



**Gold Canyon
United Methodist Church**
"Following Jesus, Serving Others"

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NO. 12

**From The Pastor:
"A Small Gift"**

On the weekend that Gold Canyon was having community wide garage sales, I stopped by one house to look at music CDs. As I was looking through the CDs I overheard a man buying an item for \$21. He told the owner that he only had a \$20 bill and a \$100 bill. The owner refused to take the \$100 bill and also refused to drop the price. I could feel the tension. The man was stuck. He didn't know what to do next. I reached over and gave him \$1 and said, "This will take care of it." It wasn't much money. It was just a way to break the deadlock. The man expressed his thanks and handed the \$21 to the owner. After the buyer left, the owner of the garage sale said, "Thanks, take a CD for free." Each one was priced for \$1. My little gift had sparked gratitude in both men and then caused another little gift. A gift of \$1 changed the attitude on the driveway of that house that day.



It is hard to believe that the shopping season of Christmas is upon us. 2010 is almost done. The stressful days of shopping are here. What would it take to keep the love of the Christmas Season in the midst of our preparations for Christ-

mas? How could the gift of the baby in the manger encourage us to do small acts of love for others? I invite you to look for opportunities.

In the midst of the shopping, the chaos, and the Christmas hype we invite you to pause to remember the real meaning of the season during Christmas Eve Join us in worship and sing your favorite Christmas carols; listen to the story of the very first Christmas as told in the Bible; and reflect upon the meaning of this story for your life today.

Our 4:00 pm service will be a family oriented service. The 6:00 and 8:00 pm services will include the Chancel Choir and special music. And the concluding 11:00 pm service will celebrate communion. All services will include candlelight and a time to remember that Christmas celebrates the gift of a small baby who changed the world.

See you on Sunday...

Grace and peace,

Fred

Four Candlelight Services
One Glorious Story

Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Invites You
To Join Us at One of Our Services on Christmas Eve
December 24:
Family Candlelight Service – 4:00 pm
Candlelight Services – 6:00 & 8:00 pm
Candlelight Service & Communion – 11:00 pm

Childcare provided
Goldcanyonumc.org

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

ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE!

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



Who are you?

Would the person(s) holding envelope box #502 please contact the office so that your contributions may be properly recorded? Thank you!

Your Gifts for 2010 Make a Difference!

If you would like to increase your giving for this calendar year, and also decrease your taxable income for the 2010 tax year, please be reminded that all contributions must be made to the church by December 31, 2010. This could result in a big tax savings.

Please remember that all financial gifts made to Gold Canyon United Methodist Church help us provide ministry to our members, our constituents, and our community. We hope you will prayerfully consider your gifts for the remainder of 2010 and give according to heart.



On Sundays, the Scrip table at the Information Desk in the east narthex now has a supply of Bashas' \$20 Gift Cards to be given to the Christmas families our church has adopted. By purchasing them at the church (instead of the store) we earn 6% for the bus fund. There will be plenty available through Christmas in case you wish to purchase a few extra for friends or family. The Fry's Gift Card refunds 3% to the church and can be used to purchase gas at any Fry's gas station. We also have a limited supply of \$5 cards (while supplies last) for mini-gifts you might choose to give.

If you need more information on the Scrip program at Bashas' and Fry's please stop by the Information Desk. Find out how easy it is to use the program and, **at no cost to you**, help increase the fund to keep our church bus operating and to purchase an additional one. The bus is an important part of our church missions, bringing people to church services, serving Sidewalk Ministries and transporting our youth to mission projects. Thank you for your continued support.

Betty Rolley



DONATIONS AND ATTENDANCE

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

October	2008		2009		2010		2009	2010
	Gen.	Build.	Gen.	Build.	Gen.	Build.	Worship All	Worship All
1st	\$17289	\$10421	\$15730	\$6828	\$23581	\$8507	624	634
2nd	10234	4081	12511	5926	9903	3252	724	675
817	1185	6328	10958	3811	12372	4360	1143	817
4th	11400	6388	11038	4923	10953	28111	933	1185
5th	—	—	—	—	14235	5619	—	1056
Total	\$49403	\$27218	\$50237	\$21488	\$71044	\$24549	3424	4367



Christian Education

By Alexandra Houseman

“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.”

Wow! We are already at the end of another year. It seems that December came along much faster than usual. I feel like I just got my kids out the door for the first day of school in August and now it's time to buy Christmas presents. More importantly though, the season of Advent is upon us.

The season of Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation. But what are we waiting for? Are we waiting for someone to step in and do a task for us even though we know we should be doing it ourselves? Are we waiting for someone to tell us that it is ok to make a decision; to say yes, to say no? Are we waiting for the perfect gift, only to be let down when we don't receive it? **WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?** If I only stop to remember, I will know that I no longer need to wait. Jesus Christ has already given me the perfect gift. If I look to Him all my questions will be answered, all my wants and needs fulfilled.

This season may you remember this as well ~ Jesus Christ, God's only son, has died on the cross for you. You are perfect in His image. May all the blessing of the season be upon you from this day forward and carry you through the new year.

