



Red Mountain Matters

NOVEMBER, 2011

VOLUME 30

NO. 11

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

I love November! The weather is finally getting cooler. Our winter residents, whom we have been missing all summer, are beginning to return. And we have the Thanksgiving holiday to look forward to.

Thanksgiving is officially a national holiday. As Christians, however, Thanksgiving has additional meaning for us. First of all, we know *who* to thank. We know that everything we have, including life itself, is a gift from our loving God. Secondly, we know that we are called to *share* the gifts that God has given us. We are blessed to be a blessing to others.

The church I grew up in sang the same offering response every single Sunday: *"All things come of thee, O Lord; and of thine own have we given thee."* We sang it so often, it will be stuck in my head forever. But for that, I am grateful, for I will never forget that we are blessed in order to be a blessing. Everything we have comes from God, and as it belongs to God already, we are called to give it back, by sharing it with others. I want to lift up three particular opportunities we have this month to be a blessing to others:

1. Make a financial commitment to Christ by filling out a 2012 Commitment Card. Our stewardship theme this year is *Making A Difference . . . Reaching Out*. Everything we give makes a difference in people's lives -- here and around the world. Invest your money in things that really matter.
2. Invite someone to join you for our church Thanksgiving meal on **Sunday, November 20**. Do you know of someone, a friend, relative, co-worker or neighbor, who doesn't have family in the area, or would enjoy being part of a community of love and grace for a Thanksgiving meal? Reach out and make a difference in their lives.
3. Make your Advent/Christmas celebration truly be about Jesus. As Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us, Christmas is not *your* birthday. Take the "Alternative Christmas" challenge to give away as much as you will spend on your family this Christmas.

One opportunity we have is to drill a well to provide the people in Abul, South Sudan with clean water. On **November 20**, we will have the pleasure of meeting John Akuar, one of the "lost boys of Sudan." *Read his story below.....*

We are truly blessed to be a blessing,
Pastor Mary



"I remember that night in 1987 very well. Some other children and I stayed up late singing and dancing. It was almost eleven o'clock before we got to sleep. The night was calm and nice. We slept beneath the stars. At four o'clock in the morning we were awakened by guns shooting. My mother came to me with a shirt and told me to put it on and run. The government troops were attacking our village of Abul. I ran off toward the East by myself. That was the last time I saw my mother." -- John Akuar

John Akuar is a member of Saint Francis United Methodist Church in Tucson. He fled Abul, his village in Southern Sudan, when he was only eight years old. He met up with other "Lost Boys of Sudan" and marched hundreds of miles, first into Ethiopia, and then, finally, to the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya where he lived for several years. John came to Tucson, Arizona in 2004. He is now a U.S. citizen. He graduated from the University of Arizona in December, 2010 with a degree in International Studies. John's wish is to give back to his village of Abul. This is expressed best in John's own words. "God brought me through all these challenges so that I could one day help my people."



One of John's priorities is to drill wells in Abul and surrounding villages. Women walk five miles each day to fetch water from a local river. The water is murky and contaminated and can cause disease and death. Come hear John share in a Children's Moment about the difference clean water can make in his country.

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DOT... (Or Dorothy)

WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE!

I wish I had a nickel for every time I have been asked where Toto is. Growing up with the same name as a movie character was fun, although at times coming up with answers for the questions people asked could be a challenge. I have dealt with "Wizard of Oz" questions all my life, and I became accustomed to answering these kinds of questions at an early age. I was quite young when I decided it would be more fun to come up with creative responses to people's questions than to tell them I didn't have a dog named Toto. When I was six years old we visited Longhorn State Park in Texas while on a family vacation. When a couple of kids asked whether I was the real Dorothy from the *Wizard of Oz*, I almost had them convinced that I was.



Photo Credit: www.KarenFRose.com
<http://kfrose.blogspot.com>

Last month I had the opportunity to visit Kansas for the first time, and on the way back to the airport in Kansas City, Missouri, I finally had the opportunity to say, "We're not in Kansas anymore!" and have it literally be true. The trip to the Church of the Resurrection Leadership Institute in Leawood, Kansas, was remarkable for many reasons far beyond the thrill of visiting the starting point of Dorothy's journey to Oz. It was a wonderful opportunity for a team from our church to be renewed, invigorated, and inspired by wonderful workshops and dynamic speakers. I am grateful for **Nick Whittecar, Amber McCall, and Marsha Lehman** who attended and helped to make this a meaningful learning opportunity that will benefit the ministry of our church now and into the future.

In the *Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy exclaims, "We're not in Kansas anymore," acknowledging that they are in a new and radically different place. Things are not the same as they were before. We may not be in Kansas anymore, but we brought back a desire to find ways to incorporate the things we learned into our daily lives and into the ministry of our church.

