

Open hearts

Open minds

Open doors

The People of the
United Methodist Church



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



**Let us go now to Bethlehem and see
this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to
us.**

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

Monthly Newsletter from
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Talent, Prayers, Gifts, Service and Witness.



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December 2013

From the **PASTOR**

Celebrate!



I had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I hope that all of you did as well. I know for some it was not as festive as usual because a loved one was missing from the table this year. I know in my heart, however, that the spirit of each was very present.

As I looked around the table yesterday I could not help but remember what Amy told us a couple of weeks ago during the stewardship campaign. She reminded us that it does take a village to raise children. There are so many people and so many influences that go into making up who a person becomes.

I was also reminded of two "Cookie Lessons" that I recently read from Marty Taft, Kelly's cousin:

"...it takes time and effort to create something no matter how big or how small and whatever you make, once it is complete, you have a connection to it and it is in your care. Even something as simple as cookies take time and effort and a certain amount of care to get them where they need to be. As a result I feel a certain connection with the cookies, they are personally made and that is recognized by all the people who consume them. They are something special, they were not just stamped out by a machine, but they were cared for by a set of hands. Our hands are ... capable of things both great and small when guided by our spirit. But by far the best things hands can do is to care for those things that have been placed

in our lives."

"Cookies are a pretty happy bunch when they're about to go into the oven, they have been mixed, mashed, and stirred around. The change is so dramatic that the cookie that comes out of the oven is completely different than the one that went in, and the final result is a much more serious and developed cookie. There is no avoiding it, every cookie will come out dramatically different than when it went in..."

It is the attention to detail that makes the difference – in all things we do – but nothing so important as what we do with children. In last week's Advent study we talked about "exceeding the law" in what we do. The example of raising children was this: by law we must feed, clothe, shelter and educate children. If we do not, we are deemed negligent and must answer to the law. What we do that exceeds that law is to love the children: encourage them, comfort them, nurture them, respect them, and so many more things. We do this with our hands and with our hearts. We "care for those things that have been placed in our lives." This is how they become responsive and responsible adults, happy and healthy – physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

The other thing that I notice is that all the care we give children changes them – just like the ingredients that we put into making cookies. Any one of those ingredients has a specific quality or importance by itself. It is only when they are combined and baked that they become a totally different entity. Children take all the experiences we give them, combine those with who they are genetically, and "come out dramatically different" – hopefully a more

(continued next page)

Celebrate! (cont.)

complete and mature person able to give diverse flavor to the lives of others.

Raising children is one of those things, I believe, where more is better – not in material things, but in love and care and values and God. We accept them for who they are. We may refine some of the rough edges, but we let them experiment and put together different “ingredients” of their own. Who they become will develop over time in the baking process we call life. The time that it takes differs – and for some of us we keep changing our flavor throughout our lives. I don’t think this is bad.

We have several children who are gracing us during this Thanksgiving and Advent season. Let us take notice and be joyful. Let us offer them something that exceeds the law and gives them diverse experiences so that they make become more complete. And let us allow them to “help with the baking.”

My prayer for us this Advent and Christmas Season is that we live and love in a way that the Christ-child grows and develops in us and in our loved ones.

Blessings to all of you.

Shalom, Pastor Judy

Joshua’s Journey



As we approach the advent season with all social obligations, meetings, shopping, and other responsibilities, things become a little more intense. It always seems that, near the end of the year, the pace of life picks up into full-swing and we can easily get overwhelmed and our sense of peace is missing from our everyday lives. It can be quite daunting.

Recently, as an assignment for a class, I was tasked with the responsibility of taking a four hour retreat. And, when I say retreat, I mean it! No cell phone, no computer, no Facebook – nothing but me, God, a candle and peaceful meditation on the grace and peace of God.

This was certainly a lesson for me on peace. During that time, I recognized that in the craziness of life we need to stop, breathe, and allow God’s presence to envelope us. We need to yearn for that relief from the chaos that is life, and focus our time and our attention on our relationship with God.

In this season, I invite you to join me in taking a moment each day to quiet the heart and mind, read scripture, pray, and meditate on the peace of Christ to enjoy a sense of calmness in the craziness.

May you experience the warmth and love of God’s grace this Advent season!

