

“I feel as if I’ve stepped back in time.” That’s the thought that kept running through my mind during our recent trip to the Holy Land. As we walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, letting the water lap at our feet, looking out over the misty lake, I felt as if I had been transported back to the time of Jesus. I was there -- right where Jesus had been -- on the same shore of the same lake -- which looked just as it had in Jesus’ time. Later in the day we went out in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. After awhile, the driver cut the engine and we just gently rocked on the misty lake, barely able to see the shoreline through the mist. And it was impossible not to imagine being there 2,000 years ago.

When we were in Jerusalem, I was particularly struck by a set of stone steps that had been carved into the hillside over 2,500 years ago. The steps provided a path from the upper city of Zion down to the Kidron Valley. Scholars say there is absolutely no doubt that Jesus would have walked down these very steps as he went from the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemene. There was no other way down the steep hillside. He most likely walked on these same steps again the next day, as he was led from the house of Caiphas, the high priest, down to the Antonia Fortress for his trial before Pontius Pilate. And in the Garden of Gethsemene we saw ancient olive trees that have been growing there for over 2,000 years, the silent witnesses of Jesus’ agony in the garden.

I experienced another kind of ‘stepping back in time’ as we entered the ancient churches that have been built over sacred sites, the most ancient being the 4th century Church of the Nativity built over Jesus’ birthplace in Bethlehem, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre built over the rock of Calvary and the tomb of Jesus. These massive stone churches have changed little over time and are still being worshipped in by some of the earliest Christian groups: the Greek and Syrian Orthodox, the Armenians, and the Coptics.

To step inside these churches is truly to step back in time. Hundreds of glass lanterns hang from the ceilings, incense fills the air, icons and frescoes line the walls, mosaic tiles cover the floors. We were re-entering the ‘pre-literate’ world of the early Christians. As Protestants -- and as children of the Protestant movement

that coincided with the advent of the printing press and the availability of Bibles for individual believers – we forget what it was like to worship in ancient times when icons, frescoes and mosaics helped to convey the message of Jesus Christ.



I have always been fascinated with ancient icons. One of the most interesting is called “Anastasis,” the Greek word for Resurrection. It depicts what took place on Holy Saturday, the day in between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. In the picture, Jesus is descending into hell, into the place of the dead, and breaking open the tombs of those who have died before him. He is reaching out to bring Abraham and Sarah, King David, King Solomon and others who have already died -- even though they didn’t know him -- with him into eternal life.

The message of the icon is clear. Jesus Christ’s grace extends to all. **To all!**

This is the message of Easter. Jesus Christ has died – **for all!** Jesus Christ has risen – **for all!** Jesus has defeated sin, evil and death. Jesus continues to offer to each and every person – no matter who you are, no matter what you have or haven’t done -- the gift of new and abundant life right now, and the gift of eternal life in the days to come. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Join us for worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Christ has come --- **for you!**

See you in worship,

Rev. Mary Bullis

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MEDITATIONS FROM PASTOR DOT...

SO WHAT?

When I was in seminary we had a professor of theology who asked the question, "So what?" For her, this was not a question of indifference, but a question of theological significance. "So what?" was a way of asking "what difference does it make?" More than a rhetorical question, it is a question that pushes us to think about the difference God makes in our lives and in our world.

Just a few weeks ago it was raining and everything seemed cold and gray. At such times it can be hard to remember that the sky is still blue and the sun still shines on the other side of the clouds. A number of years ago I was driving to work on a cold, gray morning. As I drove into the valley, I drove into a thick fog that made it difficult to see. Somewhere along the road was a hill, and at the top of the hill was a traffic light. The top of the hill was not in the fog and, as I stopped at the light, I could see the blue sky, the sun shining, and the beautiful fog-covered valley below. When the light changed, I drove downhill and back into the fog, but something had changed. Although I was still in a gray and foggy day, my perspective was transformed by the realization that the sun was shining and the sky was clear and blue.

At Easter we celebrate the Resurrection. "So what?" is the question that rings in my head. "What difference does it make?" As I remember that foggy day that was transformed by a short glimpse of the sun and sky, I consider how much more the Resurrection transforms our seeing and our being! Christ has entered into our world, into all of its brokenness and strife, and Christ has won the final victory over sin and death. Nothing will ever be the same again. Even though we continue to live in the midst of strife and the brokenness of our world, we have the assurance that life triumphs over death. Christ is alive offering the hope and promise of new life to all!