Where and how do we as individuals and as a congregation sense God calling us to a new place and a new way of being? Perhaps it is in strengthening our worship, extending care and concern to persons in our church and community, or reconsidering the way we plan for our Christmas giving. I wonder how God might challenge us to alternative holiday celebrations through which we might seek to find ways to make our Christmas giving a way of giving to God.

As we experience God's transformation, we acknowledge that we are in a new place, and nothing will ever be the same again. May God transform us through worship and meaningful spiritual formation experiences so that our lives, our ministries, and our world might be transformed. Thanks be to God!

Peace, Dot ☺

Sunday Worship Services
7:45, 9:00 & 10:30 am
YOURS ARE THE HANDS OF CHRIST

Sunday, November 6 *John 20:19-25*

All Saints Celebration

The Hands of Christ – Pierced Hands

“He was wounded for our transgressions.” (Isaiah 53:5)

When the risen Christ appeared to the disciples in the room where they were staying, he showed them his wounded hands and side. Jesus’ pierced hands are extensions of the heart of God, a heart overflowing with compassion and love.

Sunday, November 13 *John 21:1-17*

The Hands of Christ – Sending Hands

After a long night of fishing on the Sea of Galilee, the disciples discover the risen Christ on the shore, cooking breakfast for them. After feeding the disciples, Christ sends them out to feed and care for others, commissioning Peter to “feed my sheep, tend my lambs.”

Sunday, November 20 *Luke 24:44-53*

Consecration Sunday

The Hands of Christ – Blessing Hands

After the risen Christ commissions the disciples, he leads them to Bethany, and lifting his hands, he blesses them, and then ascends to heaven. On this Thanksgiving Sunday, we give thanks for all the blessings God has given us, especially the blessings we receive through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**ADVENT -- THE JOURNEY:
WALKING THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM**

Sunday, November 27 *Luke 1:26-38*

First Sunday in Advent

Mary of Nazareth

As we begin our Advent journey toward the manger, we remember the little town of Nazareth and God’s choice of a young woman from this humble village, through whom God would do God’s greatest work. As with Mary’s willing heart, may we, too, respond, “Here I am, Lord; use me according to your will.”

HANGING OF THE GREENS



Join us on **Sunday, November 27**, for the annual **Hanging of the Greens** as we decorate the church campus inside and out for the Advent and Christmas Season. We will start at **2:00 pm** and follow with a light supper at **5:15 pm**. Please feel free to come at any time during the afternoon. **All** ages are welcome as we work together to bring the beauty of the Christmas season to life through lights, wreaths, garland,

ribbon, and trees. You can volunteer to participate by filling-out and turning-in the “Hanging of the Greens” bulletin insert this month or you may e-mail Debbie Hollenbach at Debbie.Hollenbach@rmumc.com.



THE JOURNEY

Our theme for the Advent/Christmas season, which begins **November 27**, will be **The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem.**

We will journey together from the peasant village of Nazareth, birthplace of Mary, to the little town of Bethlehem, the town of Joseph’s heritage. As we journey, we will reflect on Mary’s response to God’s “impossible to believe” call in her life, and on Joseph’s merciful and graceful way of handling this surprise. Along the way, we will reflect on our own journeys of faith, some difficult, some joyful, as we seek to follow God. On Christmas Day, we will arrive at the manger to hear the most wonderful news ever told.

**OPERATION
CHRISTMAS CHILD**

The children of RMUMC are participating in the mission project **Operation Christmas Child**. This ministry seeks to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to children around the world and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. You can help the children support this project by bringing these items to church:



- § **TOYS** -- balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, yo-yos, harmonicas, jump ropes, Slinky®, etc.
- § **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** -- pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, writing pads or paper, coloring books, etc.
- § **HYGIENE ITEMS** -- toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.
- § **OTHER ITEMS** -- T-shirts, socks, ball caps, hair clips, sunglasses
- § **SHOEBOXES**
- § **FINANCIAL DONATIONS** -- We will need \$7 for each shoebox sent. To make a donation, please put it in an envelope marked “Operation Christmas Child” and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering on Sunday.

Please bring your gifts to the church and place them in the basket in the entryway to the Worship Center, in Madsen Hall, or in the church office **on or before November 13**. Thank you for your gifts and support!

-- To find out more about this project or Operation Christmas Child, visit www.RMUMC.com and click on “Children’s Mission Project” under “Children & Youth.”

