

A Message from the Pastor.....

As we recently acquired my parent’s home in Sun Lakes, AZ, Wendy and I have been re-thinking our plans for retirement. And even though retirement is 10-12 years away for us, we know full well that the year we retire is not the time to make plans for where we will live and what we will do with our time. And yes, I know that television commercials make a planned retirement look quite uncomplicated and glamorous, but we’re just looking to put a roof over our head with a good fishing-hole nearby. We’ve got the roof, now we just need the fishing hole!

Several years ago, while fishing in the Eastern Sierra Mountains we decided to look at property. We’d been camping and fishing in the area for about 6 years by that time- we were convinced that it would be a great place to retire. We soon changed our tune after we saw the 6-7 digit prices of just vacant property in that area- we knew full well that it would remain as another great place to visit on occasion. I suppose our thoughts about retirement have been slumbering ever since that trip.

A couple years ago we went to northern Michigan where I grew up as a kid- we fell in love with the millions of tall pine trees, the green grass, the moist climate and the lakes and rivers every where you turn. We even spent the last few hours in Michigan looking at property- we involved a realtor this time, and the great thing is that we found some homes that we think we can afford--- so what now? Where do we go from here?

The next step, I think, is the critical step in this journey!

This morning I added “our retirement home” to my daily prayer list—and this is what I have learned about planning for retirement. Of course it’s important to put away money in a pension fund or IRA (or other investment), if you can afford to stash the cash. And, if possible, it’s prudent to purchase property when it’s “a buyer’s market.” But as Wendy reminded me recently, we need to allow the Lord to lead and guide us where he wants us to be. Psalm 37 promises that we will be blessed if we are faithful to the Lord and if we allow God to lead us--- **this is by far the best retirement advice. Actually, it’s the best advice for any of us wherever we’re headed!**

Blessings,

Pastor Michael



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If it seems like I've been gone a lot lately, you're right!

In late May I had the rare opportunity to lead another group to the Holy Land in Israel. Seven people from First Gilbert attended this exciting tour along with ten other people from other churches. It was a trip of a lifetime! We walked where



Jesus walked, learned some of the most interesting things about Biblical history and saw how the culture of Israel uncovers so many significant aspects of the Bible stories we hear and study. It was great fun eating together and enjoying the local cuisine. We even went into the old city (Jerusalem) for some unique shopping experiences with the street vendors. What a great joy and privilege it was for me to be there again—and most importantly, you made it all happen.

This Annual Conference has a “study leave” policy as well as provides time for continuing education annually for all clergy. And since this trip was indeed a “working trip” for me I was able to use this special time to learn more about the Bible we study together each week. We also built some lasting relationships while living in close quarters for nearly two weeks. By the way, we will be presenting a slide show in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 14 at 2.30 PM. Watch for further information.

Recently, Wendy and I spent nine days in Oregon with her family as we shared in another family reunion on the Oregon coast near Newport. We stayed at the Alpine Chalets overlooking the Pacific Ocean, went on daily beach walks, ate about 4 meals a day, laughed a lot and played board games. I learned a brand new board game- Settlers of Catan- and even won the last game I played [Are there any Catan players out there?]. Again, what was most important was building relationships with people who are priceless to me.



The remainder of our allotted vacation time this year is doing something we dearly love- fishing and camping in cool weather. Although we had planned to drive to Fish Lake Utah (nearly 600 miles *one way*) we decided to stay closer to home and are camping in the White Mountains near Show Low, Arizona. We are looking forward to enjoying the beauty of the White Mountains that many of you are familiar with. I will be back on the job on Saturday, August 6th.

Lastly, Wendy and I both thank you all for making our first year here so wonderful. Any pastor's time away to learn and to relax is made possible by you, the congregation.

Blessings,

Pastor Michael

Fall Kick Off August 21st 8:00am-12:00pm In the Activity Center

Come one and all to the **Fall Kick Off**. Our Ministries will be on full display. You will be surprised at the many opportunities First United Methodist Church of Gilbert has to offer. You may even feel compelled to volunteer for one or more of these ministries. The Fall Kick Off's primary goal is to enlighten and reveal to you on what *your* church has to offer...from Scouts to Land Development to Centennial Celebration. Yes, the more obvious ministries will be there like Music, Youth, Health/Wellness and many more.

So, mark you calendar to attend a service on August 21st and visit the Fall Kick Off before or after service. (Shhhh! Between us, if you want to just come to the Fall Festival only...please do...I'll cover for you).

Who can come? Everyone! Church members, friends, acquaintances, co-workers, children and their friends... are all welcome.

By the way, there will be snacks and prizes!

See you there.



Sunday Worship & Daily Bible Readings

August 7

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:9-18
A Still Small Voice

August 14

Scripture: Genesis 45:1-15
Mustafa's Story

August 21

Scripture: Isaiah 51:1-6
Hope for the World

August 28

Scripture: Matthew 16:21-28
A Worthless Life



August 1-7

Monday Romans 10:5-13
Tuesday Romans 10:14-15
Wednesday Genesis 37:1-4
Thursday Genesis 37:12-28
Friday Psalm 105:1-6
Saturday Matthew 14:22-27
Sunday Matthew 14:28-33

August 8-14

Monday Genesis 45:1-5
Tuesday Genesis 45:6-15
Wednesday Matthew 15:10-20
Thursday Matthew 15:21-28
Friday Romans 11:1-2a
Saturday Psalm 133:1
Sunday Psalm 133

