

Welcome to a New Year!

I read some old January newsletter articles today- ones from past years. I am reminding myself of what I have said in previous years. The first thing I noticed in my reading is that they are really good articles (*said with humility, of course*). The second thing I saw was that they speak of making a new beginning, which is appropriate for January, I think. What about 2012? What kind of witty and brilliant message do I have for us this year? Hmmm; that's the tough part!



I have realized that I'm out of good ideas. I'm right in the middle of gearing up for Christmas services- these take a lot of energy and creativity. Also, only a few days ago I planned all the sermons for January, 2012; just how much more can I take? Where can I turn for help? I am certain I have reached the end of my "creative rope." So, First Gilbert, what should I do? Ah, this brings me to our January, 2012, message.

In the coming year, I invite you (and me) to allow God to be your foundation, your source of wisdom and your guide. In a conversation with some folks recently, I shared with them that I believe God meets us during the times when we need Him most- in fact, I believe God is ready and willing to help us, but the fact is, in the busyness, boredom and burdens of life we often do not recognize God in our midst- and we often do not ask Him for help! Like when I began to write this newsletter article... I was certain that I had nothing of value to say- but God had other ideas!



Finally, as we reset our watches, put away the Christmas stuff, establish our financial plans, struggle with new insurance benefits, choose new doctors, determine how we will pay for our medications, file tax returns, fill out a new calendar, switch out our Day Timer, and so on, let's remember to include God in *all our plans* for 2012 [A good way to include God in your plans is to begin the year working your way through the Book of Psalms during your prayer time].

Shalom,

Pastor Michael

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Membership & Evangelism

DID YOU KNOW?.....

.....That we had close to 200 folks attend the Chili & Caroling Party last month?

.....That the Scouts helped provide fire pits for our Caroling Party?

.....That the beautiful new Advent banners in the sanctuary were deeply appreciated by so many during the worship services? Thank you, VAT!

CHILI AND CAROLING

What a fun night we had at the Chili & Caroling party last month!!! Our local Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts supported this activity as their special Christmas event, which boosted our numbers considerably. They were a big help as well! The hard work of MANY folks, enabled us to enjoy a very festive evening.

*The youth were involved from fire pits to s'mores, from door prizes to helping with crafts.....

* The Clark, Fairley, Wiemers & Beimfohr families, provided fire pits for the evening, a must-have for s'mores!.....

* Crafts were coordinated and provided by Barb Perry, Pam Burg, Allison Krahenbuhl and Joyce Larscheid.....and many of YOU assisted with the children.....

*Barb Perry and Dan & Nancy Young made the Shepherd Photo Op a reality. Surprisingly, it was a hit with the young and "mature" alike!.....

*Paul Perry prepared the Advent handout and caroling routes.....and the list goes on.....

*THANK YOU Membership & Evangelism for your time, dedication and enthusiasm.....and to all of YOU for bringing food, fellowship and helping hands to make the evening such a success.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a heart felt WELCOME to the following new members who joined us in 2011. We are so glad you have chosen to make FUMC your church home. Welcome to Brady Anderson, Caroline Chilton, Marissa Contreras, Alannah Durica, Elias Escalante, Madison Flood, McKinley Lang, Riley Lang, Shawn Laske, Sydney Lostumo, Matthew Rose, Kayla Stiers, Julia Strazz, Clay Trammell, Anah Victoria Whittington, Brianna Wiemers, Ella Wood, Beverly Braham-Durica, Pam Campbell, Tommy Campbell, Lori Annunziata, Lynn Munson, Calista Kerr, Kevin Krahenbuhl, Allison Krahenbuhl, Jan Compton, Glen Compton, Sherri Phelps, January Rizzo, Roy Phelps, Carolyn Phelps, Ernie Broughton, Anita Broughton, Garin Campbell, Tara Pettengill, Matthew Pettengill, Jason Flanders, Desirae Flanders, Scott Ouellette, Sini Ouellette, David Yoder, Christy Robertson Yoder, Bill Pritzker, Tracy Pritzker, Alison Brooks, Mark Blackledge, Elizabeth Blackledge, Joe Mayne, Norma Mayne, Bill Nichols, Janice Nichols, Brett Bottesch, Kristy Bottesch, Martha Jo Billy, Eli Chiricuzio, Janelle Chiricuzio, Blanche McDonough, Gilbert Peppin, Aryn Peppin, Kaye Titus, and Alana Uhl.

