



### A Load of wood...

I was reading about a snowstorm the other day. No, it wasn't the weather report from Minnesota; it was one of the books in the Mitford series. It seems that Father Tim (the town's Episcopal priest) and Dooley (his adopted son) were on their 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the worst snow storm that ever hit Mitford. They had no power, no heat, no lights (except for a battery



-driven lantern), and the fireplace and bologna sandwiches were all that kept them alive. As they were discussing which chair they were going to break apart to use for fire wood there was a knock at the door, and low and behold it was a "soprano and a baritone" from the church choir with "a load of wood" for their beloved pastor! Father Tim then expressed his uncontrollable joy and thanks for something as simple in life as "a load of wood." And as he and Dooley prepared for Christmas that year they remembered and sang this song:

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give Him: give my heart.*

Yes, it seems to me that some of the most important things in life are the result of another's sacrifice and love. And I think we all know that these things are seldom silver, gold, diamonds or leather. We all know that the best Christmas gifts are more like a load of wood—something simple; something that brings life; something that brings joy and thankfulness; something that reminds us of God's greatest gift to us—His Son, Jesus.

May you be blessed with a "load of wood" this Christmas.

Pastor Michael

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## December Special Events

- 12/4 *Chili & Caroling Party - 4:00pm - activity center*
- 12/9 *Preschool Christmas Pageant - 6:30pm - sanctuary*
- 12/10 *Children's Ministry Christmas Pageant - 6:30pm - sanctuary*
- 12/11 *Preschool singing during 9:45 worship service*
- 12/18 *Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata - 8:15 & 9:45 worship services*
- 12/18 *Community Messiah Sing-a-long - 7:00pm - activity center*
- 12/24 *Christmas Eve Worship Services*  
*5:00pm LIFESONG, Children's Ministry Pick-Up Pageant*  
*7:00pm Chancel Choir, Cherub Choir, Sonshine Choir*  
*9:00pm Chancel Choir*  
*11:00pm Wesleyan Bells, soloist, harpist*
- 12/25 *Christmas Day Service - 10:00am - sanctuary*



### Christian History Adult Sunday School Class

We are studying the **New Testament** and begin December by looking at the **Gospel of Luke**. Luke is the third of the Synoptic Gospels and similar to Mark and Matthew in that it too presents an account of Jesus' spectacular words and deeds leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection in Jerusalem. Yet it, too, has distinctive emphases of its own. Luke does not stress that, as the Son of God, Jesus was misunderstood by all who came in contact with him, as in Mark. Nor does the Gospel of Luke emphasize that Jesus was a new Moses, bringing a new interpretation of the Law for his followers, as in Matthew. Instead Luke emphasizes that Jesus was a Jewish prophet much like the prophets of old. He knows full well what is to happen to him and is in complete control of himself and his circumstances, up to the time of his death.

Next we will study the **Gospel of John, portraying Jesus as the Man from Heaven**. John is quite different from the synoptics, lacking many of the familiar and significant accounts that form the backbone of Mark, Matthew and Luke. It contains other stories which come down to us in this text alone. John's stories are different than the earlier accounts, for example, the cleansing of the Temple or the day of Jesus' death. In John, Jesus teaches almost exclusively about himself, about who he is, where he has come from and how he alone can bring salvation. Jesus' own identity lies at the core of this account; Jesus is himself divine, equal with God, an incarnation of God's Word, through which he created the universe.

We will study some of the **Noncanonical Gospels**, which contain accounts of Jesus' words and deeds. Over twenty of these Gospels survive that did not make it into the NT, ranging in date from the second to the eighth centuries. Most of these later Gospels are highly legendary and can be categorized as either narrative Gospels, (including stories of Jesus' words, deeds and experiences) or sayings Gospels (which focus almost exclusively on his teachings). The **Gospel of Peter** is a fragmentary narrative of Jesus' trial, death and resurrection. The **Gospel of Thomas** is a "sayings" Gospel discovered in recent times - one of the most exciting archaeological discoveries of the twentieth century - which appears to embody a Gnostic understanding of Jesus.

Come join our class. We meet in room 225 at 9:45 a.m.

Please visit the class facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/FUMC-of-Gilbert-Christian-History/114327478609613>.