August 15-21

Monday Exodus 1:8-22
Tuesday Exodus 2:1-10
Wednesday Psalm 124
Thursday Romans 12:1-2
Friday Romans 12:1-8
Saturday Matthew 16:13-20
Sunday Matthew 16:13-20

August 22-28

Monday Exodus 3:1-15
Tuesday Exodus 3:1-15
Wednesday Psalm 105:1-6
Thursday Psalm 105:23-26
Friday Romans 12:9-21
Saturday Romans 12:9-21
Sunday Matthew 16:21-28

August 29-September 4

Monday Exodus 12:1-14
Tuesday Exodus 12:1-10
Wednesday Exodus 12:11-14
Thursday Psalm 149
Friday Matthew 18:15-17
Saturday Romans 13:8-10
Sunday Matthew 18:18-20



Christian History Adult Sunday School

We will begin August studying **Buddha and Buddhism**. The Buddha and his disciples roamed the Gangetic basin spreading his teachings and building a community of followers. The emphasis on spiritual self-sufficiency, rather than on tradition or the Brahmin priests, appealed to those who accepted individual responsibility for their well-being and ultimate destiny. After his death the Sangha (order of monks and nuns) gathered to discuss the future of the movement and councils led to the creation of authoritative texts and discussion of important doctrinal issues that ultimately split the community into several factions.

Next we will look at the **The Noble Path**, Buddha's prescription for realizing nibbana or the good news that we need not suffer and that freedom from samsaric existence (cycle of death and rebirth) is, indeed, possible. This eight fold path requires discipline in following a strict regimen to break habits binding the individual to the illusion of selfhood.

The last two Sundays of August we will look at the concept of **Divine Justice**. First we will analyze the so-called "theodicy problem" or why bad things happen to good people when we have an all-powerful and benevolent deity. We will look at the response from major world religions to this question.

Finally we will examine how religions **Defend Divine Justice** in the doctrines of Christianity, (through Paul and Calvin) Hinduism, (through doctrines of karmic law and transmigration of souls) and Buddhist belief (that suffering comes from the continuous attempt to make permanent what must inevitably change).

We invite you to join our class and discussion in room 225 at 9:45 a.m.

Preschool News.

Back to School!

As the children are getting ready to go back to school or to school for the first time, here are a few activities to help get the whole family ready.



- ~ Read the book The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn. It's about a young raccoon who doesn't want to leave home to go to school. His mother gives him a reassuring kiss in his hand that he'll always have with him, no matter where he goes. If he gets scared or sad, he can put his hand on his cheek and feel his mom's love.
- ~ Then trace each other's hand and plant a big kiss on the palm. You can use lipstick or just kiss it with wet lips, then trace the outline with a crayon! This precious keepsake can be placed in the backpack, in mom's purse, wherever it will be comforting!
- ~ The two middle fingers can be folded down to make the hand say "I love you" in sign language.
- ~ Enjoy a Hershey's kiss while doing this project together!

Open House for Preschool

Thursday, August 11 6pm-7pm Mrs. Mesa and Mrs. Marlinga's classes

Friday, August 12 6pm-7pm Mrs. Dare and Mrs. Pinti's classes

First Day of School

Monday, August 15 9am Mrs. Marlinga, Mrs. Dare and Mrs. Pinti's classes

Tuesday, August 16 9am Mrs. Mesa's class

Parent/Tot Class: August 30 or 31

**** Registration is still open for a couple of the Preschool Classes! Register NOW! We can't wait to meet you. Call Lora Norris or Lara Fink at 892-9166. Our website is www.gilbertumpreschool.com.**

Children's Ministry Sunday School

We are in need of a few volunteers to teach Sunday School in August. All lesson plans and supplies are provided.



In addition, we are in need of a few teachers for the fall...

- Pre K 4 (weekly or every other Sunday)
- 1st Grade (weekly or every other Sunday)
- 2nd Grade (every other Sunday)
- 5/6th (every other Sunday)

Please contact Joyce Larscheid, Elementary Education Coordinator, at 480.654.5191 or elementarycoordinator@gilbertumc.org.

Cub Scout Recruitment:

Pack 88, sponsored by our church, is looking for boys who will be in the 1st – 4th grades in the fall. Questions? Interested? Please contact Philip Tesarek at 480-510-4588 or ptesarek@hotmail.com.

A Huge Thank You.....

To all our Vacation Bible School volunteers! We had a great week teaching children about "Nazareth - Where Jesus was a Kid". The children enjoyed Mary's House, the snack den, crafts, music, games and water day.

And thank you to those who donated supplies and snacks. We couldn't have done it without you.



Daisy Troop



A new *Girl Scout Daisy troop* is forming for girls in kindergarten and 1st grade. Meetings will be held on two Sundays a month at the Church from 4:00-5:30pm. If you are interested, please contact Carol Schroeder at carolschroeder@live.com.

YUUTH STUPH



Greetings!

I learned a new word since I have been in Arizona~~ *HABOOB*~~Now that is a crazy name for a dust storm! It makes you wonder how words are created. There's another word that I have come across. Great word~~ *SELAH*~~ not only is it a name of one of my favorite Christian singing groups but it's also an ancient word from Psalms. It means *STOP AND LISTEN or TO HANG*. You'll see it in other parts of the Bible and used in different ways with different meanings but I love this description- To stop and reflect...to hang and observe. *Do we do enough of that?* This term is used at the end of some of the phrasing in Psalms to tell the reader to stop and reflect on what has been spoken or sung.

At any rate, words are cool...words are powerful! Come to share and reflect with us in Youth ministry...

Beware of HABOOBS...Come TO HANG with us in the youth program.

