

Open hearts

Open minds

Open doors

The People of the
United Methodist Church



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

... for all things come of
thee, and of thine own
have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29



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

Monthly Newsletter from
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Members of Faith UMC: Volunteers of Time,
Talent, Prayers, Gifts, Service and Witness.

NOVEMBER 2015



Koinonia

Faith United Methodist Church

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November 2015

From the **PASTOR**—

In June 2014, I was commissioned by Bishop Bob Hoshibata as a Provisional Elder in the United Methodist Church. The commissioning occurred during the Ordination Service at Annual Conference, and some of you even attended to support me during this exciting time.



For those of you who don't know, our United Methodist Book of Discipline requires that those seeking Ordination and Full Membership in the Clergy Conference as either a Deacon or an Elder must serve a minimum of two years under appointment by the Bishop. During those two years we have the opportunity to "get our feet wet" so to speak – it's meant to be a time of further discernment regarding God's call upon our lives as well as a time of gaining more experience as clergy. In some ways these first two years are like a probationary period, in that part of its purpose is to help us be more effective in our ministry.

So, what's the difference between a Provisional Elder and one that is fully ordained? The main differences between the two have to do with voting rights and Sacramental Authority. As a Provisional Elder, there are certain things that I cannot vote on during the Clergy Session at Annual Conference. Furthermore, as a Provisional Elder, I can only administer the sacraments within my appointed church community.

As a Provisional Elder, my first appointment was...right here!! I was appointed to serve as

your Pastor right out of the gate, and you have all been so gracious to me as I learn what it means to be a pastor in charge of a church. You have opened your arms and your hearts to me and my family, and you've helped me learn from my mistakes. For that reason I feel very blessed to be your pastor, and look forward to our future together as people doing God's work in our community and in the world.

Since June 2016 will mark my two year "anniversary" as a Provisional Elder, I'm starting the process of applying for Ordination and Full Membership in the Conference. By the time you receive this newsletter, my application materials will have already been submitted...and that's just the beginning. In addition to submitting about a dozen different application forms, I will also be submitting a number of other documents, including about 26 papers answering various questions concerning my call and my experiences in ministry thus far. There will also be a team from the Board of Ordained Ministry visiting our church and meeting with various individuals to determine whether or not I'm ready for full ordination, and in February, assuming the Board likes what they've seen, I will meet with the Board so they can determine whether or not to recommend me for Ordination. It's a lengthy, difficult process, but I know with God's help, and with your prayers and support, we'll get through it together.

Which brings me to two requests I'd like to make of all of you: First, I would greatly appreciate your grace during the next two months. The rest of the application documents,

(Continued on page 2)

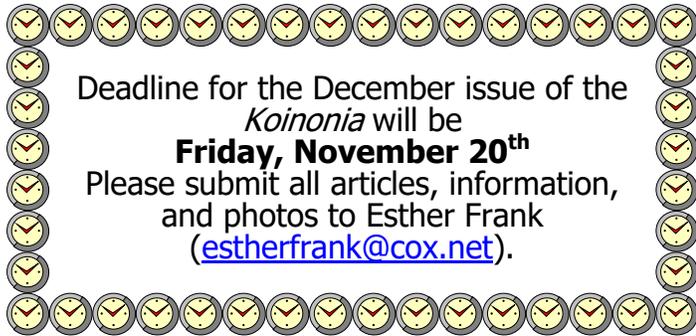
(Continued from page 1)

including all those papers mentioned above, are due on January 1, 2016. This means the next two months are going to be very hectic, not only because I'll be doing a lot of writing, but we'll also be in the midst of both our Stewardship Campaign and Advent. I promise to be attentive to our congregational needs as much as possible, but I will also need some days away so I can devote time and energy to writing my papers. I will make sure there are individuals available to handle emergencies and urgent needs, but your grace as I take care of these other matters will greatly be appreciated.

And second, I would greatly appreciate your prayers during these next two months. I know that your prayers will strengthen me for the task ahead, so please, if you have a personal prayer list, include David and I and our family as we go through this process together.