## Sunday Worship & Daily Bible Readings

### December 4

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10

*The First Evergreen*

### December 11

Scripture: Psalm 26

*Covered in Joy*

### December 18

Scripture: Samuel 7:1-11, 16

*House of Bread*

### December 25

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

*Ya, But it's Christmas*



### November 28-December 4

Monday	Isaiah 40:1-5
Tuesday	Isaiah 40:6-11
Wednesday	Psalm 85:1-2
Thursday	Psalm 85:8-13
Friday	2 Peter 3:8-10
Saturday	2 Peter 3:11-15a
Sunday	Mark 1:1-8

### December 5-11

Monday	John 1:6-8
Tuesday	John 1:19-28
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 5:16-22
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 5:19-20
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
Saturday	John 1:19-28
Sunday	Psalm 126

### December 12-18

Monday	2 Samuel 7:1-11
Tuesday	2 Samuel 7:1-11
Wednesday	Luke 1:47-55
Thursday	Luke 1:47-55
Friday	Luke 1:26-38
Saturday	Luke 1:26-38
Sunday	Romans 16:25-27

### December 19-25

Monday	Psalm 98
Tuesday	Hebrews 1:1-12
Wednesday	John 1:1-5
Thursday	Isaiah 52:7-10
Friday	Titus 2:11-14
Saturday	Luke 2:1-20
Sunday	John 1:1-14

### December 26-January 1

Monday	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Tuesday	Psalm 148
Wednesday	Galatians 4:4-7
Thursday	Luke 2:22-40
Friday	Revelations 21:1-6a
Saturday	Matthew 25:31-46
Sunday	Isaiah 60:1-6



## Staff Parish Relations

The Staff Parish Relations Committee recently completed the process of hiring a new Financial Secretary. Janet Bose has begun a training period with Kim Dare before assuming all of the duties connected to the position. Kim and Tom will be welcoming a new grandchild soon. Kim was asked to help with childcare and joyfully consented, so Kim will be taking on some child care for this new addition to the family. She continues in service to the church as a teacher in our preschool and a volunteer in youth activities. We appreciate her help in many different areas at church.

We are planning to honor Kim for her many years of working with our financial records in early January at all three services. Please let her know individually how grateful you are for her commitment to our church.



## Our Preschool . . . spreading God's love

\* On December 9th at 6:30 the preschoolers present "Holy Light" a special Christmas pageant! Our very own church member, Beth Boesch wrote the songs and will accompany the children with her guitar. Come kick off the holiday season with us!

\* On December 11th at 9:45am the preschoolers will sing a selection from their pageant at the worship service.

\* Registration for Parent/Tot Classes for the Spring session (2 year olds and an adult) is open now! Come join the fun. More details are on our website: [www.gilbertumcpreschool.com](http://www.gilbertumcpreschool.com).

\* Registration for next school year will be in late January. Watch for more information to come!

\* If you have any questions, please call Lora Norris or Lara Fink at 892-9166. God Bless!



## Children's Ministry at FUMC- Gilbert

### TWO CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANTS!!!!

**December 10 6:30pm Traditional Pageant Sanctuary**

Contact Dorinda Johns [jimanddorinda@q.com](mailto:jimanddorinda@q.com) for more info and questions

**Rehearse-** Sundays 11/27 & 12/4 at 11:30am

Wednesdays 11/30 & 12/7 at 7pm

Dress Rehearsal-12/10 at 5pm

**Christmas Eve 5pm Pick-Up Pageant ~ Family Service- Sanctuary**

*As the children come in with their families, they will be able to choose which part in the Christmas story they would like to play. There will be angel halos, shepherds hats and a number of other things for them to "PICK UP". They will sit with their families and at the point in the Christmas story where they appear, they will be asked to come forward and be part of the tableau.*



**Christmas and New Years Day Mornings (One service- 10am)**

**Children PK-3, PK-4 and Kindergarten** will go to room 308 for parent sign in and a modified Sunday school.

**1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade** will attend church with their family. There will be no Sunday school



Contact Mike Stephenson at church or by cell at 775- 354 -3153.

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Sunday school teacher- 2 Sundays per month- Begins immediately 9:45-10:45am
2. Pre-K 4's grade Sunday school teacher- 2 Sundays per month- Begins January 8<sup>th</sup> 9:45-10:45am
3. Adult to help with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month 9:45-10:45am

### We have a new Special Buddy Program Coordinator!!

Children's Ministry is proud to welcome Nicole Kuck. Nicole has served at two other churches in programs such as ours and has lots of wonderful ideas. This is such an important part of our church life and Nicole views this as her ministry. Please contact Nicole if you have current needs, questions or would like to be a Special Buddy. Her email address is [nicolefkuck@gmail.com](mailto:nicolefkuck@gmail.com).