Take good care,
Mike Stephenson

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

YOUTH Sunday school

Is offered every Sunday for 7th to 12th grade from 9:45-10:45am

Where~Junior High- Room 226

Senior High- Room 308

AWESEOME TEACHERS AND FELLOWSHIP!!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON WEDNESDAYS?

Youth Bible Study

This will resume in the fall!

Begins right after dinner at 7:00pmpm in rm 308.

Beverly Durica plans great program for the youth...JOIN US!

UMYF for Youth!!!

This will resume in the fall!

On Sunday evenings. We'll figure out the times as we get closer. This will be a time for our youth to get together for fun, outings and fellowship. **In the meantime**, I would like to have some summertime fun with both the Junior & High school by doing some monthly events...any ideas? Watch the calendar/ emails/ bulletin for date and times.

Youth Missions

Sierra Service Project (SSP) Senior High Mission Trip - July 10-16, 2011.

OUR MISSION TEAM HAS RETURNED!

We traveled to Teec Nos Pos, an American Indian Reservation in North Eastern Arizona.

Counselors: Joe Bayer, Darrin Orndorff, Mike Stephenson.

Youth: Kelsi Abernathy, Kamryn Bayer, Addie Fairley, Marie and Richard Frazier, Jonah Orndorff, Brittany Schreiner, Sara Sanders, Alex Taj

We left early Sunday morning, 7/10 from the church parking lot. We had a long drive with plenty of snack stops ;-). This was a great week full of meaningful work and wonderful relationship building with youth from our own Desert Southwest Conference and other United Methodist Conferences. Thanks to all who supported the trip.

Youth Calendar

ONGOING

Tues 6 or 6:30pm Youth Council meeting Room308
(1st Tuesday of each month/ May change)

Wed 6:45-8pm Youth Bible Study Room 308
(Resumes fall)

Sun 9:45-10:45am Confirmation Class 2012 (TBA)
9:45-10:45am Youth Sunday School
Junior High- Room 226 Senior High- Room 308

Times TBA UMYF/ Youth Group (Resumes fall)

7/21 Youth Council Meeting- 6:30pm Room 308

7/23-8/5 Fund-Raisers~ snack sale—Junior &Senior High and Adult Volleyball ~ Various times- All youth can sign up to help` Check with Mike for times.

8/21 Church Kick Off

9/4 Fall Sunday school begins

9/17 Youth CPR Training~ FUMCG 10am No Cost to youth

Fall/2011.....BIG PLANS

HELP WANTED

Contact Mike Stephenson at church or cell 775 354 3153

Adult and Youth Volunteer Help

1. Youth Council members - Help plan and organize the growing youth program.
2. Junior High and High school Sunday school teachers...*don't be scared!*

RECYCLING

The Youth group has been collecting the recycling at the church for about a month now! You may have seen them after the 2nd service on Sundays gathering the paper, cans, plastic and bottles from the different receptacles around the church. This is split between the Junior High and Senior High Sunday school classes. PLEASE use the BLUE plastic bins with the recycle symbol on them or the LARGE CARDBOARD bins with the same symbol. These are all over our church campus. Your help is appreciated by the youth and everyone in the **WORLD!!!**

Desert Southwest Annual Conference 2011, Glendale, AZ, June 23-26

Those in attendance included Pastors Bob Stanley, Eve Williams, Tina Rees and Michael Bryant. Carol Scharff, Susan Bowers and Marie Frazer attended as voting Lay Members. Therese Pineda attended as the alternate Lay Member. John Bowers, Doris Stanley and William Batz also attended from First Gilbert UMC. Alicia Somsen attended and represented Jacob's Well (Pastor Jay Cooper's new fellowship).

Some of the highlights from Annual Conference include: A day of learning with Gil Rendle: *looking at the world today - being the church in a new world*. According to Gil we must take another look at the way we "do church." We can't live today as we have lived in the past. We have to move into change or experience a slow death. People today have varied backgrounds and understandings of the spiritual life. We used to live in a convergent world. The question and the answer was the same for everyone- churches have been designed to follow that relationship. But today we live in a divergent society where the question is the same, but the answer is different for everyone. We must reshape the way we do ministry to meet the needs of our diverse culture, or experience a slow death. Some annual business was conducted in the areas of finance- approval of Conference budget and discussion of apportionments, salaries and benefit packages. One local church, Los Arcos UMC was closed and actually merged with Scottsdale UMC. Both the Los Arcos and the Scottsdale members are very gracious and look forward to an exciting future together. A church revitalization program was presented to conference- DNA coaching- Don Nations. Currently 35 churches in our conference are signed up to participate in the exciting new 3-year program. First Gilbert will be considering our involvement in this ministry.

Resolutions: Some of the resolutions (proposals that require action) included calling churches to respond to the pandemic of AIDS, addressing mental health of young people, conserving energy and going green, establishing a future annual conference will focus on disability awareness and living the Golden Rule- fairness to all people. Accordingly a set of resolutions for the removal of discriminatory language from the 2008 Book of Discipline was introduced. Our church states that all people are of "sacred worth," yet our current language denounces the practice of homosexuality as "incompatible with Christian teaching." There were other resolutions regarding the removal of discriminatory language toward non-heterosexual people, specifically, in the areas of ordination, and marriages and/or civil unions. A "yes" vote would send a petition to General Conference to remove this type of discriminatory language from all areas of the Book of Discipline. *All resolutions were approved.* Petitions will now be submitted to the 2012 General Conference. Only General Conference has the authority to make changes in church policy as stated in the 2008 United Methodist Book of Discipline. *It is important to note that the debate on the floor regarding these resolutions was a faithful example of "holy conferencing." Speakers were respectful, courteous and uplifting in their comments toward one another- this is something to celebrate!*

Election of Delegates

General Conference: General Conference is the supreme legislative body. It meets every 4 years with delegates from annual conferences from within the United Methodist Church connection. This body reviews and sets the policies for the entire United Methodist Church. The results of their decisions are printed in the Book of Discipline, which sets forth the policies of the church.

