

Open hearts

Open minds

Open doors

The People of the
United Methodist Church



Faith United Methodist Church
8640 North 19th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85021

**Thou didst set the earth on
its foundations ...**



Psalm 104

The *Koinonia* is a monthly publication from Faith United Methodist Church. Its purpose is to provide items of interest and information about events and people related to the ministry of the church locally, district-wide and the conference.

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The KOINONIA
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AUGUST 2014



Koinonia

Faith United Methodist Church

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August 2014

From the **PASTOR**



By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have been your pastor for a whole month...which is something to celebrate! It's been a very busy month, as I've transitioned from being an employee at a church to the pastor in charge of a church, but it's also been a totally awesome month. You have made me and David feel welcome from the very first time we met you, and you have helped make this transition a smooth one, and we thank you for that. In fact, I think it is fair to say we have fallen in agape with you.

Are you familiar with the word agape? It is one of several words in Greek that are translated into English as "love." I find it fascinating that the Greeks had five different words to describe the different kinds of love we feel and experience, whereas English only has one...just "love." And I don't know about you, but I find it very limiting to only have one word to express the feelings I feel toward other people and other things. For example, I love my husband David, and I love my children, Ryan and Erika, and I also love ice cream (it's one of my favorite foods!). But is the love I feel for my husband the same as the love I feel for my kids? No. And the love I have for ice cream isn't the same as the love I feel toward any of my family members! So I appreciate the Greeks for finding different words to describe the many different ways we love.

In Greek, the different words we have translated into "love" are mania, eros, philos, storgy, and agapeo, or agape. Mania is used to

describe an obsession – love (or lust) as possession, while eros is the romantic love we feel for those to whom we are attracted. Philos, or brotherly love, is used to describe our feelings toward those with whom we have common interests, and storgy is the love we feel toward those who are dependent upon us – our children, for example. But the deepest kind of love is agape, the kind of love that requires no favor or response. It's the word used in the Bible to describe God's love for us, and Jesus' love for all people. Agape asks for nothing in return, but is instead a commitment that no matter what the circumstances, I will love you for the rest of my days.

So yes, I have fallen in agape with you, even though I haven't met all of you. The people in this church – this community of faith – has welcomed us with open arms, and we look forward to spending time with you, getting to know you, and being a part of your lives.

God bless you all..

Pastor Jody

MISSION STATEMENT **Faith United Methodist Church**

Faith United Methodist Church is an inclusive* Christian congregation dedicated to the care of its constituents in order to serve the local community; and in co-operation with other faith-based organizations, to reach out to all persons* who seek personal acceptance, require sustaining assistance, or yearn for a meaningful life purpose beyond self.

*Regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, or sexual orientation.

Thinking theologically:

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13

When I was in high school, a good friend of mine wrote the Bible verse above in my yearbook. Although I frequented the youth group meetings at both my church and his, I wasn't as familiar with the Bible as I am now. Even so, these words really rang with me...and they've stayed with me from that day at the end of the school year in 1975.

These words from John's Gospel are part of what has become known as Jesus' "Farewell Discourse" – the words Jesus spoke to his disciples after sharing a meal with them and washing their feet. In these chapters, we find some of his most meaningful and comforting words. Statements like *"Do not let your hearts be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me"* (John 14:1); *"I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you...because I live, you also will live"* (John 14:18-19); *"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him – this one bears much fruit..."* (John 15:5); *"No longer do I call you slaves, because the slave does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I have heard from my Father I have revealed to you"* (John 15:15). But the words found in John 15:13 remain my favorite, because they hold so much meaning for me as a person and as a follower of Christ.

Can you imagine laying down your life for someone else? I know I would give up my own life if it meant saving the lives of my son or daughter...but for a friend? That's a hard thing to consider. And yet, that's what Jesus did for his disciples and for all of us. We are called by Christ to love each other so much that we would be willing to give up our own lives if it meant saving theirs. Jesus challenges us to be more giving than we've ever been before. He not only calls us to feed the hungry and clothe

the naked, he also calls us to love our enemies, and give up that which is most precious to us in favor of someone else. Whoa...that's hard to hear...and even harder to do.