Thank you so much for the privilege of being your pastor, and for all your love and support now and in the future. May God continue to bless our time together.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jody



SIDEWALK SUNDAY SCHOOL **UPDATE**

We are so excited to be once again offering Sidewalk Sunday School to the children in our community. Unfortunately many of our families from last year have left the area, so we are (in a way) starting over as we encourage new families to come and be a part of this active worship service that's offered on Saturday mornings.

In addition, some of our volunteers from last year are no longer able to help us out. So... we need your help. We're looking for folks who love kids and want to help nurture them in their faith to join us on Saturday mornings for this vital ministry.

Can you help by...

...setting up and being a Shepherd during the Sidewalk worship service? This involves arriving at the church around 9:30am, helping set up, being present during the service and helping out as needed.

...preparing and serving lunch to the children after the Sidewalk service is over? This involves arriving at the church around 9:30am, preparing the food (usually hot dogs, hamburgers, or something simple) and cleaning up.

...visiting families and reminding them about the upcoming Sidewalk service? This involves being available on Friday afternoons and driving to the children's homes, giving them a flyer reminding them that Sidewalk is happening, and bringing any concerns to the attention of Pastor Jody.

If you can help in any of these areas, please let Pastor Jody know. Your involvement will help our Sidewalk Ministry be successful in making disciples for Jesus Christ .

New Photo Directory is Coming! **Make Your Photo Appointment Now!!**

We are working with a local semi-professional photographer to take photographs of our members and constituents for a new photo directory. These photos will not only be included in the directory, which will be compiled by our office and made available to you at no charge, but will also be available for purchase...just in time for Christmas!!

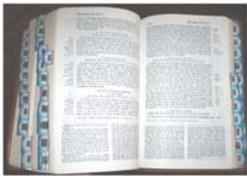
Appointments to have your photos taken can be made now for the following days:

- Saturday, November 7, beginning at 9am
- Sunday, November 8, beginning at 11am
- Saturday, November 14, beginning at 9am (Note: this is the same day as our Community Market, so you can come have your picture taken and do some shopping at the market at the same time!!)

Please plan to arrive about 15 minutes early for your appointment.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity!
Call the office today to make your appointment!

Thinking theologically with Pastor Jody:



*Give thanks to the Lord for God is good; God's love endures forever.
(1 Chronicles 16:34)*

I have a love-hate relationship with the month of November. I love it because by the time we get to November, the weather is starting to cool off and we can spend more time outdoors. It's also the month when Thanksgiving occurs, which traditionally has been dedicated to spending time with family... and eating way too much food!

But November is also the month before December, which for our family, is the absolute busiest month of the year. Not only do we celebrate David's birthday in December, we also have our wedding anniversary, not to mention Christmas. And December is also the busiest month for the Phoenix Chorale, of which David has been a member of the bass section for more years than I care to remember! And now that I'm a pastor the season of Advent, which is arguably one of the most important seasons in the life of the church, is yet another month-long event that consumes a significant amount of time. So I know when we get to November that December isn't far behind...and November becomes a month of panic!

So every year I look forward to the month of November...but I also dread it because it's the calm before the storm. Do you have the same response to November? Or are you one of those who can sit back and enjoy it?

Of course one of the high points of November is Thanksgiving. It's a time when we reflect upon all the blessings we've received over the previous year. It's also a time when we gather with our loved ones, some of whom we haven't seen for quite some time, and catch up on all the "happenings" that have gone on in our lives. But most of all, it's a time for us to give thanks to God for all that God has done for us.

The bible verse from 1 Chronicles is a testimony to what it means to be thankful. Written around 350-300 BCE, it's what we call a

post-exilic writing: it reflects the feelings of God's people who were taken into exile by the Babylonians, which ended in about 539 BCE. The book, along with its companion, 2 Chronicles, is important for us from an historical standpoint because it helps us more fully understand what the Hebrew people experienced at the hands of the enemy.

