

*Open hearts*

*Open minds*

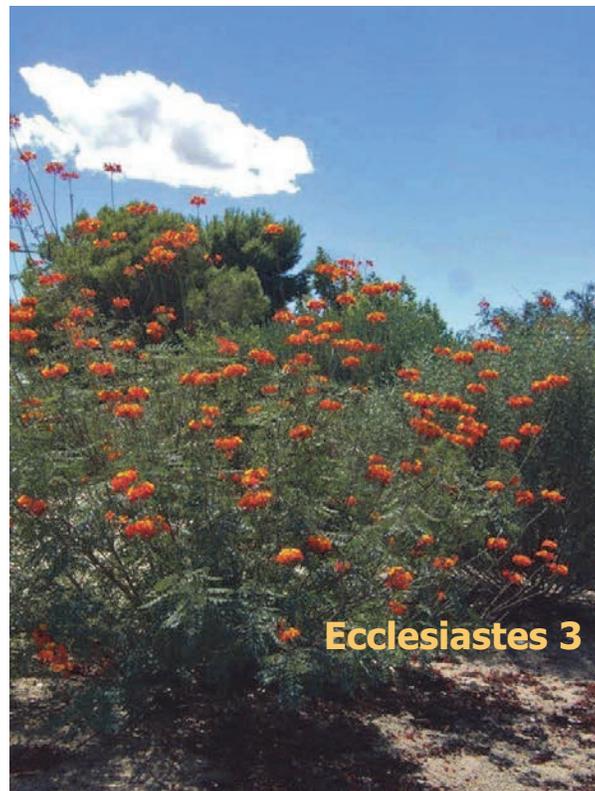
*Open doors*

The People of the  
United Methodist Church



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

For everything there is a  
season ...



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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### **KOINONIA**

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

OCTOBER 2015



# Koinonia

## *Faith United Methodist Church*

8640 North 19th Avenue Phone: (602) 943-3465  
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October 2015

### From the **PASTOR**—

Before I was commissioned and became your pastor, I participated in a program called Clinical Pastoral Education, or CPE. Through CPE, I served as a volunteer chaplain at one of the local hospitals along with several other CPE students, which in itself was a very valuable experience. It gave us an opportunity to minister to patients as well as staff in the hospital through various illnesses and injuries, helping them feel the love of God around them. Some of those we ministered to were more difficult than others, but the overall experience was remarkable...and humbling.



But another aspect of CPE was called "Structured Group Time," during which we shared some of our chaplain experiences with the patients and hospital staff, and also engaged in "Interpersonal Relationship Seminars," which were times when we were able to share some of our innermost thoughts, feelings, and even secrets. Everything that was said during these seminars was completely confidential, which allowed us to be completely honest, not only with our peers, but also with ourselves. Through this process I and the other students experienced many "a-ha" moments, especially about ourselves and why we are the people we have become. It was a most enlightening and often difficult experience, but it's one I would never trade for anything.

I share this experience with you because what we did in CPE is a lot like what we would

like to offer you through our Small Group Ministry, a new (or perhaps re-engineered) ministry at Faith UMC. As we've been learning about the early Methodist Movement, we've been reminded that one of the marks of a Methodist was belonging to a small group. From its beginning as The Holy Club, the movement was fueled by small groups of people who prayed together, studied together, read the Bible together, and even shared their innermost thoughts and feelings...together, in a confidential environment, a place where they could be open to who they were and who they wanted to become.

Our vision for Faith's Small Group Ministry is to offer some of the same experiences to you that were made available to the early Methodists. We are currently asking people to sign up if they want to be in a small group. When we get enough people who are interested, we'll hold an orientation meeting and will organize our small groups with no more than 4-5 people per group. Each group will decide its own focus, its own meeting times and its own meeting places. For example, those of you who live at Fellowship Square might decide to meet there once a week, or once every two weeks... whatever works for you.

These groups are open to all people, not just those who attend worship at Faith or who are members or constituents at Faith. If you know someone who you think would benefit from being a member of a small group, why not invite them to join you in forming one! We'd like as many people to participate in this ministry as

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

is humanly possible, because we know how beneficial these groups will be to our spiritual growth as individuals and as the church.

We pray that you will consider being part of a small group at Faith, because as Methodists, we understand how powerful they can be. If you have questions about this ministry, please feel free to call me. My door, and my phone, are always open to you.