Hangin' of the Greens: Thank you to Ron Walker and the W.O.W. Team for making this event so special. Thank you to all those who came to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. The W.O.W. Team and Christian Education want to make this event even bigger and better for next year. It may be a year away but mark your calendars now for this wonderful church family tradition.

Children's Pageant: The children are putting together a special pageant for the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service. Practices are being held at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in Room 101/102.

The Season of Advent is upon us! If your family or group would like to be Advent readers/candle lighters for any Sunday in Advent or on Christmas Eve, please email me at Alex.Houseman@hotmail.com with your preferred date and service time or call the church office.

Christmas Eve Service - Friday, Dec. 24th 4:00 pm: This is the Family Christmas Service. The children have prepared a special Christmas Pageant to share with you. Join us for a special service. The children are very excited to share their hard work with the “grown ups”.

DISCIPLE

Disciple Programs: New classes will be forming for the winter. Be on the lookout for dates and times. If you are interested in being a facilitator, please call the church office to let us know your intent.

Adult Education Classes: If you are interested in a specific area of study or are interested in leading an adult Bible Study, please call the church office to let us know. We are looking for more Sunday morning studies as well as new weekday studies to start this winter.

Sunday School Teachers: A special thank you goes out to the wonderful ladies who have volunteered to teach Sunday School at 9:30 am. We are still looking for substitute teachers. If you would like to put your name on the list as a substitute teacher, please let me know. I would also like to say thank you to Joan and Andy Siersma who have made the 10:50 am Sunday School a huge success. I have to say that our children are happy and excited when they leave Sunday School.

U-Can and B.E.A.R.S. Club: Our Wednesday night children's program is running smoothly and has been a huge success thanks to the efforts of its amazing leaders. A special thank you to Linda Walker, Joan Wilder-Siersma, Sandra Caldwell and Betty Hetherington for their dedication to this program. If you are interested in getting involved in our Wednesday night children's ministry, please let me know.

Sidewalk Ministries: Our Sidewalk Ministries program has continued to grow and minister to many, many children and families throughout the valley. Several of the children who attend on Saturday also attend our Wednesday night program. So, yes, we are making a difference in the life of a child. If you are interested in serving this amazing program in any way, please contact June Welker or Sandra Caldwell.

Thank You: I would like to say thank you to the entire congregation for making me and my family feel welcome at Gold Canyon. I am so very excited for the abundant opportunities that lay ahead. I hope you will join me in growing the many ministries that are so very important in the life of our church.

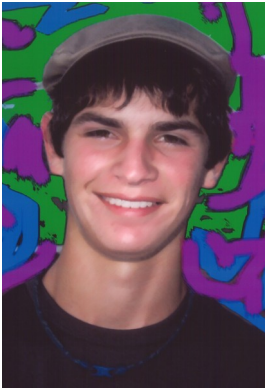


Gold Canyon UMC Youth



Wendy Moore, Youth Director

Our Superstar of the Month is Nathaniel Gingrich!



Nathaniel Gingrich is 17 years old, and a 12th grader at Apache Junction High School. He enjoys movies, reading, and writing. Nathaniel is on the baseball team at school, in the bell choir, in Boy Scouts and has served on five mission trips! He also has the distinction of cutting Skylar's hair (without her mom's knowledge) in 1st grade to free a remote control car that "somehow" became entangled.

Accomplishments: Eagle Scout

Favorite food: Broccoli & Olive Tacos

Favorite Movie: Knight's Tale



Upcoming Events

12/4 Feed My Starving Children – 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
 12/5 Youth Group – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
 12/12 Youth Group – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
 12/19 Christmas Celebration – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
 12/26 Youth Group Reunion – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Castles & Coasters was a lot of fun! Thanks to all parents who chaperoned! RAGE is the next event that Castles & Coasters is holding, I will get the information on that event to you all as soon as possible.

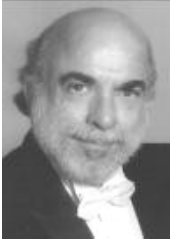
On Saturday, December 4, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, we will be taking another group of youth to Tempe to serve at Feed My Starving Children. If you are interested please let Wendy know.

Go to our Facebook site – Gold Canyon UMC Youth and "Like" us. Please share this with your friends. Let's keep some conversations going.

We are beginning to plan for the 2011 Mission Trip to Navajo Mountain, Utah on July 10-16. Hope you have marked those dates on your calendars. If you are 14 years and older, you are eligible to go. It is an experience you don't want to miss.

Quote of the month:

Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right Abraham Lincoln



Music Notes



So many great things happen this month that it's hard to decide what to do, what to buy for whom, when to rest, etc.! Hopefully, the tiredness we feel this time of year is a fulfilling kind of tired – knowing we had a positive impact on someone's life, helped to create a smile on a stranger's face, and feeling a deep sense of love for humanity and ourselves. As Jesus did on a regular basis, I hope all of us will do random acts of kindness whenever we can, without consciously thinking about it. What a blessing we can be, and can have, when we do!

