

Open hearts

Open minds

Open doors

The People of the
United Methodist Church



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

O come, O come,
Emmanuel ...

**The United Methodist
Hymnal #211**



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 in the conference.

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Neil Leftwich	District Superintendent
Jody Topping	Pastor
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KOINONIA
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Members of Faith UMC: Volunteers of Time,
Talent, Prayers, Gifts, Service and Witness.

DECEMBER 2015



Koinonia

Faith United Methodist Church

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December 2015



From the **PASTOR**—

It's hard to believe it's already December! Isn't it amazing how the older we get, the faster time flies? It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating the New Year and looking forward to the promise of 2015. And now, we're at the end of this year...and what have we accomplished? A tremendous amount!!

On November 15, we held our annual Church Conference. It was a great event that included a little bit of business along with a celebration of the activities that occurred during the past year. If you weren't able to attend the Church Conference, please pick up a copy of the Church Conference Booklet. It includes a number of reports from your church leaders that celebrate the ministry of Faith UMC, and is a great way for us to look back at the wonderful things we've done this past year.

For example, did you know that last year we volunteered 1,013 hours toward helping families in need through our partnership with Family Promise? And we donated nearly \$400 toward that cause? Or that last December, we gave 65 food boxes to people in need, especially those served by Wesley Community Center, the Phoenix Indian Medical Center, and some of our Sidewalk Sunday School families? And speaking of Sidewalk Sunday School, did you know that the United Methodist Men provided meals for our Sidewalk children and their families? And they also fed hundreds of homeless people once a month at the Watkins Homeless Shelter in Phoenix?

Our church is an amazing church full of amazing people who are passionate about helping others, and that passion is evident in everything we do. So how can we improve upon

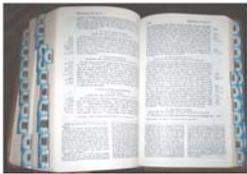
this amazing ministry? Well, there's always room for improvement, and as a church we need to identify those areas where we need to improve, and work toward making positive change. For example, we know we need to do a better job of making disciples for Jesus Christ and inviting non-religious and nominally-religious people to check out and be a part of this church. We need to do a better job of telling our story, and inviting people to become a part of that story. We need to be good stewards and update our facility so we can make better use of the space we have. We need to think outside the box, consider new and different ways we can be "People Caring for People" (did you know that's the slogan that was adopted many years ago to describe who we are and what we do?) We are continually looking at ways we can enhance our worship experience, and your recent feedback through our Worship Service Survey (the results of which are included in the Church Conference Booklet) has already proven to be very valuable as we look for new ways to worship God. So even though Faith UMC is already an awesome place, we can get better...and we will!

As we look ahead to the coming year, let us all remember that we all play a part in helping Faith UMC be the best church we can be. Whether it's greeting worshipers on Sunday morning, volunteering for new as well as existing ministries, serving on a committee, or contributing financially to the mission and ministry of Faith United Methodist Church – God is depending upon US to do God's work here in this place. May God be ever present in our ministry as we look ahead to 2016.

God Bless,

Pastor Jody

Thinking theologically with Pastor Jody:



*I don't mean to say...that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead...
(Philippians 3:12-13)*

This past year has been an awesome one, hasn't it? As a church, we celebrated 50 years in ministry. Who knew back in 1965, when Faith Methodist Church was founded, that its members and friends would touch so many lives?

It was such a blessing for me to be a part of Faith's 50th Anniversary Celebration. I met so many wonderful people who had been a part of this church "back in the day," and enjoyed hearing all the stories and memories that people shared with me, not just during the anniversary celebration, but for several months afterward. I was humbled when I met Melba Daniel this summer, who along with her husband, Ed, grew Faith Church from a handful of people to nearly 400 members. I celebrated Faith's successes, and mourned its challenges. The 50th Anniversary Celebration was a wonderful tribute to Faith's first 50 years, but now, as Paul so eloquently wrote, we need to "focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead..."

