

## New Directions for First Gilbert...

It's only been a week since the Strategic Direction team, on behalf of the Administrative Board, voted unanimously to be a part of DNA Coaching. This exciting program, designed to assist a local church to be "transformed and reborn with a new direction," begins on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at Scottsdale UMC. **All of you** are invited to attend this first training event--believe it goes until 12.00 PM, and that we are carpooling from the church parking lot (at 8.00 AM??). *Watch future bulletins or this newsletter for further details, please.*

For several months now, many folks from our congregation have participated in information gathering meetings (surveys) in order to learn your opinions, beliefs, your concerns and your hopes for/about our church family. We have learned a great deal about how *you* see things at the church and just as important, your desires for the future of our church. Early in October of this year, with the help of the DNA Coaching team and all of your responses, our Strategic Direction Team at First Gilbert will formulate a new plan for the church, **and present the proposal for your approval--- this decision will be made by you, First Gilbert UMC.** Please understand that although we will receive advice from DNA Coaching we will be the ones to decide if, how and when to implement any aspect of the coaching. Yes, working together, with God in the driver's seat, we will set an exciting new direction for First Gilbert UMC!

Many thanks to our Steering Team, Nancy and Alan Ball, Diana Elliott and Ed Stressman for their commitment and dedication to developing the questionnaires you have answered, and for making the thoughtful and prayer-filled decisions- always on your behalf. And many thanks to our entire Strategic Direction team for working so long to bring us to this promising place in our history!

Finally, 37 (at this writing) churches in our Desert Southwest Annual Conference will participate in the DNA Coaching. Churches in our area that will be going through the training with us will include, but are not limited to: Grace UMC, Scottsdale UMC, North Scottsdale UMC and St. Matthews UMC.

Indeed, this is truly an exciting time in the life of our church. I know that God has wonderful plans for us and is just waiting for us to say "Yes, God. We're ready!"

Pastor Michael

P.S. On Tuesday, August 16, 2011, the Administrative Board voted unanimously to support the decision to participate in DNA Coaching.

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## Wednesday Night Programming

The church will start off the season of our Wednesday Night programs on **September 7<sup>th</sup>**.

The evening is 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 (3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade) – Room 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 Youth Bible Study/Christ Care Groups-308  
 7:00-8:00pm Kid's Time (PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade) – Room 221  
 7:00-8:00pm PTF (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade) – Room 226  
 7:00-8:30pm Chancel Choir – Choir Room



Nursery care is provided throughout the evening.

Dinner will be available from 6:00-7:00pm each Wednesday. The theme for the first dinner on September 7th will be "End of Summer Picnic". Chicken and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Coming from work and no time to cook? Consider making a small donation to cover the cost of the entrée and paper products. Food restrictions? Please bring a brown bag meal to enjoy. Our goal is to enjoy a meal together. Please check the bulletin for each week's menu. When the meal is provided, the cost is \$3 per person or \$12 per family.

This year, the church will offer two pastor led Bible studies. Pastor Michael will continue his study of the upcoming Sunday morning scripture verses in room 306. Pastor Eve will lead a women's Bible study in room 212, which will cover body, mind and spiritual fitness.

**Please note the time change:** This year, evening classes will run from 7:00-8:00pm, providing a little more time for fellowship after dinner, and also allowing more time to clean up before the classes begin.

### 9/11 Remembrance Services

We will commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11 on Sunday, September 11th with a Service of Remembrance during all three of our regular Sunday morning worship services.

The Town of Gilbert has acquired an 8 ft long, 1500 lb beam from the World Trade Center. This memorial has been placed at the Town Hall, 50 E. Civic Center Dr. (Gilbert & Warner) and will be unveiled at the memorial dedication on September 11th at 8:00am.

The town will also hold a candlelight vigil on Sunday, September 4th at 7:30pm in honor and memory of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. The vigil will be held at the 9/11 Memorial. Candles will be provided to the public. Please bring lawn chairs and blankets.

### Land Development Group

The Land Development Group was pleased to participate in the Fall Kick-off. We were able to share updates of our information with folks already familiar with the project(s) and also share information with those who were not, yet, aware of the changes we will be making to most of the eastern and southern pieces of our campus. The final plans for the ball fields which will include both a soccer field and a baseball field, rearrangement of some dirt for future planning opportunities, and the associated watering, fencing, and landscaping have been submitted to the Town of Gilbert for their last blessing. Once the Town gives its approval for going forward, and some tweaking of the budget can be accomplished to ensure that it is in line with the construction, the project can begin. Please feel free to contact Joan Krueger, Nancy or Alan Ball, Kelly McClain, Dan Vrana, or Paul Prosser if you have any questions or you'd like to join the team!