Our **9th Annual Choral Christmas Concert** is on Saturday, December 11 at 3:00 and 6:30 pm. Featured will be the **Chancel Choir, Chancel Ringers, Agape Brass Quintet**, with Timpanist **Keith Kassner**, Harpist **Jill Pack**, Percussionist **Michelle Kassner** and, of course, **Linda Jones** on piano and organ, and **Nancy Virden** on piano. Last year, we had 1,771 people at the two performances and we expect more this year. If you can, try to come to the 6:30 pm concert, as the 3:00 pm is nearly full – we only had 43 empty seats last year in the entire Sanctuary! Come early – doors will be open one hour prior to each concert. To add to the festivities, our W.O.W. Team will greet you at the door in Dicken's costumes!

We do not charge for our *Performing Arts Series* events, including the *Choral Christmas Concert*, however, a free will offering will be received. My hope is that everyone who wants to come, will come, and not feel they "can't afford it". All are welcome! We do ask though, like we do at all our events, that everyone please bring at least one non-perishable food item per person for the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Food Bank. The Sunday bulletin always has a list of needed items, updated weekly. The choirs and bells and others are working very hard to make this an extraordinary experience for you. We hope you will come and bring your family, friends and neighbors to this great Christmas tradition.



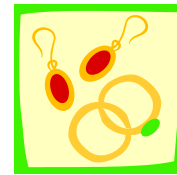
My prayer for all of us this year is that we allow ourselves to take time for Christ, for ourselves, for family, for friends, and for others. If someone cuts you off while driving, cuts in front of you in line, or says something cutting to you, I pray you raise your eyebrows, take a deep breath and smile with the joy and knowledge that this season is not about you or "them", but about the love of God giving his son, the Christ, to us. Knowing that and feeling that, how can we be upset by anyone or anything? Does it get any better than that!?

And as Tiny Tim observed, "God bless us every one!"

Love and blessings,

Doug

Douglas J. Benton
Director of Music Ministries



Did you know that we have a Lost & Found?

Have you ever attended a concert or church service and felt like something was missing when you got home? In the church office there is a box that contains a considerable number of sunglasses and earrings, a few keys and umbrellas, CDs, and various other little items. If you're missing something, and think you might have lost it at church, come see us.

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 or call the office if you are having surgery or are in the hospital, if you wish a visit, or want to be on the Sunday Prayer List. For OUR NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS check the Sunday Bulletin or call the church office.

FROM THE SADIE RHYMES MEMORIAL CORNER

A big thank you to all the volunteers who have worked in the food bank and given many hours to helping folks, dogs and cats with food. Of course there wouldn't be a Food Bank without all of you and the community who donate so much. Thank you to Jeff Downing, Dan Gray and Rush Tucker who head up this project.



It has been a big month for pet food. We were bringing in a load of bagged food and one of the Food Bank clients offered to help bag the pet food. It is wonderful to know that folks want to help earn what they get. GOD is always working. We have lost two more pet friends this past month. KOBİ & USIE went to Rainbow Bridge. Kobi, LaVoyce & Calder Nolan's dog & Usie, Frank McGann's (Jeanette Lunstead's son) dog are really missed by their families. MAGGIE, Lovena & Harry Warren's dog has been very sick again. All of these families need our prayers.

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

Sympathies: Rev. Rosemary & Scott Anderson, upon the death of Scott's father, Alex; The family of Bob Brummitt, upon his death; Jeff Hayes, upon the death of his cousin, Christian; The family of Marj Pingatore Hayles, upon her death; LaDonna Mayer, upon the death of her husband, Alfred; The family of Virgil Petersen, upon his death; Gen Friesen, & the family of John Phillips, upon his death; Gary & Sharon Stemple, upon the death of Gary's brother-in-law, Ken Kerr; Collin VanDyk, (Joan Siersma's son), upon the death of his grandparents; The family of Dorothy Zelezic, upon her death; and the families & friends of the above.

Concerns and/or Continued Prayers: Andy Allen, Chris Bisted, Irene Blake (Paul Fillion's sister), Goldie Boleyn (Bev Toppin's mother), Ariana Clevenger, Rev. Bob Cutlipp, Chris Denton, Janna DePoy & Jackie Runda (daughters of Nellie DePoy), Harriette Downing, Carole Duffield, Brenda Eslerline, Donna Gale, Herb Galliard, Danna Gharavi, Patty Girardi, Paul Grim (Nellie DePoy's brother), Bill Hallinan (Ellie Conger's son-in-law), Don Hammond, Louise Hawman (Carol Ballard's mother), Garth Heckman, Rhonda Huffman, Bettina Hutcheson, Ennis Ingram, Barbara Jacobson (Suzanne Jacobson's mother), Dan Jendral, Tom Jones,

