

The People of the United Methodist Church



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

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come

Song of Songs



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 Faith United Methodist Church 8640 North 19th Avenue

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The Koinonia

Faith United Methodist Church

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February 2014

From the PASTOR-

Celebrate! Dream with Me

It's probably time to talk about the "elephant in the room" – my retirement. I've been avoiding it because I feel



like I still have so much to do. This is in spite of the fact that I know that we NEVER get everything done. I should know that more than others. I also know that a pastor never really fully retires. The Church (and more importantly, God) NEVER lets us quit doing ministry. But then, you all know that as well, because God doesn't let go of lay persons doing ministry either. All of you who are retired (and some still working) are extremely busy in a variety of ministries.

My official retirement date is July 1, 2014, immediately following this year's Annual Conference. Many people have been asking me what my plans are. The short answer is – I have no plans. The longer answer is: I will continue living in the Phoenix area, at least for now. I will align myself with a United Methodist Church (as yet unchosen) that will become my "charge church."

In case you weren't aware, both Dave McPherson and Gary Kriege have Faith UMC as their "charge church." Neither is a member of any UM church, but members of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference.

In addition, I will most certainly be involved in some ministry at the local, district and conference levels. I keep thinking that I want to use my Spanish, so that is a possibility. There are several UM churches that have

Hispanic ministries that could use an extra hand. I also have given thought to helping in local schools reading to children or helping with some aspect of their schoolwork. I certainly want to travel.

All of that is after July 1st. Until then I (*we*) still have a lot of work to do. We are making improvements in the property – both for safety and for function. (*Please try to attend the Trustee meeting this Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Koinonia Room to hear about all the plans.*) The West Alice Community Garden is moving along toward its first planting (*Attend the dedication and planting on Saturday*, *February 15th at 9:00 a.m.*)

We have ongoing ministries that are a vital part of our mission. In the next five months we will host Family Promise twice, provide meals to Watkins shelter 3 times, glean citrus for the food banks in February, and Walk for No More Malaria in March.

Joshua Warner, our seminary intern, and I, will continue planning new and exciting worship weekly as he hones his skills for ministry.

I've put forth the challenge in *the corner pew* for us to do another Lenten Devotional this year. There will be an Easter cantata in April. Three teens will be confirmed in June on Pentecost.

Our partnership with Washington Elementary School District continues through our contributions of food and supplies, my involvement on the Business Advisory Team, annual land lease, and easement for access from Alice Avenue.

When Bishop Bob was here in December he asked what we thought it takes to be a vital

(continued next page)

Celebrate! (cont.)

congregation. I believe that we have the makings of such a congregation. Are we totally there – vital all the time? Probably not. Do we have the capability of being more vital? I say, YES!

We do have the basis for a more vital children's program. I would love to see us have a Children's Choir. People are willing, but that takes money. I would love to have an organized youth program for our teens to keep them more connected to the church, the district and the conference. This takes time, energy and money.

These are just a few of my rambling thoughts as I look ahead to the next five months. I heard Jackie Evancko singing on my CD player this morning (teenager from Pittsburgh with a LARGE voice). The title of the song was "Dream with Me." Sounds very close to our Conference theme of "Imagine." Faith UMC has always been in the midst of great ministries because of living out its dream and its mission. Let's continue to dream. Let's continue to do ministries. Let's live out our mission. As Stephen Covey has written, "There are always two creations. One when we think of it and plan it, and the other when we act on it and make it happen."

Shalom, Pastor Judy

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.



<u>Joshua's Journey</u> *Getting Away*

Each semester, sometime before the semester begins or after it is completed, I always like to go somewhere – to get away for a break. Usually it's somewhere that's not a

desert. For example, I have gone to San Diego, Los Angeles, or Flagstaff. Even if it's for a day or two, it's nice to get out of my normal daily schedule and do something different.

This past weekend, I went to San Diego to enjoy the culture of southern California. I walked on the beach, read a book (other than a textbook!), and enjoyed the peacefulness that comes in driving the many miles between here and there.

I had a chance to reflect on the ministry and life of Jesus and how Jesus frequently went into retreat away from the crowds. I am even reminded of the story in Mark 4 where Jesus tells the disciples to leave the crowds, get into the boat, and go to the other side of the sea. Looking at the story, we see that Jesus fell asleep and rested even in the midst of a raging storm with water pouring into the boat, threatening to sink it.

That's not the only example where Jesus went away. Throughout the life ministry of Jesus, there are many times where Jesus went away, and from those examples that's where I have learned that I need that time for rest and retreat.