Now, I'm not sure Paul really meant for us to completely forget the past. After all, we learn from our mistakes. When you were children, if you were like me, you investigated everything, and one day when my mom was baking, I had a very painful encounter with the oven door. My mom, in an effort to keep me away from the oven by using her leg as a barrier between me and it, accidentally caused me to fall forward, and I burned both my hands on the open oven door. It was a painful experience, but I learned from it. And you can bet on this: I never forgot that things that are hot (like oven doors) can really hurt when we touch them with our bare hands!

No, what I think Paul is referring to is that it doesn't do us any good to wallow in the past. We can't move forward if we are always looking at "the way things were." We always need to be thinking two or three steps ahead, because if we don't, we will never grow as individuals, as Christians, and also as the church.

The community around Faith United Methodist Church has changed over the last 50 years. The people are different, and they expect different things. Back in the day, when I was a child, our family never considered it okay to not go to church. Going to church on Sunday mornings was a given, it wasn't an option. Today, that's not the case. The number of unchurched people today has grown exponentially since the 1960's. And that makes our jobs of making disciples for Jesus Christ a whole lot harder than it was back then. We need to come up with new ways of reaching the unchurched, and we all need to be involved in some way in those new opportunities to be in ministry with those around us.

So I invite you, during the month of December, to come up with some new ideas on ways we can be in ministry with our community. I invite you, like Paul, to put the past behind us and look forward to the future. What are some ways you can reach out to the unchurched and help them experience the goodness that comes from being in relationship with Christ? How can you bring new people into the life of our church? I know, that with God's help, we can come up with some new and creative ways of being in ministry with the people in this community. May God continue to bless our ministry, and walk with us as we look ahead to the next 50 years.

God bless,
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.

Joshua's Journey

Dear Faith Family:

We are at a threshold here at the beginning of the Advent season as we transition from our sermon series to our Advent Series: "Hope is on its way." It is in this spirit of God's Spirit speaking to me that I share some news about my life.

Recently our family went through a serious loss when my committed relationship with my partner suddenly came to an end. D'Shawn and I are coping with the grief associated with this loss as best we can, but we would appreciate your prayers during this time as we adjust to our new normal and progress through the healing process.

As a crisis case manager, I am also quite aware of the grief and loss that my clients experience as they cope with the challenges of life. This is especially prevalent during the holiday season.

As with any loss or grief experience, I believe that God calls us to new ways of being and new ministries as we seek to transform the lives and hearts of those in our family and our community. It is in this spirit that I share with you a transition of ministry and a new opportunity to engage with each other and our community in the upcoming year. Although the specifics will be laid out with Pastor Jody, we are seeking to start a grief support group that will include prayer and discussion on how grief affects our lives, our relationships with each other, and our relationships with God. As I complete my studies in seminary and work with peers in my place of work, the ministries to which God is calling me have evolved, and I am glad that we can work together to help bring healing and wholeness to each other and our local community.

In His Service, Joshua



Upcoming Sermons

As we enter into the season of Advent on November 29th our sermon series, called *Hope Is On The Way*, will center on the coming of Christ - the wonderful gift that God gave to us - then take us all the way to Epiphany as we celebrate God's promises for the future.

December 6.....We Work While We Wait

December 13.....Hope In The King

December 20.....A Surprise Adoption
(Choir Cantata Sunday)

December 24.....Hope Has Arrived
(Christmas Eve)

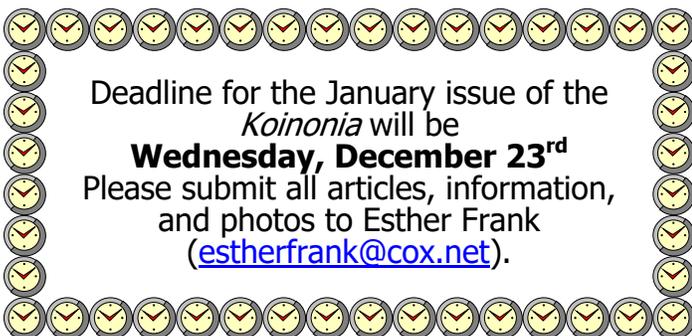
December 27.....We Are Family

HEALTH SCREENING COMING TO FAITH UMC DECEMBER 19TH

Faith UMC is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on December 19th. 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. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.



