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From The Pastor:

“Walking the Road to Bethlehem”



Years ago Beth and I had the opportunity to visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem which marks the place of Jesus’ birth. To enter the church we ducked through a small doorway that was created centuries ago to keep riders and their horses from riding into the church. After walking through the nave we walked down steps into a cave where a star marks the ground where tradition says Jesus was born. It was a moving experience. As I reflect on the journey we made, which included airplanes and buses, I know our journey was much simpler and easier than Mary and Joseph’s.

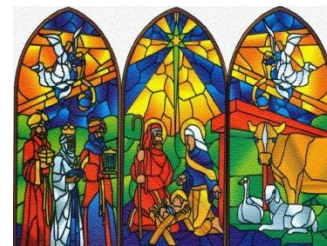
Mary and Joseph’s journey was filled with important decisions and great risks. Would Joseph accept Mary’s explanation? Would he think Mary had been unfaithful to him? Would he refuse to marry her? Was Mary really going to give birth to the Messiah? The answers to these questions would require great faith on the physical journey to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. It is a journey of faith that we will explore during this Advent season.

There will be two ways to take this journey. On Sunday, November 27th, I began a five

week sermon series entitled “Walking the Road to Bethlehem.” Then the next day on Mondays Jody Topping will teach a class entitled, “The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem.” This study is based on the book by the same name written by Rev. Adam Hamilton, pastor of the Church of the Resurrection. I hope you will join us on this trek.

Grace and peace,

Fred



**Walking the Road to Bethlehem
 Sermon Series**

- Nov. 27 ~ Walking the Road to Bethlehem
 - Mary of Nazareth
- Dec. 4 ~ Walking the Road to Bethlehem
 - Joseph of Bethlehem
- Dec. 11 ~ Walking the Road to Bethlehem
 - Mary’s Visit to Elizabeth
- Dec. 18 ~ Walking the Road to Bethlehem
 - From Nazareth to Bethlehem
- Dec. 24 ~ Walking the Road to Bethlehem
 - Love in a Manger

“Following Jesus, Serving Others”



Christian Education

By Katharine Keller

"Our mission is to bring the love of Christ and His teachings to learners of all ages on their spiritual journey, that they be transformed and thus positively affect our local and global communities."

Join us on an Advent Journey...



As a part of Advent this year, the congregation of Gold Canyon UMC will be "Walking the Road to Bethlehem" with a combination Sermon Series and Advent Study.

During Advent, Pastor Fred Steinberg is introducing each chapter of the journey, leading us through the Holy Land and helping us experience the biblical birth narrative through fresh eyes.

On the Monday evening following each Sunday in Advent, we will further explore the story of the birth of Jesus, drawing on information provided by biblical scholars, historians, theologians, and archaeologists. Through a series of readings, discussions, and video presentations, we will rediscover the true meaning of the Advent season in preparation for the coming of the Christ child that we celebrate on Christmas.

The study is based on the book *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor at the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas. Jody Topping, Pastoral Intern at GCUMC will lead the study on Monday evenings, which began Monday, November 28. We will begin our study time with a light supper at 6pm. The cost for the study book is \$12.50, and a Daily Reflection Guide is also available for \$8.00. Those interested in participating in the study should contact Jody at the church office or by email at jody@goldcanyonumc.org.



Advent Wreath Lighting

If you as a couple, two or three single people, or a family unit with children would like to light the advent wreath during worship any time during Advent (November 27th, December 4, 11, 18, 25th) or at any Christmas Eve Services, please contact Katherine Keller in the church office as soon as possible so that she can place you on the schedule. A brief reading will be supplied to you.

Christian Education (continued)

WHO'S GOT THE SPIRIT?

The Wednesday afternoon kids' group does!



SPIRIT CLUB – The Spirit Club is always looking for new kids to “get the spirit!” We are currently having lots of fun learning all about the fruit of God’s Spirit. We will be meeting all through December and, during winter break on December 28th we will be going out to eat as a group. We would love to have your child see what a neat fellowship we have together.

Spirit Club, for first – sixth graders, meets every Wednesday from 4:30 – 6:00 pm (the older children who want to sing in the Angel Choir leave at 5:30). If you have any questions, please contact Katharine Keller at the church or Linda Walker at 480-671-3881. Along with our regulars, we love to see new faces and even friends who do not attend services or classes here!

CONFIRMATION (6TH Grade and older) - LAST CALL!



December will be the last month to register your 6th grader (and up) for Confirmation Classes. Confirmation will meet for 13 Wednesdays beginning January 18th; Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, April 29th. Please contact Katharine Keller either by calling the church office or sending her an email with your student’s name, address, email and phone. Once she has all the names, you will be contacted for a parent orientation.

BIBLE

BANTER



MEETS EVERY MONDAY, 9:30-10:30 AM

MOUNTAIN BREW COFFEE HOUSE

6832 SOUTH KINGS RANCH RD #5

(NEAR THE NW CORNER OF US 60 AND KINGS RANCH RD)

Join us for coffee and stimulating conversation as we discuss ways we can live as faithful Christians in today’s world. Don’t forget to bring your Bible and any theological topics of conversation you would like us to explore!! All are welcome!



Gold Canyon UMC Youth



Wendy Moore, Youth Director



Richelle Heinauer is our Superstar of the Month!

She is 14 years old and attends Apache Junction High School. She is an A student and an accomplished musician. Richelle is a willing helper with any task she is asked to do. She always has a ready smile!!!

Favorite food: pasta (any kind)

Favorite movie: Soul Surfer

Accomplishments: plays the saxophone, the oboe, the keyboards, guitar, violin, and the clarinet!

Hobbies: playing music (wouldn't have guessed that one), reading, and horseback riding

Congratulations to Richelle!

The youth of Gold Canyon United Methodist Church have long had a reputation for serving and volunteering for multiple organizations and events including; The Spring Fling, Fall 🍁 Ween, Veterans Day, Christmas services, Christmas caroling to shut ins, Easter services, Gold Canyon Arts Festival, Day of the Cowboy, 4th of July, community events, and mission work both local and national. They are very giving group of kids and I am privileged to be a part of them. The youth will continue serving in 2012 with loving hearts and willing hands. The support of our congregation provides the vital encouragement our youth need to accomplish great things. Please pray for their continued growth in Christian love.

We have changed our Youth Group meeting time to 6:00pm to 8:00pm on Sunday evenings in an effort to get our youth home a little earlier to prepare for Monday morning which we all know comes early. We hope you had the opportunity to stop and visit the Youth Room during the November 13 Ministry Fair, but if you did not please come by when it is convenient and witness the ongoing Extreme Youth Room Makeover edition. We are really enjoying our new room!

Perspectives:

"I have often expressed my sentiments, that every man, conducting himself as a good citizen, and being accountable to God alone for his religious opinions, ought to be protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of his own conscience."

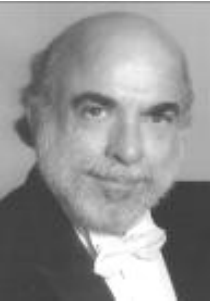
- - George Washington

"When any church will inscribe over its altar, as its sole qualification for membership, the Savior's condensed statement of the substance of both law and Gospel, 'Thou shalt love the lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and thy neighbor as thyself' that church will I join with all my heart and all my soul."

- - Abraham Lincoln

"We must recognize the fundamental rights of man. There can be no true national life in our democracy unless we give unqualified recognition to freedom of religious worship and freedom of education."

- - Franklin D. Roosevelt



Music Notes

This month of December gives us the opportunity for preparation then celebration of the greatest gift ever given to mankind, our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope we all remember this is not just a “holiday” or a “season”, which are man created. This is the birth of the Christ, which is given to man by God Himself, as Christ is God. I hope we all remember to say to everyone, sincerely, Merry *Christmas*!