So how can we love someone so much that we would be willing to give up a part of ourselves? I challenge you to think about this over the next several days and weeks, and come up with your own personal list of things you can give up in favor of somebody else. It might be some of your time, which you can use to work as a volunteer at a food bank or soup kitchen. It might be some of your money, that can be used to buy food for our Faith UMC mission closet that helps feed the homeless and those who are in need. Or you might be called to pray for those who are in need as well as those who help the needy. Whatever it is that God calls you to do, I pray you will find a way to do it. And remember, "greater love has no one than this..."

God bless... Jody



GRANDMA'S LUNCH BUNCH

Grandma's Lunch Bunch meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month. We gather at 11:30 for lunch—all ladies are welcome and encouraged to join in the fun.

Our July lunch was attended by six at Schlotzsky's Deli. We were happy to welcome our new pastor Jody and enjoy a fun lunch of salad, soup and sandwiches.

August Lunch Bunch will meet on August 21st at Fuddruckers which is located on the south east corner of Dunlap and the I-17 freeway on the access road. We hope to have another fun lunch with food and fellowship.



SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

If you haven't figured this out by now, Pastor Jody is a social media/technology junkie!!! She not only carries her cell phone with her wherever she goes, but she can often be found posting to Facebook, Twitter, or checking out the latest webpages online. So it's only fitting that Pastor Jody's addiction should benefit Faith UMC! Over the last several weeks, she and David (whose "day job" is as the Computer Systems Manager for the Desert Southwest Conference of the UMC) have been working on Faith Church's website, Facebook page and Facebook Group to make them more accessible and easier to use. We hope you will visit us online at one of these locations (and "like" or "join" as appropriate):

Faith UMC Website:

www.umcfaiithphx.org

Faith UMC Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/FaithUMCPhoenix>

Faith UMC Facebook Group:

<http://facebook.com/groups/FaithUMCPhxGroup>

We know there are a lot of you who are members of Faith UMC who choose not to be online, and that's OK. But we also know that many young people (and even a few of us babyboomers) are online a lot. So if you are like Pastor Jody and spend a lot of time "surfing the web," we hope you will invite your family and friends to visit our sites and pages listed above.

SUNDAY SERMONS ON LINE

Videos of Sunday sermons are now available online. For those who missed a service or just want to go back and review what was said, the sermons can be accessed by going to the Faith UMC website (<http://umcfaiithphx.org/>), hovering over the "Worship" tab, and selecting "Sermon Videos." Or you can go directly to the videos at the following address: <http://umcfaiithphx.org/worship/sermon-videos/>.

Joshua's Journey

I recently started a new internship at Shepherd of the Valley under the leadership of Deb Schauer. I jumped in with both feet, attending two services, a bible study and a committee luncheon. It was quite an experience to meet so many new people!



After the day ended, I met with Deb and discussed what some of my goals would be during my internship and some responsibilities I would take on that would be both similar and different from what I had accomplished serving Faith.

Reflecting on that conversation, I am reminded of the concept of continual growth. This is the growth that isn't just the kind you learn from going to seminary or attending seminars, but the growth that we all experience through living our lives and being followers of Christ.

I was recently reading a review of Brian McLaren's new book *We make the road by walking*. Brian declares "You are 'in the making'. You have the capacity to learn, mature, think, change, and grow." What I believe I'm seeing through my own experiences is that being "in the making" means we change by learning new things, maturing in our own selves, evolving our thought processes, and growing into new beings.

It is my hope that during the coming year, whatever my experiences may be, I may have a growth mindset as I become the leader I am called to be.

Thanks again for your continued prayerful support!

In God's Graces, Joshua

Thanks for the cards, prayers, and expressions of concern during my recent surgery and healing time. They were much appreciated!

