



# The Newsletter

*"Celebrating Christ, Community and Communion Every Sunday"*

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## AUGUST 2016



### **Blanket Sunday Offering Report**

Alamo Heights collected enough money to buy 54 blankets that Church World Services distributes throughout the United States. Thank you for participating in this worthy Outreach project.

### **~AHCC Food Pantry Blog~**

Running a Food Pantry is truly a mission, an outreach effort performed by many churches and civic groups. Ever wonder how other Food Pantries are doing. Is there still a need? These three "snapshots" from organizations may give you some answers.

The Northborough (MA) Food Pantry reported in July 2014, "In April of this year 108 families made use of the food pantry. This is an increase of 93% compared to April of 2007. We also distributed 395 bags of food in the month of April 2014. This is an increase of 72% compared to April of 2007."

The Grove City (PA) Community Food Pantry made information something for each family, serving 400+ people each month. "In each order of groceries, our clients receive a monthly newsletter, which provides our clients with information regarding the food pantry like upcoming "Food for Thought" programs, change in hours due to holidays, and contact information. We help our clients by providing information on federal programs like LIHEAP and WIC, and community resources like Angel Food Ministries and Christian Assistance Network."

The Bowie (MD) Interfaith Pantry operates with a simple concept, as a community-based social services program providing emergency food and financial to those who is experiencing need – without regard to race, creed or gender. In April 2016, they served 802 bags of groceries to 309 households, with an estimated value of food distributed of \$29, 770.

So what do these organizations have in common with the AHCC Food Pantry?

We all provide HOPE to those in need of food for a variety of reasons. We follow the lead of the San Antonio Food Bank, achieving their mission of helping feed the hungry in the San Antonio area and throughout Southwest Texas. Is there a need for these services?

The 2015 Census indicates that in Texas that there are some 4.6 million Food Insecure People, for whom getting their next meal is an unknown. When we donate our time to the AHCC Food Pantry, we all become a partner in the fight against hunger.

Think of this, OUR gift of HOPE for others in our community. For AHCC, HOPE= Helping Other People Eat.



*I want to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and compassion shown to both Ron and me during his long hospital stay, followed by his death. Alamo Heights Christian Church has always been a caring church and I don't know how I would have been able to carry on with the support I received and continue to receive. Thank you all for making AHCC such a faithful, caring church.*

*In Christian Love,  
Rosemary*



### **FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

**By Stephanie Blandford**

The General Board Chair column will return next month. Stephanie hopes everyone is enjoying the summer vacations. She looks forward to having everyone back in church this coming fall.



**From the Pastor's  
Corner . . .**  
Rev. Ed Palow

Thank you for calling me to be your minister. It is a joy to serve such a loving congregation. I look forward to see what God has for us as we strive together to serve and grow in Christ. Let us maintain what we have and work toward bigger and better ways to let God bless us as we bless others of our community.

Who am I? A little (too much) about who I am.

I was born in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. In Jan. 1941. At around eight years of age we moved from a modest but small house to live in a 24 by 24ft. shack in the middle of five acres of sand. Here we learned survival and dependence on God. We were always in church: Methodist, Am. Baptist, and Assembly of God.

My fifteenth birthday was spend moving from the little sand hill to Patchogue, New York where I graduated from High School and was very active in a Church of the Nazarene. During wait for college to begin, I was drafted into the Army. I would serve ten years before leaving the Army. Then college for a B.S. in Medical Technology, then back into the Army for a total of 26 years. Happy to serve, so happy to be retired.

Met my wife, Jeanine, we married and have three wonderful daughters of whom we are very proud. My wife has been another great gift from God. Our life together has been a joy and a team effort to be there for each other as we serve Christ, our family and others. Our mutual love and respect has been our strength. Our church family must continue to develop this mindset also.

The Walk to Emmaus movement changed my Spiritual life greatly. Serving on Emmaus and Chrysalis teams led me to the KAIROS Prison Ministry more than twenty years ago and is ongoing as long as I can be of service to those incarcerated in Texas State prisons.

Let me back up a little. In 1995, on my first Kairos weekend at Huntsville prison, I accepted the call to the ministry. At 55 years of age, I went to Seminary, accepted my first pastorate at First Christian Church (DOC), Fredericksburg, Texas as a licensed minister. After three years, we went to San Antonio Christian Church to serve. Graduation finally arrived and after that my Ordainment. Seventeen years later, we "retired".