### NEW NEWS

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** begins January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. 9:45- 10:45am on Sundays in room 223. This class will be for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and above. We have a great team of teachers that can't wait to meet you! Our Confirmation Service will take place on May 20, 2012.

**DROP AND SHOP-** 9am-1pm 12/10/11. A chance for parents of children to go Christmas shopping or to breakfast. This is a youth fundraiser and will be well chaperoned by adults. \$20- per child. Please RSVP to Mike Stephenson [youth@gilbertumc.org](mailto:youth@gilbertumc.org) by 12/4/11. Children must be potty trained.

**Safe Sanctuaries**  
First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

# YOUTH STUPH



Greetings!

Every year I get out the "Christmas box". When my late wife and I moved from Reno to San Francisco in 2005 we condensed all the Christmas things into just one box...Hallelujah! Our girls had moved out and we were on our own and down-sizing felt great. We limited what we kept in that box to the memory/keepsakes that were important to us and just enough ornaments to finally have a smaller tree. The other "important" stuff we passed on to our daughters as they started their own families and life journeys.

Our box is simple. It doesn't have much but each of the "things" hold powerful memories that serve as bench marks for our time together and our love for one another.

Sharon and I moved to Reno from Santa Monica in 1980 when I got a job as a singer in a show. We had not had our first daughter yet-only Hilde the dog. We did not have a lot of money but we managed to get a magnificent tree. It was the year that Mt. Saint Helen's erupted and this tree came complete with ash. The tree was so heavy that it crushed the metal stand and I ended up securing a toggle bolt in the ceiling and hanging it....a bright idea I must say. We shopped at the Salvation Army for lights and ornaments that I still have today. Sharon thought bows would be a nice addition...so she found some cheap fabric. It was red with a golden print. She tore it into small strips. She starched and ironed each one and we began our annual tradition of me sitting with my fingers out about 2 inches apart and Sharon tying them into a bow. As our girls all grew we shared the job as we listened to "A Sesame Street Christmas" even into their teens. We have placed these bows on our tree since that year and they have become an important part of our, now my, Christmas tradition. I will unpack the bows soon and the memories will come flooding back.

I hope and wish for all of you, a Christmas season that is filled with the awareness that each moment is special no matter how insignificant it may feel at the time.

Take good care

Mike Stephenson- Director of Youth Ministry

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

### YOUTH Sunday School

Offered every Sunday for 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade  
from 9:45-10:45am

Where~ Junior High- Room 226

Senior High- Room 308

### AWESOME TEACHERS AND FELLOWSHIP!!!

**All youth will gather, first, in room 308 and then after announcements we will split into our separate classes**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON WEDNESDAYS?

### Youth CHRIST CARE

Begins right after dinner at 7:00pm in room 308.  
Facilitators ~Beverly Durica and Mike Stephenson.  
Small group/great discussion...JOIN US!

## Youth Missions

### Sierra Service Project (SSP) Senior High

Summer 2012

Fort Hill Idaho is our first choice and SSP will let us know soon. The dates are 7/7-7/15

### Junior High Mission

7/1-7/6 Summer 2012

YOUTH WORKS- San Diego

### Mission Registration~

This has taken place however if you want to go talk to Mike..we may be able to find a spot for you

## YOUTH CALENDAR

### ONGOING

Wed	7:00-8:09pm	Youth Christ Care~ Room 308 Small group Sharing and Spirituality
Thurs	6:30pm	Youth Council meeting Room 226 (TBA)
Sun	9:45-10:45am	Confirmation Class 2012 (TBA)
	9:45-10:45am	Youth Sunday School/ Meet in 308 to begin Junior High- Room 226 Senior High- Room 308
	5:00-7:30pm	UMYF/ Youth Group / Meet in Activity Center Includes dinner- \$3.00 fee

12/4

Wreath Delivery at church

TBA

Youth Council Meeting

12/4

Chili and Caroling

12/10

Drop and Shop (Parent's Day Out) fundraiser

9am- 1pm ( for shopping)

Children's Christmas Pageant 6:30pm Youth to help

12/18

Youth group (UMYF) Christmas party/ White Elephant

Gift Exchange ~5-7:30pm

1/8 Confirmation Class begins- rm 224 6<sup>th</sup> grade and above

## HELP WANTED

Contact Mike Stephenson at church or cell 775 354 3153

### Adult and Youth Volunteer Help

#### Youth Council Members

Help plan and organize the growing youth program.