DID YOU KNOW?.....

.....That we had 61 new members join our congregation in 2011?

The Inquirers Adult Sunday School Class

The Inquirers class, formerly the Christian Ethics & Current Events class, will host a guest speaker in January. Kevin Krahenbuhl, instructor at Chandler Gilbert Community College and new church member, will discuss America's Christian Heritage.

January 8 - Introduction to America's Christian Heritage

January 15 - The American Trinity & its Influences

January 22 - Discussions on Christianity in Contemporary America

All are welcome to join us in room 212 at 9:45am.

Sunday Worship & Daily Bible Readings

January 2-8

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

What Time is it?

January 9-15

Scripture: Mark 1:4-11

Making a Difference

January 16-22

Scripture: Psalm 139:13-18

Knowing God

January 23-29

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20,
Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The Call

January 30-February 5

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

Getting Back My Life

January 2-8

Monday Genesis 1:1-2

Tuesday Genesis 1:3-5

Wednesday Psalm 29

Thursday Psalm 29:11

Friday Mark 1:4-7

Saturday Acts 19:1-7

Sunday Mark 1:8-11

January 9-15

Monday 1 Samuel 3:10-20

Tuesday John 1:43-45

Wednesday Psalm 139:13-18

Thursday 1 Samuel 3:1-9

Friday John 1:43-51

Saturday 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Sunday Psalm 139:1-6

January 16-22

Monday Mark 1:14-15

Tuesday Mark 1:16-20

Wednesday 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Thursday Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Friday Jonah 3:1-5

Saturday Psalm 62:5-8

Sunday Psalm 62:9-12

January 23-29

Monday Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Tuesday Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Wednesday Psalm 111

Thursday 1 Corinthians 8:1-6

Friday 1 Corinthians 8:7-13

Saturday Mark 1:21-22

Sunday Mark 1:23-28

January 30-February 5

Monday Isaiah 40:21-28

Tuesday Isaiah 40:28-31

Wednesday Psalm 147:1-11

Thursday 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Friday Mark 1:29-34

Saturday Mark 1:35-39

Sunday Mark 1:35-39



Christian History Adult Sunday School Class

Our January classes begin on Jan. 8 looking at the Gospels beyond being literary texts to consider their value as **historical sources for what Jesus actually said and did**. When we find discrepancies within the Gospels we can identify a theological agenda. There is little recorded about Jesus in the numerous pagan sources of his own day. We will look at some criteria used by historians to determine what can be used as historical sources.

Next we will examine the strong historically reliable information indicating that **Jesus** is best understood as a first-century **Jewish apocalypticist**. The teaching was that God was soon going to send a cosmic judge called the Son of Man, who would overthrow the forces of evil and bring in God's good Kingdom. In preparation the people of Israel were to repent and turn to God by following the teachings of Jesus.

We will study Acts narrating the life of the Christian church after Jesus' death. It is written by the author of Luke and is the second part of a two-volume work. It includes the empowering of the Christian church's missionaries through the Holy Spirit and the guarantee that the mission would succeed.

Before we get into Paul's writings we will look at him as a highly religious Pharisaic Jew, his conversion story and as a missionary to the Gentiles.

Come join our class and discussion 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>.



Preschool News.....

Happy New Year from the preschool!

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year:

- ❑ Registration packets available beginning January 16th in the preschool and church office.
- ❑ Registration for church members, current and former preschool families begins January 23rd from 9:00am-12:00pm in the preschool office or call to arrange a time to drop registration off.
- ❑ Open registration begins January 30th from 9:00am-12:00pm in the preschool office or call to arrange a time to drop registration off.

Check out our website at www.gilbertumcpreschool.com for details about our programs!

Parent/Tot Spring Session: There are a few openings for 2 year olds and their special adults. Spring classes begin January 24/25.

Classes for 3 year olds and pre-kindergarteners begins on January 9th.

Here's a Bible verse song for the month:

(Tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

We should do good to everyone

We should do good to everyone

We should do good to everyone

In the Bible, Galatians 6:10



Children's Ministry at FUMC- Gilbert

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHANGES FOR 2012

4th and 5th grades will be combined and will meet in room 221.