Reflecting on the difference the Resurrection makes in our lives reminds me of the words of an old hymn:

*Because he lives, we can face tomorrow;
because he lives, all fear is gone.
Because we know Christ holds the future,
life is worth the living, just because he lives. (paraphrased)*

May this Easter season -- from Easter Sunday through Pentecost and beyond -- be filled with assurance and reminders of the difference Christ's Resurrection makes in our lives and in our world. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,

Theme for Eastertide
ABUNDANT LIFE:
BECOMING THE PERSON YOU
WERE MEANT TO BE

April 4 EASTER SUNDAY*

The Eighth Day of Creation: All is Made New
 Luke 24:1-12

*See article on this page for the times of our Easter Services

Services at 7:45, 9:00 & 10:30 am

April 11

The Risen Christ Forgives and Sends Out
 John 21: 9-19

April 18

Taken, Blessed, Broken and Given
 Luke 24:13-35

April 25

The Healing Power of the Risen Christ
 Acts 3:1-16

Neighborhood BBQ & Music Festival



SUNDAY, APRIL 11

After last year's great success, we are repeating our expansion of Western Days and inviting the neighborhood to join us at the Barbeque and Music Festival. You will want to invite your family, friends and neighbors to come and enjoy a delicious lunch along with fabulous and fun entertainment. The lunch menu will be Waldo's famous BBQ dinner with all the trimmings, served from **Noon until 1:30 pm**. Tickets are available on Sunday mornings at a cost of \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (age 11-18) and \$1 for children under 11. Terry and June Johnson will be bringing the **Petting Zoo**, which has proven to be a big hit for all ages. Children can enjoy **Bounce Houses, Face-Painting**, and other fun activities and adults can enjoy musical entertainment by our Western Band, our Praise Band, and much more. Gather up your neighborhood and come to enjoy this annual fun event!



HOLY THURSDAY

"Beneath the Upper Room"

7:00 pm – Worship Center

The drama "Beneath the Upper Room" will be presented on Holy Thursday. This unique drama has a cast of 16 and tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper from the viewpoint of the women who were preparing and serving the Passover Meal with interaction from several of Jesus' disciples. Invite your family and friends to come to this meaningful service.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 2

"The Seven Last Words of Christ"

7:00 pm – Worship Center

The Chancel Choir is presenting the spiritually-moving cantata, "The Seven Last Words of Christ," by Theodore Dubois on Good Friday. The final words spoken by Jesus from the cross are remembered during this somber and holy service which includes gospel readings from the passion narrative and the stripping and draping of the church.



EASTER SUNDAY

April 4

Celebrate Easter with the hope and new life of our Lord's resurrection!

Bring fresh flowers to place on the cross which will be in the Columbarium at 8:00 am and near the Worship Center for the 9:00 and 10:30 am services. **Pancakes**, served by our Youth Group, will be served from 7:00 to 9:00 am in Madsen Hall. Join us at one or more of these joyful services:

- 6:00 am Sunrise Worship -- Patio**
Special Music to welcome the morning
- 8:00 am Celebration of Life – Desert Haven Columbarium**
- 9:00 am Easter Worship – Worship Center**
Chancel Choir and Special Music
- 10:30 am Easter Worship – Worship Center**
Worship Band and Special Music



Next E.D.G.E. Nights Session Wednesdays, April 14 – May 12 Last Session of the School year!

This has been a wonderful year of classes, workshops and small groups. Each Wednesday we have had over 100 participants and 25 or more volunteers. Every person who has come has helped make the program possible. If you haven't yet taken a class or joined a small group, we hope you find something interesting in this next five-week session. We will also be offering special one-night E.D.G.E. events during the summer, and will start up new five-week sessions in the fall. This next session includes these activities:

5:15 pm

- Enjoy a delicious buffet supper in Madsen Hall.

6:00 pm

Children and Youth

- **Preschool Discovery (thru K)**
Discovery centers and fun crafts for young children.
- **SPK (Shout Praises Kids!) (1st thru 6th grades)** **New unit begins: "Living For You!"**
Music, movement, science experiments, crafts and Bible stories. (see article on this page)
- **Junior High Covenant Group (a change in time!)**

Adults

- **Debbie Hollenbach** will lead a class for parents and grandparents about teaching children and youth to know, grow in, and live out God's love. It's called **Catalyst for Faith**.
- **Pastor Mary Bullis** will lead "**Diving Into the Bible**" for those who have never jumped in and are new to the Bible, and for those who would like to swim a little deeper. Topics include: how the Bible was written, the key Bible stories for our faith, and how to read difficult passages.
- **Financial Planning for the Regular Person** is a set of workshops that will cover basic financial planning and investment techniques. Facilitators will be **Donna Kohlhase, C.F.P. and Roy Schlessman**.
- **De-Stressing Yoga** will again be led by **Don Krakauskas**. Come and de-stress your busy life.

- **Percussion Lessons** led by **Gene Ball**. Learn the basics of rhythm, drums and percussion.
- **Weight Loss Control Support Group** led by **Mary Beth Jones**.
- **Life After Loss Support Group**.

7:00 pm

Children and Youth

- **Children's Activity Room (1st thru 4th grades)** Videos, games and homework supervision.
- **5th and 6th Grade Fellowship** Games, faith-building, stories and activities.
- **Youth Recreational Volleyball**

Adults

- If you missed **Social Principles of the United Methodist Church** last session, **Dr. Larry Norris** will continue the study this session, with lively discussion about our faith and where we stand on social issues.
- **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

Look for registration with full class descriptions to begin this month or visit our website at www.RMUMC.com and click on "EDGE Nights" for more information.

WHAT IS S. P. K.?