I am writing this before Thanksgiving, but after several rehearsals with the Choir, Bells, Orchestra, Angel Trio, and Men’s Chorus, I am so very thankful to be at Gold Canyon United Methodist Church with the incredible talent, tremendous dedication of our musicians and the great joy we experience creating music together. I hope and pray that we are successful in sharing this joy with all who come to worship on Sundays.

I am very thankful for my colleague, **David Ballard**, our Associate Director of Music, who directs **Uncommon Grace**, our excellent Praise Team, and **One in the Spirit**, our Country/Western singers, **Cynthia Hoff**, who has taken on responsibility for coordinating the Offertory musicians and **John Nuss**, who works with the Men’s Chorus, and doing great things with them. I am especially thankful for our great pianists, **Linda Jones** (who also plays organ now), **Nancy Vir-den** (who has played since the church met in the school!), **Marty Robison** (who also often helps with directing) and **Carol Ballard** (who plays for the Country/Western service and with Uncommon Grace). All are very talented, work hard and are just plain fun! Also, I am very, very thankful for our indispensable Music Librarian, **Dottie House**, who not only keeps me and our Music Library organized, but also has made it a mission to greet everyone – both new and regular members of the Choir – with her huge, infectious smile!

I am perhaps most thankful for **Rev. Fred Steinberg**, the best “boss” anyone could have, the rest of our great, efficient and caring staff, and our very supportive congregation! I am so very blessed to be here in

this place at this time. I still feel like I’ve died and gone to heaven!

Thanks to those of you who continue to support adding real wind-blown pipes to our organ. You can see what the Choir Area will look like once the pipes are installed. The pipes will also allow us to move the electronic speakers out of the overhead chamber and place them amongst the pipes to create a broader but more unified sound. Now, the sound of the organ is very much like it is coming out of the wrong end of a megaphone – very focused! Then, it will be much, much broader and warmer, and not so “loud”. To date, we have less than 3% of the \$350,000 needed for this project. Of course, any donation is very much appreciated but if you would like to make a substantial donation prior to year’s end, contact Pastor Fred or me. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Our biggest event of the year – the *10th Annual Choral Christmas Concert* - is on **Saturday, December 10, at 3:00 and 6:30 pm**. Our concert will feature the *Chancel Choir, Chancel Ringers, Angel Trio, Agape Brass Quintet*, Cello, Flute, Harp, Oboe and Timpani. Soloists include baritone **Don Engbrecht**, soprano **Cynthia Hoff**, and alto **Marty Robison**. Last year we had more than 2,000 people attend the two performances and we expect more this year. The doors will open one hour prior to each performance. Come early to get a good seat, but don’t come too early! This concert is open to the public at no charge as freewill offerings will be received. And, as always, everyone is asked to bring at least one non-perishable food item for the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Food Bank (check the list of Food Bank Needs in the Sunday bulletin). This is the perfect opportunity to bring family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to our church to be filled with the Christmas Spirit!

I wish everyone a most blessed Christmas and all good things in the new year.

Doug

Director of Music Ministries

Healthy Living

*News from the Health and Wellness Ministry of
Monica Ortega-Watters and Susan Malloy, Parish Nurses*

Hopefully, by now you have determined your health-care coverage needs for the year 2012 and surely must be experiencing “eye strain” from all the fine print and probably a headache, from all decision making. Just a reminder the end date for 2012 Medicare Healthcare decisions (Health insurance plans and Drug plans) is December 7th not December 31st as in years past.

A few months ago I started writing to you about our EYE’s and we started with infants, children, and teens. Now, we will talk about the adult eye and the “how’s” to keep them shining brightly and seeing clearly. Some of the information with regards to our use of TV, computers, etc. is the same for adults as it is for teens. Did you put a sticky note on your computer to remind yourself to “blink”? I did and it does help and don’t forget the 20-20-20 Rule. Also remember to wear your sunglasses both winter and summer when the sun shines.

So what can you do to keep those peepers safe and efficient? AH! Once again it goes to what we put in our mouths. Good nutrition is crucial for our eyes. Many of you know about lutein, zeaxanthin and Vitamin A. It is amazing to me that God gave us signals with our food. When you look at the center of the carrot it looks like an eye ball with the pupil in the center. A heavenly hint to eat your carrots. Carrots have naturally occurring pigments called carotenoids which hold powerful antioxidant properties that are crucial for your health and in this instance your eyes. Vitamin C and E are important too. Eating these fruits (Mangoes, Guava, Bilberry, Acai, Queen Garnet Plum, Blueberries and Cranberries) will help your eyes shine brightly and stay healthy as they have a newly identified carotenoid, Astaxanthin in them which is considered to be a “super nutrient” with a variety of powerful properties, putting this one over the top in the race for preventative and curative powers.

Astaxanthin is 65 times more powerful than Vitamin C, 54 times more powerful than beta carotene (vit A), and is 14 times more powerful than Vitamin E. WOW!!!, this new nutrient powerhouse is far more effective than other carotenoids at “singlet oxygen quenching” which is a particular type of oxidation. Interestingly, Astaxanthin is 550 times more powerful than Vitamin E and 11 times more powerful than beta-carotene at neutralizing this singlet oxygen.

Who is this “masked man” you may ask? Its name is Astaxanthin and it is produced by the microalgae- *Haematococcus pluvialis* when its water supply dries up, forcing it to protect itself from ultraviolet radiation. It exhibits a very strong free radical scavenging activity and protects your cells, organs and body tissues from oxidative damage. Oxidative damage is caused by all the toxins our bodies take in

by mouth, breathing, fluids we drink, water we bathe in and what we apply to our skin and hair, and last but not least stress. This carotenoid, Astaxanthin crosses the blood-brain barrier and the blood – retinal barrier (sadly, beta carotene and lycopene do not) which has huge implications for the health of your eyes.

It is soluble in lipids, so it incorporates into cell membranes It is a potent UVB absorber *It reduces DNA damage. *It is a very powerful natural anti-inflammatory and *No ADVERSE reactions have been found for people taking astaxanthin.

Unfortunately, it is virtually impossible to obtain the recommended daily amount of astaxanthin from diet alone because there are only two prime sources: microalgae and sea creatures that consume algae (such as salmon, shellfish, and krill). The above mentioned fruits have it in minute amounts but it does not cross the blood brain barrier like the astaxanthin from the sea.. So for you folks who enjoy salmon be sure and get Wild vs. “farmed” to obtain the maximum benefit from the astaxanthin you are ingesting. Farmed salmon has the synthetic version.

There are some other ways to get all natural astaxanthin and if you have interest in knowing more please feel free to contact me and I’ll direct you to a great source. (480-390-1496) Synthetic “look- a likes” don’t have the healing power that all natural astaxanthin does. It is a gift from God that scientists have just recently discovered and through intensive research has come to realize how valuable this carotenoid is to our bodies from health and longevity standpoint. Given the right resources our bodies have the power to heal themselves in miraculous ways. Praise HIS Name!

Blindness is a huge problem worldwide, brought on by age related macular degeneration (ARMD), Cataracts, Diabetic neuropathy, Glaucoma, Central retinal arterial and venous occlusion, and Inflammatory eye diseases. Scientific Researchers have confirmed the studies of Dr. Mark TSO (of the Wilmer Eye Institute at John Hopkins University) findings that ASTAXANTHIN is the most powerful antioxidant ever discovered for eye health providing long term protection. It has been proven to have a multitude of other health benefits but that will have to be for another article. Here’s to your eyes...

God’s blessings of health & wellness to each of you this Holiday Season,

Susan Malloy RN BSN Parish Nurse



*Information obtained from Dr Mercola’s website; ehow.com;
www.algatech.com*

IRA Distributions Can Benefit Your Church

"Advancing age has some wonderful privileges, despite what some people say. For example if you happen to be over 70 you can now withdraw money from your IRA without paying income tax on that withdrawal. How? Simply by making a direct donation to charity, and Gold Canyon United Methodist Church certainly qualifies. You still have time for 2011--in fact until January 31 for 2011 IRA distributions. If interested you might consult your tax advisor, or ask your IRA administrator for details." Terry Parsons a member of our Finance Committee is willing to answer any questions you might have at (480) 982-6578.

