



Gold Canyon United Methodist Church



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From The Pastor: "Oughts & Ifs"



I have a lot of oughts. I ought to have done that. I ought to have done this. I ought not to have done that. Sometimes I will join in a gossiping conversation and later think I should have never said what I did. Or, I think back over my past, and regret some of the choices

I made. I talk to many people who regret their past. And often they express tremendous guilt because of the damage done by their choices. We all have our mistakes and regrets about the past.

Yet not only do we fret about our past, but we worry about the "ifs." What if that happens? What if this happens? What if the stock market doesn't recover? What if house prices don't recover? If that should come to pass I will be ruined. Not only do we feel guilt about the past but then we worry about the future. We think of all the ways our life could become

worse than it is now. Many experts tell us we worry about things that never happen but we just worry anyway.

All this makes living in the present difficult. We have our regrets and we have our worries. And sandwiched in the middle is today. I think that is why Jesus points out that flowers don't toil and spin and yet God takes care of them. Today is good enough for today. I know when there are days when it seems there are just too many worries to go around, I just have to turn it over to God.

I am glad that forgiveness is available for the past and strength is available for the future. May you learn to live in God's presence with peace about the past and hope for the future.

Grace and Peace,

Fred



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

~Candlelight Services~

In the Main Sanctuary

Family Service – 4:00 pm

~ Gift of Music – 5:30 pm ~

Traditional Service – 6:00 pm



FORWARD IN FAITH

By Grover Wallace

The Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell the story of the life of Jesus from his birth in a stable in Bethlehem, His days as a youth, His messages and ministry, to His death and resurrection as the servant. The Gospel of Luke is an extremely detailed account of Jesus' birth, childhood, and development. Luke also gives a vivid description of the angels visit to the Virgin Mary promising the birth of Jesus to Mary.

"In the sixth month God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel said 'Greetings, you are highly favored! The Lord is with you'.

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end'.

'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called The Son of God. Even Elizabeth, your relative, is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God'.

"I am the Lord's servant", Mary answered.

'May it be to me as you have said'. Then the angel left her.

-Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

What a vivid and wonderful description of a conversation between Mary, a young, poor girl, and the angel Gabriel as he described to her the plans God had for her to be the Virgin Mother of Jesus. But Mary was willing to accept one of the most important acts he ever demanded of anyone. However, it was not an easy life for Mary during this pregnancy; her fiancé had many doubts and came very close to calling off the wedding plans and her peers ridiculed her for being pregnant out of wedlock. But after the birth of Jesus the Messiah became the only hope the world had, generation after generation praised the young, poor girl who "found favor with God".

"While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem the time came for the baby to be born, and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over the flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord'."

-Luke 2:6-11 (NIV)

"So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.....The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told".

-Luke 2:17-20 (NIV)

Christians throughout the world are aware of this great account of the birth of Jesus and the celebrations that followed. On December 25th the congregation of Gold Canyon United Methodist Church, along with numerous other Christian

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churches throughout the world, will celebrate the birth of our Savior by following many different traditions established over many centuries. During this most Holy Season, the congregation follows, as it does throughout the year, the words of the Lord Jesus as he spoke in Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed to give than to receive". The generosity of our congregation will again provide a complete Christmas dinner along with gifts for more than fifty families. We could have more than the usual number of requests this year due to the current economic situation. However, regardless of demand, you can be sure the generosity of our congregation will meet the needs of these destitute families.

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
DURING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON AND
THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.**

During the month of October, 2008, you contributed \$27,219.00 to our "Forward By Faith Campaign". Contributions for the first seven months totaled \$238,834.00 which represents 47.61% of our goal for the campaign year ending in February.

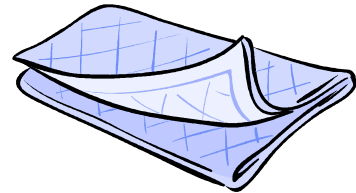
"Let no debt remain outstanding except the debt to love one another".

-Romans 13:8



Genesis Project Needs Winter Items

Blankets, sleeping bags and winter clothing (jeans, sweaters, socks, etc.) are needed for the Genesis Project clients. If you can help with these, please call Ron Walker at 480-671-3881 or drop them by the church office.



3rd Saturday
Coffee House & Open Mic!
*Sponsored by the 10:50 am Praise
Worship*
Will not meet during the month of December.
Enjoy your Holy-Days!



DONATIONS & ATTENDANCE

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn...

1 Galatians 16:2

October								
	2006		2007		2008		2007	2008
	Gen.	Build.	Gen.	Build.	Gen.	Build.	Worship All	Worship All
1st	14908	9138	21843	13021	17289	10421	627	652
2nd	13011	8932	11108	6153	10234	4081	692	655
3rd	11447	3147	8676	4542	10480	6328	775	816
4th	11817	5348	10089	4466	11400	6388	817	884
5th	9544	5763	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	60727	32328	51716	28182	49403	27218	2911	3007



*The gift of good
health...*

Healthy Living

By Susan Malloy, RN

I promised you an article about the HOPE of Reversing Heart Disease and I am keeping my promise. I had the wonderful opportunity of meeting Dr Harry Elwardt, a Naturopathic Physician from the Chicago, IL area. He is also a Master Herbalist, Certified Nutritional Counselor and CEO and Founder of *THE HEALTH GUARDIAN*, a website and workshop program dedicated to the education of holistic healing. He is a Christian man with the mission of helping others defeat the NUMBER ONE Killer of Americans today...Heart Disease. Heart attacks occur at the rate of 1,100,000 per year. Even more scary is the fact that this disease causes a heart attack in the United States every 20 seconds and every 60 seconds a person will die from one. Unfortunately, this disease is truly a silent killer, as the very first symptom could be a fatal heart attack without any warning, this is known as Sudden Cardiac Arrest. No one is immune to the potential of this devastating scenario. It is an equal opportunity killer. More than 500,000 women die with Heart Disease in the U.S. each year, making IT... NOT Breast Cancer the #1 killer of Women.