November November

THANKSGIVING DINNER

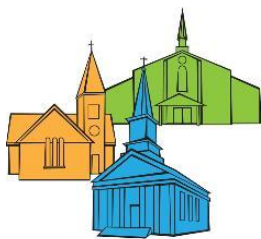
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

11:30 a.m. in Madsen Hall



Bring your family and friends and join your church family in a traditional Thanksgiving meal on **Sunday, November 20**. The church will provide the turkey and dressing, potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls, vegetable, dessert and drink. All you need to do is be here! You may help with the meal by cooking a turkey (which is provided!), donating a pie, and/or helping in the kitchen on **Saturday, November 19, or Sunday, November 20**. Please indicate on the Sunday bulletin insert or call the church office to offer your help.

We also need a fairly accurate count and would like to know if you plan to attend. If you have not responded that you will be here, please call the church office. Our hope is that the entire church family, as well as guests, will be with us that morning to celebrate God's generosity.



Church Conference

NEW FORUM FOR CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our Church Conference, our annual meeting with the District Superintendent, will be in a different forum this year. It will be as part of a "Cluster Charge Conference." All are invited to come to Velda Rose United Methodist Church at

2:00 pm on Sunday, November 20, where several churches will be celebrating their church conferences together. As we share the highlights of our ministry in 2011, and lift up our goals for ministry in 2012, we will also have the opportunity to hear about the ministries of other United Methodist churches in our area. We will still be conducting some of our "official" church business such as electing church leaders, but the wider forum will allow for a greater flow of ideas and the chance to celebrate together.

Following our church Thanksgiving meal join the caravan to go the short distance to Velda Rose UMC, located at 5540 E. Main Street in Mesa.

Holiday Boutique

Friday, November 4 and

Saturday, November 5

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Madsen Hall --

**Come and shop at the
best boutique in town!**

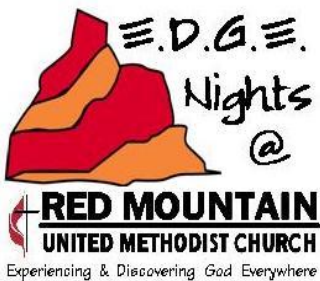
Shop early so you can get the best bargains at the annual Holiday Boutique. You can find great gift ideas and some one-of-a-kind items that will be offered in a silent auction! Lots of craft items will be available, so don't miss out! Get a jump on your Christmas shopping, after all it is only seven weeks away!

The United Methodist Women have been very busy baking up delicious treats for their annual bake sale, held at the same time as the Holiday Boutique. Buy and support their mission projects.

And if you are looking for a good book to read or give to a friend, the women are also offering the best used-books at real bargain prices. Look for them in the Youth Center.

POWER OF PRAYER

Beginning November 1, Power of Prayer will begin a new book study, "Praying in the Messiness of Life." The group meets **each Tuesday morning** to pray for our congregation, our community, our country and our world. They meet in the Gathering Room, just inside the Worship Center, at **9:30 am**. All are welcome to attend and be part of this powerful group.



E.D.G.E. NIGHTS
(Experience and Discover God Everywhere)

SPECIAL ADVENT SESSION OF E.D.G.E. NIGHTS BEGINS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

The current E.D.G.E. Session II classes continue through **November 16**. You can still be part of Session II, with such classes as Watercolor, Creation Bible Study, How to Use your Computer, Writing your Story, Zumba and Yoga. Class descriptions are on the web site, www.RMUMC.com. After a break for the Thanksgiving holiday, a special three-week Advent session of E.D.G.E. Nights will begin on **November 30**.

ARTSedge – 4:00 pm, November 30 and December 7:

Children's **ARTSedge** is meeting at the Camel Lot. The children will be preparing for and rehearsing the Christmas musical "*Camel Lot (Don't Miss the Manger)*," which they will present on **Sunday, December 11, at 4:00 pm** for the congregation and community.

Dinner: 5:15 – 5:45 pm in Madsen Hall

E.D.G.E. Nights November 30 and December 7:

SPK Preschool and SPK Elementary (Shout Praises Kids!) 6:00 – 7:00 pm -- A fun-filled hour of Bible stories and projects, which includes additional rehearsal for the Christmas musical, "*Camel Lot (Don't Miss the Manger)*."

Teen/Tween Fellowship 6:00 – 7:00 pm -- Led by Youth Director, John Durkin. Enjoy a fun time of fellowship, games, Bible study and faith sharing.

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem 6:00 – 7:30 pm -- This Bible study, led by Pastor Mary, will take us on the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The DVD-based study, filmed on location in the Holy Land, includes historical information, archaeological findings and personal reflections. Following the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and others, we will gain insight into our own journeys with Christ.

Financial Peace University (FPU) 6:00 – 7:30 pm --
This class is continuing through December 7.

1st – 4th Grade Activity Room 7:05 – 8:00 pm --
Supervised time for children with board games, videos, and a time to do homework.