## Sunday Worship & Daily Bible Readings

### September 4

Scripture: Exodus 12:1-14

*There's Church on Thursday!*

### September 11

A 9/11 Service of Remembrance

*No sermon today*

### September 18

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

*True Friends*

### September 25

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11

*@ the Name of Jesus*



### August 29-September 4

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

### September 5-11

Monday	Exodus 15:1b-11
Tuesday	Psalms 114
Wednesday	Exodus 14:19-31
Thursday	Matthew 18:21-22
Friday	Matthew 18:21-35
Saturday	Romans 14:1-12
Sunday	Romans 14:1-12

### September 12-18

Monday	Exodus 16:2-8
Tuesday	Exodus 16:9-15
Wednesday	Psalms 105:1-6
Thursday	Psalms 105:37-45
Friday	Philippians 1:21-30
Saturday	Matthew 20:1-16
Sunday	Matthew 20:9-16

### September 19-25

Monday	Exodus 17:1-7
Tuesday	Exodus 17:1-7
Wednesday	Psalms 78:1-4
Thursday	Psalms 78:12-16
Friday	Philippians 2:1-13
Saturday	Philippians 2:1-13
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32

### September 26-October 2

Monday	Matthew 21:33-46
Tuesday	Exodus 20:1-4
Wednesday	Exodus 20:12-20
Thursday	Psalms 19:1-6
Friday	Psalms 19:7-14
Saturday	Philippians 3:4b-14
Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46



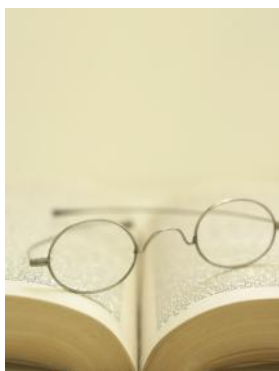
## Christian History Adult Sunday School Class

Our class begins a new course in September, that of **Free Will and Determinism**. Like many philosophical problems, that of free will arises from common sense. On one hand, it seems like our decisions are often free - that we could have chosen otherwise. On the other hand, it seems that there must be a good, full explanation for any decision. The threat to free will comes from the idea that our actions happen of necessity; that is, they are inevitable.

The issue over determinism is a basic question about the nature of the universe. If we have free will, then this tells us something important about the world - that at least part of the world isn't determined. The problem of free will connects in obvious ways with deep ethical issues: If we don't have free will, then it seems like we can't be morally responsible for our actions.

We will consider how problems connected to free will arise in a variety of religious traditions, including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. We will also look at public policy and free will, including the justification of punishment and the reach of excuses in legal responsibility.

Our class meets in room 225 at 9:45 a.m.



# Preschool News. . .



Back to School!

Preschool classes started mid-August and are now in full swing!

We are learning about how God made the Earth and everything in it, including our pets and us!

We also will learn that W is for Water and we'll paint with water on the sidewalk... hmm, what happens to that water?

Parent/Tot classes just started. It's not too late... sign up for our Wednesday class for 2 year olds and an adult. Check out our website for more info. [www.gilbertumcpreschool.com](http://www.gilbertumcpreschool.com).

On September 7th and 8th we host Grandparent Day breakfasts. Before school the preschoolers can bring their grandparents to play some table games, eat donuts and have a great time together. We love our families!

Here's a fun idea to do at home:

### Lines and Curves

Use wikki sticks or pipe cleaners to create a variety of straight and curved lines- large and small. Then fit them together to make interesting shapes. Finally fit them together to make some real letters! All of the letters are made from either straight and/or curvy lines- cool! Try making the child's name, their sibling's name, the pet's name. Then make a dinosaur, fish or anything creative. Have fun together!

Call Lora Norris or Lara Fink in the Preschool office with any questions 480 892-9166.

## Special Buddy

We are in need of a special buddy for one of our special needs Sunday School Children. If you are interested in becoming a friend to this special child and assisting in the Sunday School Classroom setting, please contact the Church office. This is a paid position.



## Thank you.....

A special thank you to Mary Frederick for spending countless hours this summer to create a video library for our Sunday School classes to use... There are over 1,000 videos. Thank you, Mary, for your time in creating this marvelous gift that will be used for many years to come.

Also, thank you to all the volunteers who taught summer Sunday School this year. We couldn't have done it without you!



## Children's Ministry Trunk or Treat

Our annual Trunk or Treat/Fall Festival will be Sunday, October 30th. Decorate your vehicle and hand out treats in the church parking lot—prizes will be given! Then come to the Fall Festival in the activity center for games, crafts and dinner. To volunteer to help or for more information, please contact Janelle Chiricuzio, Children's Ministry Chair, at [children@gilbertumc.org](mailto:children@gilbertumc.org).



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

## New Children's Ministry Work Room



What a pleasure it is to announce that the Children's Ministry Team has a new work room!! Talk about **TEAMWORK!!!!** When we put our heads together and get the right people involved, what a difference!!!