God bless,  
*Pastor Jody*

## **“THE STORY” STUDY TO RESUME IN NOVEMBER**

Wednesday morning study of the book, *The Story*, will resume on November 4

## **Joshua's Journey**

I have learned over the last 4 years that the candidacy process in our church (or for any faith tradition) is a very fluid process and discernment does not stop just because they declare their calling. Through prayer, reflection, and experience I as a candidate for ministry am constantly asking God where I need to be and at what time.

I have also learned that my candidacy is a "God" process and is not one which I in my natural inclinations can "control". I personally have a tendency to be very forward-thinking and try to plan out the most minute detail on what I am going to do and where I am going to be at each stage in this process. That, I have learned, is not what God would have me to do.

Keeping in mind that God is in control of this process and my life experiences as well as the feedback from those in clergy and lay leadership who help me discern what God's wishes are for my candidacy, I have notified the church that I will be changing my ordination track from elder and seeking candidacy as a deacon in our United Methodist Church. There are many reasons for this change.

First, as many of you know, I took a momentous leap in my life and accepted a position in the behavioral health field as a peer support specialist, working directly with many in poverty and homelessness that are frequent users of the crisis and medical services in the valley. This change occurred after months of discernment and discussions with my family as we adjust to this new life.

Although I am still growing and developing my skill set, I have been successful in engaging with those whom I support and I truly believe as I reflect on my experiences God's presence using my hands feet and heart to help my clients reach new heights in their mental and physical wellness.

I also want to address the severe justice issues that God calls us all to address in my dealings with the behavioral health community. Although those in my field have the biggest hearts full of love, at times it proves challenging to navigate the many resources and link my clients to them as I go about my vocation.

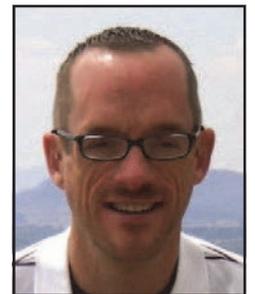
This past Sunday I shared that part of my vocation includes not only my ministry to those who I work with, but fervent prayer for their needs as God uses our collective hands and feet to minister to them. Whether a client is homeless, in poverty, physically ill, or if they struggle with mental or substance abuse issues, I know that God is working through my skills and talent - all which have been maximized in this role.

Second, through this vocational ministry I hope to help lead the church into doing the great work God would have us do to those in our midst who need to feel and see the tangible essence of God's grace in their lives.

I will continue to be part of the church as your lay member to conference and will be working with the various committees to support our Faith community and the vibrant ministries we have in our midst.

I truly believe God has called us to transform our world and our community. I hope that we, through our collective ministry to our community, will be able to make this transformation a reality. I ask for your prayers as I move forward in this newness of ministry and life.

***In God's Graces, Joshua***



## Thinking theologically with Pastor Jody:



<sup>1</sup>After a few days, Jesus went back to Capernaum, and people heard that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>So many gathered that there was no longer space, not even near the door. Jesus was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Some people arrived, and four of them were bringing to him a man who was paralyzed. <sup>4</sup>They couldn't carry him through the crowd, so they tore off part of the roof above where Jesus was. When they had made an opening, they lowered the mat on which the paralyzed man was lying. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven!"  
(Mark 2:1-5 )

Have you ever needed a stretcher-bearer? Someone who is willing to carry you when you need help...or when you need a friend? In the story above from Mark, the paralyzed man had four stretcher-bearers: friends who were willing to carry him to Jesus, friends who were willing to do what they needed to do to make sure their friend got the help he so desperately needed. That's what a stretcher-bearer is; it's not just someone who says they care...it's someone who cares enough to do whatever it takes.

There are times in our lives when we can be stretcher-bearers, and other times when we

need them. So what would it take to be a stretcher-bearer? A loving, caring heart; a listening ear; and gentle spirit; a willingness to be there for a person, no matter what; and a desire to help, in whatever way possible. Now, I have to admit, that sounds like a big job...but it's also one of the most rewarding jobs there is, because knowing that we've helped someone out...that's absolutely priceless. And knowing that that person feels the same way about us...well, that's even more priceless, more precious than gold or silver.

Stretcher-bearers are often friends, or people from our churches, or even people who are professionally trained, like pastors and counselors. But do you know where we find the majority of stretcher-bearers? In small groups... groups of 4 or 5 people who commit to each to meet together regularly for reading and study, who are willing to listen to each other and share their feelings in a confidential forum. Being in a small group is a great way to be a stretcher-bearer for another person or a few other people...and it's a great way to find a stretcher-bearer who will be there when you need them.