Carol Getting

Upcoming Sermons at Faith UMC

Everyone loves a great story...and there's no better modern-day storyteller than Dr. Seuss!! So in August (after we've finished our Faith Flicks series) and September, we will find out what Dr. Seuss and theology have in common in our sermon series called "The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss. Kids of all ages will enjoy this series as we not only read from some of our Dr. Seuss favorites, but also explore how they can speak to us as followers of Christ. So invite your friends, young and old alike!!

August 3: Faith Flicks - *Noah* (PG-13): How Long Can You Tread Water

August 10: Faith Flicks - *UP* (PG): Adventures and Treasures

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss

August 17: Cleaning Up The Mess (*The Cat in the Hat Comes Back*)

August 24: Hard to Digest (*Green Eggs and Ham*)

August 31: We Are Family (*The Sneetches*)

September 7: Rocks or Sand (*Yertle the Turtle*)

HOMELESS SURVIVAL KITS

This summer during Senior High Camp (of which Pastor Jody was the Dean), the teens put together Homeless Survival Kits which were given to Faith UMC so we could give them out to people in need out in the community. Each survival kit has a bottle of water, comb, bar of soap, washcloth, wet wipes, Band-Aids, and granola bars packaged in a gallon-size zipper bag. Each of the bags was then filled with a book from our Friday Book Giveaway group. All of the items inserted into the kits was donated by Pastor Jody and her family. So far the response from those receiving the kits has been extremely positive, in fact, some people have been ecstatic just knowing someone cares enough to give them a few essential items. If you haven't picked up a few kits to keep in your car and give away to those out on the streets, we encourage you to do so. They are available in the Library during the week and in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. We hope this will continue to be a ministry in which we can all participate.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

July has certainly been a hot month. I myself was fortunate and was able to leave for eight days. It was an enjoyable trip to Arkansas where the weather average during my stay was around 75-80 degrees with very light humidity. I had expected the mosquitoes to be unbearable but to my delight I encountered no bugs at all. BLESSED BY OUR LORD. PRAISE BE TO GOD. Arkansas has so much natural beauty I would seriously recommend it to all.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Pat Drown as she recovers from her surgery. And with Gary as he navigates her treatments. Our prayers are always with those who are suffering an illness and we hope for them a speedy recovery and comfort for their family.

Lots of work going on behind the scene, and we look forward to updating you soon.

We also look forward to working with our new Pastor Jody and husband David.

I believe their enthusiasm will translate into very active ministries.

Jerry Dotto, Chair, Board of Trustees

July



July 6 WELCOME PASTOR JODY!

Friends and family joined with Faith regulars to celebrate Pastor Jody's first Sunday among us.



July 20 YOUTH CHOIR

Faith's Youth Choir sang "Humble Yourself" for the special music. Great job Alex, D'Shawn, Diamond, Perla!



July 27 HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Hats off to Helen Martin as she celebrates 93 years.



LOOKING ONLINE ..

The unaccompanied immigrant children are attracting attention across the nation these days and our Desert Southwest Annual Conference continues to explore ways in which churches and individuals might help. The Conference published a couple of interesting articles on its website in mid-July.

The first, found at <http://desertconnection.org/help-for-the-unaccompanied-immigrant-children/> starts by giving some background on the situation:

“Violent gangs ... are forcing young children and teens to join their forces. Those resisting the recruitment are being injured or threatened with death. In response, many families are paying as much as \$5,000 to coyotes who are selling transportation and falsely guaranteeing asylum for



lives, increasing numbers of children and teens are leaving their countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala to seek asylum in Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and the United States. Upon arrival at the U.S. border, the coyotes stay on the Mexico side and instruct the unaccompanied minors to go to the people wearing the green uniforms (the Border Patrol) on the U.S. side.