Did you know there are 326 million trillion gallons of water on the earth? Did you know that after "My Very Eccentric Mother Just Serves Us Nachos," we can all put the planets in order? Did you know that "fathom" means "comprehend" or "understand" and that if you open your Bible exactly in half, you will most likely be looking at the book of Psalms? What did God create on Day 4? Did He consider taking a nap before the 7th day? You can discover answers to these and more at **SPK....SHOUT PRAISES KIDS!** SPK is a part of E.D.G.E. Nights for children... come and have fun!



VACATION BIBLE

SCHOOL—2010

Save the dates

June 14—18, 2010

for "Galactic Blast!"

Galactic Blast is a cosmic adventure praising God! It is an action-packed, adrenaline-filled expedition that teaches

us that our strength and might come from God. VBS will begin each evening with a light supper at **5:30 pm** and will end at **8:00 pm**. Look for further information and registration to begin soon.



DON'T MISS OUT ON SUMMER CAMP--REGISTER NOW!

Schedules and registration for our summer camping ministries are now available online at www.mingusmountaincamp.org. Early registration deadline for all summer camps is **May 14**. Brochures are now available in the church office. Listed below are the offerings:

May 31 -- June 4: Camp Hope -- For developmentally disabled adults

June 7 -- 12: Senior High Camp -- For campers entering grades 10-12 and graduating seniors

June 14 -- 19: Elementary Camp -- For campers entering grades 3-6

June 28 -- July 3: Super Camp -- For campers entering grades 3-9

July 5 -- 10: Junior High Camp -- For campers entering grades 7-9

July 12 -- 17: Super Camp -- For campers entering grades 3-9



Confirmation will be part of the 10:30 worship service on **Sunday, May 2**. These young people have been learning about what it means to be a Christian. Please keep them and their families and mentors in your prayers.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE LIBRARY?

As part of the renovation to our Narthex, the library has been moved to Room 204 of the Education Building. New, beautifully-crafted bookshelves will hold the wonderful collection of books. These resources will be an asset to this area of our church and will be easily accessible to adult classes that meet upstairs. The former Library in the Worship Center will now be used as a space for prayer, children's exploration, meetings, wedding parties, and other guests. When you are in the Worship Center, you will want to check out the new Welcome Center. It's beautiful! Thank you to all who worked hard to make these possibilities into a reality.



CALLING GRADUATES

On **Sunday, May 16**, those graduating from colleges and high schools will be recognized during the morning worship services. If you or someone you know is graduating, please provide the name, school and future plans to Cris in the church office by **Monday, May 3**.

Kindergarten Challenge

Submitted by Gene Barnes

The Preschool is very grateful for the support that has been given to its ministry with children during the past years and hope that you will continue to support its newest endeavor of adding a Kindergarten.

Several people have expressed interest and support for the Kindergarten Challenge, but have asked questions about **when** and **how** to contribute. The ***Dream Gift Pledge*** brochure can be located in Madsen Hall, the Worship Center or the office and can be turned in at any time...the sooner, the better. This will enable us to see if we are reaching our financial goal. Simply tear off the ***Dream Gift Pledge*** portion and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. No checks or payments are expected at this time.

The launch of the Kindergarten this fall will be dependent upon **two outcomes**;

(1) By May 1, we need a minimum of eight Kindergarten-age children enrolled. That is the threshold enrollment we need in order to begin.

(2) We need \$8,000 plus to provide furniture, tables, chairs, cabinets, extensive curriculum, videos, library books, learning centers and more.

Matching funds: We have *advanced gifts* that will match every dollar given. A \$100 gift will be matched by another \$100 gift!

Once we achieve the minimum enrollment we will notify everyone who has returned a ***Dream Gift Pledge*** card and ask that they make their financial gift between **May 1 and May 15** by mail or during a worship service.

How can you help to make our dream for a Kindergarten class for children in the fall:

- ✓ Pray for this ministry with children that it will touch the lives of families.
- ✓ Encourage young families to explore this new Kindergarten for their children.
- ✓ Make your Dream Gift Pledge today so that we can count on you!



PASTOR DOT IS VISITING

During the upcoming weeks Pastor Dot will be visiting children and families of our church. Please watch for additional information or contact

Pastor Dot at the church office.



JR. AND SR. HIGH YOUTH

(Submitted by John Durkin)

As always, I want to thank all of you for your continued support for the youth of our church. Purchasing the *Arizona Republic* on Sunday

morning, purchasing tickets to the Harkins Theaters, and buying groceries at Bashas' have all helped support our youth programming. Last year, I asked for sponsors to provide funds so that our youth would be able to participate in summer mission work and the response was overwhelming! I am again this year offering you the opportunity to sponsor one (or more) of our youth so that they may participate in this mission work. Giving a sponsorship through the church, you can help a child who could not otherwise participate. A gift of any amount will be greatly appreciated. Be sure to mark your check or envelope "Youth Mission Trips". In the fall the youth will host a dinner to honor those who gave sponsorships. You will sit with the youth and share their experiences in the mission field. The rewards are great--not only to the youth, but to you as their sponsor!