#### UMYF COUNSELORS- Sundays 5-7:30pm. (Welcome Rhonda Walkosz)

#### Sunday School Teachers - junior and senior high

#### PALS- Adult Helpers for Sunday school (bring a snack and stay to help out)

## Meditation Calendars

The Missions Committee of FUMCG is again selling the church's very own day-to-day meditation calendar in the activity center until January 1st. The 2012 edition of FUMCG's Daily Meditation calendar is a compact (4 ¼ x 5 ½ in) desktop calendar inspired by the writings of more than forty men and women who are among today's most popular Christian inspirational and motivation authors. The meditative calendar grew out of six years of a weekly Christian men's breakfast fellowship started right here at FUMGC. Each day of the calendar contains a single engaging meditation selected by our own Norm Haskett from over fifty books he and his fellowship of men have read. Each day of the calendar offers a simple yet profound lesson for us in how we can bring God's timeless Word to bear on the issues, demands, obligations, and choices we continually face in our busy, hectic lives. Cost of the calendar is \$10. Proceeds of the sale support the work of the Missions Ministry.



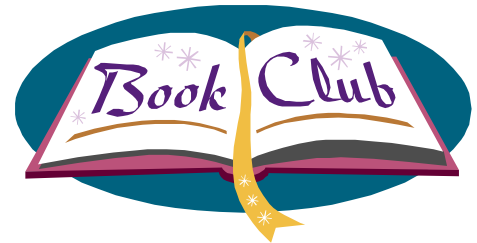
### Poinsettias

Each year, the church orders a number of poinsettias to be displayed on the altar on Christmas Eve. These may be ordered "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one at a cost of \$14.00 each. The poinsettias may be taken home after the 11:00pm Christmas Eve service. All remaining poinsettias will be donated to local care facilities. **All orders and payments must be received by the church office no later than December 18th!** Order forms are available in the Sunday morning bulletins and the church office.



### Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Thursday, December 15th at 11:30am at June Morrison's home. Please bring a used copy of your favorite book for a book exchange. Please sign your book so that it can be returned. On January 26th, the group will discuss Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy by Eric Metaxas. For more information, please contact Myrna Eshelman at [myrna.eshelman@gmail.com](mailto:myrna.eshelman@gmail.com) or 480-216-3038.



## Land Development Group

Well, finally! The Land Development Group for has received all approvals for the ball fields from the Town of Gilbert. And so we are pursuing the appropriate permits to start moving forward with the construction. Actual activity will last approximately 60 days and will begin based on the best time to effectively plant the grass for successful growth. We expect to begin in January, if possible. We look forward to sharing the wonderful improvements to our campus with the congregation. If you have any questions before, during or after construction, feel free to contact one of the LDG members - Nancy or Alan Ball, Joan Krueger, Kelly McClain, Paul Prosser, or Dan Vrana.

### Upper Room Devotionals

The Upper Room 2012 Discipline Daily Devotionals are available for purchase in the church lobby, near the drinking fountain. The Sunday morning sermons are often based on the scripture readings from these devotionals. The large print are available for \$13.00 while the regular print are \$10.50. Please make your checks out to FUMC.

### Isaiah's Ministry (formerly Special Buddies)

Are you interested in serving as a special buddy to children with special needs? Isaiah's Ministry is looking for volunteers of all ages who have a desire to serve the Lord once or twice a month, while assisting students with special needs during Sunday School. If interested, please contact Nicole Kuck, Isaiah's Ministry (Special Buddy) Coordinator, at 480-455-0705 or [nicolefkuck@gmail.com](mailto:nicolefkuck@gmail.com).



## A Service of Light

For many of us, Christmas is a bittersweet time of year. It is a time for remembering both persons and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but that are now changed or gone.

This is the time of year with the longest nights and therefore the longest periods of darkness during our days. To acknowledge this darkness and our need for a sacred space for hurting and healing we will be having a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ's light.



Come join us at 6PM on December 17 at for a time of special music, scripture, silent reflection, meditation and prayer.

## FUMC of Gilbert Now on FACEBOOK!

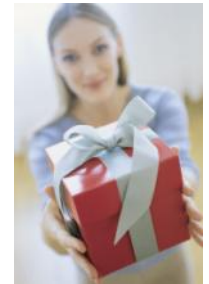
"Like" us on Facebook and get all things FUMC of Gilbert right on your news feed. Just go to <http://www.facebook.com/FUMCofgilbert> and click "like" and you will get reminders about special events, important church news, and useful links. Also, this is a great way for people to spread-the-word about our wonderful church by sharing events, etc. with their Facebook friends. So go ahead, "like" us today!