Church Wish List

Want to give back to Gold Canyon United Methodist Church beyond your pledge to the General Budget or the Building Fund. Listed below are some items requested by staff and laity that will better enable us to fulfill our mission as a church.

- ☞ ☩ Pave the North Parking Lot - \$200,000
- ☞ ☩ Religious Statue for South Exterior Alcove of Sanctuary Building
- ☞ ☩ Playground
- ☞ ☩ Pipes for the Electronic Organ
- ☞ ☩ Stain Glass for upper Sanctuary windows - \$105,000 (\$3,000 per panel)



SCRIP/BUS FUND

We have a supply of Bashas' \$20 Gift Cards to be given to the Christmas families our church has adopted. By purchasing them at the church (instead of the store) we earn 6% for the bus fund. There will be plenty available through Christmas in case you wish to purchase a few extra for friends or family. If you need more information on the Scrip program at Bashas' and Fry's please stop by the Information Desk. Find out how easy it is to use the program **at no cost to you**. The bus is an important part of our church mission bringing people to church services, serving Sidewalk Ministries and transporting our youth to mission projects. Thank you for your continued support.

Betty Rolley

ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE!

You may give a one-time or recurring donation online by logging on to our church website at www.goldcanyonumc.org and selecting "Click to Give." You will then be guided through the steps to get set up. It's easy and convenient!

DONATIONS AND ATTENDANCE

Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another... Romans 13:8 (NIV)

| October | 2009 | | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2011 | |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| | Gen. | Build. | Gen. | Build. | Gen. | Build. | Worship All | Worship All |
| 1st | \$15730 | \$6828 | \$23581 | \$8507 | \$20,834 | \$12,663 | 634 | 637 |
| 2nd | 12511 | 5926 | 9903 | 3252 | 8578 | 2038 | 675 | 765 |
| 3rd | 10958 | 3811 | 12372 | 4360 | 10110 | 4577 | 817 | 733 |
| 4th | 11038 | 4923 | 10953 | 28111 | 15542 | 4454 | 1185 | 927 |
| 5th | — | — | 14235 | 5619 | 12757 | 12975 | 1056 | 1191 |
| Total | \$50237 | \$21488 | \$71044 | \$24549 | \$67,821 | \$36,706 | 4367 | 4253 |

WITHIN THE CHURCH FAMILY

By Hu & Wendy Rhymes, with a little help from Hattie, Muffin (& Sadie, too)



JUST A REMINDER: Please let the Rhymes know at whsadier@earthlink.net or call the church office if you **WANT A NAME REMOVED FROM THE ROADRUNNER or SUNDAY PRAYER LIST** or are having surgery or are in the hospital, if you wish a visit or want to be on the Sunday Prayer List.

FROM THE SADIE RHYMES' MISSION CORNER

THANKS to all of you who have donated PET FOOD or money for Pet food. Sadie thanks you bunches and we do also. Thanks to Ruth & Terry Burris for bagging pet food at the last minute so our furry friends could eat & also to Les & Marlene Kimball for bagging many large bags of pet food this past month. Thanks to Dr. Amy Munion (Hattie & Muffin's veterinarian) who contributed pet food again this month. Also Jolene & Michael for buying and bagging food. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTE AND THOSE WHO HELP IN THE FOOD BANK once in awhile/and every week.

Love, Hu, Wendy, Hattie, Muffin and Sadie too!!!

Sympathies: Jane Anglin, upon the death of her husband, Bill; Jack Berglund, upon the death of his wife, Diane; Betty Clemensen, upon the death of her husband, Arlo; Doris Ferrante, upon the death of her nephew; The Lewis family, upon the death of their grandpa, Butch; Jim & Marcia Ritenour, upon the loss of Marcia's sister & a niece; Diane & Gary Sauerbrunn, upon the death of Diane's mother; The family of John Smidebush, upon his death; Dr. Ronald Thompson, upon the death of his mother, Edna; The family of Dick Tracy, upon his death; PaAtty & Gordon Truckle, upon the death of Gordon's brother, Denis; Angie Wolfskill, upon the death of her father and the families & friends of the above.

Concerns and/or Continued Prayers: Juan Andres, Nancy Arbuckle, Patti Baker, Shirley Brown, Joan Carns, Bruce Caszatt, David Connell, Sarah Cooper (Rosemary Schulz's granddaughter), Bo Daly, TE Day, Jim Dodd, Kayla Eriksen (Eriksen's granddaughter), Don Floyd (Terina Penninger's father), Betty Glasgow, Jon Griffin, Anthony Guinta, Bill Hansen, Donna Hartzfeld, Marlene Hertzog, Ernie Iafrate, Sandi Jones, Butch Koller, Gloriane Lashley, Will Matthews, Janice Miller, Tate Mitchell, Briana Morgan, Cliff & Yvonne Morton, Bonny Nielsen, Monica Ortega-Watters, Al Olszewski, Aline Otten, Bonnie Parker, Larry Penning, Char Peterson, Porritt family, Barbara Rabbitt, Peter Rath, Sandy Reisch, Bob Remus, Darrell Ritsch, Martha Roth, Michelle Rutherford, Lyle Shires, Ari Shreffler, Orville Slagle, Connie Snyder, Cindy Stone, Doris Stichter, Pat Suddarth, Debbie Tlusty (Eisentraut's daughter), Jim Watters, Fred Wendt, Mickey Wenzel, Linda Whaley, Garnet White, Tyler Williams, Bonnie Wilson, Ann Winfough, Carlos Young and

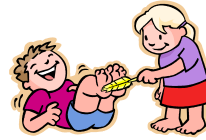
PRAYERS for the families & caregivers of the above. PRAYERS for requests in the "CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER" boxes & UNSPOKEN REQUESTS. Also, those FOOD BANK CLIENTS who have requested prayers. PRAYERS for our MILITARY personnel (Chris Everett, & Matthew Jacobson, Johnathan Knowles, Jacob Manbeck, Myles Strange), those in harm's way & those suffering from PTSD & other maladies as a result of their military service & their families. Also, those who are POOR or HOMELESS & IN NEED OF EMPLOYMENT. PRAYERS for the families of SIDEWALK MINISTRY.

Still in Need of Prayers: John & Doris Adamson, Richard & Eleanor Armstrong, Tom & Dee Ashe, Joey & Dorothy Baker & family, Nicholas Ball, Bob & Ruth Bennett, Cathy Bird, Irene & Jr. Blake (Paul Fillion's sister), Marge Bos (Dave Bos' mother), Kay Bottomley (Mike Vagnier's mother), Lyle Brewer, Jeff & Karen Brown, Dr. Brad & Arlaine Bryant & Julie Bryant-Holver, Martha Burkinshaw, Jim & Carolyn Burt, Sandy Campbell, Leon & Linda Schafle-Castonia, Rev. Bob & June Deits, Chuck Dickinson, Laura Dinges, Rev. Jim & Eve Dinkel, Adelyne Douglass, JoAnn & Dick Ervin, Janet Fillion (Paul & Joyce Fillion's daughter-in-law), Peter Fillion (Paul Fillion's brother), Dale & Inge Fitzpatrick, Sue & Dave Flitsch, Danna & Andy Gharavi, Ardeena Gillette, Bill Green, Arline Hacker, Gail Harshberger, Gaylord Hart & kids, Kathy & Paul Fabish, Kerby Harms (Roger & Shirley Coad's grandson), Jan Helquist, Neil & Melva Houtcooper, Jim & Suzanne Jameson, Ginny & Joe Johnson, Gladys Kay (Jane Hayes' Mom), Mel & Mary Kilbo, Diane Kissner, Tom & Mariol Knapp, Thelma Lang (Pete 'n Kay Johnson's mother), Gerry Legg, Rick & Diane