I believe that's what we must expect from ourselves if we are going to be effective Disciples of Christ. We must learn that we cannot be everything to everyone all the time. It's ok to say "no" and it's perfectly fine to get away for retreat. By doing so, we radiate the character of Christ.

In God's Graces, Joshua

THANKS!

I wish to thank all of you for all your prayers, cards, and thoughts during my surgery and recuperation time.

Sandy Cook

the corner pew:

liturgical seasons

Although we've just entered the New Year of 2014, we are well into the Christian liturgical year. As you may or may not know, our "Christian Year" begins with the season of Advent, four weeks before Christmas. This is followed by the Christmas season (remember the "12 Days of Christmas") and then the Epiphany – ways in which God and Christ are made known to us – the Star, Jesus' baptism, and scriptures that talk about the Word and Light among other things.

In one month we will begin the two most important seasons of our Christian calendar – Lent and Easter. I'm sure you've noticed that the date for Easter moves around from year to year, anywhere from March 22 – April 25. It is a bit later than usual this year. Ash Wednesday is not until March 5th and Easter on April 20th. This is because we do not celebrate Easter based on our regular calendar.

As any good modern person, I went to the internet for a concise explanation of this phenomenon: At the heart of the matter lies a very simple explanation. The early church

fathers wished to keep the observance of Easter in correlation to the Jewish Passover. Because the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ happened after the Passover, they wanted Easter to always be celebrated subsequent to the Passover. And, since the Jewish holiday calendar is based on solar and lunar cycles, each feast day is movable, with dates shifting from year to year. Now, from here the explanation grows more complicated... Today in Western Christianity, Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the Paschal Full Moon date of the year...(which) is determined from historical tables, and has no correspondence to lunar events. This latter basis is why Easter usually, BUT NOT ALWAYS, coincides with the Jewish holiday of Passover.

Lent is that 40-day season prior to Easter and lasts 46 days. Because Sunday is "The Lord's Day," the day of the week on which Christ arose, the six Sundays are not considered in the count.

Lent is that time in which we are to prepare our hearts for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus as Christ. We traditionally do special prayerful and meditative activities to quiet ourselves and turn our thoughts inward to take stock of ourselves.

In preparation for Lent, I want to encourage all of you to write some meditation to put into a Lenten Devotional booklet. We did this about three years ago, and it is time that we Please consider writing do another. some short piece that tells something special to you. It could be any topic: some scripture that touches you, and why; some event that has difference made a in your something that you witnessed that was a "closest to Christ" moment; some time that you felt that the Holy Spirit was at work in your or another's life. The possibilities go far beyond these

few that I've mentioned.

If it involves another person who is living, please make sure that you have that person's permission to use his or her name. The length can be anywhere from one half to one full page, typed and double-spaced.

The deadline is February 21st so that the devotional can be printed and distributed on Sunday, March 2nd to begin reading on Ash Wednesday. Call me if you have questions. In next month's *Koinonia* I will talk of some things that we might consider doing during Lent in addition to reading the Faith UMC Lenten Devotional.

Blessings, Pastor Judy

Sermon Series February 2 - March 2, 2014 Epiphany

Feb. 2 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany Communion Sunday

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 "The Just, the Wise & the Blessed"

Feb. 9 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20 "Discernment and the Kingdom of Heaven"

Feb. 16 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 5:21-37; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 "The Intent of God's Law"

Feb. 23 – 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 119:33-40; Matthew 5:38-48 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 "Building with God's Word"

Mar. 2 – Transfiguration Sunday Communion Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9 "With Veiled Faces"

March 5 - April 19, 2014 Lent through Easter Sunday

Mar. 5 - Ash Wednesday - 7:00 p.m. Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Sundays Mar. 9 through Apr. 6 Lenten Sermon Series

Apr. 13 - Palm - Passion Sunday
"The Triumph and the Loss"

Apr. 17 - Maundy Thursday

Apr. 18 - Good Friday

Apr. 20 - Easter Sunday 7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service 10:00 a.m. - Cantata

FAMILY PROMISE

Faith will be hosting families the week of February 23rd through March 2nd and the week of April 27th through May 3rd. If you are able to help, please contact Gary and Jane Kriege.



GRANDMA'S LUNCH BUNCH

Grandma's Lunch Bunch meets monthly for fun, food and fellowship on the third Thursday of each month. All ladies are most welcome to join us.

Our January trip was to "Bobby Q" with eleven ladies attending. It was good food and fun for all. We decided that we would travel on February 20th to "Mary Coyle's" @ 5521 N 7th Ave. We will meet @ 11:30 for a sweet Valentine's treat style lunch.