Larry Keiselhorst, Ken Kerr, Fred Kewell, Rev. Cynthia Kristopeit, Diana Linton, Sharen Marine, Rob Milstead (Peggy & Steve Kinder's son), Ronnie Morrsette, Sharon Mulligan, Bill Nielsen, Sherry Oman, Don Parker, Karlie Plas, Bob Ray (Peggy Tippie's brother), Brian Sanders (Brenda Rahaneotis' nephew), Gordon Schaefer (Don Schaefer's brother), Scott & Linda Schaefer (Don Schaefer's nephew/wife), Frank Schnieringer, Aubrey Sharp, Doug Shilo, Sharee Sifferath, Chuck Slafter, Jane Slattum, Don Smith, Joan Smith, Don Sperling, Ruth Strandberg (Joe Lundberg's sister), Jim Toppin, Deb Vencil, Verdugo Family, Duane Vorse, June Welker, Sue Westendorf (Doug Benton's friend), Delza Wilson (Jayne Urbach's mother), Sandy Wilson, Karen Winter, Chong Ho Yi, John Zsitvay and PRAYERS for the families (CAREGIVERS) of the above. PRAYERS for requests in the "CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER" boxes & UNSPOKEN REQUESTS. Also, those FOOD BANK CLIENTS who have requested prayer. PRAYERS for our MILITARY personnel and their families & those who are in NEED OF EMPLOYMENT.

Still in Need of Prayers: Charlie & Joan Acker, Charles Adams (Betty), John & Doris Adamson, Flor-

Healthy Living

2010-2011 Reminders for THIS COLD & FLU Season

The Bible says "Be ye kind one to another". Kindness to our brothers and sisters in Christ can be demonstrated by making good choices when it comes to not spreading the cold and flu viruses that can lead to secondary bacterial infections in those with compromised immune systems. Some folks experience a few too many days of misery, i.e. persistent cough, stuffy or runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, aches and pains, tiredness, elevated temperature <101 , but for other folks, it can turn deadly, i.e. high temperature > 101.8 degrees, acute bronchitis, severe laryngitis, pneumonia leading to respiratory failure.

A good rule of thumb for dealing with an episode of either flu or cold viruses is that children can have as few as 4 colds a year to as many as 10 a year, and adults average 2-4 colds plus an average expectation of getting a varying degree (mild to severe) of the flu bug at least once during this season which starts in early October and lasts until late May - with its peak season being January to March. This information is valid for parents with children and for all adults.

Please be courteous and kind and stay home when you or your child have an elevated temperature >99.0 , or a cough (that is not brought about by underlying respiratory disease or medications), sneezing, stuffy or runny nose, accompanying tiredness or scratchy sore throat that could be related to cold or flu or any other significant symptom that is heading in that direction, and some experience vomiting and diarrhea.

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through coughs and sneezes of infected individuals. People may also become infected by touching something with flu virus on it and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes. Touching door handles, not washing your hands after using the bathroom, coughing or sneezing into the air or into your hand then touching anything leaves the viruses to be available to others for several hours. Many respiratory infections spread from person to person and cause symptoms similar to those of flu.

While at home recovering, drink lots of fluids like juices, teas or water and get plenty of rest and eat a lighter fare including fresh fruits and veggies and good old chicken soup. **Be sure to contact your physician or seek emergency medical care:** if your temperature increases to greater than 101.8, if your nasal discharge turns thick, cloudy dark yellow or green and your cough persists, keeping you awake at night, and you have major difficulty swallowing due to sore throat or swollen glands. Also, if your body aches and pains increase to a significant

deep aching, especially near your lungs or you get dehydrated and cannot keep fluids down, any dizziness or confusion, or difficulty breathing. **For Children-get medical help immediately:** if your child experiences rapid or difficult breathing, bluish tint especially around lips, eyes or nailbeds, difficulty arousing the child or he/she does not want to be held and is irritable, or has a fever with a rash.

Let's all Be Kind to one another by making the RIGHT choices to make it safe for us ALL, especially those who may have a compromised immune system but otherwise are feeling well enough to be able to come to church without worrying about contracting a flu or cold virus.

While we all enjoy Pastor Fred's sermons and don't want to miss a single one, we must make good choices when we are just not feeling up to snuff so we can allow others to be able to enjoy the service. What is really great is you can go to the GCUMC website and view the recorded sermon in 4-7 days after he preaches it, so you will be caught up by the next time you get to come back to church, when you are healthy, usually in 7-10 days for a cold and approximately 10-21 days for the flu.

Thank you for your kind consideration of others during this Late Fall through Spring Cold & Flu season. If you have questions or concerns feel free to contact me at 480-390-1496. God's Blessings to each of you.

Health & Wellness Ministry
Susan L. Malloy RN BSN
Associate Parish Nurse





International Missions

"The world is my parish." – John Wesley

Hello GCUMC Congregation Members!

During our recent trip to China we were able to once again visit the Wangshi Christian Church in Heicheng, China. We were able to attend the Sunday Harvest Festival Services in which members of the twenty-one farming villages from around the area sang praise hymns and offered various celebrations. Pastor Wu and the members of the church send their regards and thanks for our prayers and support. Below are photos that I took during our visit. As you can see, the church has made great progress over the four years since the congregation was meeting in the homes of the members. The church's exterior has been painted and the sanctuary has been partially completed; however, more still needs to be done. A more adequate heating system is needed for the cold winter months; comfortable seating, sound equipment, and an altar are things that the church really needs help with.