Clergy- Jane Tews, Anthony Tang (alternate) Lay- Sharon Scobie, Jim Nibbelink (alternate)

Jurisdictional Conference: Jurisdictional Conferences are regional conferences within the United States, five in number. Their most important function is the election of Bishops to serve in the United Methodist Church.

Clergy- Jane Tews, Anthony Tang, Rob Rynders, Sharon Ragland

Lay- Sharon Scobie, Jim Nibbelink, Dakota Staren, Gwen Garrett

Ordination- Commissioning: On Saturday night the following people were commissioned as Provisional Elders: Sarai Case, Brian Schlemmer and Ann Thomas. Sun Ug (Isaac) Choh was ordained a Deacon and Jerellen Espinosa Wilkerson was ordained as an Elder. Although absent because of illness, Marjorie Hrabe was recognized as a Deaconess commissioned through the General Board of Global Ministries.

Finally, both Eve Williams and Michael Bryant were re-appointed to serve First Gilbert. Bob Burns will continue as the East District Superintendent.

Music Ministry

Marty Province, Music Director - music@gilbertumc.org

Our first ever all-church **Men's Chorus** was a huge success. Several folks said they had chills, with a special feeling of pride and patriotism as we reached the end of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. As I stated when making the announcements about singing on July 3, there will be no strong-armed tactics to recruit those men into the Chancel Choir. However, consider this the "soft approach;" everyone who sang with us that day is welcome to join us this fall. Those of you who were seated in the pews are not exempt either. If you recall, you sang with us on the last chorus. We have had you "join the choir" a number of times now – including Pastor Dan's last Sunday, Pastor Michael's first Sunday, the 2010 Christmas music, and now this past July 3. Anyone who has sung with the choir that many times is, by definition, a member; now you need to make it official and join us regularly. Seriously, if you have an interest in the music program, please come by the Music Ministry table at fall kickoff and talk to us. We have a spot for you.



In addition to our current groups (see below), we hope to add two more areas this year. As noted last month, we would like to expand the breadth of our **instrumental program** by taking advantage of the talents within our congregation. It is also a goal to develop a group that would involve our **youth in grades 7-12**. I am open as to what type of direction we might go, but I would enjoy exploring the options. As noted above, if you are interested, stop by the table at fall kickoff.

Chancel Choir
 Chapel Chimes
 Cherub Choir
 Gospel Grass
 Lifesong
 Sonshine Singers
 Wesleyan Bells

Marty

~What a Blessing~

"When God closes a door, somewhere He opens a window."

In July, Los Arcos Methodist Church in Scottsdale closed their doors. While this is sad news, it was a blessing for UMOM as well as a number of local Methodist churches, includes our own.

We were able to obtain the following needed items for several groups here at church:

Music Ministry was as able to add over 130 **NEW** music scores to their library

Youth Ministry added storage cabinets, two chairs, three end tables, white boards, an office desk, story board, fully decorated Christmas trees, as well as four filing cabinets filled with classroom materials.

Our Kitchen received a microwave, serving platters, punch bowls, linens, Bunn Coffee Maker, tablecloths

The Church was also able to procure two message kiosks, two easels, two 8-foot tables and one round table.

We were able receive these donations from Los Arcos because of Janet Bose and Phil Lester who grew up at along with their parents Shirley and John Lester. And a huge thank you goes to Darlene who was the Trustee who worked with us to make this happen.



Health Ministry Cancer Prayer Circle

Our cancer prayer circle is open to individuals with cancer as well as their family and friends. At each prayer circle we pray for one another, share stories, share communion and an anointing for healing. Our next Cancer Prayer Circle is August 13th at 4 pm in the sanctuary. Participants will have an opportunity to have their own small supportive prayer chain so that they can pray for each other as well as share information about oncologists, radiologists, where to go and where not to go for treatment. At our circle on October 8th at 4pm we will have a Naturopathic physician for a question and answer session about diet.



Cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) guidelines changed in 2010 following much research. According to the American Heart Association CPR used to follow the ABC's: airway, breathing and chest compressions. Now, compressions come first, only then do you focus on airway and breathing. The only exception to the rule is newborn babies, but everyone else will get chest compressions before you worry about the airway.

The key to saving a cardiac arrest victim is ACTION, not assessment. The moment you realize the victim won't wake up and doesn't seem to be breathing right CALL 911.

In September we are offering 2 CPR classes. On Saturday, September 17th at noon we are offering a CPR class for individuals 12-18 years of age. Youth who are members of this congregation are able to attend for free. On Saturday September 24th at 10:30 we will be having a class for individuals of all ages. Teens and ushers of this congregation are able to attend for free. The cost for all others will be \$20. To sign up for a class, please contact Therese Pineda.

Peace be with you,
Therese Pineda RN
Director of Health Ministries
602-686-1259 health@gilbertumc.org

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will switch over to our school-year schedule, meeting from 9:00 to 11:00, beginning on Tuesday, August 23 in room 308. Our new study book, "Life Principles from the Women of the Bible Book 1" by Wayne Barber, Eddie Rasnake, and Richard Shepherd, is part of the "Following God Character Series". We invite you to join us as we study 12 women, including Eve, Sarah, Ruth, Esther and Mary, and discuss how we can apply their life lessons in today's world. The books will be available to purchase at the church's Fall Kick Off on August 21, and at our August 23 session. On August 23 we will have a time of fellowship, as well as a presentation by Pastor Michael and Wendy Bryant on their recent Holy Land trip. Look for more details in upcoming bulletin announcements, or call the church office if you have questions.