So you say "Well I eat right, exercise and watch my weight and cholesterol and/or I am on a cholesterol lowering drug." Did you know that without any prior warning, according to Dr. Eldwardt "half of the people who have heart disease die without ever knowing they had it." To be honest, that in itself is frightening.

The drug companies have held research studies on their cholesterol lowering drugs and published them, but withheld their negative results from physicians and the public, because the studies prove these drugs do not work at preventing heart disease. They have deliberately kept the American public "hooked" by the TV Ads and the physicians right where they want them...telling us we have No choice. It's all about money and recouping their research expenses.

However there is Great NEWS!!! Yes, we do have a choice!! There is an ANSWER! There are others in the medical field who do care about the Health and Well being of those who will take advantage of this information and discover the means to help you overcome this deadly disease. Dr Harry Eldwardt is one such medical professional.

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008 10am-12 pm in the Koinonia Room. Please RSVP (call the church office 480-982-3776 to reserve your spot) as you are being offered the opportunity to hear Dr. Elwardt speak about the medical research on cutting edge treatments that are restorative rather than symptom suppressive. And, the BEST part is that the only side effects of these are improved overall health, longevity, improved wellbeing, energy, and vascular health. We are also providing you the opportunity to take advantage of one the newest technologies, the FDA Approved Digital Pulse Wave Analyzer. It is a non invasive procedure lasting less than 3 minutes to provide you with the physical information you need to make wise decisions about your health and wellness and ultimately your destiny. There is a *\$30.00 Charge* for this test but is *valued at \$150.00*. This is for men and women who believe themselves to be healthy and those who have been diagnosed with hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, and other cardiovascular ailments.

There are more than 80,000 proven research studies completed with regard to the benefits of these nutrients. Dr Eldwardt believes "It is not necessary to remain medically ignorant (lack of knowledge)".....as the saying goes ...ignorance is not BLISS. It leads to HEARTACHE and REGRET. Please consider doing this for yourself or your loved ones. You will receive the ANSWERS you need to help you fight this devastating disease and information to assist you in ways to correct and restore your health and well being. Tell your friends and neighbors. You could just help save a life.

What a great Early Christmas Gift to yourself and others you care about. I LOOK FORWARD to seeing you there.

Blessings of the Season, Susan



HOORAY!

In case you haven't heard, **the bus is now paid for!!** Thanks so much for your support!! However, we still have expenses for maintenance, insurance, registration, gas, etc. so.....

For those of you who shop at Bashas', please ask them to attach the church's number, **#23886**, to your blue 'Thank You' card, the one that gets you the sale prices. You only have to do this once each year beginning in September. This will earn the church 1% of all your purchases from September 1 through March 31. **NEWS FLASH!!!** The amount we can realize this year (from *this* program) has doubled to **\$5,000**. This is a *separate program* so we should continue to use and recharge the Community Support Cards that contribute 6%.

If your rechargeable Bashas' Community Support Card is wearing out or you didn't leave money on it last spring, you can pick up a new one at the Information Table in the east narthex after church. **It doesn't cost you anything extra to use.** We also have Fry's Gift Cards which are rechargeable which can be used not only for groceries but also for gas. This card earns 3%. You may want to pick up a Bashas' card for the Christmas Tree families or those neighbors, family and friends who are difficult to buy for at Christmastime.

Based on previous years' earnings, we expect a surplus of about \$10,000/year (after bus costs). Please share your suggestions as to what project you would like to see supported by this program. Thank you, Betty



The "Church Lady?" Hardly! Women and the UMC

From your local representative for the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), Suzanne Jacobson. COSROW aims to ensure that the church benefits from the wisdom, life experience, and perspectives of women.



Catherine Mumford Booth

Catherine Booth was a leader in the holiness renewal movement that began in 1840. Many of the leaders in the movement were women. Catherine and her husband, ordained Methodist minister William Booth, took John Wesley's motto "The World is My Parish" to heart when in 1865 they formed an evangelical group dedicated to preaching among the un-churched people in London's East End. The residence of this area lived in extreme poverty, needing to be fed, sheltered and often rehabilitated from alcoholism. The group was called *Christian Mission* until 1867 when Rev. Booth was reviewing the annual report and crossed out the word "volunteer army" and wrote in "Salvation Army."

Catherine was determined to change the world as she felt called by God to do. She often found herself defending her role in the church, as she saw the challenges women found in ministry as challenges to God's work in the world. In 1859, Catherine Mumford published an article entitled "Female Teaching" Both the 1859 and the 1861 versions of the article were confrontational. In 1870, the piece was republished under the title, "Female Ministry; or, Women's Right to Preach the Gospel," as an appeal to scripture and a "well reasoned rational for women in ministry." In support of her stance, Booth wrote, "From the Methodist Conference, held at Manchester, 1787, Mr. Wesley wrote to Miss Sarah Mallett, whose labours, while very acceptable to the people, had been opposed by some of the preachers: — 'We give the right hand of fellowship to Sara Mallett, and have no objection to her being a preacher in our connections, so long as she preaches Methodist doctrine, and attends to our discipline.'"¹

Catherine and William Booth had eight children, two of whom (Bramwell and Evangeline) became Generals of the Salvation Army. Catherine died on October 4, 1890 at the age of 61.