The Bell Room (211) is now the Music and Children's Ministry Work Room. With the help of Aaron Province, who is the son of Marty Province, and his willingness to utilize the makeover of this room as his Eagle Scout Project, we were able to start and complete the makeover this summer

Many Boy Scouts spent hours building cabinets for the Wesleyan Bells (with the awesome help of Odus Elliott), then painting of those cabinets, adding in additional shelving, moving shelves upstairs into the classrooms and moving old cabinets out of the classrooms . Then a week later, all the Children's Ministry resources and craft supplies were moved over to their new home.

Come and check us out!!



Thank you Aaron and Congratulations on earning your Eagle Scout Badge with a project at FUMCG

## Watch out ITs coming!! (again)



Mark your Calendars for Saturday,  
November 5, 2011  
9am – 12noon



Can you guess what IT is???

**Yes, You have it!!!!**

**Make and Take Craft Day**

**Theme will be Fall/Holiday/Holiday gifts for teachers, family, children.  
Watch for more information in the October Evangel and Sunday Bulletin**



**Have Glue Guns, will Craft ☺**



## YOUTH MINISTRY- FALL 2011

### Greetings Youth and Parents

The Youth Council and I have been very busy getting ready for Fall and the program for Youth Ministry. We have some exciting things happening and hope that that you're ALL on board to help create an exciting season! We've got some new ideas blended with our traditional program. Here's the run down....

#### Christ Care

Begins 9/7/11- Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm

This is a small group experience for junior high and high school with confidential sharing with a spiritual focus.

#### UMYF

Begins 9/11/11- Sundays from 5-7:30pm

I will ask for Parents to sign up to buy dinner ingredients. They will be reimbursed or receive a letter of donation for tax purposes. Youth will make the dinner together. After dinner we'll have a planned activity/games and then head to the sanctuary for a short interactive worship time.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** All youth will gather in room 308 beginning 9/4 for Youth announcements and then we'll split into our separate classes. Great new curriculum- Some YouTube clips too. CONFIRMATION- This class will begin sometime in the Fall. Date and times TBA.

#### **YOUTH FALL RETREAT**

October 7-9, 2011 ~MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Pine Rock, Prescott, AZ

High and Low ropes course~ Slingshot paintball~ Archery~ Climbing wall~ Fellowship

Register soon! Cost TBA

This will be for all Junior High and High school youth.

#### **FUND-RAISERS**

CARWASH Sept 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**YOUTH NEEDS-** Here's where the adults come in!

UMYF COUNSELORS- Sundays 5-7:30pm begins 9/11

Sunday school Teachers junior and senior high

Youth Fall Retreat Counselors

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

**Please talk to me if you can lend a hand!! This program will thrive if we all work together to make it happen!**

Contact me on my cell at 775 354 3153 or at [youth@gilbertumc.org](mailto:youth@gilbertumc.org)

Take Good Care~

Mike Stephenson~ Director of Youth Ministry

### **Mother/Daughter Retreat**

The UMC conference "Beautiful You Designed by God" mother/daughter retreat will be September 16-18 at Mingus Mountain Camp, north of Prescott. The retreat is intergenerational, including mothers and daughters from ages 10 on up. It will be a time of discovering our outer and inner beauty, and to appreciate the special bond between mother and daughter. The weekend will include fun, discussion time, devotions, crafts, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

The cost is \$100 for adults, \$50 for daughters 10-17 and \$25 for each additional daughter, which includes 5 meals and 2 nights lodging.

Registration forms are available in the church narthex and office.

### **Dad & Me Camp**

The 2nd annual "Dad & Me Camp" will be held at Mingus Mountain Camp on October 15-17th. This is a great opportunity for dads to make wonderful memories with their children, ages 4-10. Grand-dads are welcome, too! The schedule includes hikes, campfires, and projects—time and space set apart for kids to do positive, outdoor activities with their fathers.

The cost of Camp is \$125 for dad plus one child, \$25 for additional children.

Registration forms are available in the church narthex and office.



# YUUTH STUPH

**Greetings!**

Everyone is back in school by now and we are starting our Fall season here at church. I have included a letter in this issue of the EVANGEL explaining some of what our program for youth will look like for the fall and even into the first part of 2012. Things will change with this schedule as our program evolves and fits the needs of all involved.

I am excited! We have some great young people here at the church. I've gotten to know some of them throughout the summer on the mission trips at the Volleyball fund-raiser snack shack (we won first place for Snack shack in the district, I hear) and at other events. We have so much potential for a great YOUTH program.

The question is-

*Are you willing to be a part of it and make it work?*

The old saying..."It takes a village..." really does apply here. We, together, will make the youth program what we want it to be. We need adults (not just parents but all generations) to help with the program and to mentor the youth. We need youth to come to the events that are scheduled to build the community and the energy surrounding it. With YOU this will work! Please take a look at the needs of the program included in this issue.