In God’s Graces, Joshua



THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION



Culminating the stewardship campaign and looking forward to the Thanksgiving holiday the pot-luck dinner on November 24th was fun for all! Keeping it lively was a quartet of church



musicians (Francine, Gary, Howard, and Dave) making young and old keep time to the music.

Good food, good music, and good fellowship — all bound together in a community of faith. What more could you ask for???



the corner pew: advent sermons

This year's Advent sermon series will be taken from a book by James W. Moore – and Advent study called “Let Us Go Over to Bethlehem.” Joshua and I were going to preach the lectionary, but realized that this study would coincide with our Cantata: *Make My Heart a Bethlehem*.

Moore makes the case in this study that we can have the “frequent-flyer syndrome” with Christmas. For many people the excitement of the season is missing. They have become used to the routine so that the joy of the season is gone – much like the excitement and joy of that first airplane ride we ever took.

This same syndrome can also occur with our loved ones – our family and friends. He urges us NOT to take each other for granted. We never really know what the day or week or month will hold – so we must make the most of our time together. Be kind and considerate; don't be pre-occupied – pay attention to them. It's important.

And of course we can feel this same way about God. Our society has become so used to the miracles of technology and of medicine. We can be instantly in touch with others around the globe and even in outer space. We have lost the AWE and WONDER of creation and of life. We have begun to give ourselves credit for our success and tend to blame others for our mistakes and bad fortune. We MUST stay in touch with God and feel that joy of when we first began our relationship with God and Christ.

So this Christmas: Be alert! Feel alive! Live with Love! Be considerate! Feel patient! Live out of hospitality and generosity, regardless of how much or how little you may have.

Find the joy and excitement and love and mystery of this wonderful season. Remember the REASON FOR THE SEASON. Remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Remember that it is a time of expectant Hope, of Joy, of Peace and of Love.

Enter into preparation with a feeling calm about you rather than feeling hectic or frantic or exhausted. Blessings to you all this blessed Season.

Joy and Peace, Pastor Judy

December-January **Sermon Series**

Dec. 1 – 1st Sunday in Advent

Communion Sunday
“The Faith of Christmas”
Isaiah 2:1-5 - Luke 2:15-20
Shepherds to Bethlehem

Dec. 8 – 2nd Sunday in Advent

“The Promise of Christmas”
Matthew 1:18-25
Joseph's dream

Dec. 15 – 3rd Sunday in Advent-10:00 AM

CANTATA – 10:00 a.m.
Make My Heart a Bethlehem
Luke 1:46-55; John 3
“The Heart of Christmas”

Dec. 22 – 4th Sunday in Advent

“The Peace of Christmas”
Is. 9:6-7, Is 11:6-10; Luke 2:13-14
Prince of Peace

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve-7:00 PM

Carols & Lessons
Blessing of the Children
Communion
Candle-lighting

Dec. 29– 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

“The Christ of Christmas”
Luke 2:1-14; John 1:1-4, 14
The Word Made Flesh

Jan. 5 – Epiphany Sunday

Communion Sunday
Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12
“The Light of the World”

Jan. 12 – Baptism of the Lord

Renewal of Baptism
Isaiah 12:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17
“Beloved Son of God”

Jan. 19 – Human Relations Day

Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42
“Come and See”

Jan. 26 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-23
“Follow Me”

Coming December 15th!

10:00 A.M.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Wonder!

Sing & Rejoice!

"Make My Heart a Bethlehem"

featuring

Faith Chancel Choir,

Joy!

Faith Children's Choir, and

Faith Handbell Choir

Lift up your

Awe!

Alleluia!



**HANGING OF THE GREENS
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 7th
10:00 am**

**CHRISTMAS EVE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th
7:00 pm**

Come celebrate the birth of the Christ child

Come help decorate the church for Christmas **this Saturday, December 7th**. Be at the church at 10:00 am, have a good time with friends, and finish by sharing a great chili lunch with the Forever 39ers. The chili will be prepared and furnished by Pastor Judy. Bring a side dish to share.

**Lessons & Carols
Blessing of the Children
Holy Communion
Candle-lighting**



HELP FILL FOOD BOXES
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH - 10:00 A.M.