6th grade will meet in room 224 and will be the Confirmation class. This class will not go to the sanctuary and will go straight to class.

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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS begins January 8th, 2012. 9:45- 10:45am on Sundays in room 223. Confirmation Sunday will take place on May 20, 2012. This class is open to 6th graders and above.

Sonshine Choir 2012 Performance Schedule

9:45 service - 1/29~ 2/12~ 3/25~ 4/29~ 5/13 (Mother's Day)

Practice is on Sundays, in room 221, from 11:00-11:30 a.m. Please remember to bring your music folder! On the days we perform we will meet at 9:30am in the sanctuary to rehearse. There will be no practice on the days we perform. For performance days, please dress in your favorite and most comfortable Sunday best and SMILE! Please contact Beth Boesch, Director kboesch@cox.net for further information or if you'd like to JOIN!!!!

Welcome

Jen St. Pierre - New PK-4 Sunday School teacher- Jen will alternate with Lori Wiemers.

Cameron Willamson - New parent helper in 3rd grade Sunday School class

Jim Wilkins and Ashley West - Jim and Ashley will co-chair the Children's Ministry Committee beginning January 2012

Thanks! We couldn't do all of this without you!

HELP!!!

Contact Mike Stephenson at church or cell 775 354 3153

2nd Grade Sunday school teacher- 2 Sundays per month-Begins immediately 9:45-10:45am



YOUTH STUPH



Happy New Year!

HEY! We are reborn! We start fresh in the new year and with the birth of Christ. It is a time for us to renew ourselves with many different things AND IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. Maybe the biggest one being our relationship with our spiritual selves. The diet and the gym are always looming in the shadows...right? But- Our spiritual selves- that's why WE do this- GOD- church family- our world.



I invite our youth to re-commit this year in 2012 to our community here at FUMC Gilbert and for parents to support that by encouraging them and bringing them, even when they want to sleep in. I invite parents to get involved too- please volunteer- It really does take a village. I believe it is the most important thing that we can do- to explore our spiritual selves through faith development, volunteering and service.

Hope to see you at church this year!!

Take good care

Mike Stephenson- Director of Youth Ministry

YOUTH CALENDAR 2012

ONGOING

Wed	7:00-8:09pm	Youth Christ Care~ Room 308
Tues	6:30pm	Youth Council meeting Room 308 (1 st Tues of each month)
Sun	9:45-10:45am	Confirmation Class 2012 (1/8/12- 5/20/12) Room 223- Sundays 9:45-10:45
am		
first)	9:45-10:45	Youth Sunday School (Gather in room 308 Junior High- Room 226 Senior High- Room 308)
	5:00-7:30pm	UMYF/ Youth Group Includes dinner- \$3.00 fee

1/3 Youth Council Meeting 6:30pm Room 308

1/8 Confirmation Class begins- rm 223 6th grade and above

End of Jan/ First of Feb Youth Ski Trip- Sunrise. Register soon

2/4 Super Bowl Sub Prep- youth Fund-Raiser

2/5 Super Bowl Subs- Youth Fund-Raiser

2/12 DCYM meeting Paradise Valley UMC 4:30pm

District Valentine's Dance Paradise Valley UMC 5:30- 8:30pm

March/ 2011 Possible White Water Rafting trip

3/25 YouthWorks-Junior High Mission half balance due

4/14 District Youth Turn-around Trip to Universal Studios

5/5 First Gilbert's Got Talent/ Youth Fund-Raiser

5/19 Confirmation / Grad Rehearsal and Dinner

5/20 Confirmation Sunday- Grad Sunday/ Youth service

5/27 YouthWorks-Junior High Mission final balance due

7/1-7/6 Junior High Mission to San Diego/ YouthWorks

7/7-7/15 High School Mission trip/ Sierra Service Project

9/28,29 or 10/5,6 Youth Fall Retreat- Pine Rock Camp, Prescott

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

YOUTH Sunday School

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

Junior High- 226 Senior High- 308

AWESEOME 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! The level of sharing is incredible!