After serving as "Pulpit Supply" for many months, we now are blessed to be a part of this family and to serve as minister.

I have said too much and now hope to "Listen" to your life stories as we live and grow together.

The Dalai Lama once said, "When you talk you are only repeating what you know, When you listen you may learn something NEW".

Pastor Ed



**From the Chair  
of the Elders**  
By Linda Hawkins

1Corinthians 12:12-27

Have you used any of your "spiritual gifts" today? We all have these gifts.

In a recent Sunday school lesson, this was the discussion.

God provides these gifts to us. It is up to us to put them into action. What are your gifts? A prayer for a friend or loved one, a phone call to someone in need, a visit to someone in the hospital, volunteering for a task at church. There are countless ways we can share our gifts with one another. We have the gifts and we need that connection with one another and Jesus Christ.

Our family at AHCC is a good example of any number of spiritual gifts. God has blessed us with each one of you and this church. The Master's Hand is revealed through you and your love for Christ and one another. 1Corinthians 12:27

May God continue to bless you and His Church.

Linda Hawkins, Chair of Elders



**A Note from the  
Deacon's Corner**

**Finding Your Place in Ministry**

How often have we thought, *I'm the only one I trust to do this?* Or *It's just easier to do it myself?* We are uncomfortable giving up control and asking for help. We use the excuse that it's easier to do it, because we're certain that others won't do it correctly and we'll have to redo it later.

When we adopt this attitude, we fail to recognize the gifts and abilities of others. We deny that often there may be more than one correct way. In addition, probably most significantly, we do not recognize that doing it perfectly may be an unattainable goal, perhaps even an unnecessary one.

The grace of God provides that even imperfect people are not only welcome in the church but also required. Otherwise, the church building would be a very empty and lonely place.

Deacons are called to discern the gifts they have been given and to seek to help others discern their own gifts. Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 affirms that every person created by God has a God-given gift, and those gifts should be used to glorify God.

Deacons must learn to use their individual gifts as part of the whole. The entire body must work together in the same direction. Paul says that even the

Article continued on next page →

weakest member of the body is indispensable. Indeed the body that does not support the smallest part will surely falter.

Being a deacon requires both commitment and discipline. Discipline is a spiritual muscle. The first few times you attempt something, it may be extremely difficult. As with any exercise, as the muscle becomes more accustomed to the workout, it becomes easier. The diaconate, as a body, needs the same kind of discipline.

Members of the diaconate should be active participants in both the church and the groups within the church. They should be a conduit for information to flow between all of those groups. In both our words and deeds, we should seek to witness to the word. Our very actions are a prayer when they are done to the glory of God.

As a gathering of believers, we welcome the Spirit into our midst. Unless the Spirit bonds us to one another, we are not united; and our accomplishments will fall short. When we are united, pray through our words and deeds, our needs will be satisfied.

In His Service,

*Parts of this article have been taken from "Your Calling a Deacon" by Gary Straub and James Trader II.*

- 1 – Rev. Edward Palow
- 2 – Jeanine Palow
- 3 – Jill Poppy
- 4 – William (Bill) Pease

Be sure to say 'hello' when you are in church. If anyone needs his or her address, please get it through the Church Office

Summer months means that our membership will be going on vacations. If you travel some place special or just to see relatives, please let the church office know. Our Elders would like to know if you are having fun or need help due to illness.

We will be celebrating August Anniversaries/ Birthdays on Sunday, August 21, 2016. We hope to see all celebrants present.

 Birthdays for July 2016 



Liz Brown and Cheryl Harden celebrated their birthday during the month of July. Both were born on the same day of July, just a few years apart.



The Church Office needs to know when your Birthday or Wedding Anniversary is celebrated. Please call the Church Office 210-828-5728 and let Sarah know your information.

**2016 CCSW MEN'S RETREAT**

September 16-18, 2016

**"Are We Followers or Just Fans?"**

**SPEAKERS**

Rev. Bruce Frogge, Senior Minister at Cypress Creek Christian Church

Rev. Marilyn Fiddmont, Vice-President of Christian Church Foundation

**HIGHLIGHTS**

PREACHING \* TEACHING \* SINGING \* WORSHIP \* FELLOWSHIP \* WORKSHOPS \* RELAXATION

**WORKSHOPS (Preliminary list)**

One by each Keynote Speaker, plus tentative ones on Spirituality, Stewardship of Health, Interfaith Dialogue and Bible Study/Putting Faith

Into Action. Also, on Saturday afternoon, Bible Study-Olympics by Rev. David Huegel.