## Missions Committee

Lisa Sotomayor, Missions Committee Chair - [missions@gilbertumc.org](mailto:missions@gilbertumc.org)

It's the season of giving and receiving. The Missions Committee would like to thank the congregation for all the help that you have given us throughout the year. We are always amazed when it comes to the support of our congregation. Thank you to Daisy Troop 1967 who provided U MOM with a number of brown bags filled with food and other items. The Turkey Drive was a great success and the drivers were awesome. The Christmas Angels and Senior Santa campaigns are in full bloom. Please stop by the Missions table in the activity center to select a name from the Angel and Santa tree. **Caring for Christ's Community, One Life at a Time.**



## Music Ministry

December, as always, brings a number of special events for Music Ministry, and this year is no exception.

**Christmas Eve** is our busiest night of the year, with services at 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00. **LifeSong** will be providing music for the early service. For the 7:00 and 9:00 services, the **Chancel Choir** will sing, with both the **Cherub Choir** and **SonShine Singers** singing at 7:00. The **Wesleyan Bells** will play for the 11:00 service, and **Dan Hahn** will sing *Gesu Bambino*, accompanied by **Molly Hahn** on the harp.



December 18 promises to be a very special day in the musical life of our church. The Chancel Choir will present a **Christmas cantata** by John Leavitt at both of the traditional services. Accompanying will be an orchestra comprising students from ASU joined by members of the Gilbert Methodist Church family. That same evening, at 7:00, our church will host a community **Messiah Sing-A-Long** in the Activity Center. Everyone is welcome to attend (as a singer or in the audience), and instrumentalists are invited to join the pick-up orchestra. Rehearsals for the orchestra (there are none required for the singers) will be Sundays 4:30-6:00. If you are interested in more information contact Marty in the church office.



The annual **Chili and Caroling** party will be December 4, and this year, for the first time, Gospel Grass will be providing the music for the chili dinner. All are invited to come for an evening of good food, good fellowship, and traditional Christmas caroling.

Perhaps the most exciting thing about December (at least for those of us involved with Music Ministry) is the anticipated arrival of the **NEW CHOIR ROBES!** Robes were ordered last month, and we expect them to arrive sometime during Advent. The Chancel Choir offers a huge THANK YOU to all who helped make this possible. More than 25 individuals and families contributed to our fund drive, and we are deeply indebted to each of those generous souls.

## General Fund Financial Summary at October 31, 2011

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Actual Over/(Under)</u> <u>Budget</u>
General Giving	\$461,107	\$493,625	(\$32,518)
Other Income	\$128,666	\$95,794	\$32,872
Total Income	\$589,773	\$589,419	\$354
Total Expenses	\$585,070	\$605,715	(\$20,645)
Income Over/(Under) Expenses	\$4,703	(\$10,296)	\$20,999

Operating Cash on Ha	\$99,529
Ideal Minimum Operating Cash on Han	\$140,000
Average weekly giving income YTD at 10/31/11	\$10,480
Average weekly giving income YTD last year (at 10/31/10)	\$11,546
Average weekly giving needed to meet our approved 2011 annual budget	\$11,827

Our giving remains behind budget, but so far this year we have also been able to keep expenses below budget. Our Other Income, which includes our Preschool Tuition and rental of our facilities, is over budget. This helps offset the related expenses and makes up for some of the giving shortfall. Our ministry teams continue to coordinate amazing programming for our church, in spite of our budget constraints.

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a 2012 pledge form. If you haven't already done so, please prayerfully consider your pledge for next year, and turn in your form. Extra forms are available in the church office and in the pew racks. Your pledges help our church leaders in determining the funding sources to support our church's 2012 budget.

Our new Financial Secretary, Janet Bose, starting training on November 7. She will be training with Kim Dare over the next few weeks. If you have any questions about your giving statement or pledge, please contact Janet (480-892-9166 on Tuesday mornings, [finance@gilbertumc.org](mailto:finance@gilbertumc.org)).

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

Thank you for your faithful financial support of our church.

### Surviving the Holidays

"Surviving the Holidays", a video and discussion presentation, will be available on Sunday, December 4th at 1:30pm in room 306 for people who are going through this holiday season after losing a loved one through death or divorce. It is open to anyone in the church or community. If this is your first, or even second, holiday season without a loved one, please plan on attending! No reservations are required.