“The laws of the United States provide for asylum for certain refugees fearing persecution in their home countries. Unaccompanied minors have traveled to the U.S. seeking asylum before this growing crisis and, under the Bush administration a system had been built that could process 6,000-8,000 a year. Part of the problem now is that there are now 52,000 seeking asylum and some would prefer that the U.S. border would work as an absolute blockade, not allowing anyone across if they don't already have the proper paperwork to enter the United States. The strain on the system and political controversy surrounding the growing humanitarian crisis on the U.S. border is causing what appears as a standstill. ... ”

The second is a touching first-hand report of a visit to the Nogales Border Patrol by The Rev. Dr.

Dottie Escobedo-Frank, herself the granddaughter of “one who crossed the Rio Grande with dreams.”

<http://desertconnection.org/1000-children/>

We wish to thank you, Faith Family, for all your cards, calls, prayers, visits and concerns during my stroke and now for my continuing recovery. The cards and calls were uplifting and appreciated during these times. Thank you.
Carolyn Woods and Family

RAMBLINGS

FROM THE EDITOR



August is upon us and many are wondering what happened to the summer. Me too! That is partly because we took a three week + road trip north in July visiting family and friends. It sounds like several others were able to do the same in the past weeks. We don't miss the heat when we travel, but we do miss the fellowship at Faith UMC. From all reports July was a great month, and we are looking forward to getting back into the swing of things.

It is exciting to see Jody and David settling in. I'm sure Faith looks forward to an exciting ministry.

I hope you enjoy the August *Koinonia!*



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I wish to thank my guardian angel for your being there for me.
Sandy Cook

TIME TO SIGN UP AGAIN !

Fry's Shopping Rewards



Fry's Community Rewards Program requires participants to re-enroll each August. Although the process looks complicated, it should be pretty easy if you have a computer available. Following are the instructions which Fry's has published. You will need to know the email address and password which you used to establish your account last year.

How to Re-Enroll for the Fry's Community Rewards Program

*Go to <https://www.frysfood.com/topic/community?activePage=community-rewards-2>

*Select 'Sign-In.'

*Enter your email and password then select 'sign in.'

*Select 'My Account', you should see Account Summary at the top.

*Scroll down, Click '**ENROLL**' under Community Rewards. If prompted, enter personal information.

*Under Find Your Organization: Enter the NPO number (82799) or name of organization (Faith United Methodist Church) then select 'search'.

*Under Select Your Organization: Select box next to your organization.

*Then select 'save changes.'*If you have registered correctly, you should now see your organization information listed under 'Community Rewards' on your Account Summary page.

If you have not signed up for the program previously, you will need to select "Register" at the first screen instead of "Sign-In." You will also need the number on your Fry's VIP card.

If you do not have a computer available or need help with enrolling we will try to have a computer during coffee chat for a few Sundays.

Dear Faith friends:

Again, I want to thank you for a wonderful 7 years as your pastor. I have finally had a chance to read through the wonderful notes and look at the pictures that were drawn. I needed a box of tissue, I am not ashamed to say. Thank you for your wonderful sentiments -- and kids, thanks for the GREAT drawings. I also learned that two scarves I received were also from the congregation. You know me sooooo well. They are beautiful beautiful.

Blessings and love to you all.

Judy



OUR CONGREGATION IS PART OF A STAR

Our congregation partners with Duet, an interfaith nonprofit. Duet recently received the top STAR Award from the National Volunteer Transportation Center. STAR awards recognize outstanding volunteer transportation programs; Duet was selected for this honor from a field of 190 nominations from 30 states.

Let's build on that success! More volunteers are needed to meet pressing needs. Service options include helping elders and adults with disabilities get to medical appointments or grocery stores, or visiting, home repairs, help with paperwork, or computer training. Attend a 2½ hour volunteer orientation to begin. Please call 602-274-5022 or visit www.duetaz.org for dates and to register. Thank you!

Questions? Why not check with LaVonna Goudie who regularly volunteers with Duet!



SIGN UP NOW FOR FALL GARDENING

Our Fall gardening season will start in mid-August. If you are interested in renting a garden plot to grow food for yourself or if you would like to help sponsor a plot to grow food for the food bank, please speak to Paula Wolf or Gary Kriege. Our hope is to build and plant more beds for this upcoming season.

