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December 2012

No. 12



From The Pastor: “New Traditions Worship Service”

It is the beginning of December and we are right around the corner from the larger worship attendance Sundays of January, February and March. Last January our 9:30 am worship service had only about 40 empty seats on a couple of Sundays. It is obvious that something has to be done to meet the attendance growth of our church. During the last three years we have tried to meet this growth by creating a new worship service with another pastor preaching or showing a video of the sermon at the 10:50 am service. Neither of these options were as successful as we desired. This year several staff members brainstormed a solution. The experiment we are willing to try is a new service called “New Traditions.”

The New Traditions Worship service will launch on January 6th in the Sanctuary at 11:00 am. I will give the message, Katharine will give the Children’s Sermon and the choir will sing the anthem. Two hymns will be sung and Uncommon Grace will sing three songs. It will be held for only three months. In April we will return to our December format of the Praise service at 10:50 in the Koinonia Room. The biggest shift will be for those who currently attend our Praise service at 10:50. We invite you to join in the “New Traditions” service at 11:00 am. You will still be able to hear Uncommon Grace sing. We also invite people who attend the 9:30 service to shift their attendance to the 11:00 service. The traffic will be much less and it will be much easier to get in and out of the service.

We hope you will be open to the changes necessary for a growing church to be more effective in reaching out to our community. We have no desire to turn people away from worship because they can’t find a seat.

Grace and Peace,

Fred



“Unwrapping Christmas”

Sermon Series

There are so many expectations about Christmas. We seek to gather as the perfect family to make new memories. We try to give and receive the perfect gifts. We want the spirit of Christmas to last forever. Yet often our expectations are dashed. The unwrapping of gifts doesn’t fully meet our hopes. When we unwrap the scriptures view on Christmas we often find different expectations. This year join us in Advent and Christmas Eve as we “Unwrap Christmas.”

December 2 ~ Keys to Joy

December 9 ~ God’s Favor

December 16 ~ What Kind of King

December 23 ~ What Are We Waiting For?

December 24 ~ The Perfect Gift

“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."

Advent Wreath Lighters ~

If you, your family or small group/Bible Study wish to light the Advent Wreath during any Sunday worship service in Advent (Dec. 2, 9, 16, or 23rd) or any of the Christmas Eve services (4, 6, 8 or 11 pm), please contact Katharine in the church office.



Sidewalk Ministry

This **ministry is in great need** of Prayer and Gratitude Helpers for the month of December! Fill your heart to the brim! **Any Saturday from 10:30–11:30 am.** What a deep reward we receive for such a small but needed contribution! Call 480-242-9397 for details.



Confirmation is a 13-week program of the Methodist church when youth, 6th grade and higher, learn about the tenets of their faith and about the Methodist denomination. Usually at the end of this time period, the youth decide to become members of the church. If you have a student in this grade bracket who wishes to begin this journey, please contact Katharine in the church office.

Children's Christmas Pageant



All children of the church and any visiting grandchildren are invited to join us for the Christmas pageant at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service. There will be one dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 22 from 1 - 3 pm. We will be rehearsing the songs during Sunday School and at the rehearsal. The three speaking parts will be assigned to youth, and the children will dress in Biblical garb, be on stage and sing. If you have any questions, please contact Katharine in the church office.

Parents' Shopping Day Out



The Girl Scouts are offering **childcare on Saturday, December 8th from 10:00 - 2:00 pm** in the Education Building. The cost is \$10 per child for the four hours; families with more than one child will get a price break. Activities and lunch are provided. Please call Jill Oliver if you have questions - 480- 288-6552 and call the church office if you will be using this wonderful service.



SAVE THE DATE!



Ladies' weekend retreat
April 12-14, in Cornville, AZ.

Theme is — *Cozy Mountain Lodge: Where Women Find Shelter in God.*



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Hello Ladies!

In lieu of our December 13th regular UMW meeting, we are supporting the **Christmas Angel Team's Christmas Cookie Exchange**. Mother Christmas, Sharee Sifferath, tells me there is something everyone can do! On **Wednesday, December 12, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm** she needs hostesses, elf's, and cookie bakers. She will need help packing and delivering cookies. Of course, you will need to bring at least 2 dozen homemade cookies. Cookies will be given to Christmas families and senior living facilities. There will be hot cider, candy canes, and surprises! It sounds like great fun!!! More detailed information can be found in both buildings. Please call or email Sharee and let her know how you plan to participate — 480-474-8363; email: shareesifferath@hotmail.com.

Stitches Unlimited—Quilts for St. Andrews Clinic

Did you know?! The Stitches Unlimited group **makes and donates quilts** to the St. Andrews Clinic. The quilts we make range from infant size (about 40" x 40") to quilts for older kids (about 42" x 60"). Donations of quilts of any size are accepted. We have kits already cut for simple ABC style quilts, directions included. We also have the backing and batting. We **sew toiletry bags** for St. Andrews as well. Those kits and instructions are also available.

Come join us on the **first Wednesday of every month** at 9:00 am/Rm 101-102. We work **year round**. Bring your sewing machine and sew (we do have a couple of machines here), your rotary cutter and cut kits, iron, or pick up some kits to sew at home.



We will also **gladly take donations** of cotton, flannel, light weight denim, light weight corduroy fabric, and fleece, in solids, tone on tone, and kid friendly prints. Or \$. Slightly used sheets (or new) are good for backing too. For questions or more info call Bonnie Becker at (480) 629-8796.

GCUMC SINGLES GROUP — We are alive and well, and now known as **"Singles Moving Forward"**

Wakeup Call!!! New Singles Group is now forming, so jump right in and be part of the action! Everyone is welcome to the get acquainted meeting in the Koinonia Room on Saturday, December 15th at 4:00 pm. And, yes, that means everyone there is NO age restriction! For more information call Judy Wells at 480-646-1713, or Ella at 480-474-1488.

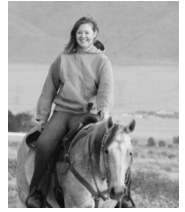


Please join us for fun, food, events and fellowship!





Gold Canyon UMC Youth



Wendy Moore, Youth Director

Gold Canyon United Methodist Youth Group News



Jr. High Sunday School

Our Youth Group meets every ***Sunday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm*** and its fun for all, with a lesson each week on subjects ranging from "What to do when your life falls apart" to "Thanksgiving", "Viewing others as Christ sees them", "Anger", and many other topics.



Sr. High & Young Adult Sunday School



Jr. High Sunday School

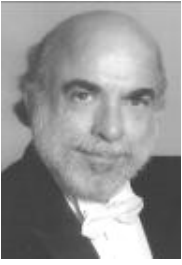
Sunday School News

It is so exciting to have Sunday school classes for our Jr. High and Sr. High youth, and college age Young Adults! Thank you to Pastor Fred for use of his office, Beth Steinberg and Sean Sheridan for the Sr. High Young Adult lessons every Sunday. The friendships and support that our kids have from Youth Group can last a lifetime. Please



Day of the Cowboy

pray for our continued success as we encourage each other in our walk with Christ. God Bless.



Music Notes

Oh my! Is it December already?!? Why is it when I was a kid, December took forever to get here, and now that I'm, uh, older, it seems like just yesterday I was planning my July 4th cookout?! All of us must really be having fun for time to fly by as fast as it does!

We are all very excited about our Choral Christmas Concert this year! We hope you are too - these are our *Performing Arts Series* biggest events! The **11th Annual Choral Christmas Concert** will be presented on **Saturday, December 8 at 3:00 pm & 6:30 pm**. If you have the option, please come to the 6:30 pm concert as the 3:00 pm will be completely full this year. But, if you must come to the 3:00 instead of the 6:30 concert, get here very early! I know folks will be coming from Tucson, Yuma, Flagstaff, and Prescott plus throughout the valley. Last year, we had over 2,000 people at our Choral Christmas Concert and I know we will have a lot more this year. Doors will open one hour prior to each concert. There is no charge as free will offerings will be received. We do ask everyone to bring at least one non-perishable food item per person for the Gold Canyon UMC Food Bank.

Featured will be the **Chancel Choir**, **Canyon Carillon** handbell choir, **Agape Brass Quintet**, **Chanters** (Men's Chorus, directed by John Nuss), **Women's Chorus**, **Joyful Noise** (Youth Chorus directed by Kathy Nuss), **Youth Handbell Team**, **Jill Pack** on the harp, **Keith Kassner** on the timpani, and soloists **Cynthia Hoff** and **Don Engbrecht**. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to one of these performances, they will be *very* glad you did!