Youth Missions

Sierra Service Project (SSP) Senior High

Summer 2012

IT'S OFFICIAL~FORT HILL, IDAHO IS OUR SITE. 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 we may be able to find a spot for you.

UMYF for Youth!!!

On Sunday evenings (5-7:30pm). This will be a time for our youth to get to get together for dinner fun, outings, worship and fellowship. Bring \$3.00 for dinner.

HELP WANTED

Contact Mike Stephenson at church or cell 775 354 3153

Youth Council members-Help plan and organize the growing youth program.

UMYF COUNSELORS- Sundays 5-7:30pm

PALS- Adult Helpers for Sunday school (bring a snack and stay to help out) Thanks to all that have volunteered so far!

Junior High-Sunday school Teacher 2 times per month

Health Ministry

Healthy Family Meal Resolutions

*Lord, we thank you for the blessings of this day
and for this time together as family.*

We thank you for this wonderful meal and for this hour we can share it.

*Help us to remember those who have so much less than we do.
Bless us as a family. Help us to grow in love and care for each other.*

*We ask you to comfort and give strength and peace
to those who are sick or struggling in any way*

*Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive
from your bounty through Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Family meals together bring an opportunity to pray together. To ask God to bless the food that we are about to receive, to bless the earth from which it came, and to bless the hands of those who made it. Family mealtime can bless us mind, body and soul. Dinner table conversation can include what is going on in Washington or Baghdad, in school at work or on the football or baseball field. The conversations connect us to one another sharing everything from a bowl of potatoes to a sad story about a friend.



Like everything in life family mealtime changes over the years. The children leave one by one. The table gets smaller. Grandchildren come and the table gets bigger. Family members die and there may be an empty chair. The Christmas or Easter celebration may be lacking that one special dish that was made by a loved one who is no longer with us.

Instead of sharing nightly family meals you may share a meal just a couple times a year with family and friends. This year pay special attention to your family mealtime when ever and where ever it is. Show up and be present mind, body and spirit. Take pictures and write about it. It's an important time in the family's growth. Pull together all those special family recipes and prayers and put them in a book with who does what and when. These things are keepsakes, treasures and family blessings. They lengthen and strengthen our Christian lives.

This past year I was blessed with a very special Thanksgiving meal. All five of our children were there in Texas with spouses, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. So far my only grandchildren have four legs and a tail and go "ruff". Someday, I am sure, that will change too. It really was the best meal because it began with a giant circle in the living room with us all holding hands and bowing our heads for those special words of prayer. It made me think of our church family here with our Wednesday night meals when sometime shortly after the stroke of six we form that circle and someone says a prayer. We sit and talk and share and are nourished mind, body and soul.



May your year be blessed with happy family meals!

Peace be with you,
Therese Pineda RN
Parish/Faith Community Nurse
602-686-1259

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Thursday, January 26th at 11:30am at June Morrison's home. The group will discuss Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy by Eric Metaxas. Please bring a sack lunch to enjoy while discussing the book.

The book selection for the February 23rd meeting is Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls.

For more information, please contact Myrna Eshelman at myrna.eshelman@gmail.com or 480-216-3038.



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!



Green Church—Recycling Programs

The church participates in a number of recycling programs. The Paper Retriever bins (green and yellow bins in the northwest corner of front parking lot) are used to collect an assortment of paper - newspaper, magazines, junk mail, work or school papers, phone books, flattened cardboard boxes, cardboard tubes, clean food boxes (cereal boxes, etc), shredded paper placed in bags, colored paper, catalogs. The bin does not accept plastic, glass or metals. The church receives a check for the amount of tons collected. To date we have recycled over 14 tons of paper.

The church has a number of recycling receptacles around campus. Please use these to recycle your soda cans as well as paper. Once a week, our Youth Ministry empties the recycling bins. The cans are collected, crushed and delivered to a recycling center in Chandler.



There are marked collection baskets on the shelving in the entryway of the activity center. These baskets are used to collect used ink and toner cartridges, empty juice pouches (Capri Sun, etc) and used cell phones.