Faith United Methodist Church is once again asking you for your help in packing food boxes on December 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Koinonia Room. Faith Church has been providing food boxes to people in need for 40 or more years. With your help on December 14th, we will once again be distributing Christmas food boxes for another year.

The filling of the Food Boxes is a Church wide event and one and all are welcome to help. We have 42 food boxes to pack. Since we work as a group, it takes about 1 hour to complete. The food purchased for the boxes will be set on table tops in the Koinonia Room

and food boxes will be rolled around the table on a cart. We will be working in teams of two. We also need people to bag the smaller items or restock the table area, as the supplies are put into boxes.

If you haven't made a donation to the food box program, it is not too late. Each food box costs about \$40.00. A donation can be any amount.

We hope to see you on Saturday, December 14th at 10:00 a.m.

Virginia and Mike FitzPatrick
Food Box Coordinators



FAITH-FUL FRIENDS WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE & CHRISTMAS PARTY

Everyone is invited to this crazy kind of gift exchange. One person's trash just might turn into another's treasure!

Bring one useable wrapped white elephant gift per person and a snack to share. Beverages will be provided.

Sunday Evening
December 15th
7:00 pm—10:00-ish

Come join the fun at the Frank's
13640 N. 21st Avenue, Phoenix
Call Frank's at 602-942-2337 (email rlfrank@cox.net)
Or Virginia FitzPatrick at 326-680-2311

GRANDMA'S LUNCH BUNCH



The Grandma's Lunch Bunch met for lunch @ Black Angus on the 21st of November with eight ladies enjoying the good food and conversation. We decided to have our December Lunch

gathering on **Thursday, December 19 @ "Chili's" @ Metro Center.** We meet at the chosen place @ 11:30 for lunch and fellowship. All ladies of the church are invited and welcome to join us for a fun lunch.

NEIGHBORHOOD FLEA MARKET

Saturday, November 9th, dawned bright and clear. A good day for a flea market! And that, of course, is what happened in Faith's parking lot. Chilly morning temperatures caused attendees to welcome the breakfast burritos created in Faith's kitchen. Considering the light rail construction the event was well-attended and many are looking forward to the next semi-annual flea market which has been scheduled for **Saturday, March 15, 2014.** Please note that this is the third Saturday of March, not the second Saturday.



The community garden at Faith is beginning to take shape. This past month, November, saw two important events.



On the 9th an informational / promotional booth was open at Faith's flea market. Staffed by Jane and Gary Kriege, Eunice Moses-Moreno, and John Goad people were told all about the project .

The following Saturday a work party was held to remove the old playground equipment from the plot on the north side of the grounds as this is the spot designated for the garden. It was a lot of work, but many hands made it light. Following are some before, during and after pictures.



With the land now cleared the committee and volunteers look forward to preparing the ground for the garden. They are hoping to be ready to plant by February.



***Next general meeting, Monday, December 2 — 7:00 p.m.
Next work day, Saturday, January 4 — 9:00 a.m.—Noon***

Trustees Report Busy Year

This has been a very busy year at Faith UMC. We have accomplished quite a few projects and continued with many more.

Our flooring is still under repair and will continue into the new year. This process is very time consuming. We have decided to do most of the work though the Methodist Men's Group along with church volunteers. This will save the church thousands of dollars that we will use to upgrade other areas in the church.

This month we had to retire our refrigerator. It had been a faithful friend for almost thirty years. The unit was dismantled to be recycled though one of our local recycling

plants. This way you can be assured that we are doing our green duty. Maybe next year it will be a toaster or an F150.

Each month moving forward the Trustees will attempt to update on what's going on at Faith UMC.

Jerry Dotto, Trustee Chair

Life Line Screening

There are still a few appointment times available for the **Thursday, December 12th**, Life Line health screening which we featured in last month's *Koinonia*. To register you may call (800) 325-9458, You may also register online at www.helpinghandsforhealth.com.



DAVE MCPHERSON TO ASSUME NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

Bishop Bob Hoshibata recently announced a new area of responsibility for Desert Southwest Conference into which the Rev. Dave McPherson will be moving July 1, 2014.

