



The Chimes

July 2011

God Bless You

Opening yourself to God's work



By: Rev. Estee Valendy
Associate Pastor

“GOD BLESS YOU.”

We say it when we help someone in need or when we hear a tragic story. We also say it when someone sneezes. So, what does this little phrase, that we throw around lightly at times, mean?

At heart, it is the purpose of the church. We are called to bless the world. This goes back to the deal God made with Abraham in Genesis 12. God said to Abraham: “I’m going to bless you so you can be a blessing to everyone else.” That’s where the idea “blessed to be a blessing” comes from.

However, this covenant wasn’t one-sided. Abraham had to participate in what God was doing. Not only did God tell him to be the channel through which God could bless others, God also said that Abraham had to go. He needed to leave his country, his family and his identity and go to the place that God would show him. And you know what? Abraham went. His going reveals that Abraham believed God. He didn’t just believe *in* God, he believed God – he staked his life on what God said.

This month, I’d like to ask you to refrain from saying “God bless you” unless you really mean it. If someone sneezes, try “gesundheit.” In your intentional abstinence of the phrase, try to be mindful of the times that you can say “God bless

you” and really mean it. Better yet, seek out three opportunities this week to bless someone. Work at opening yourself to God’s work, of drawing others to Him through you, and believe that God will follow through.

Finally, we aren’t called to be “God-blessers” alone, we’re supposed to join in doing it together. So, if you have a story to share about how you intentionally blessed someone else, post it on the church’s Facebook page (facebook.com/fumcarlington). If you have an idea of how a group could do something together, let us know and we’ll get the word out.



Numbers 6:22-27

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.
So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Making Our List, Checking it Twice...



By: Michelle Clark
Missions and Outreach
Coordinator

How you can help local children
with Christmas in July

WISH WE COULD BOTTLE AND USE THE JOY we feel at Christmas whenever we need a little inspiration. The Christmas season brings us hope of a savior and a God who love us so much. But, many people do not get to hear this message and I want them to know!

However, it's hard for me to just walk up to a stranger and begin talking about God. It is a lot easier for me to spend time in service and let my actions be a catalyst for conversation. Christmastime gives me, and many others, an opportunity to start that conversation.

As I volunteer at local charities, serve dinner in a local shelter, or sing at a nursing home I can share my story with those who want to know about the joy of being a Christian. What is interesting, however, is that as soon as Christmas is over, it is easy to forget about reaching out.

This is why I get excited when given the opportunity to focus again on the joy and hope of Christmas. Arlington Urban Ministries knows how important it is for a child to receive a gift during the holidays, even when a family's income is stretched. That is why they began Christmas in July, a program that gives the Arlington area churches and community the opportunity to think beyond ourselves to someone else.

Summer is a time of year with less financial and time commitments when I can go find just the right gift for one of God's precious children. So, I encourage you to put your faith into action and join me and the Mission Team as we collect as many toys as we can for the marginalized children in our community. And, through our donations, may we share Christ's joy and hope for the world!

We Are Collecting:

New Unwrapped Toys or Target Gift Cards in the amount of \$10.

Toy ideas:

- Skate boards
- Action figures
- Toddler Push/Ride toys
- Puzzles
- Board games
- Sports balls
- Especially gifts for kids ages 10-12, who are often overlooked.

Please return to drop-off locations throughout the church by Sunday, July 31.

Benefits Arlington Urban Ministries and sponsored by the FUMC of Arlington Mission Team.



Young Adult Retreat: Where Friends Gather



By: Megan Hale
FUMC of Arlington Member

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.”

-Matthew 18:20

THE FAITH CAFÉ SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS returned from its third annual retreat with smiles, spiritual rejuvenation, and good memories. The theme of the retreat was “Where Friends Gather,” led by Aaron Hill, a fellow member. For many in Faith Café, the annual retreat is the highlight of the year. It is a time to reflect on their lives, where they are now and where they want to be.

Each year, the group travels to a new location, where they spend the weekend singing worship songs, reading and discussing scriptures relating to the chosen theme, and strengthening friendships.

This year’s retreat was held at a class member’s ranch near Merkel, TX. After a three hour drive, and trip to Walmart for food, the group settled into a weekend of Christ-centered fellowship. On the ranch, the members of our young adult class fed and tended to donkeys, grilled burgers, made s’mores, and spent time sitting on the porch enjoying the outdoors.

During the second retreat session, the discussion turned to the character of Jesus, and how we should be a model of His holiness. A few hours later, as group members drove to Abilene State Park to swim, they came across a woman hitchhiking.

At first, both vehicles drove past, but within each car members contemplated what to do. After the lesson on being holy in all we do, it just didn’t seem right to let this woman walk down the road in 100 degree weather. Both cars pulled over and, after a brief discussion on safety, decided to give the woman a ride. One van followed the car with the hitchhiker to her destination just down the

road. Along the way, they learned that she had been experiencing car trouble and was a member of the local United Methodist Church.

In another session, the group discussed being God’s subjects, and how we can all focus more on pleasing God. Several said reading scriptures daily would help them stay focused. It was decided that each day one of the group would post a scripture of his or her choice on Facebook. The group now has a schedule and continues to post scripture daily.

It is the hope of Faith Café that the passion they experienced on their retreat will transfer into their daily lives, Sunday school, mission projects, and Monday night worship sessions.