The **Orchestra** is again playing for worship. If you have an instrument, dust it off and come join us on Wed. evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Music Room. Now that we have our new Wenger Sound Panels, the orchestra sounds great – not too loud, like before! We will play in Church on December 16 and again on Christmas Eve at the 6:00 & 8:00 services.

Our youth choir, **Joyful Noise**, rehearses on Wed. from 5:30 to 6:00 pm in the Music Room. If you have kids from 4th grade through 8th grade, bring them down so they can sing with us. The Music Room is on the north side of the Sanctuary building. The kids love making together a *Joyful Noise*!

Our **Youth Handbell Team** meets on Wed. from 6:00 – 6:45 pm also in the Music Room. If you can count to 4 and are in 6th grade – 12th grade, come join us and see what all the fun is about!

The **Chancel Choir**, our adult choir, sings for the 8:00 & 9:30 am services. If you can sing on pitch, read music at least a little, and enjoy being a part of a very fun group, come join us on Thursdays from 6:50 – 8:30 pm. The **Chanters** (men's chorus) meets at 5:30 on Thursdays.

I thank all of our excellent musicians in the above groups, our Praise Team, **Uncommon Grace** and our Country/Western group, **One in the Spirit**, both led by **David Ballard**, **Associate Director of Music** (contact him for more information on these two groups) for sharing their time and talent with our congregation. When you see any of our musicians, please thank them for their work! They all do this for you and all of God's people here in this place.

On the next few pages you will find the Christmas Eve schedule. I just want to point out that once again, we will offer a special half hour of instrumental and vocal music before the 6:00 and 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Services – what we call, **A Gift of Music**. I hope if you come to one of these services you will come early and enjoy this special musical offering.

I continue to thank God that I am in this place at this time, sharing the gifts God gave me. I have never been happier in my life!

May God continue to bless each of us this season and throughout the new year,

Doug



Performing Arts Schedule on pages 6,7 and 21—>

Gold Canyon United Methodist Church

Performing Arts Series, 2012-2013



Sunday, November 11, 3:00 pm: 7th Annual *Celebration of Veterans*

Our Community-wide celebration featuring several great speakers, George Staerkel, from the Arizona Opry, Don Engbrecht, the Agape Brass and the combined choirs from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Superstition Foothills Baptist Church, and Gold Canyon United Methodist Church. Offering goes to the Returning Warriors Fund.



Saturday, December 8, 3:00 & 6:30 pm: 11th Annual *Choral Christmas Concert* featuring the Chancel Choir, Joyful Noise, Canyon Carillon, Youth Handbell Team, Agape Brass Quintet, Harp, Timpani, Organ and YOU, in the biggest Christmas event in Gold Canyon! We know you will be as blessed as we will be, with your presence. Come early!



Friday, January 11, 7:30 pm and Saturday, January 12, 3:00 PM, the incomparable *George Dyer in Concert!* Branson, MO's favorite tenor is returning again for his fourth year presenting an all new concert of classical, contemporary, operatic, Broadway and traditional standards. Every year, George completely fills our 1200-seat Sanctuary with incredible music and we are now offering two concerts to accommodate all of George's fans. You don't want to miss this! Come early – not for just a good seat, but for any kind of seat! We will close the doors when the Sanctuary is full.



Sunday, January 27, 3:00 pm: *The Legacy Quartet* returns for their 6th annual concert here - one of the most popular programs we offer. They have toured extensively throughout Korea, Australia, Canada, Cuba and the USA, sharing their unique arrangements of music for male quartet in the southern gospel tradition, plus so much more. Be sure to come early!



Sunday, February 10, 3:00 pm, pianist, *Jerry Nelson in concert!*

International Christian concert performer, composer, orchestrator and recording artist, Jerry Nelson, will share his incredible God-given talent with us on the 9'3" Petrof *Mistral* Concert Grand Piano. He has performed on all continents and has teamed up with Dino and Anthony Burger, and accompanied such artists as Glen Campbell, Sandi Patti, Tom Netherton and Steve Amerson. As a composer, arranger, conductor and studio producer, he has conducted orchestras from London and Tel Aviv to Nashville and Los Angeles. Come and enjoy one of the great Christian pianists of our day!

Continued Next Page—>



Sunday, February 17, 3:00 pm, the incredible *Don Engbrecht* in concert! Local singer continues to thrill audiences around Arizona with his incredible voice. He will sing a mixture of popular standards, sacred, Gospel, and Broadway songs that will remind you of voices of the past like Ezio Pinza! He will be joined by local favorites Cynthia and Wade Hoff. Come, enjoy an afternoon of great music!



Sunday, February 24, 3:00 pm, our annual Country/Western Concert featuring *The Houser Gang*! One of the most popular programs we offer every year, Ron, Chris, Tara and Brett, with their friends, will raise the roof with toe-tappin', foot-stompin' music that will stir your very soul and fill it with God's grace. Get here early!



Sunday, March 3, 3:00 pm, *John and Chris Rice*, brothers who are both prodigies on both piano and the cello! These great, young Christian musicians will present an afternoon of music that will be long remembered! They both study piano with Robert Hamilton at ASU and both have studied cello with Takiyori Atsumi. Their program will provide a unique focus on "Chopin's Heart".



Sunday, March 10, 3:00 pm, the world renowned handbell soloist, *Christine Anderson* in concert! Christine has performed in all 50 states and 25 countries around the world. She rang her first handbell solo in 1980 and it is now said she has probably rung more handbells in concert than any other living person. I dare say many of you have probably already seen her in concert somewhere! She has published over 100 titles of solo handbell music. Christine literally wrote the book on solo ringing in the modern era! She is a devout Christian who is honored to share the gift God has given her. You will not believe what this one person can do with a full set of Malamrk handbells!!!

Other Special Programs:

Saturday, February 23, 5:00 pm, *Uncommon Grace* our Praise Band, in the Koinonia Room.

Sunday, March 17, 3:00 pm, *Brass, Reeds & Winds, Oh My!* Agape Brass and friends.

Good Friday, March 29, 7:00 pm, the Choir presents Dubois' *Seven Last Words of Christ*.

Sunday, April 14, 5:00 pm, *One in the Spirit* concert in the Koinonia Room, Education Building.

Sunday, April 21, 3:00 pm, *2nd Annual Interfaith Choral Festival* at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

All programs are offered at no charge as free will offerings will be received. Each person is asked to bring at least one non-perishable food item for the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Food Bank. For more information, call 480-982-3776 or check our website: www.goldcanyonumc.org.

Healthy Living

News from the Health and Wellness Ministry of Susan Malloy, Parish Nurse

✝ Wishing You a Healthy 2012!

Whew! Where did the year go? We are now again about to enter one of the busiest times of the year. Some find it to be one of the most stressful as well. There are a couple of things that can be difficult for some to handle during the holiday season – **Overeating**, and **Stress**.

I found this interesting statistic related to the Holidays. **Seven (7)** is the average number of pounds gained between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Can you believe it? Needless to say, I urge you to be mindful of this fact, and consider monitoring what you eat this time of year. This can be particularly important at parties and other gatherings. Here are some suggestions to divert "over eating" when faced with the holiday temptations, but still enjoy:

- ✝ Eat a protein snack, or perhaps a salad with egg, cheese and a little meat, and drink a glass of water before ever leaving for a party. Having your stomach partially full of food prior to an event will help you limit over indulgence at the buffet table.
- ✝ Another suggestion is to peruse the spread of food before delving in. This way you can pick and choose a few of your "must haves", and not end up with a huge plate of food that could make your weight, cholesterol and/ or blood sugar shoot sky high.
- ✝ Drinks, such as too much eggnog, can create a shift in your body's well being.
- ✝ Assess how you feel when you get home and plan to adjust the amount and type of food at future parties.

Now, holiday stress can also play havoc on your body. Some of the effects of stress on the body can include heart disease and heart attacks; skin conditions such as worsening psoriasis and/or onset of shingles; digestive disorder flare ups - like Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's disease; anxiety, depression and insomnia; and worsening of pain related to arthritis, back pain and muscles spasms.