When you walk past the red-clad Salvation Army bell ringers this Christmas, remember this remarkable woman who worked diligently to spread the Gospel to the people even as she served their most basic needs.



¹<http://www.cresourcei.org/cbooth.html>

Information also gleaned from: http://www.abso.com/jobboard/SalvationArmyCareers/without_fl/history.htm, and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catherine_Booth



Christian Education...

With "Coach" Ellis Falk

"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."



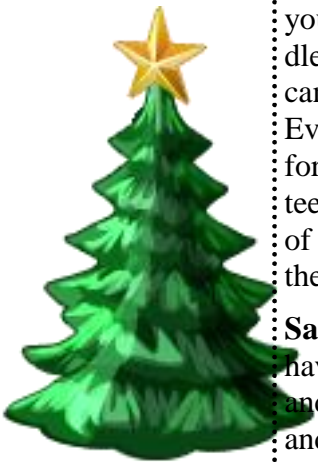
What a busy month December will be and for many of us we will need to make a real effort to find time to remember the true meaning and the experience of Christmas. Words like star, manger, trip, angels, lights, friends, parties, shepherds, and gifts all come to mind and will be heard and said many times over this season. Phrases like "No Room at the Inn" will haunt us and we will wonder how that could have happened. Yet, if we are not careful, we will find ourselves placing the sign over our lives "No Room" for the Baby of Bethlehem—the Savior of all mankind. Names like Joseph and Mary will come to the forefront. Mary will be sung about and be held in reverence by millions of persons the world over. The name of JESUS, the baby in the manger, will be accepted by millions, but only as a story of a baby. We will sing the songs, listen to the biblical story and give our gifts. Yet, the greatest gift of love from God calls for more. Acceptance of Jesus as our Savior is the greatest tribute and gift we can give to the Lord this Christmas Season. Let us open our lives to this Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace and Lord Emmanuel. Then and only then can we sing with the angels on high "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, Peace, Goodwill toward all people".

CHURCH EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

SUNDAY, Nov 30th—This is first Sunday of the Advent season. If you and your family or group would like to light the Advent Candles this year, please sign-up in the Narthex. The lighting of the candles take place each Sunday Service including the Christmas Eve Services. The scripture reading and the Prayer will be prepared for you in advance. Also, the Church Christian Education Committee has made available Advent devotional booklets and a calendar of Scripture reading for the Advent Season. These are available in the Narthex.

Saturday, Dec 13th at 9:30 am—All the children of the church have been invited by the United Methodist Women to a Christmas and cookie party. This will take place in the Educational Building and will be over by noon. The children will be singing Christmas music and presenting a short program. They will also help fill bags of cookies to give to others.

Wednesday, Dec 24th at 4:00 pm—This is a Family Christmas Service with a large number of children taking part. The children are practicing their songs and will make a short presentation with singing, playing the chimes and presentation of Christmas skits and a small play. Some of the children will be participating for the first time. Plan to come to this service and show them your support!





Youth Ministries

With Heather Rodenberg

Sunday School 9:30 am in the Education Building
Youth Fellowship 6:30 pm Sundays in the Education Building

October 30th through November 3rd Beth and I traveled to Pittsburgh for the National Youth Workers Convention. While we were there we attended different workshops on youth ministry and were fed spiritually. Our hotel was connected to the convention center by a sky walk. Our room was on the 14th floor. When we were going to the convention center we would take the elevator down to the 1st floor and then up an escalator to the 2nd floor and walk across the sky walk. After doing this about three times, Beth turns to me and says, “You know we can stop at 2nd floor and walk across instead of going to 1st and then back up again.” This incident made me realize something. Sometimes we fly through life at break neck speed that we miss the most obvious things right in front of us. This Christmas season let us remember to stop and slow down and enjoy the time we have with our family and friends. God has blessed us all through the grace of His Son Jesus Christ. A little baby born in a manger saved us all. Take a moment to stop and thank Jesus for all you have this holiday season.



THANK YOU – Many thanks goes to those who attended the Uncommon Grace concert and those who continually support Uncommon Grace. A good time was had by all and it was fun to play along with Bill Moseley once again. More than \$400 dollars were raised to support the upcoming Youth Mission Trip.

~David Ballard



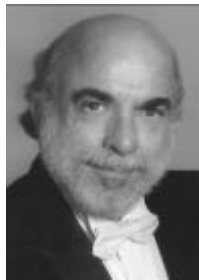
Donate to Youth Mission Trip. It's tax deductible and goes to serving others.

1 Share = \$400

1/2 Share = \$200

1/4 Share = \$100

Please mark for “Youth Mission”
when donating.



Music Notes

Of Weather and Angels

I would like to share an experience I had the day of our Celebration of Veterans. Saturday night's news said very light chance of precipitation in Phoenix with slightly higher chance in the mountains for Sunday. Well, you might recall during our Annual Celebration of Veterans program Sunday at 3:00, it rained incredibly hard, complete with thunder and lightning. I left right afterwards (around 5:00) to head up to our home in Lakeside (White Mountains) - normally about a 2-1/2 hr drive from Gold Canyon. It rained buckets until about 10 miles south of the Salt River Canyon when it changed to snow. I called my wife Martha at our Lakeside house and she said it had just started to sprinkle, so I decided to keep on going. I made it down the canyon and back up in rain once again. Sky was absolutely black from the time I left.