### Mingus Mountain Winter Camp

The Desert Southwest Conference winter camp for youth in grades 7th-12th will be at Mingus Mountain Methodist Church Camp, north of Prescott, on January 14-16th. The cost is \$145. The registration deadline is January 6th. For more information or to register online, please visit [www.mingusmountaincamp.org](http://www.mingusmountaincamp.org).



## Exploring the Way – New Class Beginning in January!

*Exploring the Way* is a new class designed as an introduction to Christian spirituality. It is written with the person *new* to spiritual formation in mind. *Exploring the Way* is a seven week experience. An initial group meeting serves as a time of introduction orienting participants to the resource and the weekly experiences, and receiving your book. The remaining six week schedule looks like this:

- Week One—Beginning the Journey—explores a definition of spiritual formation and the spiritual practice of journaling.
- Week Two—Sharing the Adventure—explores the role of spiritual disciplines in helping persons become more intentional about their relationship to God and the spiritual practice of testimony.
- Week Three—Bread for the Journey—explores scriptural meditation as a means of spiritual formation and the spiritual practice of *lectio divina*.
- Week Four—Drink for the Journey—explores prayer as a way of “paying attention to the divine” and the spiritual practice of breath prayer.
- Week Five—Companions on the Way—explores the gift of one another and the spiritual practice of holy listening.
- Week Six—Reaching Out in Love—“explores a way of noticing God’s presence in daily life that leads us beyond ourselves and into God’s call to reach out to the world” and the spiritual practice of daily examen.

The class will begin on January 11th. We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM in room 225. Each person will need a Participant’s Guide, costing \$13.00 each. The books will be available at the first class. Pre-registration is encouraged, so we order enough books! To pre-register, contact Dina in the church office (480) 892-9166.

## Visual Arts Team (VAT)

### WHO IS GOD?

When one thinks about God, what images come to mind? A loving Father, a sunset, the face of a loved one, or an “angel” in the disguise of a stranger? The Visual Arts Team is planning for a new art display in January. The theme is a child's interpretation of "Who is God?" We invite you to encourage your child(ren) to express their ideas about God through drawings, paintings, photographs, and stories or poetry. We hope to have at least one entry per child. We will display their works of art in the Narthex (Lobby) as well as in the Sanctuary after the Christmas season. Please turn in your entries to the church office by no later than Sunday, December 19. Please call Kim Fairley at 480-495-7158 if you have questions.



## Singles Group Activities

12/03	5:00 PM	Singles chili & soup supper and Electric Light Parade at 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC-Phoenix. Cost for parking, Contact: Jenny T. at 480-855-4407 for further details.
12/04	Afternoon	Mill Avenue Arts Fair. Contact: Janet C. at <a href="mailto:jecomptongreen@gmail.com">jecomptongreen@gmail.com</a> , 602-312-1796
12/10	10-4 PM	Christmas Cookie sale at Tempe 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC, \$10 - \$12 per box, depending on size. Contact: Sharon K. 480-968-7272
12/10	7:30 PM	Sonoran Desert Chorale Winter Concert at 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC-Mesa. Contact: Betsy, <a href="mailto:ILgirl700@cox.net">ILgirl700@cox.net</a> , 480-924-7742
12/11	4-6 PM	Movie (tbd) and snacks at 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC-Gilbert room 308, contact Sharon S. <a href="mailto:sharone2937@msn.com">sharone2937@msn.com</a>
12/17	7:30 PM	A Christmas Story by Mesa Encore Theater Co., Location: Mesa Arts Center, Main and Center, About \$17. Contact: Jenny, 480-855-4407
May, 2012		Conference singles trip to New York City, details still in the works. Contact: Jenny, 480-855-4407