Classic's Breakfast

Join the Classics (the RMUMC adult group) and Chit, Chat and Chew at their spring breakfast at Apache Wells Gazebo. The date is **Saturday, April 3, at 9:30 am**. Apache Wells is located at 5830 E. McKellips in Mesa. Call Gene or Carolyn Ball at 480-832-0471 or Jim and Elaine Troyer at 480-985-4442 for more information.

LUNCHESES FOR MEN'S SHELTER

On **Wednesday, April 7, at 9:00 am** the Missions Committee will assemble lunches for the East Valley Men's Shelter. Donations of bread, lunch meat, cheese, cookies, apples and oranges, peanut butter, jelly or jam are needed to make this project a success. This is an on-going outreach project, meeting the first Wednesday of each month. If you are unable to help assemble and would rather donate money, mark your envelope or check, "*Missions - Men's Shelter.*" Contact Marsha Lehman at 480-993-3907 to offer your help.



REFLECTIONS-WRITING CLASS

The Memoir Class is now the Reflections-Writing Class. Dana Tramba will be hostessing the next meeting on **Saturday, April 10**, at her home. Call her at 480-890-0706 if you need more information about this group.



CONFERENCE RETREAT

The Desert Southwest Conference is holding its 20th annual Singles Spring Retreat **April 16—18** at Holy Trinity Monastery in St. David, in southeast Arizona. "All to Jesus, I Surrender" is the theme as adults of all ages gather at this inspirational desert setting. Cost is \$100 for meals and lodging. Call Max McQueen at 602-944-1524 to register. Deadline is **April 12**.

WESLEY CENTER'S BIRTHDAY

Wesley Community Center, located at 1300 S. 10th Street in Phoenix, will be celebrating its 60th birthday in August. They will celebrate by dedicating their newly-remodeled Health Center. All are welcome to attend on **Saturday, April 10, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**.

UMOM DEDICATION

United Methodist Outreach Ministry will dedicate their remodeled New Day Center at 3333 E. Van Buren in Phoenix on **Friday, April 16, 9:00 am**. Refreshments and a guided tour will be part of the celebration.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

RMUMC is a Stephen Ministry church with trained lay ministers who can give compassionate, Christ-centered care during a life crisis. If you or someone you know needs help, call the church office at 480-981-3833 and you will be directed to one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Marie Pettegrew, Verna Berndt, Judy Dunn and Dean Richardson.



METAMORPHIS

A benediction given by Gene Barnes on March 14, 2010

Like the caterpillar...clinging tightly to the tree,
We hold to--what seems like--our security...
Tenaciously clinging, to the life we possess...
Longing for something or someone...our life to bless.

The caterpillar's dilemma, by nature, is solved.
The transformation to butterfly... is soon resolved.
Not because the butterfly... said 'yes' in its mind, but by
the power of nature... and nature's design.

We, like the caterpillar, have a future so bold...
Except for the choosing, we never unfold.
By accepting God's promise, we burst at the seams.
Transformed by the hope... we find in God's dreams.

So loosen your grip on your life as it is...
Open up to God's generosity, the future is His.
Accept life abundant, its fullness
embrace.

As you grow in Christ's image and live
by God's grace.





A STORY OF STEWARDSHIP

Submitted by Marilyn Husted,
Co-chair of
Stewardship Committee

"I'm home!" This was Barbara Miller's reaction after attending just a few of our

7:45 am worship services. Barbara had attended a small church in her Ohio hometown for a long time before moving to Mesa. She started going to a large church nearby but never felt truly welcome. She loved the warm, friendly attitude of RMUMC and decided this would be her church home.

Barbara is giving her time and talent as the director of "Beneath the Upper Room," a drama which will be presented on **Holy Thursday, April 1, at 7:00 pm** in our Worship Center. This is a story about Jesus' Last Supper according to the women who prepared and served the meal.

The playwright, Kevin M. Reese, states that he wanted to present the well-known story in a new way, from a new angle, and from a different perspective. More than 25 churches from across the country will present the drama on Holy Thursday this year.

Barbara has assembled a cast of 16 members of the church (10 women, 3 men, and 3 youth) who have been practicing their roles each week. "This is something I really enjoy doing," said Barbara when asked why she decided to take on this role. "Besides, I can't say 'no' to Pastor Mary. She wanted to present the message in a different way to our congregation and guests."

Barbara's background is a natural for this undertaking. As a 7th and 8th grade teacher, Barbara directed a number of school plays. When she retired and moved to Dreamland Villa, she was in charge of their variety show for four years. The shows featured more than 35 residents who did musical numbers and skits.

Barbara exemplifies the importance of Stewardship in other ways. She's the Co-chair of the Lay Leadership Committee, the Chairperson of Faith Circle, and she helps serve communion at the 7:45 am worship service. She also Co-chaired the recent church-wide effort to have portraits taken for the church directory, more than doubling the number of participants from the previous publication.

"I receive more than I can possibly give," said Barbara when asked how the church has affected her life.

This is what Stewardship is all about!



Submitted by Donna Kohlhase
Mission Committee Chair

We are pleased to announce that RMUMC has an **Emergency Response Program** that will be coordinated by **Nick Whittecar**. He has been in touch with the Red Cross, the Mesa Fire Dept,

and UMCOR--the United Methodist Committee on Relief. When local, national or global emergencies occur, he will make immediate contact to find out what the need is and get the word out in a timely manner so that our congregation can respond.