The WHY of it? Stress weakens the immune system. Here is the *slightly technical explanation*. Each and

every cell in our body has a tiny clock called a TELOMERE which shortens each time the cell divides. To counteract this physiologic activity the body also produces an enzyme called Telomerase which protects the cell. It prevents further shortening by adding more DNA to the end of the Telomere. When the body is under stress, "cortisol" (a hormone) is pumped out which suppresses that protective enzyme Telomerase. Here is the *more basic explanation*, and what we really need to know. Folks who remain under constant, chronic stress lose their body's natural protection and this makes them susceptible to a host of illnesses and diseases.

Here are some suggestions to prevent Holiday stress, and also reduce chronic stress in your life:

- ✝ Carefully **examine your thoughts and expectations**. Be aware of driving yourself to provide the perfect gifts, parties etc.
- ✝ **Lower your expectations and allow extra time** to accomplish your holiday and everyday life "TO DO LISTS". Understand that your ability to accomplish it all will not only back fire on winning "the over achiever award" but place you in harm's way. Sometimes reevaluating that Holiday List and eliminating some of the "to-dos" is the kindest thing you can do for yourself and your family.
- ✝ Before you get caught up in the myriad of Holiday activities, pick and choose. **Decide what is important and what is not**. Anger, frustration, depression, and feeling overwhelmed do not a "Christmas Spirit" make.

This year make it your goal to "lighten up", ask for help and consider letting go of some of the old traditions if they bring you anything but joy. Remember, Christmas is the celebration of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ, He is the Reason for the Season. May the ability to relax and experience Love, Peace and Joy be yours this Holiday Season.

Blessings of Health & Wellness,
Susan Malloy RN BSN
GCUMC Parish Nurse

DONATIONS AND ATTENDANCE

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

October	2010		2011		2012		2011	2012
	General	Building	General	Building	General	Building	Worship All	Worship All
1st	\$23581	\$8507	\$20,834	\$12,663	\$16445	\$6016	637	716
2nd	9903	3252	8578	2038	20314	18631	765	895
3rd	12372	4360	10110	4577	12454	11732	733	889
4th	10953	28111	15542	4454	17194	4613	927	1047
5th	14235	5619	12757	12975	0	0	1191	3547
Total	\$71044	\$24549	\$67,821	\$36,706	\$66407	\$40992	4253	2785

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Save time, simplify your life, and support our church! In this new millennium the church is keeping up with the times by offering our givers a new way to help our ministry. Our new electronic contribution program is an automatic funds transfer program that will allow you to make contributions without having to lift a pen to write a check or reach into your wallet for cash!

Here is how it works: you authorize a specified amount of money to be electronically transferred directly from your checking or savings account to the church's account. You can also specify the frequency of the transfer to allow you to keep your check register up to date.

It is fast, safe, and easy! In fact, it is less risky than checks, as it cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed in the mail, and the rate of accuracy is high. The electronic transfer will cost you NOTHING and you save the cost of the check. The church will issue you a donation statement for your records, and bank statements will provide you with a record of transfer as additional proof of your contributions. Donations via electronic transfer can be made to our general fund and/or our building fund. Designations to Missions or the Pastors Discretionary Fund can also be made. Of course you can cancel your authorization of transfer at any time by notifying us in writing. We believe that once you have enjoyed the convenience and savings of this new program, you won't want to go back. Contact the church office now.



SCRIP/BUS FUND ~

Welcome back to all of you who have been away over the summer! Over the past ten years, **at no cost to participants**, the church bus fund has earned over \$104,000 from the *Scrip* program (\$86,000 from Bashas', \$18,000 from Fry's). This is fantastic!! This money was used to purchase our bus and pay for gas, insurance and maintenance. **With your continued support we just purchased a new fifteen passenger van to accompany our bus!!** Now we will put funds toward paying off that van, and providing for maintenance and service.

We are asking *all* of you who shop at these two stores to consider using a Bashas' Community Support card and/or Fry's Gift card purchased at the church Information Center on Sunday morning or at the church office during the week. Each card starts with \$20, \$50 or \$100, and you recharge it as often as necessary just before you check out at the store (or at Customer Service), using your personal charge card, a check or cash; then use the card to pay for your purchases, and you can even use it for gas at Fry's! Bashas' gives the church 6% of every dollar you load onto the card, Fry's 3%. Bashas' cards are honored at Bashas' grocery stores, A.J.'s Fine Foods and Food City. Fry's cards are accepted at Fry's grocery stores, Fry's Marketplace, and all other Kroger-owned stores throughout the US. Many of you in the past only used the "number program" at Bashas' which was a separate program - this program was discontinued about two years ago due to economic conditions. If you have any questions, please give Betty Rolley a call at 480-380-0147. Thanks for your continued support.

**Updated information on the GCUMC
Permanent Endowment Fund is on Page 20.**

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

On a recent Sunday at PrImeria Iglesia Rev. Rosemary Anderson & Rev. Hu blessed about 8 pets. They all stayed for church. We are sure St., Francis of Assisi was smiling down on the worship. He was a great animal lover. It is unbelievable how much pet food goes out of the Food Bank each day. We are so thankful for all of you who donate & bring pet food. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTE FOOD & PET FOOD AND THOSE WHO HELP IN THE FOOD BANK

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

WITHIN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies: Sue Flitsch, upon the death of her husband, Dave; Eddie Gardner, upon the death of her husband, Randy; Bev Hart, upon the death of her husband, Bob; Dan Hoss & Lovena & Harry Warren, upon the death of Beth Hoss, Dan's wife & Warren's sister-in-law; Wally & Rev. Fay Quanstrom, upon the death of Wally's mother; Tavares' family, upon the death of her husband & their father; Jo Trail, upon the death of two sons; Jack Viviani, upon the death of his wife, Edith; and the families & friends of the above.

Concerns and/or Continued Prayers: Kay Ackerson, John Adams, Bettie Armstrong, Brad Arnold, Karni Belisle, Shirley Bellamy, Madison Baker, Grace & Bert Bannick, Wanda Bevens, Sherry Blankenship, Bill Carter & his wife, Jim Carter, Charlie Clark, Kerri Clausen, Toby Clement (Rita Hawkin's son), Roger Coad, Robb Connell, Sue Flitsch, Linda Gertz (Jane & Art Urbach's daughter) Paul Grim (Nellie DePoy's brother), Shawn & Kevin Holland, Ian Jacobson (Suzanne Cherry's son), David Jones, Peggy Kinder, John Kopnick, Phyllis Krebs, Gene Kruscheck, Evelyn Laich, Brandon Lewis, Stan Lindgren, Michael Malloy, Randy Martinson, Elane McGee (Philip McGee's grandmother), Jay Morton, Elgin Morris, Darby Nea, Mary Pemberton, Victor Phillips, Wayne Phipps, Jan Pudowkin, Kristin Rickey (Ginny Harker's granddaughter), Paul Roberts, Bud Rolley. Mike Roth, Debbie Rowland, Virgil Scantlin, Pam Shoeler, Donna Smith, Dorothy Sturgeon, Sue Thomas, Jack Tobe, Bronwynn Torgerson (Suzanne Cherry's friend), Nelson VanderVate & family (Lorie Fortner's daughter), Jerri Lynn VanSice, Jean Webb, Wendy Whalen, Dick Wilcox & 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 (Ryan Hoff, Matthew Jacobson, Jacob Manbeck, Sierra Nagle, Max Reece, Joshua Rosenberg), 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, Florence Allen, Richard & Eleanor Armstrong, Tom & Dee Ashe, Dave & Linda Austin, Patti Baker, Bob & Ruth Bennett, Irene Blake (Paul Fillion's sister), Marge Bos (Dave Bos' mother), Kay Bottomley (Mike Vagnier's mother), Lillian Boyd (Jeanette Lunstead's sister in-law), Pam Bramlet, Rebecca Bridgewater, Jack & Esther Ann Brown, Jeff & Karen Brown, Royce Brownfield, Gen Brunk (Jerri Manbeck's mother), Dr. Brad & Arlaine Bryant, Maggie Bryant, Bob & Jenilu Burgi, Martha Burkinshaw, Jim & Carolyn Burt, Lisa Buscher, in Rome, until March 2013 (Jeff & Jane Hayes' daughter), Sandy Campbell, Leon & Linda Schafle-Castonia, Millie Covill (Randy Olson's friend), Rev. Bob & June Deits, Chuck Dickinson, Rev. Jim & Eve Dinkel, Kaelin Dirlam (Grace Rhodes' granddaughter), Eulalia Pascual Domingo, Adelyne Douglass, Kayla Eriksen (Ritchie & Norm Eriksen's granddaughter), Peter Fillion (Paul Fillion's brother), Inge Fitzpatrick, Dee Dee Frazer, Danna & Andy Gharavi, Ardeena Gillette, Arline Hacker, Neil & Melva