## Servants in Worship in December

	8:15	9:45	11:15
<b>Acolytes</b>			
Dec 4	Katelyn Johns William Batz	Emma Strazz Rilie Fairley	
11	Reagan Metz Alexandra Scharff	Katelyn Mason Lizzie MacFarlane	
18	Ainsley Snyder Williams Batz	Allison Wendt Phoebe Leong	
25	N/A	N/A	
<b>Liturgists</b>			
Dec 4	Laurel Redman	Pam Berg	Kelly McClain
11	Dan Vrana	Angus MacFarlane	Michelle McClain
18	Charlotte Rock	Aaron Leong	Sumiko Sober
25			
<b>Ushers</b>			
Dec 4	Ed Riedel Kevin Becker	Glen Compton Ray Vallera	Herb Miller Vikki Richardson
11	Pat Baker Herb Miller	Hal Fairley Mike West	Linda McKinley Paul Contreras
18	Eileen Parry Jon Salak	Michael Griffith Angus MacFarlane	Michelle McClain Kelly McClain
25			
<b>Greeters</b>			
Dec 4		Strazz Family	
11	Ruby Rosemond-Taylor		
18	Sheahan Family	Karl & Sharon Kotsonas	
25			
	<b>Coffee Hour Set-Up</b>	<b>Coffee Hour Take-Down</b>	
Dec 4	Fred & Karen Perez	Wiemers Family	
11	Eileen Parry & Jon Salak	Hal & Kim Fairley	
18	Rebekah Cunningham	Margie Sessums, Joan Krueger	
25	Ruby Rosemond-Taylor	Open	

### *Our Condolences to*

- ❑ *Charlotte Rock & family on the death of her uncle, Louie Rock*
- ❑ *John Van Dreese & family on the death of his wife, Andrea*



## December Anniversaries

- 2 Terry & Victoria Schreiner-22  
 19 Doug & Kendra Rose - 24 yrs  
 21 Ed & Pam Stressman - 43 yrs  
 26 Bob & Cindy Sheesley - 29 yrs  
 27 Tim & April Ryan - 8 yrs  
 28 Mike & Wendy Griffith - 28 yrs  
 31 Bob & Rebekah Cunningham - 13 yrs  
 31 Dan & Nancy Young - 16 yrs

## December Birthdays

- 1 Andrew James  
 Bobbie Johnson  
 Ruby Rosemond-Taylor  
 2 Michael Strazz  
 Alyssa Alls  
 Shawn Laske  
 4 Mary Haugan  
 Diana Ramsey  
 5 Jo Asplin  
 Mike West  
 6 Ray Crawley  
 Athena Fitzgerald  
 7 Virginia Franklin  
 TK Leong  
 Kendra Rose  
 Connor Williamson  
 Nancy Young  
 8 Miriam Gill  
 Christian Longstreth  
 9 Austin Laske  
 Angelica MacFarlane  
 10 Linda Allen  
 11 Connor Sasek  
 Jenna Post  
 Jake Terry  
 12 Christy Yoder  
 13 Robin Lee  
 14 Ernie Broughton  
 Melanie Wilson  
 15 Lauraie Moore  
 Allie Scharff  
 17 Justin Bagshaw  
 Jaron Mason  
 Judy Pierce  
 18 Evan Cunningham  
 Barbara Elliott  
 Pete Lorbeck  
 19 Travis Schreiner  
 20 Robert Rose  
 Adam Sukis  
 21 Cole Maurer  
 Sharon Salazar  
 22 Harvey Wilson  
 23 Bill Pritzker  
 Ed Riedel  
 Dominic Zusy  
 24 Kelly Quast  
 Sandy Trew  
 25 Tracy Yamamoto  
 26 Bob Collins  
 Bonnie Paisley  
 Jaci Shaw  
 Nina Waechter  
 27 Acacia Bianchi  
 28 Jon Lin  
 30 Alyssa Fink  
 Phyllis Petrone  
 31 Phyllis Yamamoto

## 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:

Luke Alls	Rebekah Alls	Warren/Agnes Begley	Contreras Family	Travis Dare
Roberta Dean	Bob/Margaret DeBolt	Phil Dodge	Margo Doss	Pauline DuBon
Skip Eshelman	Sherry Farrer	Virginia Franklin	Ruth Gieszl	Jan Grindle
Irene Groves	Joyce Harvey	Elizabeth Heagren	Ruth Heer	Karl Honaker
Garnet Kepp	Calista Kerr	Earl & Pat Knight	Sharon Kotsonas	Jean/Bob Langdon
Doris Lane	Jean Langdon	Walt & Ila Mae Luken	Teri Martin	Blanche McDonough
Franklin Nickerson	Bonnie Paisley	Aldon & Marilyn Pell	Phyllis Petrone	Pat Pletcher
Wilbur Post	Susan Prosser	Logan Reynolds	Rizzo Family	Arlene Russell
Schleiger Family	Alice Smith	Ron & Sumiko Sober	Bill Spence	Barbara Valbuena
Vallera Family	Linda Vernoski	Jake Wagner	Diana Whitford	