TRUSTEE REPORT

FAITH UMC FAMILY AND FRIENDS

We are off to a roaring start in this new year. Tasks have been assigned and accepted by the trustees. Their reports will be given and discussed at our February meeting. Topics will include landscaping, new locks, A/C work, kitchen upgrades, doors, painting, flooring, and some updates on the West Alice Community Garden.

As mentioned earlier this meeting is open to the entire congregation, and it is hoped many of you can attend if circumstances allow. If not you can read about it in the next edition.

The Trustees are hoping for a speedy recovery for Barbara Babbitt who dedicated so much time and energy heading and participating in the workings of this church. especially as the Trustee Chairperson.

May the LORD bless our efforts.

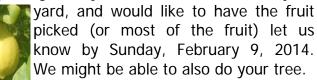
Jerry Dotto, Trustee Chair

PLAN CHANGES - CITRUS FOR MISSIONS

Gleaning scheduled for President's Day - February 17th,

Neighborhood Outreach is sponsoring a church wide gleaning of oranges, lemon, and other citrus which will be donated to the Desert Mission Food Bank. The date for the gleaning or picking of citrus is **Monday**, **February 17**, **2014** (**President's Day**) between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

We already have several fruit trees we will be picking. If you have citrus trees in your



We can also pick up Citrus Fruit, if you are willing to pick the fruit on your tree. So another way, to help Citrus for Missions to be even more successful would be to pick some of your own fruit and allow us to pick it up on February 17.





St. Patrick's Catholic Community (10815 N. 84th St., Scottsdale) is throwing its annual Mardi Gras party to benefit the Justa Center, and you are invited!

Join us on **Saturday**, **Feb. 22**, for a casual evening of food, fun, and dancing. The festivities start at 7 p.m., and tickets are \$60 each (available at www.justacenter.org). Seating is limited, so buy your tickets early!

Let the good times roll, while helping the Justa Center continue its mission of finding homes and needed services for homeless senior citizens.

Program change by Desert Mission:

Due to a Desert Mission policy change, the only way they will accept the fruit this year is if it is already put into special bags from the food bank. This year we will need extra help to bag the fruit we pick. After picking the fruit we plan on returning to Faith UMC and bag the fruit we picked. We will do it so there is a mix of oranges, grapefruit, lemons or limes in each bag. If you can help to bag fruit during the afternoon of February 17, 2014, we will start bagging between 12:30pm and 1pm. All help will be appreciated

We hope everyone can help with picking the fruit. Or you can meet at Faith around 12.30pm and help sort and bag fruit. A light lunch will be served between the two activities. So if you can help in any way please sign up in the Koinonia Room after church.

If you collect small boxes between now and then, please save them for the fruit. We will also need to borrow extra picking poles if anyone has one in their garage. Rakes will also be needed.

We will try to pick most of the fruit and leave some for you and your family. This is our fourth year. Come join the fun.

KITCHEN DONATION GUIDELINES

We do appreciate receiving items, etc., which you no longer need. However, please check with me first as we only have so much room and some items we have plenty of (such as coffee mugs, etc.) This also includes food items.

I would really appreciate it..

Thanks! Carol Getting

DOLORES PFAFF RESIGNS

Dolores Pfaff resigned this past month as church secretary. Mike German has accepted the position for the next several months. We

welcome Mike as we thank Dolores for her many years of faithful service. We hope to have a thank-you celebration for Dolores during coffee chat in the near future; as soon as her health permits.



INS, OUTS, & WHEREABOUTS

Not only are we blessed with great weather during the winter, we have also been blessed with the return of some of our winter guests this past month. Both the Ryder's and the Hancock's have been warming our pews recently. Unfortunately, Marvin and Roberta have had to defer their annual visit this year; Roberta is recovering from a nasty fall on the ice back in the cold winter climate!

Speaking of the season, although it is winter on the calendar, Roberta wasn't the only one that seemed to hold onto fall. Both Ron and Wendall are recuperating from recent tumbles. Also on the mend are Walter, Shirley, Barbara B, Eleanor and Sandy – all recovering from various recent surgeries. Sandy and Barbara rejoice that they have now healed enough that they is able to drive! And if you see Carol hobbling a bit during coffee chat it will be because she finally will have had the surgery she needs on her foot.

It has been good to see Jasmine attending with Monica - increasing the ranks of our children's choir and Sunday school groups. We understand that her mother continues to improve after the heart problems she incurred last fall.

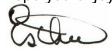
Oh, and if the Kriege's look especially relaxed now it is probably because they were gallivanting in Ecuador and Galapagos for a couple weeks.