At EDGE nights, many of you heard from the Petersens about the financial needs of the two Methodist churches in Agua Prieta, Mexico, who diligently support the mission needs of their own Conference, but are struggling to pay their pastors, keep their health clinic open, and keep the lights on. The Desert Southwest Conference has been keeping these two churches afloat. Our Mission Committee has decided to respond to their financial need by subsidizing the sliding scale financial commitment our Conference made for this mission. Our goal is to donate \$1,200 in 2010. Here are several ways that you can help us reach this goal:

- Purchase **Fair Trade products**. We have used our profits for Agua Prieta programs and will continue to do this in the future. In addition to coffee, check out our delicious chocolates and teas -- new products are available each month. Next sale date is **April 25**.
- New from Agua Prieta – **variety note cards!** There are 12 note cards in a package for \$9. The cards are handmade by the women of Agua Prieta and all proceeds go back to Agua Prieta.
- If your group is looking for a program to financially **sponsor**, Mission Committee would be happy to attend your meeting and discuss this Mexican Mission.
- **Donations** are always welcome. Make your check out to RMUMC and write "Agua Prieta Missions" on the envelope.
- The committee is planning a **work project** to Agua Prieta the weekend of **April 16-18**. Watch for more information on this trip.

Habitat for Humanity: There will be an East Valley project starting in September. All willing workers are needed to help build this new Habitat home. Look for more information as it becomes available this summer.

Compassion International: Sponsoring a child is a win/win proposition. You are rewarded with letters and pictures from your child. Plus, the children, as well as their families, benefit greatly from your gifts. Look for information about Compassion International and how you can be a sponsor at the Fair Trade sales table.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

(Articles submitted by Sue Killebrew)

OUR PURPOSE

*The organized unit of United Methodist Women is a community of women whose **PURPOSE** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

UMW UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 3 – 9:00 am – Executive Meeting

Saturday, April 10 – 9:00 am – Day Apart with tour of UMOM New Day Center in Phoenix

Friday, April 30 – Sunday, May 2 – UMW Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri

DID YOU KNOW...

...ABOUT OUR GOALS?

Red Mountain UMW works not only to support global missions, but also to improve many areas of the church. Last year, the UMW paid for the replacement of the kitchen island countertop in the Madsen Hall kitchen. One of our future goals is to replace the countertops that remain.

...ABOUT OUR READING PROGRAM?

Have you read an inspirational book lately?

You can be recognized for the books you read by participating in the UMW Reading Program. You will find the books on the cart located in Madsen Hall. When you check out a book to read, be sure to fill out the card with your name. Please only take one book at a time and return them in a timely manner so that others may enjoy them also. All books focus on enhancing and growing in spirituality, concerns for social action and community, and missions which are all an integral part of the purpose of United Methodist Women. The more we know about each of these areas of concern, the better equipped we are to understand and help.



What are Circles?

Circles are small groups of women who focus on the overall mission, purpose and goals of the UMW. These small groups (*Circles*) are a part of the Red Mountain UMC (*Local Unit*) which is a part of the greater UMW organization (*National Unit*). Please call unit President Anne Mason at 480-357-7955 for information on how to become part of the unit and join a circle. **All circles welcome any women to join them at any time.**

APRIL CIRCLE MEETINGS

Faith Circle: Tuesday, April 13 -- 6:00 p.m. –

Hostess: Kay Ulmer (Chairpersons Lynn Martin and Barb Miller)

Grace Circle: Tuesday, April 13 -- 6:30 pm --

Hostess: Mabel Eley in Rooms 203/204 (Chairperson Sue Killebrew)

Hope Circle: Thursday, April 15 – 9:15 am –

Hostess: Myra Moir in Madsen Hall (Chairperson Myra Moir)

Rebecca Circle: Thursday, April 15 – 11:30 am –

Springdale Care Center (Chairperson Verna Berndt)

Doves Circle: Thursday, April 15 -- 1:00 pm –

Hostess: Linda Thistlethwaite (Luncheon) (Chairperson Janet Crippen)

Irene Circle: Wednesday, April 21 – 9:30 am –

Hostesses: Linda Munsil and Dorothy Wolfe in Madsen Hall (Chairperson Betty Rose)

UMW SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

The UMW of Red Mountain will continue to support the following Social Action Projects.

CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS: Bring your Campbell soup labels and these participating labels--Franco-American, Spaghettios, Swanson, V8 beverages, Prego, and Pepperidge Farm—and place them in the large soup cans located on the patio and in Madsen Hall. We are happy to announce that labels totaling 429 points have been taken to the Wesley Community Center in Phoenix so far this year. Thanks to all who have brought them and we urge you to continue bringing them. Thanks to **Gladys Stricker** for sorting and counting them!

TENNIS SHOES: Look for the collection container on the patio each Sunday for those old and tired out tennis shoes. These shoes will be delivered to the drop site in Tempe to support the Nike Shoe Recycling Project. The shoes are used to build tracks in schools and gyms. Please support the United Methodist Women and recycle these items in an earth-friendly way!