Our newest recycling program involves recycling used cosmetic containers. We are able to collect and recycle the following packaging: lipstick cases, mascara tubes, eye shadow cases, shampoo bottles, conditioner bottles, bronzer cases, foundation packaging, body wash containers, soap tubes, soap dispensers, lotion dispensers, saving foam tubes, powder cases, lotion bottles, chapstick tubes, lotion tubes, face soap dispensers, face soap tubes, face lotion bottles, face lotion jars, eyeliner cases, eyeliner pencils, eyeshadow tubes, concealer tubes, concealer sticks, lipliner pencils, hand lotion tubes, hair gel tubes, hair paste jars. PLEASE NOTE: hair spray cans, nail polish bottles and nail polish remover bottle ARE NOT accepted. Please place all cosmetic containers in the marked basket in the activity center.



All proceeds from the recycling programs are used to fund church activities and programs. Thank you for your support.

The church is in need of volunteers to help remove the Christmas decorations from the sanctuary on Saturday, January 7th at 10:00am. If you have some time to spare, please stop by - the more hands, the quicker the task!

Music Ministries

Marty Province, Music Director - music@gilbertumc.org

Now we find ourselves at the start of a new year, a time when we make resolutions . . . many of which we are unable to maintain. The Music Ministry offers you a chance to make a resolution that is easy to keep, one that benefits you and the church. Why not make 2012 the year that you become involved in one of the musical groups at church? Share your talents with others through helping to lead in worship. Time commitments are minimal, and the rewards are numerous.

In addition to making music, members support one another during good times and bad. At the close of each Chancel Choir rehearsal, we take the opportunity to share joys and concerns before prayer. At a recent rehearsal, we heard several stories of members (and former members) who are going through difficult situations. During the discussion, a couple of people told of similar experiences and how the choir had served as an extended family, offering Christian love and support. From personal experience, I know that this is one of the most valuable functions of our choirs. If one is open and receptive, our musicians are there to help through those rough times, and you are invited to join us.

It is often said that what one gains from a program is directly related to what one gives. What better way to start to RECEIVE more from your church than by GIVING of yourself to one of its ministries? Make no mistake, we hope that you will want to become involved in the music program, but if not here, consider where you can best use your talents, make the contact, and get started. For information about opportunities in music, contact Marty Province at music@gilbertumc.org.



Upcoming Events:

Third Friday Jam Session (First one of the new year) – January 20th, 7:00-10:00 in room 306. Bring an instrument (including your voice) for an evening of informal music making.

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.

Helping Hands ~ Serving God

2012 is here and it is time to make our New Year Resolutions!!

The Volunteer component of the vows that we took when we became members of the church offers a New Year's resolution for everyone in the church.

Try something new in 2012.

It is that simple. If you currently help out with Adult Ministry, offer your service to the youth or children. If you always help with the worship service on Sunday, offer your service to the Spring Picnic. You get the idea ~ step out of your comfort zone just once in 2012. Throughout the year, check out the Evangel and the web site for areas in which you can "try" a different area in the church by sharing your gifts and talents just once.

What an awesome testimony to God if we all try something new in 2012.



Serving Even When It Is Inconvenient by Jon Walker

As they went on their way, a man said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down and rest." (Luke 9:57-58 TEV)

Jesus never calls us to blind obedience. As we follow him and become familiar with his character, we learn he is always waiting on the other side of our steps of faith. He forces us into a place where we must trust him and his promises, but he also tells us what to expect when we follow him (John 14:1-4).

He wants us to count the cost of our commitment, because he knows it will demand every thing we have (Luke 14:28). In essence, Jesus warns us away from a romantic view of following him. He understands that when we volunteer to go anywhere at any time, our romanticism will wither when our commitment becomes inconvenient — or when it collides with the full cost of discipleship.

Discipleship means we give up any thought that there will be bits and pieces of our lives that can remain unaffected by our relationship with Jesus. We can't say "yes" to Jesus and expect to hold on to a portion of our independence. He demands it all.

We no longer have the choice to serve only when and where it is convenient for us. "Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down and rest" (Luke 9:58 TEV).

When we have a romantic view of discipleship, we may imagine ourselves giving up everything for Jesus as the world admires our faith and people express their heartfelt gratitude for our sacrificial service.

But the cost of discipleship may bring the scorn of the world to your doorstep. When you follow Jesus and do the things he tells you to do, even fellow believers may think you're throwing away your future to help people who can give you nothing in return. Discipleship may mean sacrificing for others who will have no appreciation for what you have done — much like Jesus was ridiculed as he died on a cross.