Lockwood Bob & Juana Mahlandt, Sue & Michael Malloy, Bryan McGann (Jeanette Lunstead's son), Corine McGinley (Diane Kissner's sister), Larry & Pat McMann, Wilbur McMann, Linda & Mike Mestek, Bill & Freda Moffatt, Judy Monk, Hedy Moore (Jed Moore's mother), Ron Morrisette, Mary Nelson, Ramona Orr (Kris Laux's mother), Catarina Pascual, Shirley Plakos, Brenda Rahaneotis, Lynn Revis, Eleanor Rhymes (Hu Rhymes' sister-in-law), Jim & Marcia Ritenour, Peter Ritsch, David & Judy Robertson, Virgil & Rose Scantlin, Sandy Schutt (Wendy Rhymes' sister), Kathy & Jim Serrine, Debbie Steedy, Gary & Sharon Stemple, Rick & Sue Sutter, Marilyn Thomas, Lillian Thomas (Bill & Mary Thomas' mother), Kenneth Tippie (Jerry & Peggy Tippie's son), Gordon & Patty Truckle, Marven & Wanda Tufte, Jim & Charlene Van Slooten & Floy Kilbourn-their daughter, Ray and Nancy Ville-neuve, Jack & Nancy Virden, Mary Ann Warren, Delza Wilson (Jayne Urbach's mother), Pat Zirjacks and the families of the above.

DESIGNATED GIFTS FROM MEMORIAL/FUNERAL SERVICES

Darrell Dinges.....GCUMC Stain Glass Fund or
Pipe Organ Fund
Diane Berglund.....Hospice of the Valley or
other cancer organizations
Louise Green.....Hospice of the Valley or Car-
ingbridge.org



“LAUGH A LITTLE” with Hu

*YOU DON'T STOP LAUGHING
BECAUSE YOU GROW OLD,
YOU GROW OLD BECAUSE YOU
STOP LAUGHING.*

HIGHEST NUMBER

Recently while we were eating lunch after church on Sunday, my youngest son asked me what the highest number I had ever counted up to was. I said I didn't know. Then I asked him how high he has counted.

“5,372” came the prompt reply.

“Oh”, I said. “Why did you stop there?”

“The sermon was over.”

THANKS, Bob Deits for the above rendition.

GOD ALWAYS GIVES BACK

A lady was at the beach with her children when her 4 year old son ran up to her, grabbed her hand, and led her to the shore where a sea gull lay dead in the sand.

“Mommy, what happened to him?” the little boy asked.

“He died and went to heaven” the mother replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said: “And God threw him back down?”

SUPPORT GROUPS

GRIEF

... meets on Wednesdays at 9am in the Sea of Galilee Room.

Please email Laurie Christy for more information at

Lchristy20@yahoo.com

CANCER

.....meets each Wednesday at 11:00 am in Room 101-102. This active group provides spiritual support, love, friendship and a helping hand to cancer patients, caregivers and their families. For further information, contact Tom or Dee Ashe at 480-924-5483 or 480-650-6765 (cell) or by email at deenashe7580@gmail.com.

MIND MENDERS

...meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday each month at 10:00 am in the Education Building. Mind Menders is a support group for caregivers of Alzheimer's and other dementia disease patients. Come join us. *Contact Jeanette Lunstead at 480-671-9888 or the church office for more information.*



International Missions

"The world is my parish." – John Wesley

"...We will strive to be a church that serves our community and the world, realizing and sharing the satisfying and abundant life Christ brings to all people."



John Wesley
Founder of Methodism

The Methodist church was founded on two premises: first was its intention to help people come to know Christ as friend, Savior and Lord, and secondly was its mission. Methodism connects the Living Word with social reform, claiming Christ as its leader and the whole world as its parish. Since its beginnings, over two centuries ago, Methodism has been known for a commitment to, and a passion for missions. Today, the United Methodist Church carries on the tradition and passion on which it was founded by concentrating its resources, creativity, and programs around four specific areas of focus within the church and the world. The four areas of focus from 2009-2012 are: Engaging in Ministry with the Poor; Stamping Out the Killer Diseases of Poverty by Improving Health Globally; Creating New Places for New People and Renewing Existing Congregations; Developing Principled Christian Leaders for the Church and the World.

The international missions that Gold Canyon UMC supports reflect these four areas of focus:

- Providing funds to build a well in Africa helped to improve health and well-being for people there.
- Supporting the Wangshi Church in China, we have helped new Christians and a new congregation in their effort to build a place to gather to worship.
- Giving to "After the Wave", which assists orphaned children of the 2004 tsunami in Thailand, assists these children in overcoming poverty. We have also contributed to health care for these children.
- Selling Fair Trade Coffee and giving to Fellow Man International in Honduras engages in ministry with the poor and helps improve the human condition for all of those involved with FMI.
- Our mission team to Chile also helped create space for Christians to worship and helped establish a bond with our members and those of the Methodist church in Chile.
- Our newest mission team will travel to Costa Rica in February, and their work will involve improving the living conditions of the seminary students in Costa Rica, contributing to the development of new Christian Leaders in Latin America.

The United Methodist Church recognizes the vital role of volunteers in the action phase of the mission tradition. The understanding that we are called to mission is the foundation of our faith. Throughout the history of the Christian church as evident in the scriptures, are many and varied stories of those who responded to God's call. With all of this in mind, we are pleased to put our faith into action through direct work from mission teams, and by indirect support through our designated gifts to international missions and through purchasing our Fair Trade coffee and other products.

During the Christmas season, we encourage you to pray for the various people and programs we support. We appreciate your past giving in the form of designated funds and the purchase of Fair Trade coffee and other goods. For your Christmas giving, we hope you will consider the gift of our Fair Trade coffee, chocolate, tea and cocoa, not only to assist small farmers around the world, but to share the message with those for whom you buy, that every small act can have a large impact. Merry Christmas!

John Wesley's Three Simple Rules

Do No Harm

Do Good

Stay in love with God

Thinking Theologically

By Jody Topping, Pastoral Intern

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Current UMCOR Emergencies

To donate to UMCOR on behalf of the following emergency, please write your check to GCUMC and write "UMCOR Advance ##### (fill in the appropriate number)" on the memo line. 100% of your donation will go to those affected by the emergency.

Horn of Africa Crisis
(Somalia)
UMCOR Advance
#982450

Japan Emergency
Earthquake & Tsunami
~UMCOR Advance
#3021317

Liberia Emergency ~
UMCOR Advance
#150300

Cote D'Ivoire Crisis ~
UMCOR Advance
#982450

U.S. Disaster Response ~
Spring Storms
UMCOR Advance
#3021326

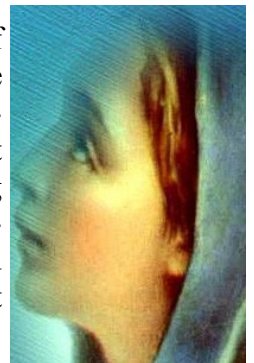
For more ways to help, or
to donate online, go to:
<http://new.gbgn-umc.org/umcor/>

One of the most endearing biblical passages heard during the month of December is Mary's Song found in Luke 1:46-55. In this passage, which is also known as the *Magnificat*, Mary expresses both praise and thanksgiving for being chosen to bear God's son into the world. "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior," Mary sings, "for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed" (vs. 46-47).

But Mary's expressions of praise and thanksgiving aren't the only words of wisdom she shares with us in her song. God will perform mighty deeds through the work of God's son, Jesus Christ. Those who persecute the lowly will be brought down from their thrones, and those who are hungry will be filled with good things. Mary's song is a song of justice. It's a song in which all who have suffered can receive hope for a better day. Mary understands the suffering that many people in her day have endured, so she sings about God's power and might so they will know that God has not forgotten them...and, God will not forget about us.