Imagine, if you will, that you've been involuntarily taken away from your home and made to live in a foreign land. Perhaps some of you don't have to imagine this; perhaps you've lived it, and you know how God's people felt. Being away from the people you love, and the life you've come to know can be devastating. It can cause even the happiest person to be angry, depressed, and forlorn. But in spite of these feelings, the exiled are able to thank and praise God for all that God has done for them.

²³*Sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

Tell of God's salvation from day to day.

²⁴*Declare God's glory among the nations,*

God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

Over and over, throughout Chapter 16, the author of 1st Chronicles praises and thanks God in spite of adversity.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could do the same? Often when we are going through hard times, we find it difficult to praise and thank God. But that's the mark of a true believer. When we can thank God when times are rough, when we acknowledge God's love and God's grace, even through adversity, we are not only acknowledging God's sovereignty, but also God's loving presence in our lives.

I'm reminded of Corrie ten Boom, who along with her sister, was imprisoned by the Nazi's during World War II. At one point during their captivity, Corrie's sister reminded Corrie that they should give thanks for the fleas... because the fleas kept the Nazi guards away, and as long as the guards were away, they could hold Bible study in the barracks. Can you imagine that...giving thanks for fleas?

I know that for some of us, this Thanksgiving is going to be a difficult one, and I pray we can all remember to give thanks to God, even in the difficult times.

God bless,
Pastor Jody

Faith UMC Website:
faithumcphoenix.org
Videos of Sunday sermons
faithumcphoenix.org/sermon-videos/

Faith UMC Facebook Page:
facebook.com/FaithUMCPhoenix
Faith UMC Facebook Group:
facebook.com/groups/FaithUMCPhxGroup

Upcoming Sermons

The next two months of sermons are important for us as we reflect upon our relationship with God and how that relationship manifested itself in the coming of God's son Jesus into the world.

In November, we'll be focusing on our relationship with God and what that means in terms of our commitments to do God's work here on earth. The series, called *Measuring What Matters*, will help us remember what is truly important in our lives and how that translates into our gifts of time, talent, and financial resources.

Then, beginning November 29 we will enter into the season of Advent. Our sermon series, called *Hope Is On The Way*, will center on the coming of Christ... the wonderful gift that God gave to us, and will take all the way to Epiphany as we celebrate God's promises for the future. During this series, we will also receive the gift of music from our Chancel and Handbell Choirs on December 20.



We know both sets of sermons will inspire us to live in grateful response to God's blessings in our lives. We look forward to having you join us in worship.

Measuring What Matters

- November 1 The Measure You Use
- November 8 Faith Like A Mustard Seed
- November 15 True Generosity
- November 22 Treasuring God's Provision (Consecration Sunday)
- November 29 Managing Un-Expectations

Hope Is On The Way

- 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
- January 3 What Gift Will God Bring?

Family Promise October 2015

We have just finished another week of Family Promise. We hosted 4 families, with a total of 8 kids ranging in age from 7 mos. – 11yrs.

It was a good week: The families helped each other; and the kids got along well, too. In fact, on the last night, 4 girls (from 3 different families) moved their beds into 1 room...and had a pajama party! They had a fun night!

Many thanks go to all of you for making this a special week. Your prayers, as well as your gifts of time and money, were greatly appreciated. 48 different people donated 343 hours of their time to make this week happen. In addition, you donated \$195, and several meals. Thank you!!.

Let me tell you about one Mom who was new to Family Promise. I was particularly touched by her story. Unfortunately, I think her story is not that uncommon. She is a single Mom with 3 young kids. She had a job, and her 2 school-aged kids were in a charter school they loved. But she must not have made enough to afford childcare. Without childcare .. she lost her job; without a job .. she lost her home. On top of that, she was in a car accident & totaled her car. She is a good Mom, and she was feeling terribly guilty about putting her kids through the stress of being homeless and being uprooted. My heart went out to her. It is not easy being poor. A Mom should not have to choose between earning money or taking care of her children. I wish we as a country could figure out how to stop this kind of downward spiral. But I am so thankful that we as a church have been able to help, through Family Promise.