WOMEN OF SERVICE

The UMW theme for this year is “Women of Service”. The focus each month is on two women who have been instrumental in their service to United Methodist Women and/or Red Mountain UMC. This month we honor **Linda Munsil** and **Verna Berndt** for their active involvement with the United Methodist Women.

LINDA MUNSIL became a part of UMW in 1966 at Los Arcos UMC in Scottsdale before moving to Mesa. Linda has served on the Conference UMW team as Social Action Coordinator and currently serves as Chairperson of the Conference Nominating Committee. She also served four years on the Jurisdictional Corps Planning Group and has been both Assistant Dean and Dean of the School of Christian Mission.

Linda grew up in California where her father was a Methodist minister. She met her husband, Lee, at a Methodist Church in Honolulu, Hawaii while spending the summer living at a YWCA and working in a pineapple factory. Lee was taking thermodynamics at the University of Hawaii. They have three sons and 13 grandchildren, all living in the Valley of the Sun.

Lee and Linda joined Red Mountain UMC when they moved to Mesa from Scottsdale because they liked the pastor, Rev. Herb Osman, and the friendly people at Red Mountain. She is a member of Irene Circle which is the second circle formed (after Doves). Linda was asked to start a new circle and she served as the chairperson for the first ten years. She has also been President and Vice-President of our local unit.

Linda has always enjoyed being a part of UMW. She feels UMW has done a lot of wonderful things for the local church and for people around the world. It is a mission organization that gets involved in social issues and works to bring justice in the world. UMW women are very supportive of one another, and whenever anyone has a need, the UMW is there to help.

Linda’s church involvement has been on the Board of Trustees, the Worship Committee, and both she and Lee have been Lay Leaders.

VERNA BERNDT grew up on a farm in North Dakota. She met her husband Clint in the 7th grade while attending a Sunday School class at a Baptist church. They have been married 55 years and have been blessed with three children and have five grandsons.

In 1996, Verna’s sister invited them to Arizona for a visit and they liked it so much, they decided to stay.

Her sister, Doris Broschat, invited them to come to Red Mountain UMC and, again, they liked it so much, they decided to stay. Verna became active by joining the Chancel Choir. She sang tenor in the choir for many years. Soon, she became friends with many in the Rebecca Circle. Betty Volzer, who lived in the same “village” as the Berndts, encouraged Verna to come to a meeting and she became an active part of the group. Verna has been very active in the UMW and served as the unit UMW President for three years. Since then, she has served as chairperson of Rebecca Circle and she continues to fill that position.

Verna has been very impressed with how much Red Mountain UMW is involved with its mission work, such as United Methodist Outreach Ministry and the Wesley Community Center, not to mention all the activities at the church. When Stephen Ministry was introduced, Verna felt the call to become a Stephen Minister. She and Clint also serve as lay readers, ushers, greeters and are hosts for the coffee fellowship time.



MISSION MOMENTS

*Submitted by Carolyn Ball
from the Prayer Calendar*

I’m engaged in ethnic ministry, particularly the Filipino component of the Asian-American ministry of the

United Methodist Church. The main components of my ministry are leadership and project development. The main goals of my ministry coincide with the thrusts of the ethnic caucus I work in: promote church growth, especially one that consciously draws from the wellsprings of the Philippine and Filipino-American heritage, and encourage our constituency to engage in social justice advocacy.

Daniel Garibay, Home Missioner, National Association of Filipino-American United Methodists

At The New Path, Inc. and Ginghamburg United Methodist Church our primary mission is engaging in ministry with the poor. If we are not serving the poor, we are not engaging the whole Gospel. Through new initiatives such as the Circles Campaign and research being done by Dr. Ruby Payne, we are striving to bring an end to poverty through building relationships and understanding between social and economic classes.

Deaconess Marcia Florkey, Ginghamburg United Methodist Church, Tipp City, Ohio

DRIVERS NEEDED

Drivers are needed for transporting our homebound members to the 9:00 am worship service each week. The more drivers we have available, the less number of times each person will have to drive. Please contact Cris at the church office if you can help!



Phil Hartley, Treasurer



We are getting off to a very good start for a financially successful year at Red Mountain. Our General Ministries Fund is in the black even after paying all our end of 2009 and beginning of the 2010 bills. I don't mean to say that we have "clear sailing" from here on out, but we are setting a good pace to get through the summer doldrums (to use another sailing term) in fairly good shape.

General Ministries Fund

	<u>Feb '10</u>	<u>Feb '09</u>	<u>Total to date '10</u>	<u>Total to date '09</u>
INCOME:	\$ 46,618	\$ 40,357	\$ 99,631	\$ 84,265
EXPENSES:	\$ 41,821	\$ 41,238	\$ 98,725	\$ 103,642
CHANGE:	\$ 4,797	-\$ 881	\$ 906	-\$ 19,377

We have received \$10,000 more this year in our Mortgage Fund compared to the same time last year. I believe this is due in part to the confusion last year with our new estimate of giving procedures. January was a very good month this year and very poor last year. I believe we can get back on track to get this account into a positive state.