Our summer study, using the Upper Room devotion, will continue through August 16, at 9:30 in room 308. Childcare is available for children ages 10 and younger with advance registration. To register for childcare, please contact Katie Bouchie at kebouchie@gmail.com.

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study

The Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study will start up again on September 7th, as part of the Wednesday Night programming. Rev. Eve Williams will lead the study. The class topic for discussion will be announced shortly. The class will meet in room 212 from 7:00-8:00pm each week. For more information, please call the church office.

Visual Arts Team

In September, the Visual Arts Team (VAT) will be changing the display case in the Narthex. The *23rd Psalm* is the theme for the next showing. We ask that all pieces be submitted by Sunday, September 11. We have included The 23rd Psalm below and ask as part of your devotional that you re-read this popular Bible verse and prayerfully consider submitting art work that you feel represents this verse. Or, perhaps after re-reading the 23rd Psalm you may be inspired to *create* a piece to share with the congregation. There is no limit on the style artwork, nor the age of the submitter. It may be in the form of photograph, painting, quilt, drawing, etc. We welcome art from anyone between the ages of 1 and 100!

Please submit your piece(s) to the church office after September 1, or contact Kim Fairley at 480-495-7158. If you haven't already, please stop by the display case in the Narthex and enjoy the crosses and examples of Scripture that have been submitted by members and friends of our congregation.

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name' sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: For thou art with me;

Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

Thou annointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

-- KJV



Book Club

The Book Club will not meet in August. The book for September is [Saving Jesus From the Church](#) by Robin R. Meyers. Please watch the bulletin and September newsletter for date and location of the meeting. The book for October is [The Help](#) by Kathryn Stockett. For more information please contact Myrna Eshelman via email at myrna.eshelman@gmail.com or call Myrna at [480-216-3038](tel:480-216-3038). Everyone is welcome.



Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Men's Renewal Weekend 2011 Can You Walk Like a D.S.?

The United Methodist Men's Retreat will be Friday, September 30 - Sunday, October 2 at the United Christian Youth Camp in Prescott. Guest speakers include Bishop Minerva Carcaño, Rev. Candace Lansberry, Rev. Bob Burns, Rev. Gary Kennedy, and Rev. Michael Pearson. The weekend will include a 9-hole Frolf (frizbee/golf) tournament, hiking, basketball, volleyball, paintball, ping pong, foosball, swimming, and horseshoes as well as entertainment provided by The Master's Quartet. Registration forms are available in the church office as well as the conference website at www.desertswconference.org.

What does August mean to YOU??

August is busy month for all of us. School's start back up, Fall Kick Off is right around the corner and several church programs are ramping up to begin in September. August is a very busy month for the Nominations Committee here at First United Methodist Church of Gilbert as well. This year the following folks are on Nominations: John Bowers, Lora Norris, Pastor Michael Bryant, Carol Scharff and Lori Wiemers.

By now you are asking yourself, what does this mean to me??? The folks on Nominations are doing the following activities: Checking with all Ministry Team Chairs to verify current members on their teams; checking with the Chairs to see if they will remain on as Chair for 2012;; finding out which Ministry Teams will need new members for 2012

The following Ministry Teams will be looking for new members for 2012:

<i>Finance</i>	<i>Membership and Evangelism</i>
<i>Staff Parish</i>	<i>Pastoral Care</i>
<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Kitchen Ministry</i>
<i>Lay Leadership</i>	<i>Preschool Team</i>
<i>Adult Ministry</i>	<i>Sports Ministry</i>
<i>Centennial Celebration</i>	<i>Visual Arts Team</i>
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	<i>Worship Team</i>
<i>Health Ministry</i>	<i>Youth Team</i>
<i>Missions</i>	<i>Volunteer Ministry</i>
<i>Land Development</i>	<i>Columbarium</i>
<i>Audio/Visual Team</i>	

What do you need to do??

If you are interested in any of the ministry team, send an email to volunteer@gilbertumc.org and let us know. If you would like more information about a particular ministry team, ask someone on the team or email us that as well.

The nominations members will also be making calls to many of you asking that you become part of the a ministry team.

From The Message, 1 Corinthians 12:25-31

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything. You're familiar with some of the parts that God has formed in his church, which is his "body":

apostles; prophets ; teachers ; miracle workers ; healers ; helpers; organizers; those who pray in tongues.

But it's obvious by now, isn't it, that Christ's church is a complete Body and not a gigantic, one-dimensional Part? It's not all Apostle, not all Prophet, not all Miracle Worker, not all Healer, not all Prayer in Tongues, not all Interpreter of Tongues.

Recycling News

Paper Retriever:

Our newest recycling program is a large dumpster in the northwest corner of the church parking lot for paper products and FLATTENED cardboard! This includes junk mail, newspapers, catalogs, magazines, phone books, office paper, blueprints, and flattened cardboard boxes.