Easter is very late this year which means we have the whole month of February to rejoice in the Epiphany. It is not hard to rejoice this time of the year when you live in the Valley of the Sun. Lengthening days and unusually warm temperatures have encouraged all to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. February marks the time when many people begin planting gardens. Dick and I do not have especially green thumbs, but we will be giving it a go again this year. This year we decided to start from seeds for some tomato, marigold and herb plants. The "babies" have sprouted and are settled by a bedroom window, but I am impatient, and I talk to them daily to encourage them to get a little more meat on their bones! In God's time.

Our family rejoiced at the birth of another great-granddaughter shortly after New Years. I have volunteered to become a grand-nannie (is that where "Grannie" comes from?) so I will be in Boise for about 6 weeks beginning the last week of February. In this age of computers and cell phones I will be able to stay in touch, but I will miss the one-on-one contact. Please do help by sending any photos / information / articles to me (estherfrank@cox.net). I will have my laptop computer with me so hopefully the Koinonia will continue to be published in a timely manner. The deadline for input will continue to be one week before the end of the month.

I hope you enjoy this February issue.



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.



DEDICATION and GRAND PLANTING!

Join us in the excitement and celebration of welcoming the birth of the

West Alice Community Garden: Saturday, February 15th at 9:00 AM.

You may participate in the planting following the dedication immediately contributing in various ways.

•Contribute your time and energy — Come pray over the garden during the dedication and help with the planting

 Contribute bedding plants — You can get small "3-pots" for \$1.99 at most nurseries. Any veggie is welcome.





•Sponsor a bed or a portion of a bed and see your name proudly displayed on a plaque.

4 x 8 beds are \$65.00 or \$2.00 a sq. ft. These fees will help to pay for the water and to maintain the irrigation system.

What to plant: Leafy things, green onions, peas, peppers, radishes, summer squash, sunflowers, tomatoes, basil, beets, bok choy, carrots, chard, cucumbers and of course flowers. Anything vining must be on a trellis.

Garden Wish List: We still need all kinds of tools, hoses, gloves, fencing, encouraging words, positive attitudes, etc...

Peat pots: Jan 20th, LaVonna Goudie Monica Halfhill, Eunice Moses and Sparrow had a delightful time enjoying the sunshine and Dear family and friends, making peat pots.



Finding Your Niche



Most of us don't think twice about the freedom we have to jump in our cars and drive to work, Partners in Health & Aging grocery stores, friends or doctors. However, thousands of people in

our community do not have that ability. Elders and adults with disabilities often have health or vision issues that prevent them from driving. This can lead to despair; many move out of their homes because they feel they have no other options.

Consider serving through Duet, congregation's partner in service, to provide help and hope to a neighbor in need. Marilyn is one such volunteer. After retiring as an oncology nurse, Marilyn searched for a way to give back. Marilyn was captivated by the many ways she could volunteer through Duet and decided niche her was in offering transportation. "Duet makes volunteering so easy," says Marilyn. "You drive your own vehicle and you choose who, when, and where you drive. Plus, you meet so many interesting people. It's so rewarding, and someday I just might need Duet's help, too."

Our own LaVonna Goudie is a volunteer. So discover your "niche" - there are many options such as visiting, grocery shopping, computer training - by attending Duet's next 2 ½ hour volunteer orientation. Call 602-274-5022 or visit www.duetaz.org for dates and to register. Thank you!

BETTY CAMPBELL ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS AVAILABLE

I invite you to access the videos I have on You Tube by going to the following address: http://

www.youtube.com/channel/ UCGuq94Zj6QhAt4F8cpdVEqq/videos.

Inspirational Preludes Keep Your Eyes on the Light Peace Begin with Me

Take care. God bless

Betty Campbell NOTE: the videos are copyrighted. CDs/DVDs are available)

LIGHT RAIL CONSTRUCTION

No-one can miss the fact that there is a lot of construction on the roads around Faith United Methodist Church. 19th Avenue has become a two-lane bumpy road that migrates back and forth from the west side to the east. Access to Alice is periodically closed. And we now have an expanded turn-out for the bus stop in front of our church.

This is Phase I of the Valley Metro's Northwest Extension. It extends the existing light rail service 3.2 miles from Montebello (Christown Spectrum Mall) up to and around the corner at Dunlap. There will be stations on 19th Avenue at Glendale and Northern Avenues as well as the station and park-and-ride area on Dunlap. A great addition to our area — but quite a ways off.

In the meantime, although the dust seems to have settled quite a bit for the time being, no matter where you look -

North

or South,

it's a mess.
But Faith UMC is still
"Open for Business!"