Take good care

Mike Stephenson

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

**YOUTH Sunday school**

Is 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

**A WESEOME TEACHERS AND FELLOWSHIP!!!**

**Starting 9/4/11 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

*This will begin 9/7/11!*

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

Planned for Summer 2012  
Dates and place TBA

Junior High Mission

Planned for Summer 2012  
Dates and Place TBA

**UMYF for Youth!!!**

*This will resume 9/11/11!*

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

**YOUTH CALENDAR**

**ONGOING**

Wed	7:00-8:30pm	Youth Christ Care~ Room 308 (Begins 9/7/11)
Thurs	6:30pm	Youth Council meeting Rm 226 (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month)
Sun	9:45-10:45am	Confirmation Class 2012 (TBA)
	9:45-10:45am	Youth Sunday School~ Summer ongoing
		Junior High- Room 226 Senior High- Room 308
	5:00-7:30pm	UMYF/ Youth Group (Begins 9/11/11)Includes dinner- \$3.00

2011

- 8/28 Youth Moment For Mission 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 services
- 9/1 Youth Council Meeting-6:30pm Room 226
- 9/4 Fall Sunday School begins
- 9/7 Youth ChristCare begins 7pm Room 308 Dinner- 6pm Activity Center
- 9/11 UMYF Begins- Meet in Youth room 5:00-7:30pm includes Dinner \$3.00
- 9/24 Youth & Adult CPR Training ~ FUMC-G10:30AM-12:30PM Cost \$20- per Adult/ No cost to youth. MUST RSVP to Mike Stephenson or Therese Pineda
- 9/25 Youth Carwash/ Fund-Raiser
- 10/7-9 Youth Fall Retreat- Pine Rock ~ Prescott
- 11/11-13 District Senior High Event
- 11/20 DCYM Meeting at 2:30pm Rm 308 District Council on Youth Ministries

**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 begins 9/11
- Sunday school Teachers junior and senior high
- Youth Fall Retreat Counselors
- PALS- Adult Helpers for Sunday school (bring a snack and stay to help out)

## Health Ministry

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is quite an ambitious list of programs and opportunities for you to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ. We realize you may not be able to “drop your net and follow me” as Jesus’ Disciples did. Perhaps your talent lies in checking “a” blood pressure, knitting or crocheting one shawl, making “a” visit at the hospital or someone’s home, donating your paper and aluminum cans, etc. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time, gifts and talents. Together we will continue to grow in faith and be led by the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul teaches us about the work he and Apollos were doing to plant a seed of the Gospel. 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 and 4:2, “My work was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos’ work was to water it, but it was God, not we, who made the garden grow in your hearts. The person who does the planting or watering isn’t very important, but God is important because he is the one who makes things grow.” “Now the most important thing about a servant is that he does just what his master tells him to.”

Blessings,

Diana Whitford, RN, Faith Community Nurse

### Health Ministry Programs

The Health Ministry Programs have been developed to promote holistic health, which includes mind, body and spirit. Your Parish Nurses, now referred to as Faith Community Nurses, are responding to the needs of our congregation and the surrounding community. We encourage your participation in the following programs as the Holy Spirit leads you.

**AED AND CPR 2** AED units located on campus. CPR classes twice a year. This supplies us with materials and knowledge needed to respond in an emergency.

**BLOOD DRIVES** Three times per year spaced to accommodate power red spacing. Visit United Blood Services for more information at [www.bloodhero.com](http://www.bloodhero.com). Coordinator: Chris Thompson 480-892-5640.

**CANCER SUPPORT** Individual support coordinated with Faith Community Nurses. Cancer Prayer Circles. Coordinated by Teri Martin.

**CHAT & CHEW** Join retirees for brown bag lunch at noon on Wednesdays. Enjoy Christian Fellowship, learning, singing and nurturing mind, body and spirit.

**CHILDREN’S TIME** Wellness Sundays with Pastor Eve Williams

**DIVORCE CARE SUPPORT** A 13-week support group presenting videos of expert speakers on divorce and recovery. Discussion of videos and how the information relates to your current situation today. Coordinators: Linda & Bruce Faber 480-821-0952. [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org).

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD** A team providing education and participation in assessing the church campus and community leading us to a healthy environment and a greener church. We recycle ink cartridges, paper, aluminum cans, etc. Coordinators: Teri Martin, [teri-martin@cox.net](mailto:teri-martin@cox.net), and Mike Stephenson, Youth Coordinator.

**LENDING CLOSET** For church members, family members and surrounding community. Medical equipment to borrow: crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, shower chairs and other equipment. Coordinator: Laura McLeod 480-892-5394.

**HEALTH SUNDAYS** Promote wellness for all ages by checking blood pressure, pulse, pulse oximetry and blood glucose. Join us in the activity center after each service on the second Sunday of the month. Coordinator: Diana Whitford, RN [www.nursediana@gilbertumc.org](mailto:www.nursediana@gilbertumc.org).