Chancel Choir Sings at Carnegie Hall



ON MAY 27, A GROUP representing First United Methodist Church of Arlington's Chancel Choir departed for New York City. After months of preparation, these singers were on their way to New York to sing at Carnegie Hall.

Under the direction of internationally acclaimed British composer and conductor John Rutter, the singers performed in a combined chorus of singers representing eleven choirs from the United States and Australia. The chorus, accompanied by the New England Symphonic Ensemble, performed Rutter's *Requiem* at Carnegie Hall on Memorial Day.

Last fall, Diane Hale, director of music and worship, received an invitation for the choir to participate in the concert. Sixteen singers representing the Chancel Choir and four non-performing guests made the exciting trip to New York.

Working with John Rutter and performing at Carnegie Hall proved to be the chance of a lifetime. The singers rehearsed with Maestro Rutter for nearly eight hours prior to the concert. During the rehearsals, Rutter shared stories of how certain movements of the *Requiem* came to be written and what motivated him to compose the work.

Earlier in the year, Rutter sent rehearsal notes to each director in preparation of the performance. Though these notes were incorporated into the Chancel Choir and Orchestra's rendering of Rutter's *Requiem* for Good Friday's worship service, some of Rutter's insights into the performance of his music could not be put into words. With his unique conducting style and creative ideas regarding vocal production and interpretation of phrases, Rutter's direction enhanced the performance and took the experience to a new level.





By: Diane Hale
Director of Music and Worship

A very friendly man, John Rutter took time to visit with the singers during breaks and graciously sign autographs. His sense of humor and wonderful stories led to very enjoyable rehearsals. As the singers worked hard to prepare for the concert, they found Rutter's comments and instruction to be very enriching.

While in New York, the group attended performances of Broadway musicals, *Memphis*, and *Wicked* or *Sister Act*. Choir members and guests also visited the Empire State Building, Grand Central Station, Ground Zero, museums, and charming restaurants throughout the city. Following the Carnegie Hall concert, the singers were treated to a dinner cruise around the harbor.

Of course, the highlight of the trip was singing in Carnegie Hall. With its amazing acoustics and architecture reminiscent of grand European concert halls, the opportunity to perform, with Rutter conducting his own music, before a crowd of nearly 2,500 was truly a memorable event. The Chancel Choir is sincerely appreciative of the great support, through financial gifts and prayers, from our congregation for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

John Rutter



John Rutter was born in London in 1945.

He wrote his first published compositions and conducted his first recording while still a student.

His compositional career has embraced both large and small-scale choral works, orchestral and instrumental pieces, a piano concerto, two children's operas, music for television, and specialist writing for such groups as the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble and the King's Singers.

His larger choral works, *Gloria* (1974), *Requiem* (1985), *Magnificat* (1990), *Psalmfest* (1993) and *Mass of the Children* (2003).

New Members and Baptisms

Welcome to our church!

We are excited to have more new members that we can list on one page! Check back for pictures of more new members in the next *Chimes*.



Carl and Mabel Little



David and Niki Stinson



Eric Kanagy



Glenda Albright



Heidi Vose



Jessica Riddle



Janet Godsy



Memory Gordon



Mallory Family



Richard Carmichael



Ron and Phyllis Vash



Toni and Jenny Sparkman



Trey and Brenda Tibbets



Kinley Lynn Resley and Preston Kerry



2011 Confirmands

July Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30 When Men Lead Book Study Begins	1	2
3 Free Patriotic Concert - Levitt Pavilion/ The Table Meeting	4	5	6	7	8 Ice Cream Social and Movie Night	9
10 Journeying Through Acts: Adult VBS Begins	11 Music Week Begins	12	13	14	15 Summer Musical Performance	16 Testament Choir Tour Begins
17 Blood Drive	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Testament Choir Homecoming Concert in Worship	25	26	27	28 Rev. Mosser's Book Study	29	30
31	1 VBS Begins	2	3	4	5	6

For more information on these events visit www.arlingtonmethodist.org

First Prayers

We pray for those who have experienced an illness:

C.J. Andrews, Lil Couch, Gail Gutzler, Margaret Harrington, Bobby Hettich, Paulina Jones, Helen Maddox, Pam McQuitty, Frank Smith, Katy Ward

We pray for those who have experienced a loss. Condolences to...

- Donna Marshall and family on the death of her husband, Clark, on 6/7/11

- The family of LaVerne McLean, who passed away on 6/17.
- Royce Mitchel on the death of his brother, Kenneth, on 6/19.
- Matt Antkowiack and family on the death of Matt's father, David Antkowiack, on 6/20.

MISSION POSSIBLE[®] kids

We're on a mission!



By: Kay Lancaster
Associate Pastor

AT THE FIRST MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS meeting this summer, the “agents” received their assignments for their first mission and planned strategies for completing future missions.

Agents will be creating prayer chains, collecting prescription and sun glasses, teaching families about water safety, raising money for rescued animals, collecting canned food for Arlington Urban Ministries, and passing out cold water to baseball fans at the Ballpark in Arlington.

How can you help?

- Look for agents passing out Water Wizard badges
- Bring any old prescription glasses or sunglasses to collection bins at the church
- Purchase items for or donate cash to an animal rescue center
- Add a chain to our prayer chain if you see us in the hallway