Mortgage Fund

	<u>Feb '10</u>	
Received:	\$ 10,819	Fund Balance: (\$3,568)
Dispersed:		
Interest:	\$ 7,014	Total Mortgage
Principal:	\$ 6,256	Principal: \$1,118,764
Monthly Mortgage:	\$ 13,270	
Shortage	\$ 2,451	

While the rest of the country is still in winter, we are enjoying the coming of spring. (Have you seen those temperatures in Florida? My two brothers live there and Evy does not like for me to gloat over the phone but I can't help it!) I hear that the wild flower production here will be spectacular this spring due to all the rain we have had.

I believe that our church is experiencing many blessings for which we can all be grateful. We have our EDGE nights that offer a time for us to enjoy meeting others over a casual, nutritious meal. Then we can join one of the many groups that are offered where we can learn or share gifts and talents with others. I'm also impressed with the difference a couple of coats of paint have made to the beauty of our Worship Center. Thanks Trustees

and Jim Hooker for all you do. And I can't wait to get my new directory! In a growing church like ours, it is so important to have an up-to-date directory. Yet I know it takes a lot of time and effort to get the job done. The volunteers have done a wonderful job. Much thanks to them. We all have so much to be thankful for, don't we? So, don't keep it inside! Praise God and say "thank you" to all the people who are responsible for all of our many blessings.



TWO REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD READ THIS COLUMN!

*Submitted by Roy Schlessman
Chairperson of Planned Giving*

ONE: If you are leaving town (*lucky enough to go north for the summer*):

Ask your home-town attorney to tell you about a **Retained Life Estate**. *Hint: It is a plan that may benefit you and RMUMC by a deed transfer for a future interest in a personal residence, farm or vacation home. Check it out! You have nothing to lose!*

#TWO: For those of us (*unlucky ones?*) **who do not escape the heat:**

Come to the next **E.D.G.E. Nights** class "Financial Planning for the Regular Person" a set of workshops that will cover basic financial planning and investment techniques. The five-week session begins on **Wednesday, April 14** and goes through **Wednesday, May 12**.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Navigating the current market turmoil
- Mortgage issues
- Long-term care
- Money smarts
- Assisted living
- Social Security
- Nursing Homes
- Health Insurance
- Planning for loved ones with special needs
- Any other topics you want to know about

Look for more information about E.D.G.E. Nights and registration in the weeks ahead.



Recently In the Hospital

Wally Abraham
David Bott
Georgia Meyer
George Blare

Denny Martinsen
Nicole Moses
Grace Hinman
Jenny Peterson



*Bearded, courageous, learned, and wise, the first wise men looked to the heavens, studied the stars, and believed God's call to trek across uncharted deserts to come to the place where the star shone above. We at Red Mountain United Methodist Church are thankful and blessed that our own bearded wise man, **Dr. Larry Norris**, is here with us. He too observes the heavens and follows the star.*

Larry and his twin brother Terry, were born in Midland, Texas, into an Air Force family. When Larry was twelve years old his father was tragically killed in a B-47 airplane crash. His mother moved the family to Michigan. In high school Larry was a track star, running the 880 and winning two state titles. His favorite subjects were science and math. Larry built his own telescope and searched the heavens, observing the stars. He would not know then that one day the star would lead him across faraway deserts into the American Southwest.

His stepfather, a man of high character and a Methodist pastor, left an indelible mark of goodness and love upon Larry. After earning his degree from Michigan State University, Larry followed his heart to Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky. After graduation he returned to Michigan to teach psychology and serve in a Congregational Church. One day a telephone call from a friend at Velda Rose UMC changed forever the direction of Larry's life. Of course, first he had to locate Mesa, Arizona on a map.

Nearly four decades have passed since that call in August of 1971. Larry served for five years as Associate Pastor at Velda Rose before returning to Michigan State to earn his Doctorate degree. When he returned to Arizona, something else was pulling on his heart, something he could not yet comprehend, something reflected in his dreams, something sure and clear that could not be shaken. Larry's new call was to work with Native Americans. As a teacher and administrator Larry guided and educated young Native Americans into becoming Christian leaders, teachers and pastors. He taught at Cook College and Theological Seminary in Tempe, Arizona, for 25 years. During the last five years he served as the College President. Larry treasures the lessons he learned from his students and his friendships from the tribes across the land.

Dr. Norris is leaving now, a new path beckons. "Go ahead, turn around, see the shape of your footprints in the sand". Larry has been appointed as the Senior Pastor at Central UMC in Phoenix beginning July 1, 2010. The stars in the heavens shine brightly upon his beautiful wife Debbie. In 1989, Larry and Debbie were married at RMUMC. During their years here, they have blessed us with their teaching, music, sermons, and most of all their friendship and their wonderful family. We will miss both Larry and Debbie. Our love and best wishes go with them.



Herb Osman – loss of his brother

Linda Thistlethwaite – loss of her mother



Notes from our church family...