Once I got to the top of the canyon on the other side, it snowed unbelievably hard turning into absolute white-out! Windshield wipers couldn't keep up with it and my headlights blinded me. I couldn't see 5' in front of me and couldn't see the sides of the road at all. I rolled down the window and stuck my head out to try to see the left side of the road (2 way highway) but still couldn't see where the road was. I thought about just stopping on the right hand side as soon as I could see a guard rail (cliffs all around), but I knew that wouldn't help much - I'd just get stranded at best and go off the road completely at worst, so I kept going about 5-10 mph, guessing where the road was. I was saying some fervent prayers when a pair of headlights shown in my mirror. After a few more miles I finally found a guard rail on the right, pulled over so the guy behind me could pass. He (she?) turned out to be a real angel - a big pickup truck with dual wheels who passed me but obviously kept me in his rear-view mirror, and his big tires gave me a path to follow for the next

30 miles until the whiteout finally subsided and I could see some distance. I was indeed VERY thankful for people who care! He really did make sure not to get too far in front of me. As we approached Show Low, more cars came up from the surrounding areas so I lost this angel, but I'll never forget him! He literally saved my life! God lives and angels are real!

international
year of the
organ
2008-2009

American
Guild of
Organists

His son also lives and we celebrate his birthday this month. Our **7th Annual Choral Christmas Concerts** will be on Saturday, December 13 at 3:00 and 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Music will be performed by the **Chancel Choir, Chancel Ringers, Youth Handbell Team, the Agape Brass Quintet, Shirley Coad on Cello, Nicki Jones on Flute, Keith Kassner on Timpani, Jill Pack on Harp, and Diane Sauerbrunn on Oboe.** Soloists include **Don Engbrecht, Deater O'Neill, Mary Lynn Preiss, Marty Robison** and special guest artist - international opera star and Gold Canyon resident, **Terese Cullen.** These concerts are free and open to the public. We will take a free will offering to help support our *Performing Arts Series.* We do ask everyone who comes to please bring a non-perishable food item per person for our Gold Canyon Food Bank. Those of you who have been in Gold Canyon for awhile knows how fast the Sanctuary fills up for these concerts, so I suggest you come early. The doors will open 45 minutes prior to each concert. This is one of the oldest and best Christmas traditions in Gold Canyon and I hope you will come bringing your family, your friends and your neighbors for a beautiful concert of fun, meaningful and very moving music for the entire family.

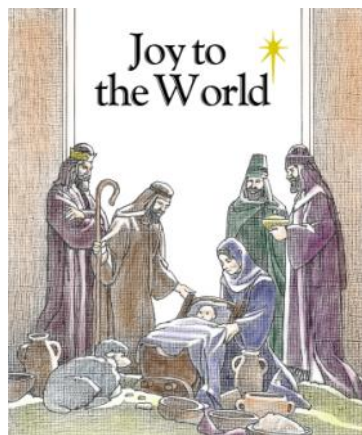
Several of you have asked about joining the choir. In fact, you can already see many new faces. If you can read music, sing on pitch, enjoy serving God and sharing your gifts with our congregation, ***please join us!*** We rehearse on Thursdays at 7:00 PM and would love to have your voice join in harmony with the rest of us. In addition to singing some great music, we also have more fun than a group of church singers should have! And, we *always* have room for more! If you are interested in joining us, there is no audition, just give me a call at the church.

May you all have a glorious, wonderful and meaningful Christmas season, and all good things in the new year.

Blessings,

Doug

Douglas J. Benton
Director of Music Ministries





WITHIN THE CHURCH FAMILY

By Hu & Wendy Rhymes, with a little help from Sadie and Hattie

ATTENTION: Hu & Wendy Rhymes DO NOT have a home phone. If you want to contact them and you don't have their CELL number, please contact the church office.

SADIE RHYMES MEMORIAL

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! We can't begin to express how grateful we are to all of you for donating pet food and money to the food bank for Sadie's Memorial. You have helped many pets already. We have also donated food and our time. We divide the large bags into gallon size bags and label them. This is good therapy for us. Please continue to donate pet food and FOOD for their OWNERS also.

Love and Prayers, Hu, Wendy and Hattie

We have a JOY! As of November 8th Hattie has another sister. Muffin is between 6 & 8 years old. She is a black schnauzer who came from the AZ Mini Schnauzer Rescue. She looks just like Hattie, tall ears and all, but a little smaller.

Sympathies: Helen Anderson, upon the death of her husband, Paul; Dr. Brad & Arlaine Bryant, upon the death of Brayden Silva, an infant family member; Cris & Bev Criswell, upon the death of Wendall Ward; Mabel Ely, upon the death of her husband; The family of Norma Frary, upon her death; Lorna Hartman, Susan & Doug, upon the death of her husband, Jim & their father; The family of Donna Hill, upon her death (Joe Johnson's cousin); Pauline Lymons, upon the death of her husband, Robert; LaDonna Roberts, upon the death of her husband, Ed; Mary Ann Warren, upon the death of her husband, Jerry and the families & friends of the above.