**IMMUNIZATION CLINIC** Mollen Clinic offers Flu and Pneumonia vaccinations annually to members of the congregation and surrounding community. E-mail [Lynn@mollen-clinic.com](mailto:Lynn@mollen-clinic.com) or [www.FluShotsUSA.com](http://www.FluShotsUSA.com)

**MEMORIAL SERVICES** Assist Pastors and families as needed with planning and preparing memorial and funeral services.

**PASTORAL CARE TEAM** Pastors, Faith Community Nurses (Parish Nurses), Stephen Ministers and trained volunteers provide comfort, support and guidance during illness. Coordinator: Diana Whitford, RN [www.nursediana@gilbertumc.org](mailto:www.nursediana@gilbertumc.org).

**PRAYER SHAWLS** A team of volunteers knit or crochet shawls. The shawls are blessed and provided to members who suffer illness, death of a loved one, or are having a difficult time in life or for celebrations. Coordinator: Sara Collins 480-892-3113.

**RESOURCE** Contact the appropriate coordinator or the church office. We provide resources and support to individuals and the congregation for well-being and health related decisions.

**SPECIAL NEEDS** We provide support for parents of children with special needs. We provide education for the faith community. Coordinator: Kim Fairley, [KimFairley@clearchannel.com](mailto:KimFairley@clearchannel.com)

Continued on next page

## Health Ministry continued.....

**STEPHEN MINISTRY** Provide referrals for emotional and spiritual support. Provide one-to-one confidential care ready to offer God's love through a Christian caring relationship.

**TEEN HEALTH SUPPORT** Coordinating with Youth Leadership to promote holistic health in our growing teens.

**YEARLY CELEBRATION** Yearly celebration of Health Ministry through the blessing of the hands and shawls. Blessing of Hands is a cleansing and renewing ceremony which focuses on the work of our health ministry team. The blessing is a way of acknowledging our commitment to our mission as a church in making disciples of Jesus Christ and the role this team plays in the life of this church. This celebration during service brings forth all individuals within the Health Ministry. On this day we bring forth all of the prayer shawls that have been knitted or crocheted by the hands of those on our Shawl Ministry Team. The shawls are blessed and ready to be given to those in need. Each Prayer Shawl represents the loving hands and hearts of this congregation holding someone in prayer.

Faith Community Nurses:

Therese Pineda, RN, Director of Health Ministry

[www.gilbertumc.org](http://www.gilbertumc.org) 602-686-1259

Diana Whitford, RN, Assistant Director of Health Ministry

[www.nursediana@gilbertumc.org](mailto:www.nursediana@gilbertumc.org) 480-390-3113

## 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.  
 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's 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



## 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](http://www.desertswconference.org).

## **Calling all Voices – We need to hear from everyone!**

### **From The Centennial Ministry Team**

#### **Strategic Planning**

We have been very busy gathering information to start a strategic plan for our church that will help us to better serve all worshipers and our community for the next 3-5 years. We value your opinions! The following events are all a part of our strategic planning. Please mark your calendar.

#### **SAVE THE DATES**

September 17, 2011 - DNA COACHING - Saturday, 9:30am-12:00pm at Scottsdale UMC.

- First training session – All interested church attendees are invited.

About DNA Coaching – As Pastor Michael talked about in his Evangel article this month, our church will participate {with other Methodist churches in our district} in the DNA Coaching Program. This will fit very nicely with the future Strategic Planning that we have started through our Centennial Ministry Team. DNA Coaching is run by Don Nations who was a local church minister for 17 yrs. He has extensive training in church consulting, church planting {new churches}, church assessment, psychology and coaching leaders.

September 18, 2011 - CHURCH TOWN HALL - 3pm – 4:30pm Sanctuary

Review results of planning Sessions – Review strategic plan draft – Review use of DNA Coaching

All are welcome and invited. We want your input as we discuss what we have learned and how the church will use this data to move forward.

October 2, 2011 - SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE - 3pm – 4:30pm Sanctuary

Vote on the strategic plan for the next 3-5 yrs. for FUMCG. All interested people may attend; Church members may vote. { If you aren't a member yet and are interested in joining the church, the next New Membership class series starts in October-Contact Pastor Michael or Pastor Eve.}

#### **History and Celebration**

Our count down to 100 yrs. old continues – Think about the many things we can do for honoring and celebrating our past. Here's a few – past pastors preach, special worship services, inviting the Gilbert community, anthem, centennial cook book, special banners, memorial pins, Christmas ornament, t-shirts, paper fans, Gilbert Methodist Women's history, historical data to parallel with FUMCG, photos & video for DVD presentation, graduates of 2015, re-enact a church service from 100 years ago.

Please contact Alan or Nancy Ball or Therese Pineda with your important input and opinion about our Centennial Celebration and/or the strategic planning.

[nball@marleykempf.org](mailto:nball@marleykempf.org) Cell (480) 703-7390

[aball972@gmail.com](mailto:aball972@gmail.com) Cell (480) 703-6032

[tpinedarn@mac.ocm](mailto:tpinedarn@mac.ocm) Cell (602) 686-1259

### **Book Club**

The book for September is [Saving Jesus From the Church](#) by Robin R. Meyers. The club will meet on Thursday, September 22nd at 11:30am at the home of June Morrison. Please bring a sack lunch to enjoy while we discuss the book. The selection for the October 27th meeting is [The Help](#) by Kathryn Stockett. For more information please contact Myrna Eshelman via email at [myrna.eshelman@gmail.com](mailto:myrna.eshelman@gmail.com) or call Myrna at 480-216-3038. Everyone is welcome.