All of the families we hosted thank you for all you did this week! And Gary and I thank you, too!



Jane Kriege

2015 CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX PROGRAM

The Christmas Food Box program will be here before we know it. We are already starting to purchase food when we find a good sale. Faith Church has been providing food boxes to people in need for more than 40 years. With your help, we will once again be distributing Christmas food boxes in December. For the past few years we have been able to donate as many food boxes as we have church families. We are pleased with the consistent response Faith has made to this worthy project.

Save Boxes

We need for you to save some of your boxes instead of recycling them. If by chance you have a box or boxes that fit the size criteria, and you don't need them please save them. If you bring them to Church, we will break them down and save them. This would save us from having to buy boxes. We currently have about 29 boxes.

The box volume should be about 1.5 cubic feet. The box size can cover a wide range. Following are the sizes we have used during the last 30 plus years. 12" - 15" deep, 11½" - 12 5/8" wide, 16" - 18" long.

Help Fill Boxes

This year there is again a choice on how Church friends and members can help provide a food box to those in need this Christmas. This will allow participation by:

1. Friends and members can donate the money to Faith Church, and the Church will purchase food for a food box. The average cost is approximately \$40 per box, but any amount is helpful. \$40 covers all the items on the food box list plus a few extra items. Donations can be made by check, cash or credit card. Please be sure that "Food Boxes" is noted on the check or envelope. Donations need to be made on or before November 30. That will allow time to purchase sufficient food.
2. Food boxes will be filled and boxed as a group activity, on Saturday, December 12, 2015. Everyone is welcome to come and help with this activity packing food boxes. Place that date on your calendar. We have some sit-down jobs as well as those that require physical activity. This is a great community activity and adds to the Christmas spirit.
3. People can also individually use the Food Box check list to purchase, fill, and deliver their food box to the Church. Empty boxes will be set out after church on November 22nd. Each box will have a list of

recommended food to purchase for the box. Please attach this COMPLETED list to the food box indicating what is in the box. It will prevent us from having to go thru your box to determine if it needs additional food. The boxes should be returned to the church by December 13th for distribution.

A sign-up sheet will be set out for those individuals interested in participating in the program. The sign-up sheets will be available November 8, 15, and 22. The cost of a food box is approximately \$40.00.

Help Deliver Boxes

We will be delivering food boxes to Wesley Community Center and to Phoenix Indian Medical Center about December 15, 2014. Both organizations work year round with families and individuals that need help. If you are interested in helping with the delivery, let us know.

We will also provide food boxes to individuals or families, if possible, identified through the church. You can also recommend individual families who need our help.

Thanks for your help in this mission project.
Mike and Virginia FitzPatrick

Christmas Food Box List

The following supplies a family of four for 3 or more days

- 5... 14 oz. to 16oz canned vegetables
 - 1... 26 oz. Pasta/spaghetti sauce
 - 2... 8 oz. cans tomato sauce or 15oz diced tomatoes
 - 3... 10 oz. canned soups and/or dry soup mix
 - 1... 14.5 oz. can of chicken broth
 - 3... 15 oz. to 16 oz. canned fruits
 - 2... 5 oz. cans tuna
 - 1... 24 oz. canned beef stew
 - 1... 12 oz.-15oz canned meat, ham or chicken
 - 1... 6 oz. Jell-O or 2- 3oz boxes
 - 1... 16 oz.-18oz jam or jelly
 - 1... 16 oz.-18oz peanut butter
 - 1... 13.75 oz. box instant mashed potatoes
 - 1... 16 oz. pasta product
 - 1... 1 or 2 lbs. white rice
 - 1... 1 or 2 lbs. pinto beans
 - 1... 12 oz.-18 oz. box dry cereal
 - 2... 7 oz. Macaroni and Cheese
 - 1... bar hand soap
 - 1... Small box or liquid laundry detergent (About 8 to 22 loads)
 - 1... 3 or 4 rolls toilet tissue
- Optional: pasta products, spaghetti sauce, extra canned fruit or vegetables or beans, rice, extra soups, pinto beans, toothpaste & brush, complete cookie, muffin or biscuit mix, cookies or hard candy, hot chocolate mix, stuffing mix, fruit juice, macaroni & cheese, ramen noodles, personal care items, tea or coffee

Toward the end of October you should have received a letter from the church regarding our upcoming Stewardship Campaign called Measuring What Matters. If you did not receive the letter signed by Finance co-chairs Dick and Esther Frank, and me, please contact the office to receive your copy.