Deadline for the January issue of the *Koinonia* will be
Wednesday, December 23rd
Please submit all articles, information,
and photos to Esther Frank
(estherfrank@cox.net).



Christmas Cantata



Sunday, December 20th
9:30 A.M.

Featuring
Faith Chancel Choir and
Faith Handbell Choir



Christmas Eve

Family Service



7:00 PM

Thursday, December 24th

FOOD BOXES: **COME HELP DECEMBER 12TH**

So many boxes to pack; so many bellies to fill!

Saturday, December 12th is the day, 1:00 pm is the time. We will gather in the Koinonia room to pack all those empty boxes



currently waiting in the hallway. This is a great group activity with jobs for those that can stay on their feet, those that can lift, and those that need to sit to help. Please note the starting time is 1:00 pm. Many hands make light work, so come add yours to the mix!

ROADRUNNERS HOLIDAY **EVENT DECEMBER 5th**

The Roadrunners invite you to join them for their annual Christmas Lunch on December 5th at the church at 12:30 p.m. It will be catered by Atlasta Catering company and will feature Roasted (bone in) Chicken, Au gratin Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Relish Tray and Dessert. Reservations should be in by December 2nd. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church or you can call the church office at 602-943-3465. The cost will be \$15.00 per person, payable the day of the lunch. Questions - contact Carol at 602-885-0564.



Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly

On Saturday, December 5th we will be decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas, and we would LOVE your HELP!!

Come at 11:30 for a light lunch with Sidewalk Sunday School; or come at noon to help with the decorations. If you plan to come for lunch, please speak to Jane Kriege.

Changes Ahead for E-Giving

Last year Faith UMC introduced electronic giving (or E-Giving) as an option for those wanting to give their financial gifts electronically rather than writing checks or giving cash. Options offered were Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT's) through a company called Vanco, and Credit/Debit card swiping through Amazon Local Register. Several individuals and families have taken advantage of these E-Giving options, and they've found it is not only extremely convenient but, in some cases, advantageous because of the extra points they receive from their credit card companies. We are hoping more people will take advantage of our E-Giving options in the future, but first we need to let you know about some changes being made to the Credit/Debit card swiping.

About a month ago, we were informed by Amazon that their Amazon Local Register application would no longer be available after the first of the year. They stopped adding new clients last October, and will discontinue the entire process in February 2016. Therefore, **beginning January 1, 2016, Faith UMC will no longer be using Amazon Local Register to receive financial gifts via debit or credit**

cards.

This decision on the part of Amazon Local Register does not impact our EFT giving through Vanco. If you are using this service for your financial giving, you will continue to do so unless otherwise informed.

We are currently looking at a number of different options for our E-Giving solutions and are focusing on those with the least amount of fees. As you might imagine, virtually every E-Giving solution involves fees that the church must pay. We consider this part of the cost involved in offering E-Giving as an option to our families. We also hope, however, folks will take into consideration the fees being paid by the church in order for us to offer this convenient method of financial giving and will consider increasing their gifts ever so slightly in order to cover all or part of the cost.

We believe very strongly that E-Giving is an important service for us to offer our members and constituents, and we are doing our best to be good stewards as we consider the various options available. When a decision is made with regard to our E-Giving processes, we will certainly let you know .

Poinsettia Order Form

Would you like to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary? Please fill out this form, and return it to the church along with your payment by Sunday, December 13th. Any excess contributions will be added to the Christmas Eve offering and donated to a United Methodist charity to be determined by the Administrative Council.

Name _____ Phone Number

_____ Number of Poinsettias I wish to buy @ \$10.00 each. \$ _____.

I would like to give an additional contribution to the UMC charity \$ _____.

Total money attached. \$ _____.

Please indicate what you would like printed in the bulletin:

Given by: _____

Please check: In honor of In memory of

Please check your preference:

_____ I will take my poinsettia home.

_____ I would like my poinsettia to go to someone who is home bound.

_____ I can help deliver poinsettias to the home bound Dec. 26-31.



2015 FAITHFUL FRIENDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

Everyone is invited to this crazy kind of gift exchange.

One person's trash just might turn into another's treasure (or not). Just think of it as giftiving.