I hope you have a stretcher-bearer...or two, or three, in your life right now. But if you don't, then you might want to consider joining one of the new small groups that are being formed at Faith UMC. If you'd like to know more about how you can be a stretcher-bearer, or if you are in need of one yourself, let me know. Because at Faith UMC, we're a congregation full of people who care, and who just might be the right stretcher-bearer for you.

## TIME TO HELP WITH FAMILY PROMISE!

October 18<sup>th</sup> and the week of Family Promise are fast approaching. If you have not yet signed up and are able to help, please contact Jane or Gary Kriege as soon as possible.

This is our third and final week for Family Promise in 2015. We look forward to making it another successful one!



### FAITH'S LUNCH BUNCH

Each month on the third Thursday at 11:30 the Faith Lunch Bunch meets. This is open to all who enjoy good food and fun fellowship. Our September group had our session at "Fast Eddies" with ten ladies enjoying breakfast/lunch. In October we will be headed for "First Watch," 9645 N Black Canyon Hwy in Phoenix. Come by and join in the time of getting together with no cooking and no clean up .



## PLEASE RESPOND:

The Church Office is updating everyone's information for receiving the *Koinonia* newsletter. If you have not already indicated your preference, please contact the church office as soon as possible and tell them whether you would prefer to receive a hard copy or an electronic ("pdf") copy. If you choose the hard copy, we will need your correct mailing address. If you choose an electronic copy, we will need your correct e-mail address.

**Phone**

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**Email**

[office@umcfaithphx.org](mailto:office@umcfaithphx.org)

## HELP NEEDED

We are cleaning out the rooms in the west wing and all of the church storage areas, hopefully by Community Flea Market time in November. There is a lot of sorting to do, some of it can be done while sitting down. No heavy lifting. Anyone who is willing to spend a few hours (a morning or afternoon) to help, it would be appreciated. If you can help, please contact Carol at 602-973-0865 or speak to her at church. Several people are coordinating this effort but more help is needed. Thank you!



## Our Methodist Heritage Sermon Series continues through October

On Sunday mornings in October we continue to explore what it means to be a Methodist by following in the footsteps of our founders, John and Charles Wesley. The series includes some of Pastor Jody's pictures and experiences from the Wesley Pilgrimage she took in July.

October 4.....The Necessity of Grace

October 11.....Works of Mercy

October 18.....Persevering to the End

October 25.....Wesley's Final Word



....In addition to the Sunday morning sermons, Pastor Jody is conducting a companion class on the Methodist Movement using the Adam Hamilton study book called *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It*. Please consult the calendar on the last page for the meeting times.



Sam & Synthia introduce baby Leandra, who was born in August, to Eleanor, who became Faith's Centenarian in August.

## **Looking Forward ...** **Mark your November calendar!**

### **World Communion Sunday** **October Fourth**

World Communion Sunday will be celebrated this year on October 4th. It has been almost 80 years since the Presbyterian church first initiated the idea of Christian churches all celebrating the Eucharist within a 24 hour period to show their commonality.

Since that time the first Sunday in October has grown into an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity. Breaking bread with one another is an almost universal Christian practice which recalls Jesus' sacrifice.

The United Methodist Church takes this special day one step further to concentrate on educating and enabling those who are called to become leaders in ministry. As one of the six designated "Special Sundays" the UMC uses donations to provide scholarships and in-service training to national and international graduate students.

To read more about the UMC World Communion programs chose this link: [www.umcgiving.org/wcs](http://www.umcgiving.org/wcs). If you wish to make a donation to this special ministry you may write a check to Faith United Methodist Church and put "World Communion" on the memo line.

As we move into fall, it never hurts to plan a bit in advance, and November looks to be a busy month. Here are just a few of the items you need to note on your calendar:

- Nov. 14 .. Semi-annual Community Flea Market
- Nov. 15 .. Church/Charge Conference
- Nov. 22 .. Thanksgiving celebration potluck
- Nov. 26 .. Thanksgiving
- Nov. 29 .. Advent begins

Happy planning!