The grace to go wherever Jesus tells us to go comes only through the call of Christ and the power of God infused into our being. Grace obligates us to obey Jesus, regardless of the circumstances or consequences.

How much of your service to Jesus is based upon what is convenient for you, and how much of it is based upon you doing what Jesus has told you to do? Jesus loves you and plans his best for you. He brings no condemnation; he wants to turn you in the right direction.

Visual Arts Team (VAT)

Carol Miller, Chairperson - carolsews14@cox.net

As part of the research for creating effective signs for our church property, architect Paul Prosser gave a presentation on directional signage. He explained to us that there are three main types of signs: symbols, text and maps that assist people in navigating from entry/exit points. A final report that contains a Master Plan for phasing in signage will be presented to the Trustees for their long-range signage plan.



In the narthex (church lobby), a new display has been installed to honor our veterans. We welcome any new photos of military members of our church family.

Soon we will begin planning the Easter banners.

As the new Chairperson of VAT for 2012, I am excited about all the new opportunities we have as a congregation to grow closer to God through the visual arts. Your input is welcome. You may contact me at (480) 962-4945.

Wednesday Night Schedule

Our Wednesday Night programs 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. All are welcome!

Please contact the church office with any questions.

- 5:00-5:30pm Chapel Chimes (3rd-9th grade) – 211
- 5:30-6:30pm Wesleyan Bells – Room 211
- 6:00-7:00pm Dinner – Activity Center
- 7:00-8:00pm Pastor Michael's Bible Study – Rm 306
- 7:00-8:00pm Pastor Eve's Women's Bible Study – 212
- 7:00-8:00pm Exploring the Way – Rm 225
- 7:00-8:00pm Youth Bible Study/Christ Care Groups-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 is available from 6:00-7:00pm each Wednesday at a cost of \$3/person or \$12/family.

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

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



Altar Flowers

Each Sunday, the altar flowers are donated by members of the congregation. The flowers may be purchased "in memory of" or "in honor of" a special person or event. The cost of each bouquet is \$32.40. To sign up, please see the sign-up sheet in the church lobby (narthex) or call Dina in the church office.

Spring Parent Tot Classes

The church's preschool offers Parent-Tot classes for children 2 years old by August 31, 2011, and their special adult. Classes are offered on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings for 11 weeks from January 24/25 through April 10/11. The class introduces children to a preschool setting and routine with the benefit of have a parent participating in the activities with the child. The theme based curriculum includes biblical teachings, social interaction and introduction to academic skills. For more information or to register, please call the preschool at 480-892-9166 or visit www.gilbertumcprechool.com.



Prime Timers Group

The Prime Timers Group will attend the Basha's Southwest Museum on Tuesday, January 10th. The museum focuses on two collections - contemporary Western American art and contemporary Native American art. Over 3,000 pieces are on display including oil paintings, watercolors, bronze, wood and stone sculptures, basketry, pottery, kachinas and jewelry. Admission to the museum is free of charge.



We will meet at the church at 1:00pm to carpool. If you plan to attend, please contact Linda at lhfaber@cox.net or 480-821-0952.

Zumba Classes

Rev. Tina Rees offers Zumba classes on Saturdays from 8:30-9:30am in the activity center. All are welcome to attend.

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.



Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

James, Jesus' brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple with Beth Moore's 8-session study, "James: Mercy Triumphs". Join our Tuesday Morning Bible Study beginning on January 10, 2012 as we get to know both the man and the Book of James. This study introduces Moore's new five-tiered study approach with increasing levels of commitment from which each participant can choose how deep she'd like to go. The books will be available for purchase the first day of class for \$17.00. You may also stop by the church office to purchase a book if you would like to have it prior to the first class.



The class meets from 9:15 to 11:00am in room 308. Childcare is available. All are welcome. Please call the church office if you have questions.