Location this year will be at the church in rooms 1/2

Friday, December 18th from 6:30 to 9:00-ish

Bring one wrapped white elephant gift per person (this should be a useable item, not junk) and a snack to share.
Beverages will be provided.

IT'S THEIR MISSION!

2016 YOUTH MISSION TRIP

For several years now, groups of young people from the Central West District churches have joined together during the summer for a youth mission trip, and for the first time, Faith's young people have an opportunity to join in this very important mission opportunity.

The 2016 "It's Their Mission" will be doing work projects in Dolores, Colorado, from July 10-16. This mission trip is funded by individuals buying "stock" in the trip. The amount of "stock" needed varies per trip, but it's usually around \$200-250 per person. By funding the project in this manner, the entire body of Christ is able to participate in this ministry...and the youth and adult participants have their expenses covered in full.



Participants are expected to attend monthly planning meetings (generally on the first Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm) beginning in January and going through June. It's very important for the youth who are participating to attend ALL of the planning meetings since these trips are completely youth led and youth planned.

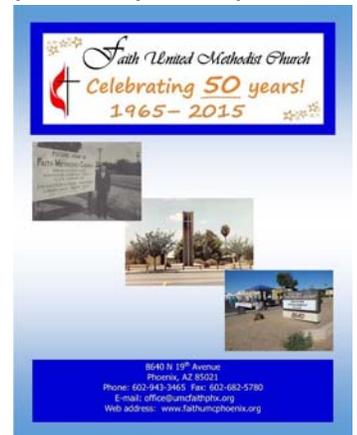
The meeting dates for this year's trip are:

- ♦ January 10, 2 PM at Spirit of Hope UMC
- ♦ February 7, 2 PM (location TBA)
- ♦ March 13, 2 PM (location TBA)
- ♦ April 10, 2 PM (location TBA)
- ♦ May 8, 2 PM (location TBA)
- ♦ June 5, 2 PM (location TBA)

This trip is open to youth who will be going into the 7th grade in the fall of 2016 through graduated Seniors. If your young person is interested in attending, please let Pastor Jody know ASAP.

Faith's 50th Anniversary Booklets are Still Available

If you haven't received your very own copy of Faith's 50th Anniversary Booklet, there are still some available! For the low price of just \$10 (which covers the cost of the booklet printing) you can have your very own piece of Faith UMC's history, which includes highlights from Faith's founding in 1965, pictures of some of those highlights, and memories from a number of individuals who have been part of the Faith UMC family. A special message from Mrs. Melba Daniel, wife of Faith's Founding Pastor Rev. Ed Daniel is also included in the booklet.



Do you know someone who was a part of Faith's long history who would like a copy of this professionally printed booklet? What about family members who have moved away and are no longer able to be a part of this church? The booklets make great Christmas gifts, are inexpensive to mail (only about \$2 in postage is required to send First Class), and are guaranteed to be treasured by those who loved this church.

Booklets will be available during Coffee Chat following worship on Sundays as well as in the Church Office during the week, Tuesday through Friday.

Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!! .

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY UPDATES

Earlier this year, Faith UMC launched a new Youth/Young Adult group. We started out with about a dozen young people, but for a variety of reasons our numbers have dwindled down to about five who are actively participating from time to time. We continue to work to grow the group, but on most Sunday evenings, only one or two have been able to attend our weekly meetings. We know our young people lead very busy lives so, in fairness to everyone, we decided to make a change.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Beginning December 1st our Faith UMC youth will begin meeting with the youth at Trinity UMC, located at the corner of Glendale and 31st Avenues. By partnering together, we will be able to do more things and meet new young people. We think this is a positive move that will help more youth be more involved as they are able. We will also continue to be part of the Combined Youth Group ministry which meets once a month with some of the other smaller UMC youth groups from churches in the West District.



So...when do these groups meet? Here's the monthly schedule:

- 1st Sunday of the month – youth in grades 4-6 meet at Trinity from 6:00 - 7:15 pm*
- 2nd, 3rd, & 5th Sundays of the month – youth in grades 7-12 meet at Trinity, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- 4th Sunday of the month – youth in grades 6-12 meet with the Combined Youth Group. Times and locations vary**

*Note: The December meeting on December 6th will be at a different time due to another event taking place at Trinity. Instead of 6:00 - 7:15 pm, we will meet at Trinity from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. We will be helping with a mission project, followed by pizza and games.