Houtcooper, Gladys Kay (Jane Hayes' Mom), Lynn Kerr (Gary Stemple's sister), Mel & Mary Kilbo, Thelma Lang (Pete 'n Kay Johnson's mother), Ardis Larson, Gary & Kaye Loutzenheiser, Sue & Michael Malloy, Sally Marvaino (Suzanne Cherry's sister), Marva Masters, Scot Maitland (Suzanne Cherry's cousin), Bryan McGann (Jeanette Lunstead's son), Anita Mendoza (Lucy Kidwell's mother), Linda & Mike Mestek, Judy Monk, Hedy Moore (Jed Moore's mother), Bill & Alice Myers, Calder & Lavoyce Nolan & family, Delores & Lester Norton, Sharon Olsen, Ramona Orr (Kris Laux's mother), Bob Parker (Don Parker's brother), Catrina Juan Pascual, Clarence & Lois Penninger, Deb Peterson (Diane Kissner's daughter), John Renfrow (Ruth Ann Thacker's brother), Tom & Marty Robison, Virgil & Rose Scantlin, Tamii Schrum, Debbie Snyder (Judy Oakes & Rhymes' friend), Rick & Sue Sutter, Lillian Thomas (Bill & Mary Thomas' mother), Kenneth Tippie (Jerry & Peggy Tippie's son), Jim & Bev Toppin, Gordon & Patty Truckle, Wanda Tufte, Sam & Jack Twa, Nancy Villeneuve, Nancy Virden, Jack Viviani, Louise & Merline Wade (friends of Sherry Blankenship), Kathy & Dick Wagner, Delza Wilson (Jayne Urbach's mother), Jack & Lavern Workman, Pat Zirjacks and the families of the above.

DESIGNATED GIFTS FROM MEMORIAL/FUNERAL SERVICES

RANDY GARDNER-Memorial Gifts to GCUMC Stain Glass Fund

"Laugh a Little" - with Hu

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

Dear God,
In bible times did they really talk that fancy?
Jennifer

Dear God,
I am an American. What are you?
Robert

Dear God,
Please send Dennis Clark to a different camp
this year.
Peter

HOW TO KILL YOUR PASTOR

A minister was asked to inform a man with a heart condition that he had just inherited a million dollars. Everyone was afraid that the shock would cause a heart attack and the man would die. The minister went to the man's house and said, "Joe, what would you do if you inherited a million dollars?" Joe responded, "Well, Pastor, I think I would give half of it to the church."

THE MINISTER FELL OVER DEAD

SUPPORT GROUPS

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.*

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.

GRIEF

Led by Rev. Bob Deits, this group meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month from 11 am to noon in Rooms 101/102-Ed. Bldg. The group is open to anyone who has experienced a major loss such as the death of a loved one, divorce or job loss. If this fits you or someone you know, this group will provide great help. For more information call Bob at 480-629-8796.



Global 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."

Klay S. Williams, a writer and contributor to UMCOR.org, posted an article on the UMCOR website in early November. I read this article the morning I heard the news that Wal-Mart, Sears, and K-Mart would open their doors on Thanksgiving evening for "Black Thursday" shopping, rather than waiting until the typical "Black Friday", which in recent years has started at midnight Thanksgiving night. My thoughts on this news ranged from feeling sorry for the employees at these stores having to give up family time on Thanksgiving, to wondering about our continued need for material goods; I urge you to read on for a different perspective on buying and giving:

*"As retailers dive into their strategies to increase holiday sales, another movement is preparing to help us exercise a different form of bargain shopping—**#GivingTuesday**."*

No, I am not referring to another day of material shopping, such as Black Friday or Cyber Monday, but an undertaking that will help us reconsider how we as a world approach the holiday season.

#GivingTuesday, celebrated for the first time this November 27, the Tuesday following Thanksgiving Day, is focused on reaching individuals and organizations alike and encouraging them to "join in acts of giving," says the official website.

*The founding partners of **#GivingTuesday**, including the 92Y of New York City, The United Nations Foundation, Skype, among other associations and companies, are asking us to transform the typical holiday shopping season into a giving season. It's about giving back, doing good, and sharing with others why that's important to you.*

*One of the endorsers of **#GivingTuesday** is InterAction, the largest alliance of US-based nongovernmental organizations, with 190 member groups, including the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). InterAction has teamed up with The Huffington Post to share stories from its partners about how even a small gift makes a big difference in the lives*

of people in need.

*The creative notion about **#GivingTuesday** is that this national day does not focus on one primary method of intention or deliverables of how one should give. The intention is that you will open your heart to the spirit of this season and figure out ways in your community and in your world to give toward making things better." [*To read more about #Giving Tuesday go to UMCOR.org.]*

At Gold Canyon UMC, we are mindful of the needs of others and already put forth a great deal of effort toward making things better in our local community and in communities around the world. So, this is really just a reminder to take advantage of the opportunities you have right here at church to make a difference this "giving season". As in the past, support our local missions through the various Christmas projects, and support our global missions by purchasing our Fair Trade coffee and other products. Buying just one pound of Green Parrot or Equal Exchange coffee has positive ripple effects far beyond what we can imagine.



United Methodists are called to step out of our corner of the world to spread the good news, transform hopelessness into hope and help God's children wherever they may be. Let us live our mission in what we buy and what we give.

Members of the Global Missions Team, and their contacts are listed below:

GLOBAL MISSIONS CONTACTS:

Jackie Douglass: jackied.coaz@gmail.com
 Nona Larson: enonal@hotmail.com
 John Paddison: johnpaddison@yahoo.com
 Jean Paddison: azjean@yahoo.com
 Fay Quanstrom: fay.quanstrom@gmail.com
 Wally Quanstrom: wally.quanstrom@gmail.com
 Jill Stoefen Fisher: jstoefish@q.com
 Jane DeRemer:
walksonmountain@wavecable.com



Buy a Handcrafted Cross to Support Global Missions!

Beginning in October, the Global Missions team will be selling hand crafted wooden crosses to support Global Missions. Wally Quanstrom and Harry Warren, the creators of these crosses, are members of the Global Missions Team and mission team to Costa Rica. The workmanship in these 18" high by 12" wide crosses is exquisite. Original design crosses will be sold for \$30.00.

Custom made (special requests for particular scriptures or other wording) crosses are also available for \$40.00.

Please look for the crosses at our Global Missions table in the courtyard this Fall.



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 goes to those affected by the emergency.

Wings of Caring - Projects ~ Advance #08595A - Supports evangelism, education, transportation & medical emergencies in rural areas

Midwest Emergencies - Projects ~ Advance #901680 - Responding to emergency victims of tornado, flood, etc.

Disaster Response, International - Projects ~ Advance #982450 - Quick response to meet emergency needs around the world.

Japan Emergency ~ Earthquake & Tsunami ~ Advance #3021317

Liberia Emergency ~ Advance #150300

Cote D'Ivoire Crisis ~ Advance #982450

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

For more ways to help, or to donate online, go to:
<http://new.gbgn-umc.org/umcor/> -
 You can also follow UMCOR on Twitter at
 @UMC_UMCOR



Children's Book: When Your Grandma Forgets

Rev. Bob Deits has co-authored a new children's book that helps children understand and cope with the changes in a grand parent who has Alzheimer's disease. It is also an important view of the disease through the eyes of a child for adults. *When Your Grandma Forgets* is available in the church office. The cost is \$14.99.

More information on the book is found at:
www.becausehopematters.com.

ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE! ~

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

[www.goldcanyonumc.org]

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 that will better enable us to fulfill our mission as a church.