No one likes it when the church starts talking about money, but the truth is, money has become a necessary commodity in order for us to do the things we enjoy doing. Think about it: without money, how would you live? How would you get food? Or shelter? Or clothing? How would you pay for entertainment, whether it's going to the movies, or to a play, or cable TV? Without money, we all would have a hard time not only meeting our basic needs, but doing the things we enjoy.

But how much money is enough? That's a question I ask myself every day...and it's a question some of us can never answer, because the truth is, the more money we have, the higher our expectations: the more money we have, the more we want to buy.

There was a time in my life when my goal was to make as much money as I could so I could have a bigger house and more stuff. Now, as I've gotten older (and a little wiser) I've come to realize that these things don't really matter. The money I make shouldn't be used to buy more stuff...it should be used to provide for the things I need - like food, shelter, and



clothing - and a few things I want - and the rest should be used to help those whose basic needs have not been met.

I've been very blessed, and as a person who has been blessed, it's important for me to use what I've been given to bless other people, especially those in need. I know you feel the same way, because you're part of a faith community that believes in helping others.

But we also have to be careful, because we want our hard-earned dollars to be used the best way possible. That's where the church comes in. By giving back some of what God has given to you by way of the church, your gifts will be multiplied and used to glorify God, not only by supporting the ministries of this church, but also by helping us help those in need.

Over the next few weeks we'll be Measuring What Matters as a way of prayerfully determining our commitments to Christ and his church. Not only will we consider our financial gifts, but we'll also be reflecting upon our gifts of time and talent. And on November 22, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will consecrate our commitments of time, talent, and money to the glory of God and to the work of God's church.

We know you have been generous in the past. But this year we are asking that you prayerfully consider taking a step forward in the amount of time, talent, and money you give... and may you always be cheerful in the ways you choose to give..

God bless,
Pastor Jody

Use this chart to guide you
In determining
Your level of generosity

Weekly Giving Guide			4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
ANNUAL INCOME	MONTHLY INCOME	WEEKLY INCOME						
18,000	1,500	346	14	21	28	35	42	52
25,000	2,083	481	19	29	38	48	58	72
30,000	2,500	577	23	35	46	58	69	87
40,000	3,333	769	31	46	62	77	92	115
45,000	3,750	65	35	52	69	87	104	130
50,000	4,167	962	38	58	77	96	115	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	46	69	92	115	138	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	58	87	115	144	173	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	77	115	154	192	231	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	96	144	192	240	288	361
150,000	12,500	2,885	115	173	231	289	346	433
175,000	14,583	3,365	135	202	269	337	404	505
200,000	16,667	3,846	154	231	308	385	462	577
225,000	18,750	4,327	173	260	346	433	519	649

Fear closes the hand and hoards - Faith opens the hand and shares. --Bruce A. Barkhauer

The HIV Caring Ministries of the Desert Southwest Conference is holding a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for its annual Strength For The Journey Camp. The dinner will be held November 7th between 5:30 PM and 8 PM at Faith UMC.

Tickets are \$7 for adults in advance and \$10 at the door - children's tickets are \$4. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.dscumc.org/HIV

For information on these events or HIV Caring Ministries, please contact Bill Butler at 602.708.4637, email HIVMinistries@DSCUMC.ORG, or see WWW.DSCUMC.ORG/HIV

CHURCH CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 15th

On Sunday, November 15, we will hold our annual Church Conference. This will be a great opportunity for us to get to know our new District Superintendent, Rev. Neil Leftwich, and to celebrate all of our ministries over the last 12 months.