General Fund Financial Summary at November 30, 2011

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Actual Over/(Under)</u>
General Giving	\$497,527	\$550,935	(\$53,408)
Other Income	\$143,268	\$106,123	\$37,145
Total Income	\$640,795	\$657,058	(\$16,263)
Total Expenses	\$647,629	\$669,819	(\$22,190)
Income Over/(Under) Expenses	(\$6,834)	(\$12,761)	\$5,927

Operating Cash on Hand	\$94,629
Ideal Minimum Operating Cash on Han	\$140,000
Average weekly giving income YTD at 11/30/11	\$10,365
Average weekly giving income YTD last year (at 11/30/10)	\$11,474
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 been able to keep expenses below budget as well. 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. Though our operating cash is lower than our desired balance, we have continued to pay all of our bills and obligations on time.

Thank you to everyone who turned in a 2012 pledge form. If you haven't already done so, it's not too late to turn in your form. Extra forms are available in the church office and in the pew racks. Pledge totals and payments are used throughout the year in monitoring cash flow.

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.

United Methodist Federal Credit Union

The United Methodist FCU will hold a Membership Drive at our church on Sunday, January 29th. Learn more about their great financial services, including the best rates and highest returns on your savings, as well as easy access to your accounts through free online banking, telephone banking and over 28,000 ATMs nationwide. The cost to open an account is \$25, plus a one-time \$5 membership fee. During the Membership Drive, the church will receive \$20 for each new member who joins UMFCU. Flyers and membership applications are available in the church office. For more information, please call 1-800-245-0433 or visit www.umfcu.org.

Central East District Leadership Training

“Smash the Box”

Saturday, February 4th - 1st Mesa UMC

8:30am Registration & Refreshments

9:00am-2:30pm Keynote & Workshops

Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Robert Burns

Central East District Superintendent

Workshops for Church Leaders:

Staff Parish, Trustees, Finance, Lay Leaders, Christian Education, Social Media & Networking

Registration is required. To register, please visit www.desertsouthwestconference.org/east. The cost is \$10 by January 24th or \$15.00 after and includes a catered lunch. Free childcare and children’s programs for ages infant through 6th grade will be offered.

For more information, please contact April Martinez at 480-854-1217 or april@desertsw.org.

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.



DNA Coaching

The next East District DNA Coaching training session will be on Thursday, January 19th at 7:00pm – location TBD. The West District will also host on training session on Saturday, January 21st – time and location TBD. The topic for the training will be “Designing Great Worship”. All are invited to attend. Please watch the bulletins for more information.

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.

Kitchen Supplies

A number of supplies and equipment have recently gone missing from the church kitchen, including a crock pot, mixing bowls, coffee and coffee cups. If you have borrowed any of these items, please return them to the church kitchen. Our church volunteers count on the kitchen being well stocked when they arrive to prepare for a funeral reception, coffee hour, Wednesday Night dinner, etc, and it is difficult to prepare for such events when our supplies are unexpectedly limited.



If you find yourself in need of borrowing something, please contact Lori Wiemers, Kitchen Coordinator, at volunteer@gilbertumc.org or call the church office for permission.

Servants in Worship in January

	8:15	9:45	11:15
Acolytes			
Jan 8	Ainsley Snyder Alexandra Scharff	Brandon Sy Makena Sy	
15	Enily Ingalls Katelyn Johns	Phoebe Leong Melanie Wilson	
22	Alexandra Scharff Reagan Metz	Alexandria Bose Katelyn Mason	
29	Ainsley Snyder Katelyn Johns	Evan Wood Lizzie MacFarlane	
Liturgists			
Jan 8	David Baker	Angus MacFarlane	Linda Faber
15	Dan Vrana	Lisa Strazz	Paul Contreras
22	Jo Asplin	Philip Tesarek	Michelle McClain
29	Eileen Parry	Pam Berg	Sumiko Sober
Ushers			
Jan 8	Tom Dare Jim Johns	Mike West Hal Fairley	Herb Miller Vikki Richardson
15	Eileen Parry Jon Salak	Michael Griffith Angus MacFarlane	Michelle McClain Kelly McClain
22	Darrin Orndorff Pat Baker	Gary McGrath Teri Martin	Linda McKinley Paul Contreras
29	Kevin Becker Mike Miller	Glen Compton Ray Vallera	Michelle McClain Kelly McClain
	Coffee Hour Set-Up	Coffee Hour Take-Down	Altar Flowers
Jan 8	Fred & Karen Perez	Hal & Kim Fairley	Open
15	Eileen Parry/Jon Salak	Margie Sessums/Joan Krueger	Open
22	Open	Open	Open
29	Lara Klinkner/Ashley West	Janelle Chiricuzio/Cindie Rempel	Open