### **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.



## YOUR HELPING INSTINCT

Back in the day, especially in small communities around our great country, people regularly and naturally helped their fellow neighbors in ways great and small. Now, many of us do not know our neighbors, and it can be scary to offer help to people we don't know. Duet, our congregation's partner in service, offers an easy and safe way to help isolated elders and adults with disabilities. When you become a Duet volunteer, you will choose from nine fulfilling forms of service, such as friendly visits, rides to medical appointments, or grocery shopping. Duet will then pair you up with a person who needs the kind of help you wish to provide, based on your availability. Much support is provided to ensure a fulfilling volunteer experience. Please share your time and friendship to bring neighborliness back to our community! To volunteer or to request free-of-charge help, call 602-274-5022 or visit [www.duetaz.org](http://www.duetaz.org).

## SMART FINANCIAL STRATEGIES SEMINAR

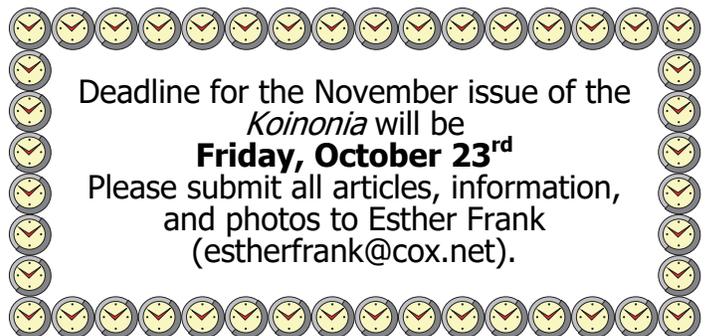
Gain useful information at a free-of-charge seminar offered by Duet on Saturday, October 24 from 8:30 – noon, followed by lunch. Workshop topics include Medicare coverage options; Arizona Long Term Care System and Veterans Affairs information, continuum of care guidelines, long term care insurance, year-end tax planning updates, and social security information to maximize retirement income. The seminar takes place at 555 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021. Please RSVP by October 16<sup>th</sup>. Call 602-274-5022 or visit [www.duetaz.org](http://www.duetaz.org).



### ----- Tournament Highlights -----

- ◆ Touring Pro in Every Foursome
- ◆ \$100 Gift Card (on-site concept shop)
- ◆ Hosted Food & Beverages
- ◆ Fun On-Course Contests
- ◆ Fabulous Hole-in-One Prizes
- ◆ Awards Dinner Reception
- ◆ 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Awards
- ◆ Awesome Raffle Items
- ◆ Fantastic Silent Auction
- ◆ Great Contest Prizes

[www.familypromiseazgolf.com](http://www.familypromiseazgolf.com)



Deadline for the November issue of the *Koinonia* will be **Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Please submit all articles, information, and photos to Esther Frank (estherfrank@cox.net).

Faith UMC Website:  
[faithumcphoenix.org](http://faithumcphoenix.org)  
Videos of Sunday sermons  
[faithumcphoenix.org/sermon-videos/](http://faithumcphoenix.org/sermon-videos/)

Faith UMC Facebook Page:  
[facebook.com/FaithUMCPhoenix](https://facebook.com/FaithUMCPhoenix)  
Faith UMC Facebook Group:  
[facebook.com/groups/FaithUMCPhxGroup](https://facebook.com/groups/FaithUMCPhxGroup)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>CTOBER</b> <b>2015</b> 						
		<b>Birthdays</b> 10/08 David Fuchs 10/27 John Getting 10/08 Jon Hancock 10/27 Ron Blackstone 10/24 Jackson Devlin 10/31 Marca Rausch				
<b>4 World Communion</b> 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	6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 6:30 pm Trustees - Rm 4	<b>7</b> 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>8</b> 10:00 am Study Group - Rm 1-2 7:00 pm Study Group - Rm 1-2	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
<b>11</b> 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	<b>12</b> 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2 6:30 pm Scouts - K	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	<b>14</b> 10:00 am Study Group - Rm 1-2 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>15</b> 11:30 am Lunch Bunch - First Watch 7:00 pm Study Group - Rm 1-2	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:00 am UMM Breakfast-K 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
<b>18</b> 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	<b>19</b> 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Study Group - Rm 1-2 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
<b>October 18, 4:00 pm through October 25, 8:00 am - Family Promise</b>						
<b>25</b> 8:00 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 1:00 pm Samoan Worship 5:00 pm UMYF	<b>26</b> 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2 6:30 pm Scouts - K	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 7:00 pm N O meeting-Rm 4	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2