Concerns and/or Continued Prayers: Wanda Alsup, Sophia Anderson, David Baker, Chris Basted, Nyxie Berry, Nancy Binting, Thomas Bottomley (Mike Vagnier's step father), Larry Brandon, Bob Burgi, Robert Burnett (Marilyn Horkey's brother-in-law), Jim Chaney, Pat Colmer (Sharyn Bennett's mother), Haley Crafts, Nathaniel Delaney, Stephen Dunn, Edward Fite, Rowen Grace (Barbara & Royce Brownfield's granddaughter), Bill Hawkins, Dennis Hiel, Carlie Hoffman, Tina Ingram, LeMont Jacobson (Suzanne Jacobson & Jane Rogers' father), Bud Jones, Ardell Kelly, Kristi Keast, Dora Lou Keast, Vern Kingsbury, Kyle Knutson, Madonna Knutson, Toni Lafave, Larry Long, Lloyd McNeece, Shawn Moss (Joyce Curtis' nephew), Jerry Muratore, Dan Orr, Pat Osbakken, Helen O'Shirro (Marilynn Falk's sister), Craig

Palmquist, Lone Pierce, Lois Poteet (Barb Oldham's sister), Lois Reier, Doug Richardson, Louann Rodenborg & Myron Lenning (Heather Rodenborg's mom & grandfather), Jane Rogers (Suzanne Jacobson's sister), Pat Ryan, Eric Samuels, Kathy Sharp, Sean Sheridan, Ella Stephens, Kasey Thompson, Ken Tippie (Jerry & Peggy Tippie's son), Gene Thomas, Midge Towell, Nancy Traugh, Amy Tyler (Bobbi Vander Roest's granddaughter), Jayne Urbach, Kristin Valereo, Dick Wagner, Diane Werk, Chris & Aimee Wickersham, Dorothy Wolter and PRAYERS for the families (CAREGIVERS) of the above. PRAYERS for requests in the "CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER" boxes and those FOOD BANK CLIENTS who have requested prayer. PRAYERS for our MILITARY Personnel and their families.

JOY! Lucah Pape, born to parents Roy & Andrea & siblings Ainsley & Micah. Proud grandparents are John & Bonnie Lane.

Joys-but Still in Need of Prayers: John & Doris Adamson, Dick & Eleanor Armstrong, Barbara, Dorothy & Joey Baker, Sgt. Steven Bise in Iraq (Jackie Bise's nephew), Irene & Junior Blake (Paul Fillion's sister & brother-in-law), Robert Boehm, SSgt. John Briggs in Guam, Sgt. Jeff Carroll

Continued on next page

Within the church family, Continued

(Harriette & Jeff Downing's nephew), Bob Carter & family, Bob & Eleanor Chesney, Mark & Donna Cleary, Craig Cmar (Marines), Bob & Marcia Cole, Weldon & Ellie Conger, Frank, Carol & Jason Crosswhite, Jenny & Bob Crow, Clifford & Lorraine Davidson, Chuck Dickinson, Ed Favia, (Army), Nancy Favia (Air Force Reserve), Dale & Inge Fitzpatrick, Andy & Danna Gharavi, David & Ardeena Gillette, Ross & Arline Hacker, Viola Hammond (Don Hammond's Mom, Rich & Sheila Haraldson, Lorna Hartman, George & Beth Hayes (Jeff Hayes' parents), Amanda Hendersen in Iraq, Jim Hibbing, Chris Huston in Iraq (Ken Miller's grandson), Henry Kaminski, Gladys Kay (Jane Hayes' Mom), Mel & Mary Kilbo, Naomi Kyle, Jane Lambert, Cheryl Lang, Carol & Bill Lindemann, Earl & Eleanor Lindsay, Pauline Lymons, Michael & Susan Malloy, Sally Marvinaino (Suzanne Jacobson's sister), Shirley & Merle Matzke, Todd Matzke in Iraq, Bryan McCann (Jeanette Lunstead's son), Neal McGough in Afghanistan, Larry & Pat McMann, Wilbur McMann, Liz Midgaugh, Lloyd & Arlene McNeece, Bert & Murial Mercer, Hedy Moore (Jed Moore's Mom), Tom & Rose Pease, John Phillips, Victor & Phillips, Sylvia & Calvin Quinn, Ione Pierce, Icey Revis (Lynn Revis' mother-in-law), Marvin & Jean Richter, Helen Strickler, Emily Sutherland (Wendy Moore's grandmother), Rick & Sue Sutter, Michelle Tackett & mom, Judy Tackett, Audrey & Gregg Taran, Carl & Helen Thacker, (Jerry Thacker's parents), Lillian Thomas (Bill Thomas' mother), Bev & Jim Toppin, Marven & Wanda Tufte, Ray and Nancy Villeneuve, Mary Ann Warren, Lucy Weiland, Dick Wilcox, Dot Zelezic and the families of

MIND MENDERS SUPPORT GROUP

Meets on the 2nd & 4th Fridays

At 10:00 a.m. in the Education Building.

This support group is for CAREGIVERS of anyone with Alzheimer's or some form of Dementia.

Contact *Jeanette Lunstead*

or the church

office for more information.

RESPIRE CARE NEEDED

VOLUNTEERS to give caregivers of Alzheimers and Parkinson's disease a much needed hour or two of respite. If you have patience, a little free time and a desire to help, please contact Jeanette Lunstead or the church office at 982-3776.



“ LAUGH A LITTLE” with Pastor Hu

TARDY

Every day the pastor's secretary was twenty minutes late. Then one day she slid snugly in her chair only five minutes late.

“Well,” said her boss, “this is the earliest you've ever been late.”

CONFESSION

Secretary: “I type by the biblical system.”

Deacon: “What is that?”

Secretary: “The ‘seek and ye shall find’ system.”

BULLETIN GOOFS

“You will want to attend the National Prayer and Fasting Conference. Your registration fee includes three meals.”

“Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale next Saturday. Here's a chance to get rid of things you don't want to keep. Don't forget your husbands.”