In his announcement Bishop Bob stated, "In order to encourage both the development of new faith communities and the vitality of existing congregations, the vacant New Faith Director position has been expanded. This position, the Conference Director of New Faith/Vital Faith, will meld the two important, inter-related efforts of our Conference. Beginning July 1, 2014, Dave McPherson will assume this new responsibility. Dave has demonstrated his love for the church and has offered excellent leadership through the ministry of the Director of Connectional Ministries, caring for the program of the local churches and ministry settings and finding ways of connecting them to each other, to the community, and to the resources of The United Methodist Church. This new position will allow him to exercise his love for helping churches become more vital as well as his wisdom, creativity and passion for launching new communities of faith.

"Our Conference is rich in opportunities for ministry! On one hand, although we are a relatively small conference, many of these ministry settings are alive with exciting manifestations of God's love in the world. Evidence of radical hospitality abounds. ... Yet, there are many congregations who are 'stuck' without a clear sense of where God has placed them and why.

"I ask you to hold Dave McPherson in prayer as he begins his time of transition to take effect July 1, 2014."

Typhoon Haiyan

Typhoon Haiyan, possibly the strongest storm ever to make landfall, battered parts of the Philippines on Friday, November 8, 2013.

With sustained winds of 195 mph, the category 5 storm cut a swath of devastation across the tip of Cebu and tore through the three large island provinces of Samar, Leyte and Bohol. UMCOR, the relief agency of The United Methodist Church, is working with partners in the Philippines to provide assistance following the typhoon.

Recently, a second food distribution took place in six communities in the interior town of Dagami, which was severely-impacted by the typhoon. The food items, which consisted of rice, oil, salt, brown sugar, beans, sardines, cooking oil, and coffee, were purchased locally to support the Philippines local economy, and will sustain a family of five for five days.

Midwest Tornadoes

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is working with affected conferences to assist with immediate relief needs after tornadoes left widespread damage on Sunday, November 17.

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee were all affected by severe weather, but the most widespread damage occurred in the town of Washington, 140 miles southwest of Chicago, where a powerful EF-4 tornado destroyed or damaged about 250-500 homes, according to news reports.

According to authorities, six people died in Illinois and two men were killed in Michigan. As many as 200 people were injured in Illinois, with about 120 of those injuries occurring in Washington.



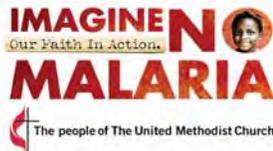
Mark your calendar!

CITRUS GLEANING

Neighborhood Outreach is again sponsoring a church wide gleaning of oranges, lemon and other citrus for donation to the Desert Mission Food Bank. The date for the gleaning or picking of citrus is **Monday, February 17, 2014**, (President's Day). More details to come in the January *Koinonia*.

IMAGINE NO MALARIA WALKATHON

The second annual Faith United Methodist Church walkathon will be held **Saturday, March 29, 2014**. This is to support the national church's Imagine No Malaria initiative to combat malaria in Africa. Details to come in future issues of the *Koinonia*.



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT SEMINAR

From the Central West District:
SAVE THE DATE: **Saturday 12/7/2013**
2:00 pm-4:00 pm
Dove of the Desert UMC
7201 W Beardsley Rd, Glendale

With so much confusion about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Dove of the Desert has promised to be a non-partisan place of hope and peace where people can gather and get information about ACA. You are invited to this non-partisan, non-sales event open to the public and presented by Enroll America, Meritus & Arizona Alliance. Bring your questions and expect answers!



Please go to <http://www.doveofthedesert.com/Events> for more information or to register for this event.

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR



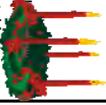
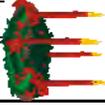
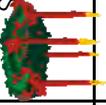
Well, well. Here I am. And I must admit that it was with some trepidation that I agreed to become the editor of the *Koinonia*. It sort of felt like jumping of a cliff backwards. The theory being: if you cannot see it, it cannot hurt you. Definitely not a proven process! Never-the-less here I am – and I haven't broken any bones yet. I am hopeful that I can continue the good work that has been done before me. Please be sure to let me know if there is something you would like to see in the *Koinonia*.

A new feature this month is an update on the work of the Trustees which our chairman, Jerry Dotto, has graciously agreed to provide. It is hard to miss the fact that there are many projects in various states of completion around our facility, and I appreciate Jerry's willingness to keep us "in the loop."