**In December, the Combined Youth Group will be going Christmas Caroling on Friday, December 19th at 4:00 pm instead of meeting on the 4th Sunday of the month. Location TBA. Pastor Jody will provide that information to our young people as it is determined.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

In conjunction with our new youth ministry partnership, Pastor Stephen and Pastor Jody are working on a new combined young adult ministry as well. This ministry will be open to young adults who have graduated from high school and are generally in their late teens/early 20s. We are hoping to attract other young adults who either are not associated with a church or whose churches don't currently offer a young adult group. In the meantime, Pastor Jody is also working with Rev. Brenda Smith, a newly commissioned Deacon and young adult ministry leader at Paradise Valley UMC, on some young adult opportunities, some of which have already been scheduled:



- On December 20, the PVUMC young adult group will be going to the Phoenix Zoo for their annual Zoo Lights event. Activities will include a fun scavenger hunt, followed by snacks at IHOP. They will meet at 6:00 pm at the Phoenix Zoo. Young adults are expected to buy their own tickets, which can be bought online in advance at a \$2 discount. Faith young adults and their young adult friends who would like to attend are welcome. We can arrange carpooling from Faith if desired. Let Pastor Jody know if you'd like to participate.
- On January 15-17, PVUMC young adults are going to Pinetop AZ for a weekend ski trip at Sunrise. Departure is at 3:00 pm on January 15th, returning January 17th in the evening. Cost is \$50 per person, with a \$25 deposit due by the end of December and the rest payable on January 15th. Space for this trip is limited, so get your \$25 deposit to Pastor Jody right away.
- A young adult mission trip is also being planned for July 24-30 in Los Angeles, CA. Sign-ups for this trip will be on December 20th at 12:30 pm at PVUMC. Faith UMC young adults who are interested in going on the trip also must attend the meeting on December 20th. Let Pastor Jody know if you are interested in this important mission opportunity.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are You Interested in Becoming a Member?

If you are, your next opportunity is coming soon!! On Tuesday, January 19th, Pastor Jody will hold a new member class, during which we will talk about what it means to be a United Methodist and the expectations of membership at Faith United Methodist Church. The class will begin at 7:00 pm and will most likely last for just an hour.

Being a member of the church is an outward and visible sign of your commitment to God and the ministries of Faith UMC. Membership is not required in order to attend worship, but being a member is an important statement. It lets others know that God and this church are important in our life. Unlike many organizations, being a member doesn't cost a thing...other than your commitment to uphold the church and its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. Membership also doesn't give you any privileges...you don't get "special treatment" because you are a member. In some cases, only members of the church can perform certain functions, such as being on certain committees or making certain decisions regarding the church. But for most of us, being a member means you are making a public commitment to Christ and his church.

So...if you'd like to find out more about becoming a member of Faith UMC, come to the New Member Class on January 19th at 7:00 pm in the church library. Those who attend the class and decide to join the church will do so the following Sunday, January 24th, during worship. If you have questions about becoming a member of Faith UMC, please contact Pastor Jody.

FAITH LUNCH BUNCH



Faith Lunch Bunch meets monthly. We get together at a favorite spot and enjoy lunch together. Our date is always the third Thursday of the month and our meeting time is 11:30. November we gathered at *Ollies Diner* with 14 attending for food and fellowship. In December we will meet on December 17th at 11:30 for lunch at *Miracle Mile Deli*, 4433 N 16th Street. All are welcome to join in and stop by for lunch with the Faith Lunch Bunch group.

Harp and Piano Recital **December 12th**



Students of Jocelyn Obermeyer from Studio "O" will be giving a recital Saturday, December 12th, at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary at Faith UMC. Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments will be served in room 1-2 following the recital.



Coming Soon: **Faith's New Photo Directory**

During the month of November, a large number of Faith UMC members, constituents, and families had their photos taken for our new photo directory. It was loads of fun watching these individuals and families get their pictures taken, and the pictures have turned out wonderfully!

Our goal is to make the new directories available sometime after the first of the year. However, we know there are some folks who were not available in November to get their pictures taken. Depending on when we can get those people scheduled, the publication of our photo directory may be delayed.