DESIGNATED GIFTS FROM MEMORIAL-FUNERAL SERVICES DESIGNATED GIFTS FROM MEMORIAL-FUNERAL SERVICES

CARLOS CHAPMAN-Gold Canyon UMC

JERRY WARREN-Gold Canyon UMC

JIM HARTMAN-Gold Canyon UMC

And/or

Americare Hospice

1103 S. Mesa Dr. Ste. 2

Mesa, AZ 85210

NORMA FRARY

Frary Family Memorial

(This is a Scholarship Fund)

Dept. of Agriculture UW Foundation

P.O. Box 3963

Laramie, WY 82071



December

Birthdays



- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Diane Heinauer | 12 | Dale Fitzpatrick | 21 | Kay Leet |
| 3 | Harrell Miller | 13 | Shirley Coad | 22 | Cassandra Hellyer |
| 3 | Larry Raffurty | 13 | Marcia Ritenour | 22 | Georgia Kirkpatrick |
| 3 | Kathleen King | 13 | Judy Campbell | 23 | Melvin Kilbo |
| 4 | Judith Monk | 13 | Lynn Tabor | 23 | Andy Gharavi |
| 4 | Nick Weidner | 13 | Bambi Hutnak | 25 | Neta McCleary |
| 4 | Rod Reid | 13 | Pat Flint | 25 | Robert Brummitt |
| 5 | Angie Fyfe | 13 | Nathaniel Gingrich | 25 | Gary Stemple |
| 5 | James Swails | 14 | Bill Green | 25 | Deborah Brooks |
| 6 | Arlo Clemensen | 14 | Clare Goodman | 25 | William King |
| 6 | Judy Donovan | 14 | Ron Houser | 26 | Judy Horn |
| 6 | Carol Johnson | 14 | Ilene Tabor | 26 | Robert Pennington |
| 6 | Lisa Kinzel | 14 | Katharine Keller | 26 | Charlene Smith |
| 6 | Holly Boyd | 14 | Paula Tucker | 26 | Danna Gharavi |
| 6 | Charlie Palmer II | 14 | Thomas Preiss | 26 | Sarah Swails |
| 7 | Marie Ebnetter | 15 | Pam Foreman | 27 | Don Tonole |
| 7 | Jack Virden | 15 | Doris Newton | 27 | Joyce Schenck |
| 7 | Bob Vogelgesang | 15 | Ellen Laux | 27 | Michael Malloy |
| 8 | Bev Mitchell | 16 | Clara Goodman | 28 | Howard Flowers |
| 8 | Bill Curtis | 16 | Suzanne Jameson | 28 | Joseph Lundberg |
| 8 | Betty Humphrey | 17 | Darrell Keast | 29 | Connie Schuler |
| 9 | Marty Robison | 17 | Peggy Kinder | 29 | Janna Vanderpool |
| 9 | Becky Reid | 18 | Kathleen Serrine | 30 | Ann Wallace |
| 10 | Elva Bradley | 18 | Sue Lullo | 30 | William Waechter |
| 10 | Phyllis Sinkler | 18 | Melissa Krstyen | 30 | Todd Owen |
| 11 | James Anderson | 19 | Erin Sherman | 30 | Cherie Madzey |
| 11 | Neil Brogren | 20 | Linda Van Kekerix | 31 | Richard Ferguson |
| 11 | Anita Raffurty | 20 | Helen Flowers | 31 | Jerri Manbeck |
| 12 | Donna Graves | 20 | Heather Fox | | |
| 12 | Sylvia Schuerman | 21 | Mary Faith Van Noy | | |

Anniversaries



- | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|-----------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Charlie & Lori Palmer | 19 | Robert & Peggy Dowrick | 27 | Darrell & Bev Mitchell |
| 1 | Donald & Gladys Osgood | 19 | Mark & Lynda Kessler | 27 | Bob & Jenny Crow |
| 3 | Mae & Norman Livgard | 19 | Dottie & Richard House | 27 | Owen & April Todd |
| 9 | John & Dixie Coules | 20 | Jack & Edith Viviani | 27 | Glenn & Donna Johnson |
| 10 | Ray & Nancy Villeneuve | 20 | Terry & Ruth Steinkruger | 28 | Ron & Helena Van Englehoven |
| 11 | William & Mary Thomas | 20 | John & Kathy Nuss | 28 | Bill & Joyce Shafer |
| 12 | David & Ardeena Gillette | 21 | Stan & Linda Van Kekerix | 28 | Wayne & Diane Heinauer |
| 13 | Bill & Bobbie Talbot | 21 | Richard & Patricia Stanford | 29 | Leland & Betty Jensen |
| 13 | Brett & Collette McNamee | 22 | Glen & Carman Bargman | 29 | Marven & Wanda Tufte |
| 14 | LeRoy & Joanne Cate | 22 | Pat & Lillian Calihan | 29 | Dave & Linda Austin |
| 14 | John & Diana Linton | 23 | Phalen & Connie Schuler | 30 | Bob & Jill Bills |
| 16 | Bob & Pam Ingram | 24 | Victor & Lorraine Phillips | 30 | Gary & Joyce Gingrich |
| 17 | Cris & Bev Criswell | 24 | Leo & Lois Gerst | 31 | Lowell & Violet Reiners |
| 18 | Royce & Barbara Brownfield | 26 | Robert & Nina Pennington | 31 | John & Jeanne Paddison |
| 18 | Andy & Danna Gharavi | 26 | Roger & Phyllis Sinkler | 31 | Mark & Deborah Brooks |



United Methodist Women of Gold Canyon UMC

The United Methodist Women includes all women of the church. We are dedicated to fellowship, friendship and service. We welcome all GCUMC women.