- Pave the North Parking Lot - \$200,000
- Base for Statue of Jesus for South Exterior Alcove of Sanctuary Building—\$38,000
- Organ Pipes
- Playground - \$10,000-50,000
- Stain Glass for upper Sanctuary windows - \$105,000 (\$3,000 per panel)
- Building Fund Loan Payoff (In 2012 we've prepaid \$25,825 on the loan)



Jane Hayes, Volunteer Coordinator

GCUMC
982-3776

Volunteers Do Make a Difference

Wrapping Party

December 21st!

1:00 pm

Bring scissors, tape, and a smile!

Drop off Christmas wrap or gift bags of all sizes prior to this event!

Gently used stuffed animals and bicycle helmets needed.



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, at the information center, or church office, 480-982-3776.**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Job</u>
50 min.	Greeter
40+ min.	Monthly Sunday Coffee
60 + min.	Bulletins
	Registration
	Mailings

Name _____

Phone _____

December ~ Angel Team



As I am writing this article, we have accepted **46 families** for our Christmas Mission. **PLEASE** check your weekly bulletin for updates.

Nov. 19th – Dec. 16th — Bashas or Fry's **Gift Cards** available for \$20 or more.

Food Box Monetary Donations are also being accepted (Will be ordered in bulk and delivered directly to the families, so you do not have to direct purchase food items this year). Food Boxes will include a Ham, Potatoes AuGratin, Sweet Potatoes, Marshmallows, Green Beans, Cream of Mushroom Soup and French Fried Onions for casserole, Corn, Jell-O, Fruit Cocktail, and Applesauce. **Make your donations for both Giftcards and Food Boxes at the Information Table with Betty.**



Cash donations, Checks and Gifts with tags accepted. Angel Team members will be available at all services for any assistance. **DUE Dec. 16th - 5:00 pm**

CALLING ALL COOKIES! 12-12-12 Exchange those cookies 9:30 am - 12:30 pm. Come celebrate and wear your Christmas gear and share good cheer cause 12-12-12 comes only once my dear. Shut-ins and Christmas Mission Families love those cookies!

P.S. Can't make the event? Deliver to Koinonia room on 12-11 between 8:00 am - 10:00 am....'Mother Christmas' calls taken by Sharee Sifferath at 480-474-8363 or emails to shareesifferath@hotmail.com.

Birthdays

December Celebrations

Anniversaries

Diane Heinauer	1	Katharine Keller	14
Makaya Aguilar	1	Craig Barrick	15
Terry Roberson	2	Doris Newton	15
Harrell Miller	3	Ellen Laux	15
Kathleen King	3	Pam Foreman	15
Larry Raffurty	3	Mary Gay Wenger	15
Judy Monk	4	Clara Goodman	16
Nick Weidner	4	Suzanne Jameson	16
Rod Reid	4	Jeff Pepin	16
Dorothy Halsted	4	John Toole	16
Angie Fyfe	5	Darrell Keast	17
James Swails	5	Peggy Kinder	17
Carol Johnson	6	Joe Morton	17
Charlie II Palmer	6	Kathy Serrine	18
Holly Boyd	6	Melissa Martinez	18
Judy Donovan	6	Tammy Holland	18
Lisa Kinzel	6	Judy Robertson	19
Barbara Hardesty	7	Helen Flowers	20
Jean Brannan	7	Linda VanKekerix	20
Marie Ebnetter	7	Kay Leet	21
Bob 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
Karen Annin	9	Eddie Gardner	24
Caleb Shroyer	10	Heather Rhoton	24
Elva Bradley	10	Deborah Brooks	25
Antia Raffurty	11	Don Marin	25
James Anderson	11	Gary Stemple	25
Mary Ann Warren	11	Neta McCleary	25
Neil Brogren	11	William King	25
Bob Graves	12	Vern Halsted	25
Sylvia Schuerman	12	Danna Gharavi	26
Bambi Hutnak	13	Judy Horn	26
Lynn Tabor	13	Robert Pennington	26
Judy Campbell	13	Sarah Swails	26
Marcia Ritenour	13	Charlene Smith	26
Nathaniel Gingrich	13	Don Tonole	27
Pat Flint	13	Joyce Schenck	27
Shirley Coad	13	Michael Malloy	27
Meg Lemmon	13	Howard Flowers	28
Bill Green	14	Joseph Lundberg	28
Clare Goodman	14	Connie Schuler	29
Don Anderson	14	John Franks	29
Ilene Tabor	14	Cherie Madzey	30
Mary Marin	14	Todd Owen	30
Paula Tucker	14	William Wacchter	30
Ron Houser	14	Jerri Manbeck	31
Thomas Preiss	14	Alice Plale	31
Hannah Rhoton	14		



Charles & Lori Bachler-Palmer	1
Donald & Gladys Osgood	1
Gordon & Donna Gavin	2
Norman & Mae Livgard	3
Karl & Roberta Koch	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
Stan & Linda Van Kekerix	21
Glenn & Carmean Bargman	22
Pat & Lillian Calihan	22
Mid & Noreen Carlozzi	22
Thomas & Jean Brannan	23
Phalen & 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
Wayne & Diane Heinauer	28
Ron & Helena Van Englehoven	28
Harley & Meg Lemmon	28
Bill & Joyce Shafer	28
David & Linda Austin	29
Bob & Jill Bills	29
Don & Carol Lindaman	29
Richard & Carolyn Schlager	29
David & Jody Topping	29
Marven & Wanda Tufte	29
Gary & Joyce Gingrich	30
Dave & Pat Wiebe	30
Mark & Deborah Brooks	31
John & Jeanne Paddison	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.*

Thinking Theologically with Jody Topping—



I was surfing the internet the other day when I came across a story that was originally printed in *Guideposts Magazine*. It was a story about a couple who owned a general store in the 1940s and how humdrum their Christmas's had become as their only child started to get older. (I could really relate to that part of the story, now that my own kids are young adults.) Early on Christmas morning, the couple and their son opened their gifts and enjoyed a family breakfast together, but soon their almost-teenage son left to spend the day with friends, so the husband went back to bed, and the wife found herself alone, doing dishes, and feeling quite out of sorts. It's at that moment she feels a nudge – the kind of nudge that just won't go away – and she feels compelled to go out in the icy cold and take a walk to their general store. So she does, knowing full well how crazy she was. When she gets there she finds two young boys standing in front of her store, freezing because they'd been standing there for hours.

*"What are you two children doing out here in this freezing rain?" I scolded, hurrying them into the store and turning up the heat. "You should be at home on a day like this!"... "We've been waiting for you," replied the older. They had been standing outside since 9:00 a.m., the time I normally open the store. "Why were you waiting for me?" I asked, astonished. "My little brother Jimmy didn't get any Christmas." He touched Jimmy's shoulder. "We want to buy some skates. That's what he wants. We have these three dollars. See, Miss Lady," he said, pulling the money from his pocket. I looked at the dollars in his hand. I looked at their expectant faces. And then I looked around the store. "I'm sorry," I said, "but we've sold almost everything. We have no ska..." Then my eye caught sight of the layaway shelf with its one lone package. I tried to remember. Could it be? "Wait a minute," I told the boys. I walked over, picked up the package, unwrapped it and, miracles of miracles; there was a pair of skates! Jimmy reached for them. Lord, I said silently, let them be his size. And miracle added upon miracle, they were his size. When the older boy finished tying the laces on Jimmy's right foot and saw that the skate fit - perfectly - he stood up and presented the dollars to me. "No, I'm not going to take your money," I told him. I couldn't take his money. "I want you to have these skates, and I want you to use your money to get some gloves for your hands." The two boys just blinked at first. Then their eyes became like saucers, and their grins stretched wide when they understood I was giving them the skates, that I didn't want their three dollars. What I saw in Jimmy's eyes was like a blessing. It was pure joy, and it was beautiful. My low spirits rose. As I locked the door, I turned to the older brother and said, "How lucky that I happened to come along when I did. If you'd stood there much longer, you'd have frozen. But now did you boys know I would come?" I wasn't prepared for his reply. His gaze was steady, and he answered me softly. "I knew you would come," he said. "I asked Jesus to send you."**

Jesus made his presence known that Christmas through the joyful eyes of a child in need. As we prepare for Christmas this year, my prayer is that we will all feel God nudging us to help make Christmas a little more joyful for others who are in need, and that we may respond like the woman in the story. May Jesus be present in your hearts and homes this Christmas. God bless...and Merry Christmas!!