*Thank you for the prayers spoken for my son Randy during his illness and surgery. His reports have been good. God bless all of you. **Harriett Wright***

*To the Red Mountain family, "You're Terrific!" Thanks for visits, calls, concern! I should be jigging soon (or as soon as I learn how to jig). Rejoicing in the Lord for all of you,
Maudy and Myron Williams*

*The Church Directory Committee would like to thank all who participated in the picture taking for our new church directory. There were over 245 settings—a fantastic turnout! A special "thank you" to those ladies who were hostesses -- **Carolyn Ball, Pat Barrows, Sheri Kent, Marsha Lehman, Bev Maynard, Myra Moir, Maxine Rathjen, Betty Rose, Bonnie Woodward** -- all the "front desk girls" who made phone calls to set up appointments, and, lastly, **Pastor Mary**, our go-between with Olan Mills. Thank you for all your help!
Barbara Miller and Elaine Troyer, Co-Chairpersons*


Please remember...

When you change your mailing address, your phone number or your e-mail address, please notify the church office. Also, let us know of births, deaths, marriages, hospitalizations or omissions of birthdays or anniversaries. Call the church office at 480-981-3833 so we can keep our database current. Thanks!



April

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO . . .

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|---|---|---|
| 1 | Daiton Wright | 15 | Karen Chambers
Joyce Pearce | 29 | Dorothy Tangeman |
| 2 | Cade Miller
Christopher Webb | 16 | Khrystyl Davis
Caitlyn Holste | 30 | Carol Byerley
Samantha Horsburgh |
| 4 | Lillian Brumbaugh
Pat Harman | 17 | Sarah Downin
Stewart Earl
Katrina Herron
Lauren Moses
Bob Sweet |  | |
| 5 | Willie Muhlenberg | 18 | Michelle Civalier
Bonnie Smith | | |
| 7 | A. Jean Clarkson
Laura Davis | 19 | Mackenzie Moore
Stephen Wibe | | |
| 8 | Larry Larson
David Latour
Amber McCall
Bonnie Woodward | 20 | Darlene McRoberts
Norma Melaven
Delight Smith | | |
| 9 | Nicolas Scarff | 21 | Vicki Hooker
Madelyn Knowles
Reisha Magtanong
Joan McKeown
Danielle Shubert
Stephen Sturgell | | |
| 10 | Adam Dutton
Michelle Dutton
Martha King | 22 | Parker Guss
Charles Larson | | |
| 11 | Lonnie Antwiler
Samantha Clark | 23 | Linda Lease | | |
| 12 | Heather Godfrey
Drew Gregory
Patrick Roehrig
Ray Sandoval | 25 | Leah Bullis
Zelphia Collum
Phil Hartley | | |
| 13 | John Park III
Karla Scarff | 26 | Keely Fetter
Blair Moses
Betsy Smith | | |
| 14 | Leif Arnold
Jacob Franklin
John Park
Judith Sturgell | 27 | Justin Kramer | | |
| | | 28 | Katy Barnes
James Harvey
Erik Krouse | 1 | <i>Steven and Marcia Tharp</i>
-- 20 years |
| | | | | 6 | <i>Michael and Dawn McNamee</i>
-- 14 years |
| | | | | 7 | <i>Doug and Betty Snover</i>
-- 60 years |
| | | | | 8 | <i>Marvin and Jenny Peterson</i>
-- 57 years |
| | | | | 9 | <i>Ronald and Donna Wolfe</i>
-- 44 years |
| | | | | 11 | <i>Charley and Janet Thompson</i>
-- 2 years |
| | | | | 13 | <i>Larry and Laura Davis</i>
-- 19 years |
| | | | | 15 | <i>Paul and Sara Vara</i>
-- 5 years |
| | | | | 18 | <i>Dean and Phyllis Richardson</i>
-- 40 years |
| | | | | 19 | <i>Daniel and Susan Griffin</i>
-- 13 years |
| | | | | 23 | <i>Jimmie and Trena Payne</i>
-- 22 years
<i>James and Elaine Troyer</i>
-- 55 years |
| | | | | 26 | <i>Jerry and Barbara Pendergrass</i>
--54 years |

RED MOUNTAIN MATTERS

A publication of Red Mountain United Methodist Church
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Red Mountain United Methodist Church connects people with God
in order that they may grow in the Spirit and Love of Christ.

APRIL, 2010

VOLUME 29

No. 4

RMUMC STAFF

Rev. Mary M. Bullis, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dorothy Saunders-Perez, Associate Pastor
Peter Gutierrez, Membership/Bookkeeper Specialist
Cris Bass, Administrative Assistant
John Durkin, Youth Director
Debbie Hollenbach, Director of Traditional Music
and Christian Discipleship Coordinator
Brock Walters, Contemporary Worship Leader
Ken Winland, Organist
Kathy Wooton, Handbell Choirs
Phyllis Richardson, Children's Choirs Coordinator
Erin Gray, Preschool Director
Lloyd and Lorene Hungerford, Custodians
Frank Moir, Custodian
Laura Lucas, Nursery Attendant

WORSHIP TIMES ON SUNDAY:

7:45 a.m. – Coffee House Worship
(in Madsen Hall)
9:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship
10:30 a.m. – Contemporary Worship

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WEB SITE: www.rmumc.com
OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY – THURSDAY
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
FRIDAY
8:00 am – 4:00 pm



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