Remaining 2008 UMW Calendar Events

- December 6, Heart of Women, 11 a/m, Education Bldg.
- December 8, UMW Executive Board Meeting, 9 am, Education Bldg.
- December 13, UMW Unit Meeting, 9:45 am
Tea with Mrs. Claus & Cookie Exchange

2009 UMW Meeting Schedule

United Methodist Women is a membership and faith-based organization open to any woman who indicates her desire to belong and to participate. As a member each woman joins forces with other women to embrace and work on our four mission emphases: Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Education and Interpretation, and Membership Nurture and Outreach. Our programs in 2009 will focus on these four mission emphases. Watch for exciting, fun and energizing special events being planned for you such as the Beth Moore Bible Study, a Women's Retreat and others. Since business meetings are a necessary part of any successful organization, we will hold four unit meetings with Programs to be announced. Please mark these dates on your calendar: January 10, March 14, October 24, and November 14. Your participation in these informational and decision making unit meetings is important to the direction of our organization. We are always looking for ways to enhance how we connect and communicate with the women in our church as well as expand our mission involvement. Our subgroups for 2009 include St. Andrews Children's Clinic, Stitches Unlimited, Sidewalk Sunday School, Beth Moore Bible Study, The Page Turners, Women's Retreat, and Heart of Women. Members can participate in one or more subgroups. With these awesome choices, surely you can become involved. I am looking forward to a great 2009 with UMW.

President, Diana Linton

Coming January 21, 2009

Beth Moore Bible Study

Sign Up Today

Ladies, get ready for the updated version of *A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place*, an 11-week Bible Study by author, Beth Moore. It is about God coming to dwell with man. You will come to love the Old Testament! If you are a fan of HGTV, you are going to love this. So, put on your construction hat and come help build the Tabernacle; all the while discovering the parallels of the Tabernacle's building and your life as a chosen vessel of God. A fresh word awaits you. Questions? Call Diana Linton at 229-0706.

Sponsored by United Methodist Women



Mrs. Claus is Coming to Town

It's time to deck the halls, bake the cookies and get in the holiday spirit. And what better way to add to the festivities than to meet Mrs. Claus as portrayed by Ardis Larson. She'll be at the United Methodist's Women's meeting Saturday, December 13 at 9:45 a.m. in the Education Building. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Sunday school children will serenade Mrs. Claus and she'll entertain them as well as the older folks (young at heart) with her stories of life with Santa. So, bring your children, your grandchildren, and a plate of homemade cookies. The cookies will be wrapped in holiday style and shared with shut-ins and Sidewalk Sunday School children. You won't want to miss this special holiday experience.

2009 UMW Officers

The strength of United Methodist Women at GCUMC depends on women like you to step forth, and use your unique gifts to serve others. Thank you.

- President – Diana Linton
- Vice President – Joanne Rogers
- Secretary – Beverly Mitchell
- Treasurer – Caryl Lang
- Program Resources – Diana Linton
- Spiritual Growth – Carolyn Burch
- Mission Education & Interpretation Co-Chairs – Phyllis Gray, Melva Houtcooper
- Historian Co-Chairs – Lorraine Phillips, Joan Butler
- Pastor (ex officio) – Fred Steinberg

2009 Women's Retreat

What to do. . .or not to do. . .that is the question we face looking ahead to the 2009 Women's Retreat. Is there an area you would like to oversee. . .program, fun activity, closing worship, music, etc.? We could use your knowledge and expertise. Please call Diana Linton (480-229-0706) if you can attend the first planning meeting for the 2009 Women's Retreat Wednesday, January 7 at 4 p.m. The more ladies involved, the better the experience for everyone. And, if you don't think this planning phase is for you, I encourage you to participate by prayerfully lifting up the planning committee and hope this fun event offers a good dose of refreshment, reinvigoration, and inspiration for the women in our church.

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

On the first Sunday (Communion Sunday) we have a group of trained volunteer communion servers, ready and willing to deliver communion to people of our congregation who are confined to their home, or patients in local hospitals or other care facilities. To obtain this service, please contact the church office, 982-3776, or Grover Wallace at 982-8775. The service will be available following the 9:30 AM Sunday service.

On Sunday, November 30th, following the 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM service, the current group of volunteer servers and any other person desiring to join this group, will hold a short meeting in the church office.

Grief Support Group

Wednesdays at 3:00 pm, Room 101/102

Led by Laurie Christy

Gold Canyon UMC offers Grief Support for those who need someone to talk to. Grief isn't always about death – we all need help at times talking about and understanding our feelings. Anything that may cause sadness in your life is an issue for grief support. Sometimes it is death or divorce or, it could be the fears of relocation or a new job. We are here to listen when you need to talk. For information, contact Laurie Christy at 480-671-5768 or Lchristy20@yahoo.com.



This is the message that you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.
1 John 3:11

*Let us
remember to pray
daily*



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY®**

RESPITE CARE

Dear Church Family:
Thank you for your concern and prayers for the cataract surgery on my one good eye. We were needlessly doubtful for a few days; but your prayers and my wife, supernurse Marilyn, prevailed. Glasses should return that eye to normal, and the operation will be considered a success. I'm thankful not only for the sight restored to my eye, but also the close fellowship of our church family.

Love and God bless,
Gene Thomas

Are you the primary, long-term care provider for someone? IF SO, SAY SO!!!! This is a burden which probably crowds you into feelings of anger and guilt from time to time—maybe all the time! You may be the only person with whom your care receiver ever visits. You may provide much of the physical care he or she receives. The onus of your charge may seem to be without end, may seem—or seem to become—more than you can bear.