The Wangshi Christian Church is just one of the many projects that the International Missions Committee is involved with. The others are After the Wave in Thailand, support of missionary work in the Congo, Chilean pew project, and Fair Trade Coffee. In addition, the committee is beginning to plan our 3rd Annual International Missions Dinner and Program to be held later this winter.

We are also exploring options for future mission trips with possibilities including Costa Rica and/or Haiti. If you have an interest in participating in an international mission trip, please be sure to speak with a member of our Team (Nona Larson, Jean and John Paddison, Fay and Wally Quanstrom, Jill Fisher, Jackie Douglass). Also, if you have a relative or friend in the international mission field, we would appreciate hearing from you.

With Christmas quickly approaching, remember we have Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa and coffee gift baskets for sale. In addition, we have gift contribution cards with which you can make a donation to any and all of our international missions in the name of a family member or friend. Finally, we have a selection of handmade Christmas craft items from Thailand to round out the variety of ways you can support international missions and share unique gifts with your loved ones. Stop by the coffee table after the 8:00 am service and after the 9:30 am service.

The committee members would again like to thank everyone for their continued support of these very valuable endeavors. Certainly around the world the need is great.

John and Jean Paddison



"Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:
 a world where the weak are protected and none too hungry or poor;
 a world where the riches of creation are shared and everyone can enjoy them;
 a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
 a world where peace is built with justice and justice is guided by love.
 Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

"...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."

W.O.W. Corner

Welcome back! winter residents ~ we are happy to see you and look forward to your participation in upcoming events.

The annual Christmas Choral Concert will be held December 11th with performances at 3:00 and 6:30 pm. *W.O.W.* Volunteers will be dressing in Dickens Period costume to greet attendees and help convey the spirit of Christmas. We need more volunteers and, would you check your closet to see if you might have any period clothing you'd be willing to loan us? Also, won't you please consider joining us and experience the camaraderie with our church family and guests as they come to enjoy the Choral performance. We **REALLY** need your help!!! If you would like more information, call Ron Walker at 480-671-3881

The four services (4:00, 6:00, 8:00 & 11:00 pm) on Christmas Eve provide another opportunity for you to be a part of the team to greet and interact with our church family and guests as they come to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Volunteers will be attired in period costume for this event and there will be a live nativity outside the Sanctuary.

You'll find participating in this event at one or more services will be an uplifting experience. Please join us!!!

Giving Made Easy with Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)!

For your convenience, you can make donations to Gold Canyon UMC via electronic transfer. Your authorization for a specified amount of money is automatically transferred from your checking or savings account directly into the church account. You can also specify how frequently you want the money to be transferred (i.e. weekly, every two weeks, once a month) and there is no cost to you for this transaction! The church will issue you a donation statement for your records and your bank statements will provide you with a record of transfer as additional verification of your contribution. The EFT program yields many significant benefits for our church and makes life much easier for you...and it gives you the satisfaction of giving to God first. We encourage you to consider making your gifts by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Forms are available at in the church office



Happy Holidays!

It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettia to honor or in memory of someone you love. Just fill out this 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 85118, or place the order blank and payment marked "Poinsettia" in the collection plate. 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 distributed in bulletins during Christmas Eve services. **POINSETTIAS MUST BE ORDERED BEFORE DECEMBER 10!**

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: _____

Env. No. (If Applicable) _____

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 DECEMBER 10.

WINTER RESIDENTS

Welcome back!! Please be sure to call us when you return so we can change your address back to that of your winter home.

Also, would the following people let us know when you return - we have your name tags in the office:

- Mary Ann Atkinson**
- Robert Mason**
- Diane Peterson**



The Grief Support Group meets Wednesdays at 9:00 am in the Sea of Galilee Room. Please contact Laurie Christy at 480-518-3786 or Lchristy20@yahoo.com for more information

Cancer Support Group

.....meets each Wednesday at 10:00 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 dee.ashe@yahoo.com



IS FOOD A PROBLEM FOR YOU?

Do you eat when you're not hungry?
Do you go on eating binges for no apparent reason?
Is your weight affecting the way you live your life?

GCUMC now has meetings of Overeaters Anonymous at 7:00 pm on Thursday evenings in the Education Building. All are welcome. There are no dues, no fees, no weigh-ins and no diets. It is simply a Fellowship. If you have any questions, please call Linda at 480-984-8553.

Stephen Ministry Training

At the first of the year, we are planning to begin a training class for those who feel God's call to become Stephen Ministers. If you want to learn more about this high-commitment, high-reward ministry, please contact Don or Marjorie Tonole (480-671-9951) or any Stephen Minister. We are eager to visit with you as we make preparations for our training.

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room...