As was mentioned above, the photos taken thus far have really turned out wonderfully. The photo shoot itself is free, although those having their photos taken will be given the option of buying prints, the cost of which will be about the same as what you might pay at places like Walgreens. Our photographer is working very hard to get the photos that have already been taken ready for purchase by the beginning of December – just in time for Christmas!! As was mentioned during your photo shoot, if you had your picture taken in November you will be notified by email with a link to view the proofs and order your prints. Those who don't have email will be contacted by the church office so someone can help you access your photos and order your prints, which of course is optional.

If you were not able to get your pictures taken in November, please contact Pastor Jody either by email (jody.topping@gmail.com) or by phone at 480-766-9272. We will do our best to schedule a make-up day in order to get as many photos taken as possible!

FAITH HOLDS ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

On November 15, 2015, our new District Superintendent, Rev. Neil Leftwich, and his assistant, Carla Whitmire, attended worship at Faith UMC, followed by a wonderful luncheon of soup, salad, and homemade bread prepared by none other than our own Carol Getting and her wonderful crew of helpers! Rev. Neil met first with our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) along with Pastor Jody, then the full Church Conference was called to order. Highlights from the meeting included:



dealing with people in crisis, all agree this was the right move. Please continue praying for Joshua, not only as he graduates from seminary on December 18th, but also as he continues through the candidacy process.

- Election of New Church Officers for 2016 – as was mentioned in last month’s newsletter, our church is trying something new. Instead of having separate Trustees, Finance, and Administrative Council committees, we will instead have a single committee – called the “Church Council” – that will perform the functions of these three committees. This will not only streamline our decision making processes, but will likely result in fewer meetings! The members of the church council are listed in the Church Conference Booklet. There will still be separate Staff Parish Relations, Lay Leadership, and Neighborhood Outreach committees, as well as a number of teams that will do various tasks in the life of the church. They are also listed in the Booklet. Please pray for your new church



officers and give them the support they need.

- Recommendation of Candidates for Ministry – our Church Conference affirmed the ministry of our own Joshua Warner and voted to continue to support him through the candidacy process. During this past year, Joshua made the decision to change his focus from becoming an Elder to the ministry of the Deacon. With his skills and abilities in



- Pastor’s Compensation – members of the Church Conference approved the SPRC recommendation for Pastor Jody’s compensation for 2016.

- Becoming a Reconciling Church – the last order of business was to vote on whether or not Faith UMC would join the Reconciling Ministries Network, thus becoming a Reconciling Congregation. Pastor Jody reported that more than 30 Reconciling United Methodist cards had been filled out by members and constituents from Faith UMC, which represents more than half of our average weekly attendance. When the vote was taken, the decision was unanimous to become a member of the RMN. Now all that’s left is the paperwork!!



At the end of the Church Conference, a slideshow highlighting some of the activities of the past year was shown, then Rev. Neil offered a service of anointing. It was a wonderful ending to an uplifting Church Conference.



Additional copies of the Annual Church Conference Booklet are available in the church office. Not only does it include the business that was handled during the Church Conference, but also written reports highlighting the extensive number of activities that took place during 2015 at Faith United Methodist Church. We encourage you to get your copy of the booklet and read through those reports. If there was ever any doubt that Faith UMC is a vital congregation, that doubt will be eliminated once you read through the booklet.



HAVE YOU NOTICED?

Facility Improvements are being made!

Over the last couple of months, we have been taking care of such much-needed facility maintenance all around the church. You may have noticed we have new doors on the exterior restrooms in the North Education Building...these are just the beginning of the process to renovate these restrooms and make them usable once again. We hope to have that project finished by the middle of January.

We also have a new exterior door leading to the office, thanks to a generous donation from the West Alice Community Garden and the help of handyman Warren Hildebrand. Warren is also working on redoing the entire area around the office door that leads out into the courtyard, along with completing a variety of other projects all around the church. Thanks to Warren, windows are being replaced, other doors are being repaired, the missing baseboards along the hallway in the Administration Building have been replaced... and much, much more!