During this Advent season, we will be hearing a lot about Mary, both in Pastor Fred's Sermon Series called "Walking the Road to Bethlehem" and in the Advent Study that I am leading on Monday nights. We hope that by the time we get to Christmas Eve, when we lovingly await the birth of Jesus that we've anticipated for many weeks, Mary's song will become yours. God's love shone through Mary's *Magnificat*, bringing hope to those who were suffering. God's love also shone through Jesus' actions toward the poor, the sick, and the desolate. And, God's love shines through us, when we help those who are unable to help themselves, when we give of our time and our money to help others have a better life, and when we pray for peace, not only in our world, but also in our souls. Yes, Mary's *Magnificat* is a song about God's love for us, and it's a song we need to keep repeating over and over again...and not just during Advent!

By the way, there are a number of musical settings of the *Magnificat*—some of which are absolutely beautiful and others that are...well, not so much! I have it on good authority, though, that during this Advent Season, you will hear a beautiful arrangement sung by our own Gold Canyon Sanctuary Choir. You won't want to miss it!



Sister Seminararians



HEATHER RODENBORG

Well we all made it to December. For the majority, this means getting ready for the holidays, cooking, and spending time with family. For seminary students, it means preparing for finals. I have never been so excited for finals. This is mostly because after finals, it means rest, lots and lots of rest. Rest has become very sacred to me and something that I have been thinking deeply about, especially during Advent. We seem to get all caught up with the busyness of the holidays and forget to rest in the meaning of Christmas. Our days become so swamped with holiday parties, shopping, baking, and visiting family that we become worn out. By the time we get to Christmas we can barely keep our eyes open. Jesus didn't come into the world to keep us busy shopping and attending parties. Jesus came into the world so that we could have eternal life and rest in the Lord. I hope that you can find time this holiday season to stop and rest in the Lord and be refilled with the love of Christ.

On a side note, I hope you all have a blessed Christmas. It breaks my heart that I won't be able to join you all this year for Christmas service. I will especially miss the evening candlelight service. At the end, during the song *Silent Night*, something amazing takes place as we all light our candles and stand there together as one worshipping the One. It truly is a holy moment. May you all have a very blessed, holy, and restful Christmas. See you all in 2012.



JODY TOPPING

It's amazing how time flies! It seems like only yesterday I started a new quarter at Iliff and already it's over! As I write this column, I'm rejoicing because I just turned in my last paper for my last academic class...which means I'M DONE!!! Well, almost...I do still have two quarters of my internship to complete before I can graduate, but the hard part's over. So it's all good!

I do, however, still have my writing to finish for the Board of Ordained Ministry. Many of you have asked me how this process works, so I thought I'd lay it out for you here in a nutshell.

The process for becoming clergy with the UMC is long and complicated. I started back in 2007 when I first decided to respond to the call I was hearing from God to go into full time ministry. After meeting with a whole bunch of people and committees and getting their stamp of approval, I finally met with the District Committee for Ordained Ministry (DCOM), and they approved me as well! Then I applied for seminary and my journey was begun!

Over the next four years, I met annually with the DCOM and went to school. I studied two years at Claremont School of Theology in California (with Suzanne Cherry!!), then transferred to Iliff so I could finish my degree program mostly online. In May of this year I met one last time with DCOM and they approved my request to move on to the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM). So, last month I submitted my application materials to BOOM, and by December 1 I have to submit a whole bunch of materials, including a sermon manuscript and video (remember the one I preached on Holy Communion? That's the one!), an analysis of the text used for that sermon (called an exegesis), answers to 17 questions, and a short bible study that I have to write. It's going to be tough, but I'm determined to get all these things done before the December 1st deadline. Once I do that, assuming they like what I've written, BOOM will invite me for an interview in January. Since I've never been through one of those, I have no idea what it will be like, so please pray for me, both now and in January when presumably I'll be meeting with them.

So what happens after that, you ask?? Well, it depends. If BOOM approves my application for Commissioning AND there is an appointment available that I can fill, then I will be Commissioned and Appointed as a Provisional Member of the Annual Conference. In order to be a Full Member (like Fred!), I have to serve for two years, complete more papers, and go through more interviews. So even though it feels like my journey may be coming to an end, it's not! It's a bit like our journeys through life: we hit mile markers on which we can celebrate and relax a

Sister Seminararians (continued)

bit, but then we have to get right back up and pound the pavement once again. I see this next part of the process---my meeting with the BOOM---as a mile marker on the road. It's getting me closer to my destination where I will continue to love and serve God with all my heart, mind, and strength...just like Jesus taught. I know all of you are experiencing mile markers in your lives as well. I pray those markers are moments in which you can celebrate, just as I will for mine.

Blessings, Jody



SUZANNE CHERRY

As I began to ponder the worship service I was preparing for November 28th at Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida, I was excited to realize that I would be able to use it twice! You see, I had to create three original worship services for my Worship and the Arts class. What a relief to realize I was 1/3 of the way done simply by doing my internship work!

Over the past year, I have been working toward aligning my actions with my beliefs - in my personal, work and school lives. For me, that means becoming more minimalist, self-sustaining and compassionate. It also includes speaking up about what I think is important. The worship service I created for Primera was part of this effort. November 28th was the first Sunday in Advent this year. It was a good day to remember what we have been working toward in the Desert Southwest Conference: that we are "One in Christ, One with Each Other, and One in Ministry to All the World."

Have you ever thought about what you'd like to be doing when Jesus returns? If you sat down right now and made a list of what you would want to be doing then; and another list of what you do every day, how many of those things would be on both lists? Think about it. In Mark 13:2-37, Jesus reminds the disciples -- and us -- that we must KEEP AWAKE! As we move through the season of Advent, we are anticipating Jesus' birth. Every year when we remember the story of Joseph, Mary and Jesus, it's like we have a new chance for Jesus to be born in our hearts. In a small way, Jesus really is returning to us right here, right now.

Knowing that, are you happy with what you are doing? Are you happy with who you have become? Are there changes you would make as you prepare for Jesus? What would they be?

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT

Your permanent endowment committee has been working on developing a strategy for Gold Canyon United Methodist Church. At the moment we have a scholarship fund, but really no permanent endowment. Since all of us will have to at one time or another face the decisions about what to do with those material things we have, and those decisions have spiritual as well as legal issues, we hope that we can work together in ways that will help you make your choices. We plan to hold two seminars with legal consultants to help us think about what the options are. We will also have representatives from the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation to discuss the Methodist approach to endowment and estate planning. Clearly, we hope that you will remember your church when you make your decisions, but that is not required for you to attend one of our meetings. The endowment committee would like to use income from investments in four areas: first, building and property; second, scholarships, especially for those entering the ministry; third, missions, meaning those things we do for others; and finally, undesignated, meaning the committee would exercise its discretion for the use of this portion of gifts. One more important point--we are not going to use endowment funds for the ongoing operations of the church. These should be and are supported by tithes and offerings. Endowment funds will be used to exploit opportunities we really should consider if we had the resources to do them. If you have any questions or would like to consider this way of giving please contact any member of the permanent endowment committee, who are: Doran Hayes, Bill Waechter, Bettie Armstrong, Wally Quanstrom, Howard Flowers, Royce Brownfield, Tom Robison, Paul Fillion and Roger Schiager.

Wally Quanstrom

Donations for Student Financial Assistance

Have you ever considered financially helping a student to advance his or her education and/or career training but weren't sure how to go about finding qualified applicants? If so, GCUMC can now be of assistance. A new scholarship program has been established to help students, young and not so young, with their financial needs. There are established criteria that must be met before a potential recipient may receive any available funds. Brochures describing the criteria, along with more details about the program, are available in the "Information Rack" found in the church narthex.