A Deep Contemplative Practice for Advent
Wednesdays during Advent (December 1, 8, 15, & 22)
7:00 pm in the Music Room
Please join us as we prepare to receive the newborn Jesus into our hearts anew this Christmas. This time of prayer and meditation will be facilitated by seminary student Suzanne Jacobson.

MIND MENDERS SUPPORT GROUP

...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 Alzheimers and other dementia disease patients. Come join us. Contact Jeanette Lunstead at 480-671-9888 or the church office for more information.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY®**

CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

You are FULL of the loved one just lost to death. You can think and feel of nothing else. NOT SO your friends and associates ~ maybe other family members ~ their non-expressions on the subject of your pain is almost total. Why won't they come around, be there, talk and listen to you? A quiet conspiracy of silence is conducted and maintained against your grief or your expressing it, beyond a bare, perfunctory word or two.

ENTER A STEPHEN MINISTER. In the refuse of your loneliness, the thrice-read cards, dirty casserole dishes, silent telephone, dead flowers, etc...a Stephen Minister will be there, to hold your hand, get you to cry, listen, make coffee, pray with or without you, call you, sit with you, be your friend, get our Lord in the act!

If you are recoiling from a death, let a Stephen Minister help. Call the office or check the box!

A burden, even a small one, when carried alone and in isolation can destroy us, but a burden when carried as part of God's burden can lead us to new life. That is the great mystery of our faith.

Henri Nouwen

Good Report! Thank you to all for your prayers. My son-in-law, Bill Hallinan's second surgery for bladder cancer resulted in a "clean" report. He will need a chemo treatment once a week for 6 weeks and will be watched carefully.

Thank you Lord! And thank you for all your prayers.

Eleanor Conger

SISTER SEMINARIANS



By Heather Rodenburg

December is a month of celebration for the church. We celebrate the coming of Christ. It's a time to spend with family and friends and rejoice over the birth of our Savior. December is also a month of stress! December means finals for seminary students, college students, and high school students. It is a time when we go from sane logical thinking humans to stressed-out, sleep deprived, caffeine induced zombies. Finals start for me on December 6th, however, there is a lot to do before then. We have many large papers to write and lots of books to read. As I write this, I am in the midst of doing a research paper which involves 10 books and about as many articles. As Paul said, we must push forward with perseverance. I know that once I am done with all this, I will get to come back for the holidays. I look forward to spending Christmas Eve with you all and sharing in the joy of our Savior's birth.



Seminary is going well. I have learned that one question leads to about 10 other questions that don't get answered. I am becoming

a professional at asking questions that no one can answer and am very excited for the questions that will be raised over winter break and next semester. I am taking a class over winter break called "The Caring Congregation" which has to do with Pastoral care. Then in the spring, I will continue with Christian Heritage 2, Interpretation of the Old Testament 2, Word and Worship, Evangelism, and Spiritual Formation. So many great questions waiting to be asked in these classes, I just can't wait!

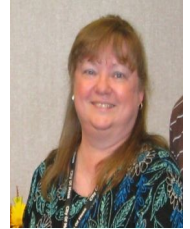
On a more spiritual note, one of the questions I have been trying to discern is: Where am I in my relationship with God, the community, and the world? More specifically: How am I spending time with God? Where am I seeing God at work in the world? How is God working in me? Where am I in relation to my community? Who is my community? How is my relationship to the community showing the love of Christ? How am I in relationship with the world? How am I showing the love of Christ to my brothers and sisters in other countries? I think that these are all great questions that we all should be discerning in our walk with God. Fair warning, if you start to think about these questions, you might be asked by God to do something outside your comfort zone. One thing I have learned, God calls us to live outside our comfort zone.

Until next time, may the peace of Christ be with you and may the Holy Spirit move within you.



By Jody Topping

By the time you read this article, I will have finished my first quarter of coursework at Iliff School of Theology and will be enjoying a 6 week break before starting up again on January 3, 2011 (which also happens to be my daughter's birthday...she'll be 23!). Most of my classes this quarter have been online courses, and I have to say, being in a "virtual" classroom has its challenges. Instead of interacting face-to-face with the instructor and other students, all of our communications have been via computer, which certainly has its ups and downs. I get to do my work when it's convenient for me (most of the time), but I miss the personal interactions of being in a traditional classroom. There is one definite advantage, though, to taking classes online: I don't have to travel nearly as much as my dear friend, Suzanne...and while I miss the great conversations we had on our journeys to Claremont, I don't miss being on the road for 5-6 hours at a time!!



One of the classes I'm taking this quarter is called "The Life and Teachings of Jesus." During the course we've been studying the different gospels and looking for various characteristics of Jesus in each of them. It's been interesting to see not only how our perceptions of Jesus differ from one gospel to the next, but also how each of us in the class has seen different characteristics as important. For me, Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom of God and his compassion for humanity stand out as important. Jesus wanted us to know how much God loves us—whether we're rich or poor, black or white, male or female—we are all important to God. And what's more, Jesus continues to live in each of us, showing us how vital it is for us to love one another just as he loves us.