The church has received a call from the Paper Retriever company informing us that a large number of unflattened boxes have been placed in the dumpster, taking up a lot of space. *The company asked that a church staff member crawl in the dumpster to flatten the boxes. In order to save the church staff from crawling in the dumpster, please flatten all cardboard before placing it in the dumpster. Thanks! ☺*

In June, we collected less paper than in May. This may be due to summer vacations. The church will be paid a small amount per ton collected. The more we collect each month, the more we are paid per ton. If we only collect 1-3 tons per month, we are paid \$5 per ton. If we collect 4-8 tons per month, we are paid \$15 per ton. Last month, we collected 2.2 tons of recyclable paper. Let's collect a minimum of 4 tons this month so that we can receive \$15 per ton as opposed to \$5 per ton.

Please look for the recycling containers in the narthex, activity center, kitchen, classrooms and offices to dispose of ANY recyclable items! Most Sunday School classrooms have blue cans intended for recyclables. There are some large cans in the activity center that are marked for recyclables as well as some decorative containers meant for cans and bottles. We will be marking containers with bright green tape to help make them more conspicuous. If you aren't sure what can be recycled, there is a chart on the large green can in the activity center



In order to be successful in our recycling efforts, we need everyone's support! Please help keep the church green and clean by being aware of the recycling containers and assisting with emptying them as needed or contacting someone if you notice a container is full. The housekeeping staff does not empty the recycling.

The church also collects empty Capri Sun and other drink pouches, used ink cartridges and old cell phones. These may be placed in the containers in the entryway of the activity center or brought to the church office.

We need your help! Volunteers are needed to help with the Green Team projects, and to help identify more ways that the church can be 'Green'. Anyone interested please call the church office.

Prime Timers Game Night

The recently formed Prime Timers Group for those 55 yrs and older will meet on Saturday, August 13th from 4:30-7:30pm in the activity center for a potluck and game night. Please bring a board game, if you have one. For the potluck, those with last names beginning with A through O, please bring a salad, main dish or side dish. Those with last names beginning with P through Z, please bring a dessert.



For more information, please contact Linda Faber at faber@cox.net or 480-821-0952.

Holy Land Presentation

Please join us on Sunday, August 14 from 2:30-4:30pm to enjoy the stories, pictures and memories of our recent adventure to the Israel. We will meet in the activity center at 2:30pm to sample some of the foods from the region, then move to the sanctuary at 3:00pm as seven members of the team will take turns showing pictures and sharing highlights of walking, swimming, eating and worshipping where Jesus lived.



~Helping Hands Serving God~ Volunteer Opportunities

Numbers ~ what do they mean??? **3, 56, 4, 2, 6, 7 over 50**

We had **3** adult volunteers take 12 youth on the SSP Mission trip this month.

We had **over 50** volunteers for an awesome VBS week for 117 children.

We **need 56** volunteers to teach Sunday School for Pre-K3 - 6th grade for the month of August.

Looking for **2** volunteers to lead Kids Time on Wednesday Night starting September 7.

4 Volunteers are **needed** to fire up our Pre-Teen Fellowship (PTF 4-6th Grade) Group on Wednesday nights.

Coffee Hour Set up and Take down could **use 6** more volunteers to fill in the holes in the schedule.

3rd Service on Sunday is **in need of 7** ushers, so we would have a complete team.

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, "I used everything you gave me."

Erma Bombeck

Missions Committee

Lisa Sotomayor, Chair - missions@gilbertumc.org

The Missions Committee has had a busy summer. The Sons of God brunch in June was great. Thanks to the ladies who stepped up to the occasion, and to the guys and their families and friends who enjoyed a great buffet.

We received an emergency call for bottled water from the Watkins Homeless Shelter in June. The church's response was phenomenal! Fifty-nine cases plus clothing traveled to the shelter on Sunday, June 12th.

Six Love Boxes for Soldiers were sent to our soldiers overseas. Thanks for the donations for our troops.

Gilbert Open Arms has been grateful for the ongoing support to the food bank. There is still a great need as the shelves are scantily stocked. August Menu is as following: peanut butter & jelly, crackers, applesauce and juice.

Great reviews came from the Watkins Homeless Shelter on July 9th as the families and women of the shelter enjoyed their meal and the opportunity to receive much needed clothing for the little ones and themselves. Thanks to the donation of cosmetics and skin care products, the women were able to boost their self-esteem. We have been invited to participate in a luncheon at the shelter. Look for the dates in September.

We are in need of volunteers to help with the fall campaigns. Please stop by the Missions table in activity center on Sunday mornings to see how you can help.

Thank you for your continuing support. - caring for Christ's community, one life at a time.



Coffee Hosts



Attn: Coffee Lovers! Do you have a secret desire to be a barista at Starbuck's? Are you lost without your morning cup of Joe? Do you want to save others from caffeine withdrawal? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you are just the person we need at FUMCG!! We have **NO ONE** to serve coffee on the 2nd and 5th Sundays of the month. Please help! For more information, please call Bev Graham at newmembers@gilbertumc.org. (If no one comes forward, there will be **NO** coffee hour on the 2nd and 5th Sundays! Unthinkable!!). Just a thought - there are very few 5th Sundays.

General Fund Financial Summary at June 30, 2011

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Actual Over/(Under)</u>
General Giving	\$286,597	\$317,460	(\$30,863)
Other Income	\$59,601	\$51,308	\$8,293
Total Income	\$346,198	\$368,768	(\$22,570)
Total Expenses	\$353,167	\$371,877	(\$18,710)
Income Over/(Under) Expenses	(\$6,969)	(\$3,100)	(\$3,860)
Operating Cash on Hand			\$103,602
Ideal Minimum Operating Cash on Hand			\$140,000
Average weekly giving income YTD at 6/30/11			\$11,023
Average weekly giving income YTD last year (at 6/30/10)			\$12,166
Average weekly giving needed to meet our approved 2011 annual budget			\$11,827

For the first time this year, our year-to-date expenses exceeded our income. Summer is a slow giving season, yet our vital ministries continue. Many members are away on vacation, and we also have many members who are struggling from week to week. Those who are blessed with good incomes might consider additional giving at this time. "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded." -- Luke 12:48

If you have any questions about the church's finances, please contact John Bowers, Finance Chair (480-471-6567, Financechair@gilbertumc.org) or Deanna Helland, Treasurer/Church Accountant (480-892-9166, accountant@gilbertumc.org).