Let a Stephen Minister give you a break, a chance to unload. Let a Stephen Minister help with the feelings of guilt you surely will have in making the decision to move your care receiver into a long-term care facility. A Stephen Minister can take over your care-giving duties for a while to allow you to focus on personal needs. He or she can help locate community adult day-care programs or respite care services.

If you are in this crack, please call the office or check the box. Be kind to yourself.

International Missions

"The world is my parish." - John Wesley

By Jackie Douglass

As we enter the "season of giving", many of us turn our thoughts to how we can give to others as a way of showing gratitude for the many blessings we have received throughout the year. Gold Canyon United Methodist Church is well-known for its generous support of various domestic and international missions. As a newly formed committee this year, we have been working on ways in which to become more involved in International Missions, especially seeking out projects or institutions that are not well-known on the global missions chart. We have introduced a few projects and missions to you throughout the year; we will highlight these projects in the coming weeks through the bulletin and the Sunday power points. Knowing that each of us is moved by different needs, our goal is to provide you with options you may not have even known existed, and to give you time to prayerfully reflect on how you might like to contribute to an international project this Christmas.



Happy Holidays!

It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettia to take in honor or memory of someone you love.

Just fill out the attached order blank and include the \$10.00 payment for each poinsettia ordered. Mail these to Gary Stemple, 8295 E. Sweet Acacia Drive, Gold Canyon, AZ 85218, or place the order blank and payment marked "Poinsettia" in the collection plate. The poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuaries for enjoyment during the holiday season and you may take yours home after the Christmas Eve services. A listing of those giving poinsettias will be placed in the bulletins during the Christmas Eve services.

POINSETTIA ORDER BLANK

I am ordering a poinsettia in Memory of:

I am ordering a poinsettia in Honor of:

And payment of \$10.00 for each is **enclosed**.

Total: _____

Your Name: _____

Envelope Number: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Make checks payable to Gold Canyon UMC. Please call Gary or Sharon Stemple, 671-4307, if you have any questions. Orders must be received by Sunday, December 7



Volunteers Do Make a Difference

GCUMC
982-3776

Jane Hayes, Volunteer Coordinator

Mark your calendars NOW! Do you have the desire to help?

Christmas Mission in Progress! We have a BIG JOB AHEAD ; prayers needed.

Volunteers of the Month For November

John Lewis
Ruth Waterman
Jack Hegna
Nathaniel Gingrich



Our "Mission Angel Trees" will be up beginning November 25th.

Write these dates down for future reference:



Nov. 25-Dec.14-
Tags on Mission trees ready for you to purchase gifts, Bashas \$20.00 gift cards at the Information Table with Betty Rolley.

Cash donations for our families in the collection plate, front office, or directly to Jane Hayes or Colette Bos.



Christmas-in-a-Bag bags available to return with food items for a Christmas meal.

Dec. 14-5:00 P.M.

Last chance to donate! Return all unwrapped gifts with tags attached to trees.

Dec. 15—Sorting gifts

Dec. 19—Wrapping Party: 3:00 P. M.

Drop off home baked goodies and/or turkeys

Dec. 20 —Pickup/Delivery



***Circle one or more of these options to and place the form in the collection plate on Sunday, or drop by the office! Thanks.*

- 1.Custodial Assistant
- 2.Information Table
- 3.Office Assistant
- 4.Hospitality Team
- 5.Greeter
6. Funeral Dishes
- 7.Sunday School

Name _____

Phone _____



Gold Canyon United Methodist Church
 6640 S. Kings Ranch Road
 Gold Canyon, AZ 85218
 Phone: 480-982-3776
 Fax: 480-671-0028
 Office Email: GoldCanyonUMC@MindsPring.com
 www.goldcanyonumc.org

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Apache Junction, Arizona
 Permit No. 64

Monthly Newsletter Deadline: 10th of the Month
 Weekly Bulletin Insert Deadline: **Noon** on Wednesday
 Flower Order Deadline: **Noon** on Wednesday
 Please note that flowers are now \$30.00

GCUMC Staff

Senior Pastor	Fred A. Steinberg
Minister of Pastoral Care	Hu Rhymes
Associate Pastor, East Mesa New Church Start	Julius Keller
Associate Pastor	Bob Deits
Director of Education	Ellis Falk
Director of Music Ministries	Douglas J. Benton
Associate Director of Music	David Ballard
Director of Youth Ministries	Heather Rodenberg
Pianists	Carol Ballard, Linda Jones, Marty Robison Nancy Virden
Office Manager	Suzanne B. Jacobson
Administrative Associate	Margaret Ball
Volunteer Coordinator	Jane Hayes
Parish Nurse	Sue Malloy
Nursery Care Giver	Susan Kenyon
Facility Care Takers	John LaViolette



Christmas Eve Worship
Service Hours Inside

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
 SCHEDULE**

*All Children's Sunday Schools begin in the
 Worship Service with their families. Chil-
 dren are led to their classrooms after the
 Children's Sermon.*

†8:15AM ~ Adult Sunday School
 Meets in Room 101/102

†9:30 AM ~
 Children's Sunday School
 Pick Up in Rm 101/102

†9:30 AM ~ Youth Sunday School

†10:50 AM ~
 Children's Sunday School
 Pick Up in Classrooms

WINTER I SERVICE HOURS

***8:00 AM-Traditional Worship**

***9:30 AM—Traditional Worship
 In the Sanctuary**

***10:50 AM—PRAISE
 Service**

**In the Koinonia Room
 Music led by *Uncommon Grace***

****Childcare Provided***

5:00 PM-Country Western Service

**Music led by
*One in the Spirit***

**On the Last Sunday of the Month
 Music will be led by *The Housers***