(*To read the entire story, see <http://www.beliefnet.com/Inspiration/2000/11/Waiting-Waiting-For-Christmas.aspx?p=1>)



BIBLE BANTER

MEETS EVERY MONDAY, 9:30-10:30AM, MOUNTAIN BREW COFFEE HOUSE
6832 S 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!

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS – ADVENT STUDY 2012

Every year, we say we're going to cut back, simplify, and have a family Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season: Jesus. But every year, advertisements beckon, the children plead, and it seems easier just to indulge our wants and whims. Over-spending, overeating, materialism, and busyness rob us of our peace and joy and rob Jesus of his rightful role as the center of our celebration.

This Christmas, cut through the hype that leaves you exhausted and broke at the end of the year. Instead, experience the peace of knowing that God is truly with us, the joy of giving sacrificially, and the love of a Savior who gave everything he had for us.

Join us for this year's Advent Study: ***A Different Kind of Christmas***, written by Mike Slaughter, Lead Pastor at Ginghamburg United Methodist Church. The study will be led by Pastoral Intern Jody Topping, days and times to be determined. Cost will be approximately \$12-15 per person. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex or contact Jody at the church office or by email at jody@goldcanyonumc.org. Let's make this the most meaningful Christmas ever!!



A Note From Bob...

Country Western Invitation!

If you are old enough, do you remember the song, "Y'all Come?" Among the artists who recorded it is Dolly Parton.

It's a country song inviting everybody to come by. The chorus says:

*Y'all come (y'all come),
Y'all come (y'all come)
Oh, you all come to see us when you can*

That's our invitation to you to come on by the Country Western Service at 5:00 pm every Sunday.

There is music by the Houser's and One In the Spirit, preaching by a cowboy preacher who looks a lot like Bob Deits in his western shirt and jeans, and a great spirit of celebration.



So, y'all come to see us when you can—you won't be disappointed.

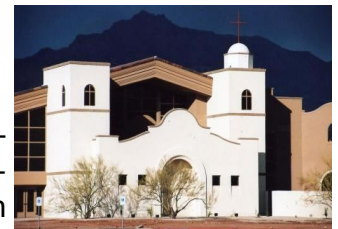
Peace and Joy, Bob Deits

Our Church History ~ History Committee Update

A "Real" ...Recollections by Jerri Manbeck

As we were preparing for the children's Christmas program in 1992, it was decided to have a live nativity. Some of our male members constructed a makeshift stable, complete with a manger. Others located some hay bales that were strewn across the stage in the Gold Canyon Elementary School multi-purpose room, and Karen Carlson had made some costumes for the children. Not only were Mary, Joseph, the angels, and the shepherds nicely attired, but we even had cute little sheep costumes for the youngest of our children, who would enjoy crawling on all fours. The only non-living being in our play was Baby Jesus Himself, but we had a lifelike doll to fit the need; however, Tom and Sue Lullo had another suggestion. Their son Loren, who is now 18, had just been born that November, and it was thought that Loren might be able to play the part of Baby Jesus. Mary could carry a live baby and place him in the manger, however, the doll was kept as a backup.

The night of the program, Loren was very docile, so Sue bundled him up tightly and placed him in Mary's arms. Tom was waiting backstage, just in case help might be needed during the pageant. The procession began and everything was going off without a hitch, until somebody noticed (probably Mary) that the baby Jesus doll was occupying the manger! The tiny bed would not hold both a real baby and a fake one. Immediately seeing the problem, Tom - ever the watchful father, casually reached from behind the manger and grabbed the doll. He tossed him behind the curtain, making room for Loren, our baby Jesus that year. It's hard to say how many people in the congregation noticed this baby toss, but I know I will never forget it, and I still chuckle every time I think back on it.





STEPHEN MINISTRY®

The Gift

As children we so looked forward to Christmas, didn't we? Way back then most of us probably focused primarily on the presents, the fun, the stocking full of special treats, the fresh baked cookies and goodies all around us. It was so exciting and tantalizing to see all of the pretty gifts with their shiny bows, bright paper and sparkly ribbons. We had such a hard time waiting to rip and tear into them!

As we matured, reached adulthood, we may have gone one of two directions...consider these.

Maybe we became stronger in our Christian faith, continually progressing in our understanding of the meaning of Christmas. That progression likely has most of us now cherishing the holiday as the time to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We value the sense of family and togetherness the holiday brings, our love for others, we may enjoy giving rather than receiving and the bright looks on children's faces make us smile and warm our hearts. And, if we are being honest, most of us probably still don't mind getting one of those beautifully wrapped gifts now do we?!

It's also possible though, that life may have handed us some very difficult experiences. Some of those may have even occurred around Christmas as it lands on the calendar. For a myriad of reasons, holiday seasons can seem like somewhat of a hurdle to get over rather than a time of great cheer. We may still love the Lord, and believe in the true meaning of Christmas, but the brightness surrounding us is a little dimmer. When someone thoughtfully gives us one of those beautifully wrapped gifts we are thankful for their consideration, but might only find momentary cheer in the gesture.

There is a parable that should be retold here. It goes something like this:

"A woman arrived at the gates of heaven to be met by St. Peter. When her turn came, she got her personal tour of heaven. It was filled with all of the glorious things she had imagined, and more. Everything on her earthly home paled in comparison to what she saw in heaven. As her tour was drawing to a close, they passed a room with a massive door secured by a giant gold padlock. When she asked St. Peter why

they hadn't entered that room, he stated that it was just a store room and she didn't want to see it. However, the woman was insistent that she wanted to see every inch of heaven. St. Peter considered it a moment, then unlocked the door.

The woman was amazed at what she saw. Inside the cavernous room were stacks and stacks of gifts, wrapped in all the colors of the rainbow and tied with all the colors of heaven. She clapped her hands in delight, and asked if this was where they stored the gifts for people in heaven. St. Peter replied that these gifts were intended for earth and had no purpose in heaven. About that time, the woman saw a pile of beautiful gifts with her name on them. She asked if she could open them, and St. Peter guided her out saying 'No, you don't need them now.' The woman asked 'But if I don't need them now, does that mean I needed them on earth?' St. Peter nodded and said 'Yes, you needed them on earth.' She gave one last look around the room and realized there were millions of gifts, maybe more. She asked 'Why weren't my gifts sent to me on earth? And, not just mine, but why haven't any of these gifts been sent?'

St. Peter sighed. 'You don't understand. Every one of them was sent. All of these and more. These are the ones that were returned unopened. Many people on earth don't recognize God's gifts and fail to open them.' With that, he moved her toward the door."

[Paraphrased excerpt from "God's Guest List",

by Debbie Macomber, pages 1-3, Howard Books, Simon & Schuster, 2010]

Wow! Powerful story don't you think? What things do we miss in our lives, every day, all around us? Unfortunately in our real world, God doesn't wrap his gifts in those beautifully adorned gift packages we've been talking about. Some are in the form of beauty, but some are in the form of challenges, frustration, hurt, love, pets, and yes – in the form of people. Often we have difficulty recognizing the Lord's gifts.

Take time this holiday season to examine the moments in your life, especially the people who occupy those moments. It's just possible that more of God's gifts to you will take shape, if you choose to

Stephen Ministry , Continued

examine them a little longer. If you are one of those who are finding the holiday season (or life in general) a little difficult to navigate but haven't wanted to reach out, consider the possibility that a Stephen Minister might be one of your gifts - simply another human being, another Christian, who can walk beside you and keep everything in confidence. Contact the church office, or check the "Desire a Stephen Minister" box on the church attendance registration in the pew on Sunday.

"Two are better than one, for they have a good return for their work. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!"

[Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, NIV]

Lost & Found ~ Have you ever lost something and it may have been while you were at church? There is a Lost and Found box in the Church office that contains things like keys, jewelry, sunglasses, umbrellas, etc. If you think your item may be with us, stop by the office.

Deadlines:

January Roadrunner is December 10th
Weekly Bulletin Insert is Noon Wednesday

Your GCUMC Publications are brought to you by: Bill Atkinson, Georgia Kirkpatrick, and Kim Shroyer, with help from the Friday Bulletin Team and the Roadrunner Assembly Team.

**Folders For Sale**

GCUMC Folders, bearing the Church logo, are for sale at the Information Center and church office. The cost is \$12.00 each and all **proceeds go to the North Parking Lot Fund.** Thanks for your support!