General donations of any size are also appreciated.

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE BOXES

As we mentioned last month the Christmas Food Box program will be here before we know it. Virginia and I are already starting to purchase food when we find a good sale.

This year, instead of buying boxes, we are asking for you to start saving some of the boxes you accumulate instead of recycling them.

If by chance you have a box or boxes that are approximately the following sizes, and you don't need them. Please save them. If you bring them to Church, I will break them down and save them. The sizes can be any of the following dimensions:

DEPTH	15¾"	11½"	11½"
WIDTH	11¼"	17"	15½"
LENGTH	18"	16"	18"

The box size can cover a wide range. The above dimensions are the size of boxes we have used during the last 30 plus years.

We need about 60 boxes each year.

Thanks for your help in this mission project.

Mike and Virginia FitzPatrick

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Faith UMC on September 3, 2014. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. It takes 60-90 minutes to complete all five screenings. Life Line Screening is working with us to provide our members a \$10 additional discount off of the screening package in addition to a \$10 donation to Faith United Methodist Church. The Wellness Package, which includes 4 vascular tests and the osteoporosis screening, costs \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). Please note that you must sign up in one of the three following ways in order to get both the \$10 discount as well as the \$10 donation for Faith UMC:

1. Complete and return the provided registration sheet (available on flyers which will be available on Sundays and in the next issue of the *Koinonia*).
2. Call the special Helping Hands registration number, which is 1-800-324-9458.
3. Visit the exclusive Helping Hands website to register. www.helpinghandsforhealth.com

A limited number of complimentary screening certificates are available in the church office.

AUGUST 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<u>August Birthdays</u> 8/9 Rev. Richard Frank 8/10 Janalee Hagen 8/10 Rev. Gary Kriege 8/11 John Goad 8/5 Vern & Terry Goekler 8/13 Mike & Betty Altomare 8/15 John & Carol Getting			1 7:00 pm - Faith Flicks "Noah" K	2 12:30 pm - Forever 39ers K 1:00 pm - Recovery 1-2
3 8:30 am - Choir Rehearsal S 9:30 am - Worship S 10:45 am - Coffee Chat K 1:00 pm - Samoans S	4 4:30 pm - WSA K 6:00 pm - Quilters 4 6:00 pm - TOPS 1-2	5 10:00 am - Quilters 4 6:30 pm - Trustees 4	6 4:30 pm - WSA K	7 9:00 a.m. - RIAZ K	8 7:00 pm - Faith Flicks "Up" K	9 1:00 pm - Recovery 1-2 6:00 pm-10:00 pm Bird Club K
10 8:30 am - Choir Rehearsal S 9:30 am - Worship S 10:45 am - Coffee Chat K 1:00 pm - Samoans S	11 4:30 pm - WSA K 6:00 pm - Quilters 4 6:00 pm - TOPS 1-2	12 10:00 am - Quilters 4 6:00 pm - Finance Committee 4 7:00 pm-Ad Council 4	13	14 9:00 am - RIAZ K 11:30 a.m.-Lunch Bunch Fuddrucker's 1-17 & Dunlap	15	16 7:00 am - UMM K 1:00 pm - Recovery 1-2
17 8:30 am - Choir Rehearsal S 9:30 am - Worship S 10:45 am - Coffee Chat K 1:00 pm - Samoans S	18 6:00 pm - Quilters 4 6:00 pm - TOPS 1-2	19 10:00 am - Quilters 4 6:00 pm - Movie Night S	20	21 9:00 am - RIAZ K	22	23 1:00 pm - Recovery 1-2
24 / 31 8:30 am - Choir Rehearsal S 9:30 am - Worship S 10:45 am - Coffee Chat K 1:00 pm - Samoans S	25 Election set-up K 6:00 pm - Quilters 4 6:00 pm - TOPS 1-2	26 6:00 am - Elections K 10:00 am - Quilters 4	27	28 9:00 am - RIAZ K	29	30 1:00 pm - Recovery 1-2