a sense of teamwork, confidence and responsibility that comes from this week. Many of our adult volunteers have fond memories of their own Music Week experiences, and can still sing some of the melodies from the shows they were in as a child.

We hope you can join us as we set sail for new adventures. Invite a friend, a neighbor or any children entering grades 1–6. Contact Cindy Salter, children’s music director, for questions or more details. Visit the church office or arlingtonmethodist.org to register.

“THE TRADITION OF MUSIC WEEK, WITH THE GOAL OF PRAISE THROUGH MUSIC, FITS INTO THE RICH MUSICAL TRADITION OF FUMC OF ARLINGTON.”





Thanks to our church for donating to our Heifer Project Lenten Offering. We received donations from: adult and children's Sunday school classes, The Living Gift Fair on Palm Sunday and part of the Amazing Grace class' Change the World collection.

We collected \$3,000 and received a matching grant, enough to meeting the children's goal to purchase an Ark of Animals.

A HEIFER INTERNATIONAL ARK MIGHT INCLUDE



2 COWS
to bring milk and income to a Cambodian village



2 DONKEYS
to supply animal draft power for farmers in Zimbabwe



2 PIGS
to help Honduran families attain greater self-reliance



2 SHEEP
to help Romanian families produce wool



2 CAMELS
to help families in Tanzania transport water and earn income



2 TRIOS OF RABBITS
to provide food and income to families in Guatemala

New Members & Baptisms



Gail Longell



Amanda Mesch



Victoria, Paul, Lynne
and G. Lee Finley



Bridget, Elise and
Elaine Copeland



Christy, Casey and
Carson Coon



Paula Jones and
JB Manning



Nick, Shari, Justin
and Brian Giddens



Chloe Williams



Ann and Dwight
Sperry



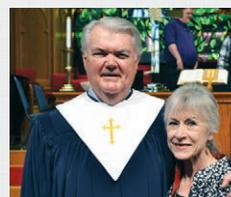
Paul Erwin



Dee and Harold
Matrick



Christopher and
Lauren Dellert



Dixie and Roger
Clark



Leanne, Jarrod and
Wesley Johnston



Larry and Sherry
Trussell



Elizabeth and
Robert Peetz



Tammie and Nora
Ellershaw



Jamie and Gerald
Sullins



Patsy and Bob
Tarola



Mary Ann and
Richard McKean



Jenny and Ben
Bowers



Julie, Robby, Cole
and Claire Strange



Royce and
Eleanore Hillman

Not Pictured

Amanda and Robert Bresciani
Michaela Cluck
Allen Eggleston
Copeland, Amy and Lane Hayes
Dee and Harold Matrick
Alli and Kelli Trussell
Jenny Rozear



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