Further information is available from the Church Office or through the BBA Chalice August Newsletter that was sent by e-mail to everyone on Thursday, July 28, 2016.

**BBA/LRGVD Disciples Women Retreat**

October 14-16, 2016

**"Change"**

**Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Michael S. Passmore

Senior Minister at Central Christian Church in San Antonio  
Moderator of the Bluebonnet Area

**Activities**

2nd Annual Talent Show ♦ Workshops ♦ Free Time

Further information is available from the Church Office or through the BBA Chalice August Newsletter that was sent by e-mail to everyone on Thursday, July 28, 2016.

**Membership Information**

This past month we saw an increase in our membership. We had 4 individuals to join our church by transfer of membership. The following have become members of Alamo Heights Christian Church during the month of July:





The church has several projects in the coming months that the Volunteers will need to perform the work. We are hoping that you will be able to volunteer your time for specific projects as they present themselves. We are asking you to give the Church Office, Stephanie Blandford, Liz Brown, B. J. Perkins a call to let a list of week days or weekends that you might be available.

The first project is: - AHCC Food Pantry – B.J. Perkins and Sarah Warren are the contacts for this project

**Mondays – 10:00am – 1:00 pm** to help put together the boxes for distribution by the Food Pantry on Tuesday

**Tuesdays – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm** to help with final prep for Food distribution

The second project is – AHCC VBS – Contact Stephanie Blandford and Liz Brown for this project

**Friday, August 12, 2016 through Sunday, August 14, 2016** – Vacation Bible School needs your help – times vary in length, difficulty, and expertise. Set-up will be on Friday during the day

**Saturday, August 27, 2016 – 9:00 am – 10:00am** – help in set-up for the Potluck Luncheon in Kirtley Hall after Sunday’s Installation service.

These are the first of many projects in the coming months. Please consider giving your time and talents to your Church.

### Installation Service for Rev. Edward Palow

**When:** Sunday, August 28, 2016

**Where:** Main Sanctuary

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Potluck Luncheon in Kirtley Hall immediately following Morning Worship.** Everyone is invited to attend. Do not forget to bring your favorite dish to share with your Congregation family. What is this I hear that you do not cook? Get with Sarah Warren for information of how you can participate.

**Vacation Bible School needs some of the following supplies:**

Black ground cover – 1 large roll

White Duct Tape – 3 rolls

Roll water base paint (no spray paint)

1/2-inch foam – size may vary

Spray adhesive

Kiddie pool  
Roller Skates  
Skate Boards  
Tennis Balls

Be sure to watch your e-mails and the bulletins for additional items needed to get this VBS moving. Oddly enough the Theme is – “GOD’S LOVE IN ACTION”. What a better way to show your love for your church than to give of your time, talents and energy to make this VBS the best ever.



The AHCC Food Pantry regular Volunteers would like to thank Sharon DeLuna, Patti McCord, Jeanine Palow, and Patty Peyton for their help while Liz Brown and family, Jody and Sarah Warren were out of town last week.

## Up Coming Events

**Friday, August 12, 2016**

**6:00 pm – 8:30 pm – First day of Vacation Bible School sign-in in Kirtley Hall**

**Saturday, August 13, 2016**

**8:00 am – Elders Breakfast Meeting in Kirtley Hall**

**9:00 am – 3:30 pm – Second Day of Vacation Bible School – meet in East Foyer**

**Sunday, August 14, 2016**

**9:00 am – through Morning Worship Last Day of Vacation Bible School**

**Thursday, August 18, 2016 – \*\*\*\*DEADLINE to Submit articles or information for September’s Newsletter & Calendar\*\*\*\***

**Sunday, August 21, 2016**

**12:15 pm – August Birthday / Anniversary Celebration in Kirtley Hall**

**Sunday, August 28, 2016**

**11:00 am – Installation Service for Rev. Edward Palow during Morning Worship with a Potluck Fellowship Luncheon in Kirtley Hall**



**Check the August’s Calendar for additional events taking place at AHCC.**