Jane Hayes, Volunteer Coordinator

GCUMC

982-3776

Volunteers Do Make a Difference

DECEMBER

Inspirational Values

OVERCOMING

Advent season is upon us and our Christmas Mission is at FULL SPEED!

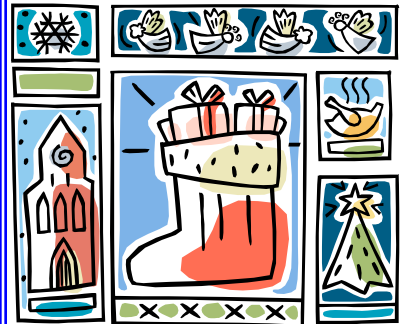
A sense of panic can be present when we have so much to do and the same amount of time in a day. These words by Helen Keller help me when I am feeling pressure:

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I

can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

TOGETHER at GCUMC WE CAN ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS!

If you are willing to participate as a volunteer using your spiritual gifts, please do.



Countdown to Christmas

(Prayers welcome daily)

1. Return all unwrapped gifts with tags by **December 11th**.
2. Purchase Bashas giftcard For \$20 by **December 11th** at the Information Desk.
3. Donate all cash/checks by **December 11th** and we will shop for **you**.
4. Bring your filled "Christmas In a Bag" by **December 11th Morning**
5. Bake goodies and bring by **December 16th**.
6. Bring frozen turkeys on **December 16th**.
7. **Wrapping Party December 16th 3:00 pm**-(Scissors & Tape Required)

WE WELCOME YOUR HELP!

Please call 982-3776 for Information on ways you might get involved.

Christmas-in-a-box

- 1 box of stuffing
- 1 can of cranberry sauce
- 2 canned vegetables
- 1 can of yams
- 1 large can/jar applesauce
- 2 pkg. dry turkey gravy mix

Drop fooc off
December 1st thru 11th.



Do you have the time? No, I don't mean your watch!

Please look over this list of volunteer needs. If you can help with one or more of the following, **complete and place this form in the collection plate, take it to the information table, or send it to the church office.**

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Job</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 30 + min. | Hospitality |
| 75 min. | Shut-in Meals |
| 40 min. | Greeter |
| 60 min. | Bake Cookies |
| 240 min. | Office Receptionist |

Name _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

December Celebrations

Gold Canyon
United Methodist

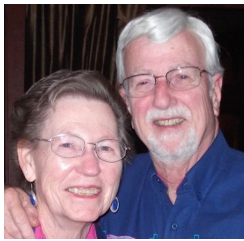
Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Charles & Lori Bachler-Palmer | 1 |
| Donald & Gladys Osgood | 1 |
| Gordon & Donna Gavin | 2 |
| Norman & Mae Livgard | 3 |
| John & Dixie Coules | 9 |
| Kevin & Tammy Holland | 9 |
| Carl & Gloria Charette | 10 |
| Ray & Nancy Villeneuve | 10 |
| William & Mary Thomas | 11 |
| Brett & Collette McNamee | 13 |
| John & Diana Linton | 14 |
| Bob & Pamela Ingram | 16 |
| Cris & Bev Criswell | 17 |
| Royce & Barbara Brownfield | 18 |
| Andy & Danna Gharavi | 18 |
| Bill & Gail Yoder | 18 |
| Robert & Peggy Dowrick | 19 |
| Richard & Dottie House | 19 |
| Mark & Lynda Kessler | 19 |
| John & Kathy Nuss | 20 |
| Terry & Ruth Steinkruger | 20 |
| Jack & Edith Viviani | 20 |
| San & Linda Van Kekerix | 21 |
| Glenn & Carmean Bargman | 22 |
| Pat & Lillian Calihan | 22 |
| Mid & Noreen Carlozzi | 22 |
| Thomas & Jean Brannan | 23 |
| George & Connie Schuler | 23 |
| Leo & Lois Gerst | 24 |
| Victor & Lorraine Phillips | 24 |
| Robert & Nina Pennington | 26 |
| Bob & Jenny Crow | 27 |
| Glenn & Donna Johnson | 27 |
| Darrell & Bev Mitchell | 27 |
| Todd & April Owen | 27 |
| Bill & Joyce Shafer | 28 |
| Wayne & Diane Heinauer | 28 |
| Ron & Helena Van Englehoven | 28 |
| David & Linda Austin | 29 |
| Bob & Jill Bills | 29 |
| Don & Carol Lindaman | 29 |
| Richard & Carolyn Schlager | 29 |
| Daivd & Jody Topping | 29 |
| Marven & Wanda Tufte | 29 |
| Gary & Joyce Gingrich | 30 |
| Mark & Deborah Brooks | 31 |
| John & Jeanne Paddison | 31 |
| Lowell & Violet Reiners | 31 |

Birthdays

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Diane Heinauer | 1 | Tucker | 14 |
| Makaya Aguilar | 1 | Ron Houser | 14 |
| Terry Roberson | 2 | Thomas Preiss | 14 |
| Harrell Miller | 3 | Hannah Rhoton | 14 |
| Kathleen King | 3 | Craig Barrick | 15 |
| Larry Raffurty | 3 | Doris Newton | 15 |
| Judy Monk | 4 | Ellen Laux | 15 |
| Nick Weidner | 4 | Pam Foreman | 15 |
| Rod Reid | 4 | Clara Goodman | 16 |
| Angie Fyfe | 5 | Suzanne Jameson | 16 |
| James Swails | 5 | Darrell Keast | 17 |
| Carol Johnson | 6 | Peggy Kinder | 17 |
| Charlie II Palmer | 6 | Joe Morton | 17 |
| Holly Boyd | 6 | Kathy Serrine | 18 |
| Judy Donovan | 6 | Melissa Marinez | 18 |
| Lisa Kinzel | 6 | Tammy Holland | 18 |
| Arlo Clemensen | 6 | Warren Rikli | 19 |
| Barbara Hardesty | 7 | Judy Robertson | 19 |
| Jack Virden | 7 | Helen Flowers | 20 |
| Jean Brannan | 7 | Linda VanKekerix | 20 |
| Marie Ebnetter | 7 | Kay Leet | 21 |
| Robert Vogelgesang | 7 | Mary Faith VanNoy | 21 |
| Bev Mitchell | 8 | Cassandra Hellyer | 22 |
| Betty Humphrey | 8 | Georgia Kirkpatrick | 22 |
| Becky Reid | 9 | Andy Gharavi | 23 |
| Marty Robison | 9 | Melvin Kilbo | 23 |
| Caleb Shroyer | 10 | Edna (Eddie) Gardner | 24 |
| Elva Bradley | 10 | Heather Rhoton | 24 |
| Anita Raffurty | 11 | Deborah Brooks | 25 |
| James Anderson | 11 | Don Marin | 25 |
| Mary Ann Warren | 11 | Gary Stemple | 25 |
| Neil Brogren | 11 | Neta McCleary | 25 |
| Bob Graves | 12 | William King | 25 |
| Dale Fitzpatrick | 12 | Danna Gharavi | 26 |
| Sylvia Schuerman | 12 | Judy Horn | 26 |
| Bambi Hutnak | 13 | Robert Pennington | 26 |
| Gerald Tabor (Lynn) | 13 | Sarah Swails | 26 |
| Judy Campbell | 13 | Charlene Smith | 26 |
| Marcia Ritenour | 13 | Don Tonole | 27 |
| Nathaniel Gingrich | 13 | Joyce Schenck | 27 |
| Pat Flint | 13 | Michael Malloy | 27 |
| Shirley Coad | 13 | Howard Flowers | 28 |
| Bill Green | 14 | Joseph Lundberg | 28 |
| Clare Goodman | 14 | Connie Schuler | 39 |
| Don Anderson | 14 | John Franks | 29 |
| Ilene Tabor | 14 | Cherie Madzey | 30 |
| Mary Marin | 14 | Todd Owen | 30 |
| | | William Wacchter | 30 |
| | | Jerri Manbeck | 31 |
| | | Alice Plale | 31 |

If your name isn't on this list (or you know of someone who should be), please call the church office with the information. We truly don't mean to leave anyone out.