### **Prime Timers Group**

The Prime Timers Group for those 55 years and older, will attend the Broadway Palms Dinner Theater on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> to see "The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam Spelling Bee" at 5:00pm. The cost is \$49 for dinner and the show. To purchase a ticket, please turn in your money to Linda Faber or Pat Dill by September 14<sup>th</sup>.



The group will hold a planning meeting and dessert on Wednesday, September 14th at 2:00pm in the activity center. Bring a dessert to share and any ideas you might have for the November – January Prime Timers activity calendar. If you are unable to make the meeting but would like to share ideas or have questions about the dinner theater, please send them to Bruce or Linda Faber at [lhfaber@cox.net](mailto:lhfaber@cox.net) or call 480-821-0952.

## 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. We collected fewer tons of paper during the summer. 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. Let's collect a minimum of 4 tons this month so that we can receive \$15 per ton as opposed to \$5 per ton. Every donation of newspapers, magazine, etc helps!

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.



### Christian Women's Fellowship

The Christian Women's Fellowship group will meet on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:30-11:00am in the activity center. A potluck brunch will be served: A-G, please bring a main dish, H-M, a side dish, N-S, a dessert, and T-Z, drinks. All women are welcome. Please bring your favorite scripture to share. Contact Laura McCloud with any questions at 480-892-5394.

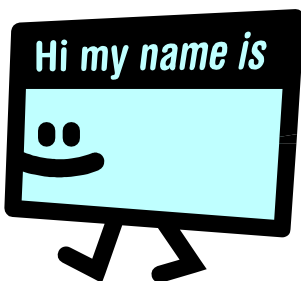


### Staff Position Openings

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is announcing two staff vacancies and will have application packets for them available in the church office beginning today. Joyce Larscheid, Elementary Sunday School Coordinator, and Kim Dare, Financial Secretary have both resigned for personal reasons. We are thankful and grateful for their dedicated service to our church. Please extend your personal best wishes and thanks to them.

### Name Tags

Just a reminder that magnetic name tags can be ordered at any time. If you don't have one, consider getting one to help us all get better



of your order. Easy as 1, 2, 3!!!

acquainted. Simply stop by the red Welcome Table in front of the church and place your order. They are \$8.16 each, which is to be collected at the time your order is placed. Name tags often arrive within the week, so check back the next Sunday for the status

### Singles Group

The Singles Group will cook and serve a meal at the UMOM Homeless Shelter in downtown Phoenix on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Cooking will begin in the church kitchen at 2:30pm and the group will leave to deliver the meal at 4:30pm. For more information, please contact Sharon Salazar at [sharone2937@msn.com](mailto:sharone2937@msn.com).

*DID YOU KNOW....we have a little church mouse that quietly comes in EVERY WEEK & does our kitchen laundry as a service to the church.....as well as crushes cans for our recycling program? She prefers to remain anonymous in her work, but we really do appreciate her gifts all the same. THANK YOU!!!!*

## Music Ministry

Every time we lose a member of our church family, each of us feels that loss in our own way. Generally, the better we know someone, the more deeply those feelings run. There are times however, when the loss touches us whether we knew the person well or not, and the passing of **Cynthia Marble** is one such time. Even if you did not know her, you undoubtedly saw the results of Cynthia's work. For several years, she had made the costumes for our children's Christmas performance, but there is even more of a chance that you saw her work in the singing of the children in grades 3 through 6 (better known as the Sonshine Singers). When Cynthia took over that group two years ago, its membership had fallen to around 4 singers. Due to the changes she made (as well as her own strong personality), the numbers increased dramatically, and we can all recall the life and energy the group brought to the services in which they sang. Please keep Cynthia's family in your prayers as they deal with this most difficult time.

With the passing of their director, we are now looking for someone to work with the Sonshine Singers this year. They meet on Sunday mornings between second and third services. Phoebe has agreed to play piano again, so that is already in place. If you are interested, please contact the church office. In the interim, our Director of Music Marty Province, will be working with the group. Membership is open to all children in grades 3 through 6, and we hope to see you there.



September marks the return of the **Third-Friday Jam Session**. Bring an instrument (yes, voice is an instrument) and join us on September 16 in Room 306 from 7:00-10:00 (or any part of that time) for an evening of informal music making. (You are also welcome if you just want to come and listen.) This activity has already spawned the church-wide talent show that we enjoyed last spring as well as the group Gospel Grass who recently provided music for church services. Questions? Contact Marty at [music@gilbertumc.org](mailto:music@gilbertumc.org) or the church office.