Thank you for your faithful financial support of our church.

New Gilbert Alzheimer's Support Group for Caregivers of People With Dementia

The Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter has started a new support group for caregivers of people with dementia in Gilbert at our church. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 1:30-3:00pm in room 212. Pre-registration is not required. If you have questions about the group or need more information, please contact Mindy at the Alzheimer's Association at 602-528-0545.



Zumba Classes

Rev. Tina Rees offers Zumba classes twice a week - Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00pm and Saturdays from 8:30-9:30am. Both classes meet in the activity center.

Zumba is a dance fitness class that incorporates Latin rhythms and dance moves to tone your body and increase your cardiovascular health.

For more information, please contact Tina at 602-341-8241 or tinarees@cox.net.



Servants in Worship in August

	8:15	9:45	11:15
Acolytes			
Aug 7	MaryBeth Ondulich	Hunter Somsen	
14	Emily Ingalls	Melanie Wilson	
21	Ainsley Snyder	Evan Wood	
28	William Batz	Travis Sheesley	
	Alexandra Scharff	Hayley Vallera	
	Katelyn Johns	Reagan Metz	
	Emily Ingalls	Olivia Morey	
	MaryBeth Ondulich	Phoebe Leong	
Liturgists			
Aug 7	Charlotte Rock	Aaron Leong	Christine bayer
14	Rick Frazier	Wendy Bryant	Branda Chavez
21	Eileen Parry	Lisa Strazz	Sharon Salazar
28	Charlotte Hazelrigg	Rich Van Slyke	Kelly McClain
Ushers			
Aug 7	Pat Baker	Michael Griffith	
14	Ed Riedel	Angus MacFarlane	Michelle McClain
21	Eileen Parry	Gary McGrath	Kelly McClain
28	Jon Salak	Ray Vallera	Linda McKinley
	Jim Johns	Stuart Wiemers	Paul Contreras
	Darrin Orndorff	Andrew Wiemers	
	Art Poeske	Hal Fairley	
	Jim Ramsey	Mike West	
Greeters			
Aug 7		Strazz Family	
14	Ruby Rosemond-Taylor	Aaron & Mechelle Wendt	Pat Pletcher
21	Sheahan Family	Karl & Sharon Kotsonas	
28			
Coffee Hour Set-Up		Coffee Hour Take-Down	Altar Flowers
Aug 7	Fred & Karen Perez	Wiemers Family	David & Bev Graham
14	Open	Hal & Kim Fairley	Kim & Vickie Harding
21	Bob Case	Margie Sessums, Joan Krueger	Joe & Lisa Strazz
28	Ruby Rosemond-Taylor	Open	Open

Our Condolences to

- Linda Roy-Sanders and family on the death of her mother-in-law*
- Jim Wilkins and family on the death of his Aunt Carroll*
- Bob Sheesley and family on the death of his mother*



August Anniversaries

- 1 Paul & Barbara Perry - 40 yrs
- 3 Jim & Gloria Eggen - 15 yrs
Jo & Keith Asplin - 54 yrs
- 5 Ron & Sharon Dalton - 13 yrs
- 8 Ed & Alma Riedel - 30 yrs
Marty & Elice Province - 24 yrs
- 11 Tom & Kim Dare - 27 yrs
- 13 Dennis & Charlotte Hazelrigg - 45 yrs
- 15 Bob & Becky Case - 30 yrs
Kim & Vicky Harding - 40 yrs
Josh & Tiffany Scott - 6 yrs
- 22 Scott & Caroline Mara - 14 yrs
- 23 John Durica & Beverly Braham-Durica - 14 yrs
- 24 Bob & Jean Langdon - 54 yrs
- 28 Scott & Diane Gardner - 29 yrs
- 30 John Lin & Lindsay Wright - 8 yrs

August Birthdays

- 1 Kegan Anderson
Gayla Sutton
- 2 Emily O'Brien
Mary Vandenberg
- 3 Brian Lin
Allison Sheesley
Nicole Sheesley
- 4 Linda Cranford
Cooper Cunningham
- 5 Keela Clark
Junette West
- 6 Eric Palmer
- 7 Laura McLeod
Dirk Smith
- 8 Kate Baker
Ron Sober
Lori Wiemers
- 9 Jennifer Zawacky
- 10 Jennifer Chilton
Angus MacFarlane
Amanda Martin
Ashley West
- 11 Olivia Matson
- 12 Bill Neubauer
- 13 Diane Crann
Dan Harvey
Allison Wendt
- 14 Drew Martin
Tom McKinley
- 15 Alan Ball
Emily Huppert
Stephanie Russum
- 16 Lynn Ingalls
Gabby Willenbrink
- 17 Pat Pletcher
Tina Rees
Anthony Scanio
- 18 Jennifer Burks
Eric Lazbin
- 20 Lilah Wiley
- 21 Lauren Lostumo
Julia Strazz
- 22 Laura DeRoule
Rob Hines
William Huppert
Jim Johns
Brittany Norris
Jon Salak
- 23 Carter Cunningham
- 24 Lizzie MacFarlane
Jim Reeves
- 26 Molly Hahn
Andy Martin
- 27 Harris Compton
Melissa Maurer
Reagan Metz
Stacey Schmidt
- 29 Sadie Fairley
Jackson James
- 30 Skip Eshelman
- 31 Kevin Boesch
Kein Curran
Jeff Kimbrough
JJ Lawson

Special Celebrations

If your anniversary and birthdays are not listed in the monthly newsletter, please

contact Dina in the church

office so that we can celebrate your special days.