A Note From Bob...

As we enter into the Christmas Season, I am continuing the sermon series I started on November 27th, "Are You Ready for Christmas?"

The upcoming sermons are "You Are If You Are Some Kind of Fanatic;" "It Depends On Which Jesus You Are Expecting," and "Do the Dee Dah Day Dance." If those titles don't get you curious, I don't know what will!

There will be NO Country Western Service on Christmas Day—there will be just one service that day, at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. We'll be back on schedule the next week. So, join us on New Year's Day to kick off the New Year with a great Country Western Worship!

In the meantime, pull on yer boots, toss on yer hat and head on down to Worship with us on December 4th, 11th and 18th!

Peace and joy,
Bob Deits



Coffee With the Pastor (New Member Inquiry)

Join us for the next Coffee with the Pastor on December 5th at 6:30 pm. We will meet in the Music Room. We invite those who are thinking about making Gold Canyon UMC their new church home to attend the next Coffee with the Pastor gathering. During the gathering, led by Pastor Fred, we will take a look at our church's ministry and the history of the United Methodist Church. If you are interested in attending, no reservations are needed. If you need child care, please contact the office so we can provide a child care worker. Come be a part of Gold Canyon UMC's ministry! We would love to have you join us!

W.O.W. Corner

The holidays are upon us, and your friends on the W.O.W. Committee are very busy. *Fall-O-ween* was a big success with an attendance of 650-700 people. Each year we learn a little more and next year promises to be even bigger and our best ever!

Thanks to all who helped with the "Hanging of the Green". The campus looks beautiful already and we still have the poinsettias to come! Our next big event will be the Christmas concert performed at both 3:00 and 6:00 pm on December 10th. Our volunteers will be dressed in Dickens' period costumes to perform greeting and ushering services. We hope you'll join us for the best musical performance you'll see this Christmas season.

Then on Christmas Eve we again plan a "Living Nativity" on the south side of the sanctuary building. We'll have people representing the Holy Family surrounded by live sheep and a donkey for the little ones to pet. All of the attendants will be in Biblical period costumes and we'll have the majestic scene of the 3 Wise Men coming with gifts for the newborn Jesus at all of the later evening services.

If any of you long-time members, new attendees, winter residents, members or not, would like to join in the fun we have providing a spirit of "extreme hospitality" we wish to nurture in our church, please call Ron Walker at 480-671-3881. We can always use your new ideas.

From all of us on the W.O.W. committee, we wish you a very blessed Christmas!



Commemorative Mugs!!!!

Wouldn't you like to enjoy your morning coffee or tea or perhaps hot chocolate in an attractive Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Commemorative Mug? Stop by the Information Desk or the office and pick one up for only \$5.00 each. They also make great gifts!

Your **W.O.W.** team designed the mugs and proceeds are used to support their outreach mission.

STEPHEN MINISTRY®

KEEP HIM AROUND

Your husband of thirty-seven years - your only, your great love - just died after fighting a losing battle with cancer for three agonizing years. You are filled, loaded, with your loss!

You are alone. You are afraid. How can you go on with your life without him - your shoulder, your mentor, your partner?

One answer is - DON'T! Don't give him up. Keep him around you. Talk quietly to him. And, share your husband and your grief with a Stephen Minister.

A Stephen Minister will help you share him and will help you live again. A Stephen Minister will like knowing your husband and will walk both of you through the woods and into the warmth of God's loving sunshine.

Treat yourself and your husband to the listening, caring love of a Stephen Minister. Call the office for a referral.



"Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other"

1 Thessalonians 4:9



With a Grateful Heart

To the "Prayer Warriors" of GCUMC:
Words cannot express my gratitude for all who offered prayers on my behalf and for the visitation of Pastor and Mrs. Hu Rhymes in the hospital.

As an RN, I know that emergencies happen fast, but as a patient-it's like being helplessly adrift out to sea-ALONE! But, having a strong relationship with the Lord, there is a peace and comforting reliance that you are in the hands of your loving Lord - come what may!! May you all be blessed as you have blessed me.

In Him,
Joan Carns

To Gold Canyon UMC:

We appreciate our church family and want to thank you for the cards and prayers. And especially Hu and Wendy for the calls while I was in the hospital. It means so much to see their smiling faces and hear their voices raised in prayer to our great God, who hears and answers those requests. Thank you!!

Orville Slagle

God saw that he was getting tired and a cure was not to be, as He put His arm around him and whispered,
"Come with Me"

Jan and the Helquist Family

Dear Church Family,

It's been a year this month since my mother was called Home. In the midst of my busy life, I am left wondering if I ever truly thanked you all for your prayers and your gentle words of comfort. The staff, Pastor Fred, Pastor Hu and Wendy, the Prayer Shawl Ministry (Karen Brown) and all of you have been so supportive that I really have no words that will give enough credit or gratitude. Throughout my schooling and even as I was married just a few months ago, you have been by my side, praying for me and for my family. I want to take this moment to thank you for the love that you continuously share, not only with me, but with everyone who needs your healing hearts. May you all be blessed as you have blessed me.

Suzanne Jacobson Cherry

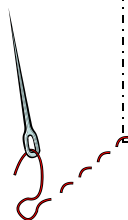


United Methodist Women of Gold Canyon

Next Unit Meeting will be
Saturday, January 14
9:45 am Room 101/102
in the Education Building
We hope you will join us!

STITCHES UNLIMITED...

...meets on the **FIRST** Wednesday of
each month at 9am in Room 101/102.
Contact Melva Houtcooper for more
information.



Deadline for January Roadrunner
— December 9

Weekly Bulletin Insert Deadline: **Noon** Wednesday
Your GCUMC Publications are brought to you by:
Georgia Kirkpatrick, Kim Shroyer, Jody Topping &
Suzanne Cherry with help from the Friday Bulletin
Team and the Roadrunner Assembly Team

Roadrunner Email

Would you consider receiving your *Roadrunner* and
event announcements by email? If so, please fill out the
information below, tear it off and drop it in the collection
plate or send it in to the church office.

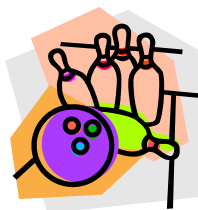
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Name: _____

Email address: _____



SINGLES GROUP

Open to all Senior Men and Women ages
50+. New members are always welcome.

We are planning to get together at least 2
times a month. We are trying to plan the
social for the 1st Saturday of every month. The sugges-
tions so far include dinner out, socials and game nights,
area theater productions, movies, bowling, day trips and
possibly a cruise or longer trips in the future. Our goal is
to socialize and have fun.