Our Condolences to

- ❑ *Glen Masterson and family on the death of his father, Norman*
- ❑ *Kristin Schafer on the death of her stepfather, Butch Smiley and mother, Bobbi Smiley*



January Anniversaries

- 1 Jason & Desirae Flanders - 7 yrs
Roger & pat Re kittke - 32 yrs
- 2 Eric & Shawna Palmer - 19 yrs
- 6 Garry & Gayle Disch - 16 yrs
- 24 Herb & Carol Miller - 9 yrs
John & Jory Lawson - 7 yrs

January Birthdays

- 1 Alyssa Bruce
- 2 Cody Anderson
Carolyn Phelps
Arianna Smith
Hunter Somsen
- 3 Max Boesch
- 4 Derek Sovchik
- 6 Devone Pless
- 8 Kris Bryant
Addie Campton
Lara Klinkner
- 9 Finn Bouchie
Karl Kotsonas
Kayla Stiers
- 10 Danielle Anderson
Steven Blackledge
Candace Contreras
- 12 Desirae Flanders
Hailey Palmer
- 13 Jessica Gardner
Dawn Harvey
- 15 Brodie Skinner
- 16 Emily Ingalls
- 18 Janice Nichols
Elice Province
Ethan Rempel
Aaron Wendt
- 19 Jenna Bose
Mike Griffith
Matthew Pritzker
- 21 Miah Contreras
Lori Wilkins
Samantha Wilson
- 22 Harvey Wilson
- 25 Beth Boesch
Keely Orndorff
- 26 Makena Sy
Christian Waechter
- 27 Brandy Drew
- 28 Walt Luken
Aaron Province
Matt West
- 29 Rachel Wiley
- 30 Ainsley Brown

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	Warren/Agnes Begley	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	Earl & Pat Knight
Sharon Kotsonas	Doris Lane	Jean/Bob Langdon	Joyce Larscheid	Leong/You Family
Walt & Ila Mae Luken	JoAnn Mannion	Teri Martin	Blanche McDonough	Nancy McKinley
Franklin Nickerson	Bonnie Paisley	Aldon & Marilyn Pell	Pat Pletcher	Wilbur Post
Beccie Reed	Rizzo Family	Arlene Russell	Schleiger Family	Liz Shaw
Alice Smith	Ron & Sumiko Sober	Bill Spence	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 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, Jim Wilkins - jim.wilkins@phoenix.edu
 Children’s Ministry, Ashley West - west0426@yahoo.com
 Church Accountant, Deanna Helland - accountant@gilbertumc.org
 Church Secretary, Dina Reid – dina@gilbertumc.org
 Communications, Alison Brooks - alison_dbrooks@yahoo.com
 Evangelism - Bev Graham, bevsgraham@msn.com
 Finance Chair, John Bowers – financechair@gilbertumc.org
 Financial Secretary, Janet Bose – 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
 Lay Leaders, Kevin & Beth Boesch - kboesch@cox.net
 Lay Leaders, Gary & Kitty McGrath - gary.mcgrath@asu.edu

Ministry Team Chair, Mike Clark - mikewoodbridge@earthlink.net
 Missions Chair, Lisa Sotomayor - missions@gilbertumc.org
 Music Director, Marty Province - music@gilbertumc.org
 Nominations, Rev. Michael Bryant - pastormichael@gilbertumc.org
 Nursery Coordinator, Diane Chaon - nursery@gilbertumc.org
 Organist, Jonathan Cochran - thebigjlc@yahoo.com
 Pastoral Care Team, Therese Pineda, 602-686-1259
 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, Sherry Clack - arts4yoursoul@yahoo.com
 Staff Parish Relations, Junette West - Junette.west@cox.net
 Stephen Ministry, Rev. Michael Bryant-pastormichael@gilbertumc.org
 Stewardship, Eileen Parry - eparry@netzero.net
 Trustees Chair, Dan Vrana - trustees@gilbertumc.org
 Visual Arts Team, Carol Miller - carolsews14@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