## Missions Committee

Lisa Sotomayor - [missions@gilbertumc.org](mailto:missions@gilbertumc.org)

**Missions:** Here's a recap of the great things that happened during summer months. In June, 59 cases of water were delivered to the Watkins Homeless Shelter. In July, VBS children made 22 blankets for the victims of the Wallow Fires. In August, 35 back packs were delivered to the Scottsdale UMC Sidewalk Sunday School. The Watkins Homeless Shelter received 42 back packs for school age children plus 6 backpacks for women going back to school.

**ARE YOU READY?** We have a great calendar of events coming up. Fall Kick Off displayed the different campaigns that you can be involved in. Check out the church web site at [www.gilbertumc.org](http://www.gilbertumc.org) for more information about volunteer opportunities. Many hands make the campaign possible.

**Watkins Homeless Shelter** - cooking and serving dinner on September 10, 2011. Volunteers with no experience required start cooking at 2:00 pm. and at 4:00pm, volunteers deliver the meal, as well as toiletries and clothing donations to the shelter in downtown Phoenix.

**Gilbert Open Arms Food Bank** menu for September is cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup and juice. Canned meats, peanut butter and jelly, pasta, boxed meals, canned fruit, and all types of non-perishable food are welcomed.

The **UMOM Walk-a- Thon** is on October 1, raising funds and awareness of the homeless families in Arizona. Please help by being part of our team or supporting our team with a contribution.

The valley wide **Rock n Roll Paint-a-Thon** on October 22. No experience necessary. We will paint the exterior of a qualified home. This is a fun day of fellowship and lunch is included.

Please stop by the Missions table in the activity center on Sunday mornings to sign up for our many volunteer opportunities. The Missions Committee prays that you consider becoming part of a great team

**Caring for Christ's Community- One life at a Time.**

## General Fund Financial Summary at July 31, 2011

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Actual Over/(Under) Budget</u>
General Giving	\$333,685	\$355,040	(\$21,355)
Other Income	\$84,830	\$61,727	\$23,103
Total Income	\$418,515	\$416,767	\$1,748
Total Expenses	\$407,290	\$425,880	(\$18,590)
Income Over/(Under) Expenses	\$11,225	(\$9,113)	\$20,338
Operating Cash on Hand			\$124,512
Ideal Minimum Operating Cash on Hand			\$140,000
Average weekly giving income YTD at 7/31/11			\$10,764
Average weekly giving income YTD last year (at 7/31/10)			\$12,026
Average weekly giving needed to meet our approved 2011 annual budget			\$11,827

Our slow summer giving season continued through July, although July 2011 giving was over budget and ahead of July 2010. In July the church also received additional bequest funds as beneficiary of an IRA held by the late Kay Collins Sledge. Before her death, Kay designated First UMC of Gilbert as the beneficiary of 80% of her IRA account, further designating 30% to the General Fund, 25% to the Repair Fund, and 25% to the Building Fund. The General Fund portion, \$16,777, is included above in Other Income. This one-time gift from Kay's IRA leaves the church with a positive net income for the year.

If you would like to know more about listing our church as a beneficiary on an IRA, a 401(k), or an insurance policy, or 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)).

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.

### **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 on Saturdays from 8:30-9:30am 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](mailto:tinarees@cox.net).



## Servants in Worship in September

	8:15	9:45	11:15
<b>Acolytes</b>			
Sep 4	Katelyn Johns William Batz	Emma Strazz Rilie Fairley	
11	Ainsley Snyder Alexandra Scharff	Katelyn Mason Lizzie MacFarlane	
18	Emily Ingalls MaryBeth Ondulich	Brandon Sy Makena Sy	
25	Alexandra Scharff Katelyn Johns	Evan Wood Travis Sheesley	
<b>Liturgists</b>			
Sep 4	Dan Hahn	Pam Berg	Linda Faber
11	Dan Vrana	Aaron Leong	Michelle McClain
18	Charlotte Rock	Angus MacFarlane	Sumiko Sober
25	Laurel Redman	Philip Tesarek	Linda Vernoski
<b>Ushers</b>			
Sep 4	Ed Riedel Kevin Becker	Michael Crann	Michelle McClain Kelly McClain
11	Pat Baker Herb Miller	Gary McGrath Ray Vallera	Linda McKinley Paul Contreras
18	Eileen Parry Jon Salak	Stuart Wiemers Andrew Wiemers	
25	Tom Dare Art Poeske	Hal Fairley Mike West	Michelle McClain Kelly McClain
<b>Greeters</b>			
Sep 4		Strazz Family	
11	Ruby Rosemond-Taylor	Aaron & Mechelle Wendt	Pat Pletcher
18	Sheahan Family	Karl & Sharon Kotsonas	
25			
<b>Coffee Hour Set-Up</b>		<b>Coffee Hour Take-Down</b>	<b>Altar Flowers</b>
Sep 4	Fred & Karen Perez	Wiemers Family	Mike & Elaine Miller
11	Open	Hal & Kim Fairley	Linda & Tom McKinley
18	Open	Margie Sessums, Joan Krueger	Bob & Sara Collins
25	Ruby Rosemond-Taylor	Open	Tim & Debbie Anderson