In Our Prayers:

Warren/Agnes Begley	Katie Bouchie	Susan Bowers	Garin Campbell	Keela Clark
Glen Compton	Travis Dare	Roberta Dean	Bob/Margaret DeBolt	Pauline DuBon
Skip Eshelman	Virginia Franklin	Ruth Gieszl	Irene Groves	Elizabeth Heagren
Ruth Heer	Karl Honaker	Betty Hunter	Darlene Jones	Calista Kerr
Earl & Pat Knight	Doris Lane	Tom & Pat Logan	Walt & Ila Mae Luken	Cynthia Marble
Teri Martin	Blanche McDonough	Franklin Nickerson	Bonnie Paisley	Aldon & Marilyn Pell
Pat Pletcher	Wilbur Post	Susan Prosser	Cindie Rempel	Logan Reynolds
Schleiger Family	Bill Spence	Barbara Valbuena	Linda Vernoski	Jake Wagner

Our Evangel prayer list represents those on our prayer list who are within our congregation. Let us lift them into the Lord's care. Our Prayer Chain ministry includes all submitted prayer requests, those within our church community and those for our extended families, friends and community. Please email prayer requests to umcprayerchain@gilbertumc.org or fill out a pew prayer card on Sunday morning

Rev. Michael Bryant, Senior Pastor - pastormichael@gilbertumc.org
 Rev. Eve Williams, Associate Pastor – pastoreve@gilbertumc.org
 Rev. Tina Rees, Associate Pastoral Care – tinarees@cox.net
 Administrative Board Chair, Ed Stressman - estressman@cox.net
 Adult Ministry Chair, Molly Hahn – hahn926@cox.net
 Centennial Celebration, Nancy Ball - nball@marleykemf.org
 Children’s Ministry, Janelle Chiricuzio - children@gilbertumc.org
 Church Accountant, Deanna Helland - accountant@gilbertumc.org
 Church Secretary, Dina Reid – dina@gilbertumc.org
 Elementary Coord. - Joyce Larscheid -elementarycoordinator@gilbertumc.org
 Finance Chair, John Bowers – financechair@gilbertumc.org
 Financial Secretary, Kim Dare – finance@gilbertumc.org
 Health Ministry Director, Therese Pineda - 602-686-1259
 Joseph Ministry, Herb Miller – herbmiller@cox.net
 Kitchen Ministry, Lori Wiemers—volunteer@gilbertumc.org
 Land Development Chair, Joan Krueger-joank@yahoo.com
 Lay Leaders, John & Susan Bowers – jandsbowers@yahoo.com
 Membership, Bev Graham - newmembers@gilbertumc.org

Ministry Team Chair, Mike Clark - mikewoodbridge@earthlink.net
 Missions Chair, Lisa Sotomayor - missions@gilbertumc.org
 Music Director, Marty Province - music@gilbertumc.org
 Nursery Coordinator, Diane Chaon - nursery@gilbertumc.org
 Organist, Jonathan Cochran - thebigjlc@yahoo.com
 Pastoral Care Team, Diana Whitford - dianawhitford@q.com
 Prayer Chain, Michelle McClain –umcprayerchain@gilbertumc.org
 Preschool Committee Chair, Sharon Dalton – sharond52@cox.net
 Preschool, Lara Fink /Lora Norris-preschool@gilbertumc.org
 Staff Parish Relations, Jo Asplin - joasplin@yahoo.com
 Stephen Ministry, Blaine Harris, stephenministryblaine@gmail.com
 Trustees Chair, Al Reynolds - trustees@gilbertumc.org
 Visual Arts Team, Wendy Bryant - wlrbyrant@cox.net
 Volunteer Ministry, Lori Wiemers - volunteer@gilbertumc.org
 Webmaster, Susan Prosser – webmaster@gilbertumc.org
 Wedding Coordinator, Jaci Shaw - jacishaw@yahoo.com
 Worship Committee Chair, Herb Miller - herbmiller@cox.net
 Youth Coordinator, Mike Stephenson - youth@gilbertumc.org

Wednesday Night Programming

Our Wednesday Night programming will begin for the season on September 7th. The classes are designed to feed your inner spirit while, at the same time, bringing our church community together for a time of fellowship. We will grow together in both spirit and community. Please contact the church office with any questions.

5:00-5:30pm Chapel Chimes (3rd-9th grade) – Bell Room
 5:30-6:30pm Wesleyan Bells – Bell Room (211)
 6:00-7:00pm Dinner – Activity Center
 7:00-8:00pm Pastor Michael’s Bible Study – Room 306
 7:00-8:00pm Pastor Eve’s Women’s Bible Study –Room 212
 7:00-8:00pm Youth Bible Study – Room 308
 7:00-8:00pm Kid’s Time (PreK-3rd grade) – Room 221
 7:00-8:00pm PTF (4th-6th grade) – Room 226
 7:00-8:30pm Chancel Choir – Choir Room

Nursery care is provided throughout the evening.

Dinner will be available each Wednesday at a cost of \$3/person or \$12/family. Please check the bulletin each week for the dinner menu.