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](mailto:umcprayerchain@gilbertumc.org) or fill out a pew prayer card on Sunday morning

Rev. Michael Bryant, Senior Pastor - [pastormichael@gilbertumc.org](mailto:pastormichael@gilbertumc.org)  
 Rev. Eve Williams, Associate Pastor – [pastoreve@gilbertumc.org](mailto:pastoreve@gilbertumc.org)  
 Rev. Tina Rees, Associate Pastoral Care – [tinarees@cox.net](mailto:tinarees@cox.net)  
 Administrative Board Chair, Ed Stressman - [estressman@cox.net](mailto:estressman@cox.net)  
 Adult Ministry Chair, Molly Hahn – [hahn926@cox.net](mailto:hahn926@cox.net)  
 Centennial Celebration, Nancy Ball - [nball@marleykemf.org](mailto:nball@marleykemf.org)  
 Children’s Ministry, Janelle Chiricuzio - [children@gilbertumc.org](mailto:children@gilbertumc.org)  
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 Church Secretary, Dina Reid – [dina@gilbertumc.org](mailto:dina@gilbertumc.org)  
 Finance Chair, John Bowers – [financechair@gilbertumc.org](mailto:financechair@gilbertumc.org)  
 Financial Secretary, Janet Bose – [finance@gilbertumc.org](mailto:finance@gilbertumc.org)  
 Health Ministry Director, Therese Pineda - 602-686-1259  
 Joseph Ministry, Herb Miller – [herbmiller@cox.net](mailto:herbmiller@cox.net)  
 Kitchen Ministry, Lori Wiemers—[volunteer@gilbertumc.org](mailto:volunteer@gilbertumc.org)  
 Land Development Chair, Joan Krueger-[joank@yahoo.com](mailto:joank@yahoo.com)  
 Lay Leaders, John & Susan Bowers – [jandsbowers@yahoo.com](mailto:jandsbowers@yahoo.com)  
 Membership, Bev Graham - [newmembers@gilbertumc.org](mailto:newmembers@gilbertumc.org)  
 Ministry Team Chair, Mike Clark - [mikewoodbridge@earthlink.net](mailto:mikewoodbridge@earthlink.net)

Missions Chair, Lisa Sotomayor - [missions@gilbertumc.org](mailto:missions@gilbertumc.org)  
 Music Director, Marty Province - [music@gilbertumc.org](mailto:music@gilbertumc.org)  
 Nursery Coordinator, Diane Chaon - [nursery@gilbertumc.org](mailto:nursery@gilbertumc.org)  
 Organist, Jonathan Cochran - [thebigjlc@yahoo.com](mailto:thebigjlc@yahoo.com)  
 Pastoral Care Team, Diana Whitford - [dianawhitford@q.com](mailto:dianawhitford@q.com)  
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 Preschool Committee Chair, Sharon Dalton – [sharond52@cox.net](mailto:sharond52@cox.net)  
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 Staff Parish Relations, Jo Asplin - [joasplin@yahoo.com](mailto:joasplin@yahoo.com)  
 Stephen Ministry, Rev. Michael Bryant-[pastormichael@gilbertumc.org](mailto:pastormichael@gilbertumc.org)  
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 Volunteer Ministry, Lori Wiemers - [volunteer@gilbertumc.org](mailto:volunteer@gilbertumc.org)  
 Webmaster, Susan Prosser – [webmaster@gilbertumc.org](mailto:webmaster@gilbertumc.org)  
 Wedding Coordinator, Jaci Shaw - [jacishaw@yahoo.com](mailto:jacishaw@yahoo.com)  
 Worship Committee Chair, Herb Miller - [herbmiller@cox.net](mailto:herbmiller@cox.net)  
 Youth Coordinator, Mike Stephenson - [youth@gilbertumc.org](mailto:youth@gilbertumc.org)

## Chili & Caroling Party

Please join us on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> for our annual CHILI AND CAROLING party. This festive evening will be full of holiday fun for the whole family. All events will be in the Activity Center until we return from caroling. Then we'll enjoy s'mores and hot chocolate around the campfire!

- 4:00 Crafts for Kids (& young at heart), music by Gospel Grass, photo op with a Bethlehem shepherd, sign ups for caroling route & holiday door prize.
- 4:30 Dinner & fellowship (with above ongoing)
- 5:30 Caroling
- 7:00 Return to FUMC for dessert: s'mores & hot chocolate (provided by our youth)