We will meet at 9:30 am as usual for our Sunday morning worship service. Then, following worship we will gather in the Koinonia Room for an informal soup luncheon. **We are asking all who stay for the luncheon (and we hope that's everyone!!) to contribute \$2 to cover the cost of the food.**

During the luncheon, our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) will meet with our District Superintendent, after which we will all join together for the Church Conference.

All members and constituents are not only invited to attend this Church Conference, but are encouraged to do so. Whether you're a full member or not, your presence and your input into the decisions that need to be made are important to us.

So please mark your calendars and plan to attend!!



NEW CHURCH COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

During the last several months, your Pastor and Administrative Council chair have been working with our District Superintendent to develop a new way of organizing our church committees. The system we've developed is one used by other United Methodist Churches throughout the country, and we believe it will help streamline our decision-making and implementation processes.

Instead of having multiple committees, some of which are staffed with the same individuals, major decisions will be made by a single Church Council. This Council will perform the same functions that our Trustees, Finance, and Administrative Council committees have been performing, but since all will be combined into a single team, decisions will be able to be made and actions taken in a more timely manner.

The Church Council will be made up of about a dozen voting members representing the various functions in the church. In addition, we will have several teams of people who will be called upon when work needs to be done. For example, one of the teams will be a Trustee Team, which will be made up of individuals who are willing and able to help out with various facility needs and projects. We will also have an Education Team, which will be called upon by Pastor Jody when decisions regarding both children's and adult Christian Education need to be made.

We will continue to have a separate Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and a separate Lay Leadership Committee, both of which will serve the same functions as they do now.

In addition, our Church Council meetings will be restructured to focus our energies on the things that are the most important. The meeting agenda will begin by focusing on the topics of Nurture, Outreach, and Witness (NOW) followed by any necessary business items. We believe this new process of handling our Church Council meetings will help us focus so that in everything we do, God's will is done.

This new structure was approved by our Administrative Council and by our District Superintendent, Rev. Neil Leftwich. The new slate of officers will be presented at the Church Conference. Please join us as we pray for the success of this new method of governing our church .

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

During the sermon series *Our Methodist Heritage* Pastor Jody invited members of our congregation to join a small group. These small groups will be self-guided, and those in the group will determine its scope. For example, your group may decide to be a Bible Study Group, choosing various books of the bible for reading and discussion. Or your group may decide to be a nurturing group, during which you will share with each other some of the things you are going through in your life (confidentially, of course) so the other members of your group can provide you with prayer and support.

We will hold a brief Small Group Orientation on Sunday, November 8 at 11am. If you signed up to join a small group – and even if you didn't – you are invited to join us for this orientation, during which we will break into our small groups.

Being a part of a small group is one of the marks of a Methodist. I pray you all will consider being in a small group and will take this opportunity to join one of our groups .

BECOMING A RECONCILING NETWORK CONGREGATION

Several months ago we started the process of becoming a Reconciling Congregation. Several of our members attended a workshop offered by the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) and learned what it takes to be a RMN member congregation. What they learned was that, as a congregation, we at Faith UMC are practically there when it comes to being a Reconciling Congregation.

We then asked our Administrative Council to give us the "green light" to pursue RMN membership, and they unanimously approved that request.

In order to be a RMN member congregation, we have to do three things:

First, we need to have a welcoming statement that publically declares that Faith UMC is an inclusive congregation that specifically welcomes "people of all sexual orientations and gender identities." Our mission statement does that, so this requirement has been met.

Second, we must make sure our welcoming statement is visible to our community. We already do this: our mission statement is on a banner in our fellowship hall, and is included on our website. However, we need to be more intentional about making it visible outside the four walls of our church. We can do this by including it more prominently on our website, on our Facebook page, in our Newsletter, and even on the signs in front of the church.