Part of my ministry at Los Arcos UMC is Sidewalk Sunday School. Every Saturday between 30 and 40 kids ranging in age from 2 to 13 come to our church parking lot to hear the stories of Jesus. We share with them the same stories that Jesus shared with his followers, and we show them how much they are loved, not only by Jesus, but by the members of our church. Jesus' life and teachings bring great hope to these children, whose parents struggle every day to make enough money so they can have a roof over their heads and food on their tables. Jesus brings hope to our troubled world, and I'm thankful that we have the stories of Jesus' life and his teachings that we can share with those in our world who are poor and hungry and without hope. I thank God every day for the gift of Jesus!

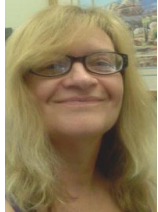
Continued next page

Sister Seminarists, cont.**Food Bank News**

By Suzanne Jacobson

It's hard to believe another semester is almost over. As we enter December, I know I will be writing papers with a vengeance very soon. I must force myself to remember the importance of balance and keeping my spirit alive while working on the technical "stuff." One of the classes I took this semester was called *Teaching Contemplative Practices in Sacred Space*. The sacred space is, of course, the church or other edifice that is made sacred by inviting the Presence of God into it. In this class, we also talked about the space between people and the sacredness found within that space – in our communication and in our silences. It is sacred because God's Presence is manifest in the person of the Holy Spirit, connecting us through our contact with one another. The human heart is another space that is made sacred by inviting God to dwell within. Contemplative Practices are forms of prayer and meditation that help us to focus our attention on God and God's Presence in our lives. They have existed for as long as humans have had an awareness of God; many of the forms that I have been learning were practiced by the early church fathers and mothers. As the church seeks renewal and an infusion of Spirit in growth and relevance, individuals have found that reviving these ancient practices helps them to grow personally and in communion with God and with one another.

Christians traditionally recognize the Advent season by preparing themselves to celebrate the birth of Christ. We get caught up in the busy schedules created by shopping and planning dinners and visiting friends and relatives, and we need a few moments to slow down and prepare our hearts. We share stories – wondrous tales of angelic visitation and virgin birth. We listen to music that warms our hearts and bring memories of times gone by. We enter into special devotions and contemplative spiritual practices. This year, I am facilitating an Advent Contemplative Series that I am calling "Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room." You will find information on this special time of devotion elsewhere in this newsletter. Please, consider taking some time to join with others in anticipation of Christmas and the renewal of God's Love through Christ. Perhaps the idea is new to you, but rest assured, it is as old and as new as the "good tidings of great joy" itself. I look forward to seeing you there.



The Food Bank Mission continues to provide a well recognized service in our community. With the current economic conditions that we all face, our mission continues to grow and reach more families than ever before. By the end of this year we will have over 1,000 families that, as necessary, have been visiting our food bank. We serve a wide range of clients, from a single homeless person to combined families of up to eleven adults and children.

We could not exist and serve without your assistance and donations. Through your generous support, church concerts and events, other community churches, local trailer parks, the Gold Canyon Arts Council, the United Food Bank, grants and local businesses (such as Basha's, Curves, Mountain Brew Coffee, and Edward Jones) we have been able to help all in need.

We pack a variety of items that are intended to supplement a family's particular needs. We try to stock household items such as soap, toilet paper, shampoo, tooth paste and similar items that food stamps will not permit. And of course, through "Sadie's Mission", we are able to watch our client's faces smile when we ask them if they have a dog or cat that needs food.

Another major blessing that is the heart of Food Bank operations is our dedicated volunteer staff. They are the key to our success in more ways than one. Whether trying to read and interpret a product date code, stack vegetables on a high shelf, come to work following a last minute call, or staying past closing time to serve that one last client, we thank our volunteers!

So if you are able, please continue to support us when you shop by looking at our current needs in the weekly church bulletin.

Thank you,
Your Food Bank Management Team
Jeff Downing, Dan Gray & Rush Tucker

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank you very much for the beautiful shawl. I can't tell you how wonderful it was to receive this gift. It is so soft, and feels perfect for me now. I want you to know how much I appreciate it.

Barbara Jacobson



December Birthdays



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



December Anniversaries

Gladys & Donald Osgood	1	Peggy & Robert Dowrick	19	Jenny & Bob Crow	27
Lori & Charlie Palmer	1	Dottie & Richard House	19	Donna & Glenn Johnson	27
Mae & Norman Livgard	3	Lynda & Mark Kessler	19	Bev & Darrell Mitchell	27
Patricia & Don Zirjacks	4	Kathy & John Nuss	20	April & Todd Owen	27
Dixie & John Coules	9	Ruth & Terry Steinkruger	20	Diane & Wayne Heinauer	28
Gloria & Carl Charette	10	Edith & Jack Viviani	20	Joyce & Bill Shafer	28
Nancy & Ray Villeneuve	10	Linda & Stan Van Kekerix	21	Helena & Ron Van Englehoven	28
Mary & William Thomas	11	Carmean & Glenn Bargman	22	Linda & David Austin	29
Collette & Brett McNamee	13	Pat & Lillian Calihan	22	Jill & Bob Bills	29
Diana & John Linton	14	Noreen & Mid Carlozzi	22	Carolyn & Richard Schlager	29
Pamela & Bob Ingram	16	Jean & Thomas Brannan	23	Wanda & Marven Tufte	29
Bev & Cris Criswell	17	Connie & Phalen Schuler	23	Joyce & Gary Gingrich	30
Barbara & Royce Brownfield	18	Lois & Leo Gerst	24	Deborah & Mark Brooks	31
Danna & Andy Gharavi	18	Lorraine & Victor Phillips	24	Jean & John Paddison	31
Gail & Bill Yoder	18	Nina & Robert Pennington	26	Violet & Lowell Reiners	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.