W.O.W. Corner

We are still **looking for a few men and women who would like to greet and usher on Christmas Eve.** A bonus!! - you get to dress up in Biblical costuming. We need folks for all services, so if you enjoy interacting with worshippers as they enter the building and helping to usher, please call Katharine Keller in the church office. Costumes will be available to choose from and instructions will be given out that night.

*What Are Your Talents and Your Gifts?*

Is hospitality one of your gifts, do you like organizing events, do you just yearn for another chance to be welcoming to both friend and stranger? Then the W.O.W. (Witness Our Wonder) team is for you! We usually meet the first Tuesday of every month from 6 - 7 pm in the Education Building. (the exception will be January, when we will meet on Tuesday, the 8th). Our next meeting is **Tuesday, December 4th.** Please drop in and see if this is something you would enjoy!

We love people, because Jesus first loved us!!

Commemorative Mugs!!!

Have your coffee, tea or hot chocolate in an attractive Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Commemorative Mug! They also make great gifts! Proceeds from the sale of the mugs are used to support outreach to the community. Only \$5.00 each at the Information Center or the office.

GCUMC Permanent Endowment Fund

Benjamin Franklin said something like this, "The only things for certain are death and taxes." One can make many observations and arguments about this but the basic point is sound, that all humanity has certain things in common and not living forever is one of them. Therefore, it follows that everything we have will sometime in the future belong to someone or something else. Therefore the real question is *"will we determine what will happen to our possessions, or will it just happen?"*

During my brief tenure as chairman of your permanent endowment committee, I have learned a bit of how GCUMC functions and how we relate to our Desert Southwest United Methodist Conference. One of the resources we have available is the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation, DSWUMF. The DSWUMF has financial planning capabilities that it would be very difficult for a local church to match, and I wanted to share with you some of these. These capabilities can facilitate some creative decisions for you and your family, and possibly save some taxes as well.

Let's look at just a few in the immediate gifts category. You could donate your home or real property to our church and receive an immediate tax deduction, and avoid capital gains taxes. You could designate the church as the beneficiary or owner of an insurance policy as a future gift to the church. You could make a retained real estate gift, where you designate the ownership of your home to the church while continuing to occupy it for your lifetime. There are several other ways in this category including gifting appreciated securities which avoids capital gains taxes and earns an income tax deduction.

Deferred gifts include having a bequest in your will, a living trust, and a charitable gift annuity. With a charitable gift annuity you can enter into a contract with the DSWUMF, and the DSWUMF pays your designated annuitant a regular fixed payment for life, and then distributes the remainder to your church. There are certain tax benefits to this as well.

Life income gifts include Charitable Remainder Trusts, providing fixed income for your lifetime, Charitable Remainder Unitrust, a hedge against inflation, and a Charitable Lead Trust that can reduce gift and estate taxes.

Many of the above are complex and of course must be done in compliance with all tax regulations. This is what the DSWUMF can help you do. If any of this sounds like it would work for you, please **contact the Pastor in the Church Office or Wally Quanstrom, Chairman of the Permanent Endowment Committee, at 630-309-3298**. One last thing - you can designate your gift for any purpose within the mission of our church that you would like. There is no charge for consultation.

Habitat for Humanity – Winter 2013 Project



We are so excited to move forward with our Habitat Project this year, which is renovating a home with a family in Apache Junction. We are always looking for volunteers to assist in the renovation, in providing lunches, and cash gifts in any amount to support this special ministry.

For more details and information, please contact Joe and Maureen Morton, 602-284-2826 or E-mail:



Eagle Scout Court of Honor Invitation

Judge Carter & Renee Olson

And

Michael & Dr. Valerie Sheridan

Cordially invite all members of Gold Canyon United Methodist Church to attend the

Eagle Scout Court of Honor for

Charles Wesley Olson & Michael John Sheridan

7:00 pm, Wednesday, December 26, 2012

The Koinonia Room

All Eagle Scouts are especially invited to attend and occupy the Eagle's Nest

2012 – 2013 Events and Performances at Gold Canyon United Methodist Church

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
10/14/12	Sun	3:00-6:00	Day of the Cowboy Picnic, Western Service
11/11/12	Sun	3:00 pm	Celebration of Veterans for the entire community
11/16/12	Fri	7:30 pm *	La Catrina String Quartet
12/8/12	Sat	3:00 pm	11th Annual Choral Christmas Concert
12/8/12	Sat	6:30 pm	11th Annual Choral Christmas Concert
12/24/12	Mon	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service
12/24/12	Mon	6 & 8 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Choir & Bells
12/24/12	Mon	11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service
1/11/13	Fri	7:30 pm	George Dyer , outstanding Tenor soloist from Branson, MO
1/12/13	Sat	3:00 pm	George Dyer , outstanding Tenor soloist from Branson, MO
1/18/13	Fri	7:30 pm *	Spanish Brass Luur Metalls Brass Quintet
1/19/13	Sat	5:00 pm	Uncommon Grace our Praise Team (Koinonia Room)
1/26/13	Sat	9:00-4:00	Canyon Arts Festival Arts, crafts, music and food
1/27/13	Sun	3:00 pm	Legacy Quartet , men's southern gospel quartet
2/10/13	Sun	3:00 pm	Jerry Nelson , outstanding Christian Pianist
2/15/13	Fri	7:30 pm *	Together Again for the 1st Time Broadway duet
2/17/13	Sun	3:00 pm	Don Engbrecht and Friends Outstanding Baritone
2/24/13	Sun	3:00 pm	The Houser Gang! Annual Country/Western concert
3/3/13	Sun	3:00 pm	John & Chris Rice Piano & cello child prodigies!
3/8/13	Fri	7:30 pm *	Charles Lindberg, the Lone Eagle Steve Carroll
3/10/13	Sun	3:00 pm	Christine Anderson Incredible Handbell Virtuoso
3/17/13	Sun	3:00 pm	Brass, Reeds & Winds, Oh My! Agape Brass and others
3/28/13	Thu	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service with Communion
3/29/13	Fri	7:00 pm	Good Friday: Dubois' Seven Last Words of Christ
3/31/13	Sun	6:00 am	Easter Sunrise Service w/Communion
3/31/13	Sun	8, 9:30, 11	Easter Festival Services w/Choir, Bells, Brass
4/5/13	Fri	7:30 pm *	The Clarinet and All That Jazz The Stoltzmans
4/14/13	Sun	5:00 pm	One In the Spirit (Koinonia Room)
4/20/13	Sat	12-3 pm	Spring Fling , our annual Spring Community event
4/21/13	Sun	3:00 pm **	2nd Annual Gold Canyon Interfaith Choral Festival
5/19/12	Sun	3:00 pm *	San Tan Choral & Orchestra

* Indicates a ticketed event for a fee, sponsored by the Gold Canyon Arts Council, *Canyon Sounds* or the *San Tan Chorale*. All other concerts are sponsored by Gold Canyon United Methodist Church *Performing Arts Series* and are open to the public at no charge though a free will offering will be received. We ask that everyone please bring at least one non-perishable food item per person for the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Food Bank.

** This year's Festival will be at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, north of GCUMC.

We need your help to save on church mailing costs. Your 2013 Pledge Boxes full of new envelopes are available for pickup in the narthex! Please pick these up as soon as possible to save the high cost of mailing. They are arranged in alphabetical order. Also, if you know that you have any of these pledge box numbers, please contact the church office so that we can update our records - #502, 558 or 562. Thank you!!



Merry Christmas!



Believe it or not - it's time to order your Christmas Poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone you love. We are pleased to offer a 3-plant floral quality poinsettia for just \$13.00 each. Please complete this order blank and include the payment for each poinsettia ordered. Place the order blank and payment marked "Poinsettia" in the collection plate or drop off/mail to the church office. Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuaries for enjoyment during the holiday season. You may take yours home after the Christmas Eve services. A listing of those giving poinsettias will be available during Christmas Eve services.

**POINSETTIAS MUST BE ORDERED BY
DECEMBER 9th!**

POINSETTIA ORDER BLANK

I am ordering a poinsettia in Memory of:

I am ordering a poinsettia in Honor of:

And payment of \$13.00 for each is **enclosed**

Total: _____

Your Name:

Env. No. (If Applicable) _____

Telephone Number: _____

Make checks payable to Gold Canyon UMC.

Please call Suzanne in the church office at 480-982-3776 if you have any questions. Orders must be received by December 9.