There is a lot going on this time of year, both in the church and in the world. It is my hope that the *Koinonia* will continue to keep us abreast of those items pertaining to our faith and our Faith UMC.

estherfrank@cox.net

P.S. Something you should know about me. I am a procrastinator. (You can just ask Dick if you question that.) What that means is that I push deadlines. It may be the day before publication that I realize I do not have a needed article. I am asking for your help in getting articles to me timely, and thus keeping my feet to the fire. Otherwise I am afraid I may be calling you at 8:00 in the morning with an urgent message that I need something by noon.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 Worship-S 10:00 am-Sunday School 10:45 am-Coffee Chat-K 11:00 am-Children's Choir- 1:00 pm-Samoan Worship 	2 6:00 pm-Quilters-4 6:00 pm - TOPS- 1-2 6:30 pm-Scouts-K 7:00 pm-West Alice Cmty Garden Gen. Meeting—S	3 8:00 am RIAZ - K 9:00 am -Zippers 1-2 10:00 am - Quilters-4 6:30- Trustees—4	4 10:00-11:30am - ADVENT STUDY 7:15 pm-Choir Rehearsal-CR	5 	6 6:00 pm Quilters Midnight Madness 6:30 pm-DBS-1-2	7 10:00 Hanging of Greens—S Lunch with 39'rs 12:30 Forever 39'ers- 6:00 pm CMA-K
8 8:30 am-Choir - S 9:30 Worship- S 10:00 am-Sunday School 10:45 am-Coffee Chat-K 11:00 am-Children's Choir- 11:15 am-Handbells- 1-2 1:00 pm-Samoan Worship 	9 6:00 pm-Quilters-4 6:00 pm - TOPS- 1-2 6:30 pm-Scouts-K	10 8:00 am RIAZ - K 9:00 am-Zippers-1-2 10:00 am - Quilters-4 6:00 pm-Finance-1-2 7:00 pm-Ad Council-1-2	11 10:00-11:30 am- ADVENT STUDY 7:15 pm-Choir Rehearsal-CR	12 	13 6:30 pm-DBS-1-2	14 10f:00 Pack Food Boxes
15 8:00 am-Handbells 8:30 am-Choir - S 9:30 am - Children's Choir 10:00 am-CANTATA—S 1:00 pm - Samoan Worship 7:00 pm—WEGE Franks	16 6:00 pm-Quilters 6:00 pm- TOPS - 1-2 6:30 pm-Scouts-K	17 8:00 am RIAZ - K 9:00 am-Zippers-1-2 10:00 am - Quilters-4	18 10:00-11:30 am- ADVENT STUDY 7:30 pm-Choir Rehearsal-CR	19 8:00 am RIAZ-K 11:30-Grandma's Lunch Bunch @ Chillis	20	21 8:00 a.m.- UMM-K
22 8:30 am-Choir-S 9:30 am - Worship-S 10:00 am-Sunday School 10:45 am - Coffee Chat - K 1:00 pm - Samoan Worship 	23 6:00 pm-Quilters-4 6:00 pm- TOPS - 1-2 6:30 pm-Scouts-K	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Office closes early 7:00 pm -Faith Svc 9:00 pm-Samoan Svc	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS Office Closed	26	27 	28
29 8:30 am-Choir Rehearsal-S 9:30 am- Worship-S 10:00 am-Sunday School 10:45 am - Coffee Chat - K 11:15 am-Handbells-1-2 1:00 pm - Samoan Worship	30 6:00 pm-Quilters-4 6:00 pm- TOPS - 1-2 6:30 pm-Scouts-K	HAPPY NEW YEAR		DECEMBER 2013 Christ is Born! 		
		Birthdays: 12/3 Gary Drown, 12/25 Virginia FitzPatrick, 12/8 Jane Kriege, 12/9 Gerry Gamwood, 12/12 David Devlin, 12/16 Carolyn Woods, 12/17 Pat Drown, 12/19 Jonathan Moses, 12/24 Michael German, 12/25 Perla Ponce, 12/28 Maria Franco, 12/30 Betty Barker, 12/30 Brandon Fuchs		Anniversaries: 12/11 Janet & T.J. Darby		