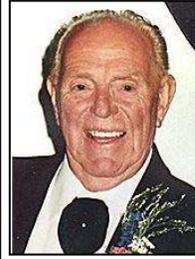
Third, once we decide to join the network, we should give a financial donation to the Reconciling Ministries Network, if we are financially able to do so. Their recommended donation level is \$250 per year, but we can determine what we can financially afford. Should we decide to join the network, our Church Council will determine the amount our church will donate.

One additional step, while not required, is highly recommended by the Reconciling Ministries Network. This step involves church members and constituents making their own individual commitments to welcoming all individuals, particularly people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. These cards will be made available to our members and constituents, and those who choose to sign and return them may do so by dropping them in the collection plate on Sunday mornings or bringing them to the church office.

So what's the benefit of becoming a RMN church? It's a public and visible statement of

PASSINGS

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bill Wright on September 17th and his wife, Dee, three weeks later on October 11th.



The Wrights had been unable to attend services for some time due to Bill's ill health.



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.

who we are, so others in our community who are like-minded will know they are welcome in our church. As a RMN church, we will be able to use the RMN logo on our signs, our website, our Facebook page, our letterhead, our newsletters, and business cards as a way of showing our support for LGBTQ Christians. Being a member of the network, we will be making a public statement that we welcome everyone into the life of our church.

We will be making the decision very soon as a congregation whether or not to join the Reconciling Ministries Network. As your pastor, and as a Progressive Christian, I believe it is important for us to welcome all people into the household of God, and I believe the majority of Faith's members and constituents feel the same way. However, if you have concerns about our church becoming a Reconciling Congregation, I encourage you to contact me personally. We want all voices to be heard, whether they support this move or not. I will also be happy to answer any questions you may have about the Reconciling Ministries Network and the decision to be a RMN congregation.

2016 BUDGET UPDATE

As members and constituents of Faith United Methodist Church, we feel it is important for you to know how the church intends to spend the financial gifts you give. Since September, your Finance Committee has been busily working on our 2016 Budget, which is summarized here.

It shouldn't surprise any of us that our budget for 2016 is about 9% higher than for 2015. The cost of utilities, insurance, and even staff have increased somewhat over last year, and our budget reflects those increases. But the majority of the increase for the coming year is due to facility improvements that have been put off way too long. As we've mentioned before, much of our church campus is in need of repair. The things that need to be done are more than cosmetic...they are necessary for us to maintain the security of our buildings, to discourage theft and vandalism, and to make our church campus a safe place for everyone who comes here to worship, to study, and to be in ministry with others.

We have also built several new line items into our budget in order to avoid asking for additional financial assistance throughout the year. For example, our Sidewalk Sunday School, youth, and mission giving is now built into our budget. In the past we've asked for specific donations to cover the expenses associated with these ministries. Our prayer is that we will no longer need to make these special requests because each of our families will increase their giving levels to cover these items that are now included in our budget.

The only exception to this will be our Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which will continue to be funded through your generous gifts to our monthly Communion Offering.

If you have any questions regarding our budget, please feel free to ask Pastor Jody or the members of our Finance Committee.

EXPENDITURES

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Capital Improvements
 Building Maintenance
 Grounds Maintenance
 Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment
 Custodial Supplies
 Multi-Peril Insurance
 Security
 Utilities

TOTAL BLDG & GROUNDS PROGRAM

Apportionment
 Church & Society
 Education
 Membership
 Missions
 Neighborhood Outreach
 Worship

TOTAL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Annual Conference - Lay
 Liability Ins
 Miscellaneous Expense
 Office Expense
 Stewardship

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION TOTAL EXPENDITURES

2015 Budget	2016 Budget
99,190	100,627
	10,000
3,000	3,000
2,800	2,800
0	0
600	600
6,500	6,800
1,000	2,000
19,500	19,500
33,400	44,700
19,500	19,860
0	0
1,200	1,600
200	200
382	357
0	500
2,300	2,550
23,582	25,067
200	250
1,250	1,260
300	300
4,850	5,220
0	0
6,600	7,030
162,772	177,424

FAITH LUNCH BUNCH

The Faith Lunch Bunch meets monthly. We gather on the third Thursday at 11:30 at a different eating spot each month. We have a tasty lunch and enjoy lively conversation.