To the "Lunch Crew"

(Randal Gardner's Memorial),

To everyone who helped in honoring my late husband, Randal Gardner. I appreciate your time and energy that you have given to this day. I look forward to serving with you in honoring other's loved ones in the future.

Sincerely,

Edna Haines Gardner



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 at the Information Center in the narthex.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
GCUMC Calendar December 2012						
2 Did you pick up a Gift Tag? 8 am Adlt Sun. Schl-SofG 8 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Chld/Yth Sun. Schl-Ed. 9:30 am College/10+ Sun. Sch.-Fred's Office 10:50 am Praise-K 10:50 am Chld Sun. Schl-Ed. 5 pm CW Worship-K 6:30 pm Youth-Ed.	3 Christmas Gifts Accepted 9:30 am Bible Banter Mtn Brew Coffee House 2 pm Disciple 1-K Rm 3 pm Stephen Min.-101/102 5:30 pm Disciple 4-Feather's 7 pm Al-Anon-101/102	4 -Christmas Gifts Accepted 9 am Yoga-K 10:30 am-Gentle Yoga-K 11 am Grief Support-101/102 1:30 pm Disciple 2-SofG 2 pm Disciple 1-K Rm 6 pm One/Spirit-K Rm 6 pm Trustees Mtg-Fred's Ofc 6 pm WOW Mtg-101/102 6 pm Disciple 2-Feather's 6:30 pm Admin. Council-M 6:30 pm Canyon Carillon-Sanc	5 Christmas Gifts Accepted 11 am Cancer Suprt-SofG 4:30 pm Spirit Club-SofG 5 pm Disciple 3-101/102 5:30 pm Joyful Noise -M 6 pm Youth Handbell-Sanc. 6:30 pm Girl Scouts-SofG 7 pm Orchestra-M, S	6 Christmas Gifts Accepted 9 am Yoga-K 10:30 am-Gentle Yoga-K 7 pm Choir Dress Rehearsal - M	7 Christmas Gifts Accepted 10 am Mind Menders-101/102 10 am Petroff tuning Party-Ed Bldg 5:30 pm AA-101/102	8 10 am Sidewalk Ministry-Avalon Elementary 3 pm GCUMC Christmas Concert 6:30 pm GCUMC Christmas Concert
9 Christmas Gifts Accepted 8 am Adlt Sun. Schl-SofG 8 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Chld/Yth Sun. Schl-Ed. 10:50 am Praise-K 10:50 am Chld Sun. Schl-Ed. 5 pm CW Worship 6:30 pm Youth-Ed.	10 Christmas Gifts Accepted 9:30 am Bible Banter Mtn Brew Coffee House 2 pm Disciple 1-K Rm 5:30 pm Disciple 4-Feather's 7 pm Al-Anon-101/102	11 Christmas Gifts Accepted 9 am Yoga-K 9:30 am-Cookie Drop Off -Kit 10:30 am-Gentle Yoga-K 1:30 pm Disciple 2-SofG 2 pm Disciple 1-K Rm 6 pm One/Spirit-K Rm 6 pm Disciple 2-Feather's 6:30 pm Canyon Carillon-Sanc.	12 Christmas Gifts Accepted 9 am-Cookie Exchange-K 11 am Cancer Sprt-SofG 4:30 pm Spirit Club-SofG 5 pm Disciple 3-101/102 5:30 pm Joyful Noise -M 6 pm Youth Handbell-Sanc. 6:30 pm Girl Scouts-SofG 7 pm Orchestra-M, S	13 Christmas Gifts Accepted 9 am Yoga-K 10:30 am Gentle Yoga-K 12 pm Assemble Christmas Cookie Packages-Kitchen 7 pm Choir Rehearsal - M	14 Christmas Gifts Accepted 10 am Mind Menders-101/102 5:30 pm AA-101/102	15 10 am Sidewalk Ministry-Avalon Elementary 4 pm Singles Moving Forward-K
16 Christmas Gifts DUE 8 am Adlt Sun. Schl-SofG 8 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Chld/Yth Sun. Schl-Ed. 10:50 am Praise-K 10:50 am Chld Sun. Schl-Ed. 5 pm CW Worship 6:30 pm Youth-Ed.	17 9 am Christmas Gift Sorting 9:30 am Bible Banter Mtn Brew Coffee House 2 pm Disciple 1-K Rm 4 pm Stephen Min-101/102 5:30 pm Disciple 4-Feather's 7 pm Wesley Discussion & Potluck-Cherry Home 7 pm Al-Anon-101/102	18 9 am Yoga-K 10:30 am-Gentle Yoga-K 11 am Grief Support-101/102 1:30 pm Disciple 2-SofG 2 pm Disciple 1-K Rm 5:30 pm Houser Gang-K Rm 6 pm Disciple 2-Feather's 6:30 pm Canyon Carillon-Sanc.	19 11am Cancer Sprt-SofG 4:30 pm Spirit Club-SofG 5 pm Disciple 3-101/102 5:30 pm Joyful Noise -M 6 pm Youth Handbell-Sanc. 6:30 pm Girl Scouts-SofG 7 pm Orchestra-M, S	20 9 am Yoga-K 10:30 am-Gentle Yoga-K 7 pm Choir Rehearsal - M	21 1 pm Christmas Gift Wrapping Party 5:30 pm AA-101/102	22 9 am Christmas Gift Delivery/Pickup 10 am Sidewalk Ministry-Avalon Elementary
23 8 am Adlt Sun. Schl-SofG 8 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Chld/Yth Sun. Schl-Ed. 10:50 am Praise-K 10:50 am Chld Sun. Schl-Ed. 5 pm CW Worship 6:30 pm Youth-Ed.	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4 PM Family Service 6 pm Christmas Eve Service 7 pm Al-Anon-101/102 8 pm Christmas Eve Service 11 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS	27 9 am Yoga-K 10:30 am-Gentle Yoga-K 7 pm Choir Rehearsal - M	28 10 AM Mind Menders-101/102 5:30 pm AA-101/102	29 10 am Sidewalk Ministry-Avalon Elementary
30 8 am Adlt Sun. Schl-SofG 8 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Traditional-Sanc. 9:30 am Chld/Yth Sun. Schl-Ed. 10:50 am Praise-K 10:50 am Chld Sun. Schl-Ed. 5 pm CW Worship 6:30 pm Youth-Ed.	31 9:30 am Bible Banter Mtn Brew Coffee House 2 pm Disciple 1-K Rm 5:30 pm Disciple 4-Feather's 7 pm Al-Anon-101/102					
AA=Alcoholics Anonymous WOW=Witness our Wonder (Outreach) Sanc =Sanctuary K = Koinonia Room Key Music or M =Music Room SofG =Sea of Galilee Room Ed. =Education Building 101/102 =Room 101/102 ...Kit = Kitchen						



Gold Canyon United Methodist Church
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GCUMC Staff

Senior Pastor	Fred A. Steinberg revstein78@gmail.com
Minister of Pastoral Care	Hu Rhymes: whsadier@earthlink.net
Associate Pastor	Bob Deits: bobjune@cox.net
Pastoral Intern	Jody Topping jody@goldcanyonumc.org
Director of Education	Katharine Keller ladiebug1214@gmail.com
Director of Music Ministries	Douglas J. Benton bellmaster@earthlink.net
Associate Director of Music	David Ballard ballardsaz@earthlink.com
Director of Youth Ministries	Wendy Moore GCUMCYouth@earthlink.net
Pianists	Carol Ballard/ Linda Jones/ Marty Robison/Nancy Virden
Office Manager	Suzanne Cherry churchoffice@goldcanyonumc.org
Administrative Associate	Katherine Keller/Kim Shroyer
Volunteer Coordinator	Jane Hayes
Parish Nurse	Susan Malloy/Monica Ortega-Watters
Nursery Care Giver	Sherry Hussein
Facility Care Taker	Rick Ceynar

E-mail Prayer Chain: gcumcprayers@mchsi.com



www.facebook.com/goldcanyonumc



[@goldcanyonUMC](https://twitter.com/goldcanyonUMC)

Addressee or Current Resident

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

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

✚ 10:50 AM ~ Children

**Roadrunner Email-If you would like to
receive your Roadrunner via email,
please send US an email at
churchoffice@goldcanyonumc.org!**