VOLUNTEERS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Jane Hayes, Volunteer Coordinator
982-3776

Encore Edition (I'm busy in the workshop!)

Christmas Mission Volunteers

For two months, our church family is highly involved with our Christmas Mission Project.

Beginning in October, our commitment starts with contacting the local Project Help and Sidewalk Ministries to obtain the names of approximately 50 local families needing assistance for Christmas. Our assistance is confidential to these deserving families.

Once we receive the family's commitment to participate in our Mission, we ask for their input for the children concerning their sizes for a shirt, pants, and shoes, plus two gifts on their "Wish List". With each child's information, we make 5 individual tags for each child to hang on the trees. In addition, a gift card is purchased for each adult. If you or a group you belong to wish to adopt a whole family, let Jane know your personal requests ASAP.

Tags will be available on the Mission Trees November 28.

Unwrapped gifts are to be purchased and returned to church **No Later than Dec. 12**. Cash donations can be designated for Christmas Families and can be made at any time.

Wrapping Party December 17th from 3:00-6:30 pm. Bring scissors and tape.



Turkeys! If you would like to donate a turkey, please keep it in your freezer until Dec. 17th. We will be distributing food and gifts to our adopted families at that time. The Apache Junction Food Bank would love them if you need to donate before that.

Homemade Goodies are so appreciated by our families ~ especially cookies and pies. Bring baked goods for Christmas families to the kitchen or office on Dec. 17th.

Bashas' Scrip is also so appreciated by our families. We would like to give each family \$20. You can purchase this any Sunday. Make your donation in the collection plate or Scrip table with Betty Rolley.

Pray for the Missions team at this busy time of the year, as there is much to do. We really need a halo for everyone in the church because you all do so much!!

I apologize that I cannot possibly list everyone here who has participated in the Christmas Mission, but several volunteers have done exceptional things with shopping, sorting, delivery, speaking Spanish, or trimming the four trees during the past two years.

Please consider joining this group or one of our many active and successful volunteer groups by calling 982-3776.



Do you have the time? No, I don't mean your watch! Please look over this list of volunteer needs. If you can assist with one or more of the following, **complete and place this form in the collection plate, at the information table or church office.**

Job	Mins. per week
Foodbank (Mon. - Fri.) 8:30 am-12:00 pm	210
Hospitality/Coffee Server	30+
Shut in Meals	75
Sound Booth	90
Greeter	40
Bake cookies	60
Transportation to dr. appts.	60 +
Assist custodian	60 +
Office Receptionist	240
Name _____	
Phone _____	

Roadrunner Email

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

Name (s): _____

Email Address: _____

Do you wish to continue to receive hard copy Roadrunners as well? ___Yes ___No



Gold Canyon United Methodist Church
 6640 S Kings Ranch Road
 Gold Canyon, AZ 85118
 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

GCUMC Staff

Senior Pastor	Fred A. Steinberg
Minister of Pastoral Care	Hu Rhymes
Associate Pastor	Bob Deits
Director of Education	AlexandraHouseman
Director of Music Ministries	Douglas J. Benton
Associate Director of Music	David Ballard
Director of Youth Ministries	Wendy Moore
Pianists	Carol Ballard, Linda Jones, Marty Robison
Office Manager	Nancy Virden
Administrative Associate	Suzanne B. Jacobson
Volunteer Coordinator	Jody Topping
Parish Nurse	Jane Hayes
Nursery Care Giver	Monica Ortega-Watters
Facility Care Taker	Susan Kenyon
	John LaViolette

Addressee or Current Resident

[Empty dotted box for address]

Look for special Christmas Eve service times inside



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

***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

**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 Sunday School
Meets in Room 101/102
- ✝ 9:30 AM ~ Children's Sunday School
Pick up in Room 101/102
- ✝ 9:30 AM ~ Youth Sunday School
- ✝ 9:30 AM ~ Adult Study
- ✝ 10:50 AM ~ Children's Sunday School
- ✝ 11:00 AM ~ Adult Sunday School

Deadline for January Newsletter Dec. 8
 Weekly Bulletin Insert Deadline: **Noon** on Wednesday
 Your GCUMC Publications are brought to you by:
 Georgia Kirkpatrick, Kathy Serrine and Jody Topping-
 with help from the Friday Bulletin Team and the
 Roadrunner Assembly Team