For more information- please contact
Rhonda Rapp email Rapp123455@msn.com
or phone 480-357-1574. For those of you
who are already members - remember you
have the membership list - want to go out
for lunch or dinner or to a movie - call
someone on the list and invite them to go
with you or meet you. This is the best way
to get to know each other.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

*Children's Sunday School classes begin
in the Worship Service with their families.
Children are led to their classrooms after
the Children's Sermon.*

✚ 8:00 AM ~ Adult ~ Room 101/102

✚ 9:30 AM ~ Children

✚ 9:30 AM ~ Youth

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 & 9:30 AM

Traditional ~ Sanctuary

10:50 AM

Praise ~ Koinonia Room
Music led by *Uncommon Grace*

5:00 PM

Country Western ~ Koinonia Room
Music led by *One in the Spirit* or the Housers
Childcare Provided at ALL Services

GCUMC Calendar December 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Key AA=Alcoholic's Anonymous WOW=Witness our Wonder (Events & Outreach Planning) K Rm=Koinonia Room Sanc=Sanctuary SofG=Sea of Galilee Room Ed.=Education Building | | |  | 1 8 am Yoga—K Rm 9:15 am Slow Yoga—K Rm 10:30 am Chair Yoga—K Rm 1 pm Survey/World Religions—101/102 7 pm Choir Rehearsal — Music Rm | 2 5 pm Parents' Night Out—101/102 5:30 pm AA—SofG | 3 8 am Men's Breakfast @ Red Sage 10 am Sidewalk Ministries—Avalon Elementary 6 pm—50+ Singles Dinner—K Rm |
| 4 8 am Adult Sun. Schl-SofG 8 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Traditional-Sanc. 10:50 am Praise-KRm 1 pm Surv/World Rel.—101/102 1 pm Dress Rehearsal-Sanc 5 pm CW -KRm 6:30 pm Youth—Educ | 5 9:30 am Bible Banter Mtn Brew Coffee House 4 pm Stephen Ministry—SofG 5:30 pm Disciple 3—Feathers 6 pm WOW Mtg—TBA 6 pm Advent Study-K Rm 6:30 pm Coffee w/Pastor-Music Rm 7 pm Al-Anon—101/102 | 6 8 am Yoga—K Rm 9:15 am Slow Yoga—K Rm 10 am Comm. Grnds—101/102 10:30 am Chair Yoga—K Rm 1 pm Disciple 1—101/102 1:30pm Disciple IV—SofG 6 pm Disciple 2—Feathers 6 pm One in the Spirit Rehearsal—K Rm 6:30pm Adult Bells—Sanc | 7 9 am Stitches Unlimited—Rm 101/102 9 am Grief Support-SofG 11am Cancer Support—101/102 4:30 pm Spirit Club—Educ 5 pm Disciple II—101/102 5:30 pm Angel Choir—Music 7 pm Orchestra—Music | 8 8 am Yoga—K Rm 9:15 am Slow Yoga—K Rm 10:30 am Chair Yoga—K Rm 1 pm Survey/World Religions—101/102 7 pm Choir Rehearsal — Music Rm | 9 10 am Mind Menders—101/102 5:30 pm AA—SofG | 10 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal—Sanc. 10 am Sidewalk Ministries—Avalon Elementary 3 pm Christmas Concert 6:30 pm Christmas Concert |
| 11— Christmas Mission Gifts Due 8 am Adult Sun. Schl-SofG 8 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Traditional-Sanc. 10:50 am Praise-KRm 1 pm Surv/World Rel.—101/102 5 pm CW—KRm 6:30 pm Youth—Educ | 12 Christmas Gift Sorting begins 9:30 am Bible Banter Mtn Brew Coffee House 5:30 pm Disciple 3—Feather 6 pm Advent Study-K Rm 7 pm Al-Anon—101/102 | 13 8 am Yoga—K Rm 9:15 am Slow Yoga—K Rm 10 am Comm. Grnds—101/102 10:30 am Chair Yoga—K Rm 1 pm Disciple 1—101/102 1:30pm Disciple IV—SofG 6 pm Disciple 2—Feathers 6 pm One/Spirit —K Rm 6:30pm Adult Bells—Sanc | 14 9 am Grief Support-SofG 11am Cancer Support—101/102 4:30 pm Spirit Club—Educ 5 pm Disciple II—101/102 5:30 pm Angel Choir—Music 7 pm Estate Planning Seminar-K Rm 7 pm Orchestra—Music | 15 8 am Yoga—K Rm 9:15 am Slow Yoga—K Rm 10:30 am Chair Yoga—K Rm 7 pm Choir Rehearsal — Music Rm | 16 5:30 pm AA—SofG 1 pm Annual Gift Wrapping Party—Sanc. Bldg. 7:30 pm GCA—Mask Messenger | 17 9 am Gift Delivery/Pick-Up-Narthex 10 am Sidewalk Ministries—Avalon Elem School |
| 18 8 am Adult Sun. Schl-SofG 8 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Traditional-Sanc. 10:50 am Praise-KRm 3 pm Tucson Boy's Choir-Sanc. 5 pm CW—KRm 6:30 pm Youth—Educ | 19 9:30 am Bible Banter @ Mtn Brew Coffee House 4 pm Stephen Ministry—SofG 5:30 pm Disciple 3—Feather 6 pm Advent Study-K Rm 7 pm Al-Anon—101/102 | 20 8 am Yoga—K Rm 9:15 am Slow Yoga—K Rm 10 am Comm. Grnds—101/102 10:30 am Chair Yoga—K Rm 1 pm Disciple 1—101/102 1:30pm Disciple IV—SofG 5:30 pm Houser Rehearsal—K Rm 6 pm Disciple 2—Feathers 6:30pm Adult Bells—Sanc | 21 8 am Newsletter Team 9 am Grief Support-SofG 11am Cancer Support—101/102 4:30 pm Spirit Club—Educ 5 pm Disciple II—101/102 5:30 pm Angel Choir—Music 7 pm Orchestra—Music | 22 8 am Yoga—K Rm 9:15 am Slow Yoga—K Rm 10:30 am Chair Yoga—K Rm 7 pm Choir Rehearsal — Music Rm | 23 10 am Mind Menders—101/102 5:30 pm AA—SofG | 24 Christmas Eve Services: 4 pm—Family 5:30 pm Gift of Music 6 pm-Traditional 7:30 pm Gift of Music 8 pm-Traditional 11 pm-Communion |
| 25 Merry Christmas! 10:30 am Traditional-Sanc. | 26 Church Office Closed 7 pm Al-Anon—101 -102 | 27 8 am Yoga—K Rm 9:15 am Slow Yoga—K Rm 10 am Comm. Grnds—101/102 10:30 am Chair Yoga—K Rm 1 pm Disciple 1—101/102 1:30pm Disciple IV—SofG 6 pm Disciple 2—Feathers 6 pm One/Spirit —K Rm 6:30pm Adult Bells—Sanc | 28 9 am Grief Support-SofG 11am Cancer Support—101/102 4:30 pm Spirit Club—Educ 5 pm Disciple II—101/102 5:30 pm Angel Choir—Music 7 pm Orchestra—Music | 29 8 am Yoga—K Rm 9:15 am Slow Yoga—K Rm 10:30 am Chair Yoga—K Rm 7 pm Choir Rehearsal — Music Rm | 30 5:30 pm AA—SofG | 31 10 am Sidewalk Ministries—Avalon Elem School |



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GCUMC Staff

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Senior Pastor | Fred A. Steinberg |
| Minister of Pastoral Care | Hu Rhymes |
| Associate Pastor | Bob Deits |
| Pastoral Intern | Jody Topping |
| Director of Education | Katharine Keller |
| Director of Music Ministries | Douglas J. Benton |
| Associate Director of Music | David Ballard |
| Director of Youth Ministries | Wendy Moore |
| Pianists | Carol Ballard/ Linda Jones/ Marty Robison Nancy Virden |
| Office Manager | Suzanne Cherry/ Jody Topping |
| Administrative Associate | Katherine Keller/Kim Shroyer |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Jane Hayes |
| Parish Nurse | Susan Malloy/Monica Ortega-Watters |
| Nursery Care Giver | Devona Brown |
| Facility Care Taker | Rick Ceynar |

Addressee or Current Resident

Four Candlelight Services ***One Glorious Story***

**Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Invites You
To Join Us at One of Our Services on Christmas Eve**

December 24:

Family Candlelight Service – 4:00 pm
Candlelight Services – 6:00 & 8:00 pm
Candlelight Service & Communion – 11:00 pm

Childcare provided
Goldcanyonumc.org

6640 S. Kings Ranch Rd.
480-982-3776