### *Our Condolences to*

- ❑ *Sharon Kotsonas and family on the death of her sister, DyMarie*
- ❑ *The family of Cynthia Marble on her death*
- ❑ *Michael Crann and family on the death of his father, Neil Crann*
- ❑ *Paul Hunter and family on the death of his wife, Betty.*



## September Anniversaries:

- 2 Greg & Kelcey Skinner - 11 yrs
- 8 Leroy & Elinore Englebrecht - 64 yrs
- 9 Stuart & Lori Wiemers - 16 yrs
- 12 Richard & Judy Pierce - 52 yrs
- 14 Rhonda & Steve Lostumo - 20 yrs  
Walt & Ila Mae Luken - 64 yrs
- 15 Lynn Ingalls & JoAnn Mannion - 14 yrs
- 17 Philip & Sandy Trew - 34 yrs
- 20 Bob & Sara Collins - 31 yrs
- 22 Tim & Debbie Anderson - 21 yrs

## September Birthdays

- 2 Sharon Barclay
- 3 Sabrina Boever  
Kim Fairley  
Kate West
- 5 Travis Dare  
Lindsay Wright
- 6 Emily Crann  
Logan Reynolds
- 7 Melissa Coleman  
Richard Frazier
- 8 Kathryn Barclay  
Valerie Barclay
- 9 Dan Hahn
- 10 Justin Brooks  
Alicia Somsen
- 11 Justin Fink
- 12 Charlie Blackledge  
Kari Morphey  
Lindsay Sutton
- 13 Kathy Church  
Jory Lawson  
Melanie Lin
- 14 Allison Mason  
Sarah Metz
- 15 Laura Boever  
Andy Rose
- 16 Betty Cash  
John Elliott
- 17 Brynn Piggush
- 18 Rachel Laske
- 19 Gina Hines  
Ryan Palmer  
Marilyn Pell  
Jocelyn Rickman
- 20 Diane Chaon  
Maia Chiricuzio  
Brock Somsen
- 22 Drew Ball  
Clay Cowgill  
Savannah Foster  
Kel Vrana
- 23 Cayden Bruce  
Addie Fairley  
Sumiko Sober  
Grant Wagner
- 24 Luke Alls  
Elinore Engelbrecht  
Philip Trew
- 25 William Batz  
Bruce Faber
- 26 Pat Knight  
Paul Prosser  
Alex Schleiger
- 27 Maegan Clark  
Alex Martin
- 28 Calvin Yamamoto
- 30 Kendra Lorbeck

## 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	Katie Bouchie	Susan Bowers	Brenda Chavez
Keela Clark	Travis Dare	Roberta Dean	Bob/Margaret DeBolt	Margo Doss
Pauline DuBon	Skip Eshelman	Heather Ford	Virginia Franklin	Ruth Gieszl
Irene Groves	Joyce Harvey	Elizabeth Heagren	Ruth Heer	Karl Honaker
Darlene Jones	Garnet Kepp	Calista Kerr	Earl & Pat Knight	Jean/Bob Langdon
Sarah Lazbin	Doris Lane	Walt & Ila Mae Luken	Teri Martin	Blanche McDonough
Franklin Nickerson	Bonnie Paisley	Aldon & Marilyn Pell	Pat Pletcher	Wilbur Post
Susan Prosser	Logan Reynolds	Schleiger Family	Alice Smith	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](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)  
 Church Accountant, Deanna Helland - [accountant@gilbertumc.org](mailto:accountant@gilbertumc.org)  
 Church Secretary, Dina Reid - [dina@gilbertumc.org](mailto:dina@gilbertumc.org)  
 Finance Chair, John Bowers - [financechair@gilbertumc.org](mailto:financechair@gilbertumc.org)  
 Financial Secretary, Kim Dare - [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)  
 Prayer Chain, Michelle McClain - [umcprayerchain@gilbertumc.org](mailto:umcprayerchain@gilbertumc.org)  
 Preschool Committee Chair, Sharon Dalton - [sharond52@cox.net](mailto:sharond52@cox.net)  
 Preschool, Lara Fink /Lora Norris - [preschool@gilbertumc.org](mailto:preschool@gilbertumc.org)  
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 Stephen Ministry, Rev. Michael Bryant - [pastormichael@gilbertumc.org](mailto:pastormichael@gilbertumc.org)  
 Trustees Chair, Al Reynolds - [trustees@gilbertumc.org](mailto:trustees@gilbertumc.org)  
 Visual Arts Team, Wendy Bryant - [wlrbyrant@cox.net](mailto:wlrbyrant@cox.net)  
 Volunteer Ministry, Lori Wiemers - [volunteer@gilbertumc.org](mailto:volunteer@gilbertumc.org)  
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 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)