Our October choice was "First Watch". We had 14 ladies get together for lunch/breakfast.

YOU are welcome to join in the fun in November when we will be going to "Ollies Diner," 5166 W. Olive Avenue in Glendale, for food, fellowship and a meal with no cooking or clean up. Meet us there on November 19th at 11:30 AM!!!



“THE STORY” STUDY TO RESUME

Our Bible Study group that is working through the book called The Story will resume on Wednesday, November 4 at 10:30am. We've made it through chapter 13, so we will begin with chapter 14 of the book.

The Story is an abridged version of the Bible developed by Randy Frazee. In this version of the biblical text, duplicated material has been removed and transitions have been added to help us better understand the overall context and content of the biblical narrative.

If you are interested in joining this study group, it's not too late!! Yes, you'll have a little catching up to do, but you're welcome to join us, even though we're in the middle of the story! You do not need to register to attend... just come!

A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPED

CHAPLAIN HOWARD J. MOSES

In the last few months, Rev. Jody Topping and I have developed a community partnership between Faith United Methodist Church and Grace Hospice which serves all of Maricopa County. Thus far, the cooperative effort has been focused upon being a clearing house for emergency fundraising for specific needs. Various Central East and Central West District Churches and Pastors have contributed to our Pastor's Discretionary Fund in response to emergent needs involving repairing one of Grace Hospice's patient's scooter and helping a deceased patient's spouse with funeral expenses.

The win-win situation that this partnership has created is a blessing from God, as I am not allowed to manage and distribute funds, although I can ask for contributions to a fund which already exists if it is for the assistance of one of our patients and/or family members. Grace Hospice is extremely grateful for the help of Faith United Methodist Church in these instances that could have become crises without timely intervention.

Again, thank you, and God's blessings
*Chaplain Howard J. Moses,
Grace Hospice*

United Methodist Student Day - November 29th



If you wish to make a special donation to this ministry you may write a check to Faith United Methodist Church and put "Student Day" on the memo line.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 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 5:00 pm UMYF	2 Office Closed	3 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 6:30 pm Trustees - Rm 4	4 10:30 am Study Group - Rm 1-2 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	5	6 5:00 pm UM Men - Watkins Shelter	7 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 12:30 pm Roadrunners - K 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2 4:00 pm Strength for the Journey - K
8 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 11:00 am Small Group Orient'n 11:00 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 1:00 pm Samoan Worship 5:00 pm UMYF	9 Office Closed	10 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm Finance - Rm 4 7:00 pm Ad Council-Rm 4	11 10:30 am Study Group - Rm 1-2 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	12	13	14 7:00 am Community Market 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2 5:00 pm Bird Club - K
15 8:00 am Handbells-Sanctuary 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Lunch & Church Conference 1:00 pm Samoan Worship 5:00 pm UMYF	16 Office Closed	17 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 7:00 pm Neighborhood Outreach - Rm 4	18 10:30 am Study Group - Rm 1-2 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	19 11:30 am Lunch Bunch - Ollie's Diner	20 6:00 pm Movie Night- S	21 8:00 am UMM Breakfast-K 10:00 am Sidewalk SS
22 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 5:00 pm UMYF	23 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2 6:00 pm Scouts - K	24 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	25	26 Office Closed THANKSGIVING DAY 	27 Office Closed	28 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
29 UM Student Day 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 5:00 pm UMYF	30 Office Closed	 <h1 style="margin: 0;">NOVEMBER 2015</h1> 				
		Birthdays: 11/07 Kelianna Devlin 11/08 Meg Taber 11/09 Karen Clark 11/16 Michele Spears 11/17 Dick Holmstad 11/20 Sam Arthur 11/25 Sibyl Masterson 11/26 Barbara Babbitt 11/27 Larry Dodson 11/30 LaVonna Goudie 11/30 Joshua Warner				
		Anniversaries: 11/01 Lori & David Fuchs 11/26 Mary Lou & John Shields				