And also, thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers, including our own John Goad, Gary Kriege, David Topping, and others... as well as a very generous anonymous financial donation, the fence around the Community Garden has been completely replaced!



And let's not forget these wonderful ladies – Carol Getting, Virginia FitzPatrick, Susie Blackstone, and Esther Frank (did I miss anyone??) who have been working very hard to clean out the rooms in the West Education Building so they can be used for ministry instead of for storage. And our own Bob Barker, who does a great job doing a whole lot of chores in and around our church. And Jeff Goudie, who helped us with placement of the Memorial Plaques. And our Samoan congregation friends, who regularly mow grass, pull weeds, and pick up trash.

We are also looking forward to a visit from the NOMADS in February, who will be helping us with additional bigger projects around our church campus.

In the near future, you can expect to see broken windows replaced, the doorways to the West Education Building redone and replaced, and other improvements that will make our church campus look better than new!!

When you get a chance, please thank all of those who have been a part of sprucing up our church campus, as well as those who are constantly helping by seeing things that need to be done and doing them!!



UPCOMING GARDENING CLASSES:

Classes are free! Let us know you're coming by rsvp'ing at the noted website. You can also reach us via email at westalicecommunitygarden@gmail.com or via text or phone at 602-793-7216.

December 8th @ 5PM - Compost 101 - Don't throw those food scraps in the landfill! Compost them and create magic in your garden soil!
<http://tinyurl.com/alicegarden12-8>

January 12th @ 5PM - Organic Pest Management - You love your garden but so do those bugs! Don't spray them! That puts chemicals on your food and you don't want that! Life can be tough for the organic gardener when the bugs come to town. Come learn some strategies for winning the war against pests.
<http://tinyurl.com/alicegarden1-12>

February 9th @ 5PM -Your Spring Veggie Garden- Yes, it's cold outside but spring is right around the corner! It's time to dig in and get things ready for a bountiful spring harvest! Learn what you can plant now for spring AND summer!
<http://tinyurl.com/alicegarden2-9>

March 8th @ 5PM - All About Water - Now is the time of year to check that irrigation system! Learn tips about installation and maintenance so that your veggies are getting the right amount of water at the right times. We'll also talk about things you can do to conserve water to keep that bill low
<http://tinyurl.com/alicegarden3-8>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER 2015		1 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 6:30 pm Trustees - Rm 4	2 10:30 am Study Group - Rm 1-2 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	3	4	5 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 12:00 pm Decorate church 12:30 pm Roadrunners Christmas Lunch - K 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
6 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 11:00 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 1:00 pm Samoan Worship 4:30 pm UMYF (grade 4-6)	7 Office Closed 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	8 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 5:00 pm Garden class 6:00 pm Finance and Ad Council-Rm 4	9 10:30 am Study Group - Rm 1-2 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	10	11	12 10:00 am Studio "O" - S 1:00 pm Food Boxes - K 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
13 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 11:00 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 1:00 pm Samoan Worship 6:00 pm UMYF (grade 7-12)	14 Office Closed 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2 6:30 pm Scouts - K	15 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	16 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	17 11:30 am Lunch Bunch - Miracle Mile Deli	18 6:30 pm Christmas Party - Rm 1-2	19 8:00 am Life Line 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 11:00 am C O D A 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2 4:00 pm UMYF Combined caroling
20 8:00 am Handbells - Sanctuary 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship/Cantata - S 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 1:00 pm Samoan Worship 6:00 pm UMYF (grade 7-12)	21 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	22 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	23	24  7:00 Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary 9:00 Samoan Worship	25 Office Closed 	26 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
27 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 11:00 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 1:00 pm Samoan Worship	28 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2 6:30 pm Scouts - K	29 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	30 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	31		

Birthdays:



12/03 Gary Drown 12/05 Virginia FitzPatrick 12/06 David Topping 12/08 Jane Kriege 12/09 Gerry Garwood
 12/12 David Devlin 12/16 Carolyn Woods 12/19 Jonathan Moses 12/24 Michael German 12/25 Perla Franco
 12/28 Maria Franco 12/30 Betty Barker 12/30 Brandon Fuchs

Anniversaries:



12/11 Janet & T.J. Darby 
 12/29 Jody & David Topping