"Love Our Community" Event

Join Valley Metro and Open Door Fellowship Church for a "Love Our Community" event and show your Valentine's Day appreciation for local businesses on 19th Avenue. This family-friendly celebration will take place on Sunday, February 9 and is open to the public. The purpose is to showcase small businesses in the light rail construction zone and encourage local shopping.

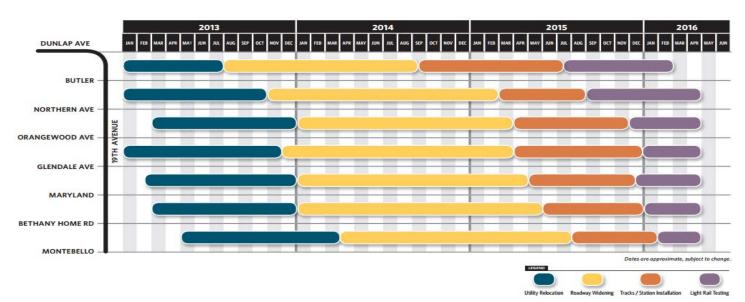
WHO: Valley Metro, city of Phoenix, local businesses and neighboring community

WHAT: Guests will enjoy kid-friendly activities, crafts, booths featuring local businesses, food trucks, prizes and giveaways. There will also be testimonials from local shoppers about the businesses they love and remarks highlighting the community benefits of locally-owned businesses on 19th Avenue.

WHEN: Sunday, February 9, 2014, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WHERE: Open Door Fellowship, 8301 N. 19th Avenue (SE corner of 19th Avenue and Butler Drive).

PLANNED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 2014		Birthdays: 2/4 Eunice Moses 2/5 Jerry Dol 2/10 Stephanie Kriege 2/13 Brian Go 2/16 Crespin Mendoza 2/18 Amy Pric 2/23 Mary Lou Shields 2/28 S Anniversaries: 2/9 Dick & Kay Holmstad 2/16 Joe & Cheri Bittinger 2/22	tto Lad Sus	2/8 Olie Ball 2/15 Brandon Goad 2/13 Terry Goekler ie Blackstone 2/15 Wendall & Verabelle Smith nnis & Claudia Marsollier		1 12:30 pm-Forever 39'ers-k
2 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal - S 9:30 am - Worship-S 10:00 amSunday School 10:45 amCoffee Chat-K 11:00 am-SPRC-4 11:15 am-Handbells-Rm 1-2 1:00 pm - Samoan Worship-S	3 6:00 pm - Quilter-Rm 4 6:00 pm - TOPS-Rm1-2	4 9:00 am-Zippers-Rm 1-2 10:00 am. – Quilters-4	5 10:00 am-Bible Study-1-2	6 9:00 am-RIAZ-K	7	φ 2 5 6 10
1:00 pm-confirmation class	6:30 pm-Scouts-K	6:30 pm-1rustees-km 1-2	7:30 pm -Cnoir -CR	6:30 pm-DBS-Rm-1-2		6:00 pm-Bird Club-Kas
8:30 amChoir Rehearsal - S 9:30 am - Worship 10:00 am-Sunday School 10:45 am - Coffee Chat - K 11:15 am-Handbells-Rm 1-2	6:00 pm - Quilter-Rm 4	9:00 am-Zippers-Rm1-2 10:00 am-Quilters-Rm 4 6:00 pm-Finance Com.	10:00 am-Bible Study-1-2	9:00 am-Riaz-K	HAPPY VALENTINES DAY	8:00 am – UMM – K 4-9:00 am – Confirmation 14 Retreat Rebruary February
1:00pm – Samoan Worship	6:30 pm-Scouts-K	7:00 pm-Ad Council	7:30 pm-Choir-CR	6:30 pm-DBS-Rm 1-2	E	
16 FAMILY PROMISE ENDS 8:30 am-Choir Rehearsal – S 9:30 am- Worship-S 10:00 am-Sunday School	17 President's Day	18 9:00 am-Zippers-Rm 1-2 10:00 a.m. – Quilters-4	19 10:00 am-Bible Study-1-2	20 9:00 am – RIAZ – K	21	22
10:00 am-Sunday School 10:45 am - Coffee Chat – K 11:15 am-Handbells-Rm 1-2 1:00 pm-Samoan Worship-S	9:00 am-Citrus Gleaning 6:00 pm-Quilters-4 6:00pm -TOPS - Rm 1-2					
23	24	25	26	27	28	
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1:00pm – Samoan Worship 5:00 pm-FAMILY PROMISE	6:00 pm -TOPS -Rm 1-2	7:00 pm-Neighborhood Outreach	7:30 pm-Choir-S	6:30 pm-DBS-Rm 1-2		