5th - 6th Grade Fellowship 7:05 – 8:30 pm -- Led by Sue Webb. A fun combination of recreational games, faith-building stories and activities.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:05 – 9:00 pm -- Choir rehearsal will include preparation for the Christmas Musical and Drama, "*Searching for the King*," which will be presented at all three worship services on **Sunday, December 18**. (see additional article on page 6)

Special E.D.G.E. Night Advent Celebration
December 14 at 6:00 pm

All Church Advent Celebration 6:00 – 7:00 pm --
Following dinner at 5:15 pm, all ages are invited to an Advent Celebration in Madsen Hall, which will include activities, crafts and Christmas carols.

Children/Youth

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
THEMES: HOPE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

a TIME
of HOPE

This month our children will learn about Joseph and his amazing coat of many colors! And that is just the beginning! Come on Sundays and find out the rest of the story and discover

the hope that God brings.

November 6: Joseph the Dreamer -- *God has a good plan for each of us*

November 13: Joseph in Egypt -- *God is with us in difficult times*

November 20: Joseph and His Brothers Reunited -- *God helps us do the right thing*

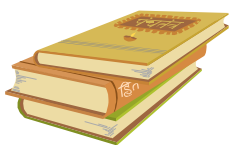
November 27: Light in the Darkness -- *Jesus Is the Light of the World*

CONFIRMATION 2011-2012

What do you believe? What is your story? What is God's story? What does the story of Jesus have to do with us?

Youth and families are invited to an orientation to the Confirmation program on **Sunday, November 13, at 12:00 pm** in Room 202. Any youth in seventh and eighth grade or older who want to explore and affirm their faith are welcome to come with their family and find out what Confirmation is all about. Plan to come early and share in the pizza lunch in Madsen Hall at **11:30 am**. Contact Pastor Dot at the church office for further information





NEW BOOK CLUB

A new book club is starting at the church on **Monday, November 7 at 2:00 pm** in the Gathering Room.

The first book to be discussed is “This Child Will Be Great” by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia and recent Nobel Peace Prize recipient. The club will meet on the first Monday of each month led by Bobbi Heppe at 480-313-1850 or email heppeb@yahoo.com.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP/CLASSICS

Do you remember when the radio was the only electronic means of entertainment we had in our homes? Well, whether you remember the golden age of radio shows or you just won't admit to it, you won't want to miss this unique evening of fun with the Adult Fellowship/Classics. Bring a dish to share and join us on **Saturday, November 12**, starting at **5:30 pm**, for a potluck dinner in Madsen Hall. Then, following dinner, we will experience two very special radio stories presented by a local group called "Radiozona". Since it is Veteran's Day weekend, the group will be presenting a World War II episode/story starring Fibber McGee and Molly (remember them?). Their second episode will be from the series “Our Miss Brooks” with lots of humor concerning a Thanksgiving dinner. What could possibly go wrong? Look for a table to sign up on **Sundays, October 30 and November 6**. Cost is our usual \$2 per person. All are welcome to come join the fun and discover what entertainment is all about! Information on all of the upcoming Adult Fellowship events can be found on the website, www.RMUMC.com, under the “Fellowship” tab or contact Sue Killebrew at skillebrew@gmail.com.



GOLF TOURNAMENT



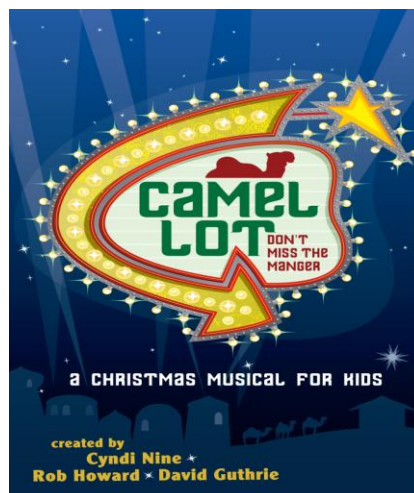
Men!! Here is an activity just for you! The Red Mountain United Methodist Men golf tournament takes place on **Saturday, November 19**, at Augusta Ranch Golf Course. The proceeds from the tournament will be used to support Red Mountain's Youth Mission Projects. The cost is \$50

per player, which includes your green fee, range balls, golf cart, prizes, and, of course, lunch. There will also be tee prizes for everyone who enters! The format will be a modified scramble. Players may choose to play "real" golf or they can play a scramble format where they choose the best shot of their group and play from that location until they hole out. There will be prizes for best team score and closest-to-the pin. Those playing "real" golf can also enter the “ESP” contest by predicting their score. Sign up between services this month to play in this fun-for-all tournament. The deadline for registration and payment is **Sunday, November 13**. Register on the website or contact Larry Lininger at ldlininger@Q.com.

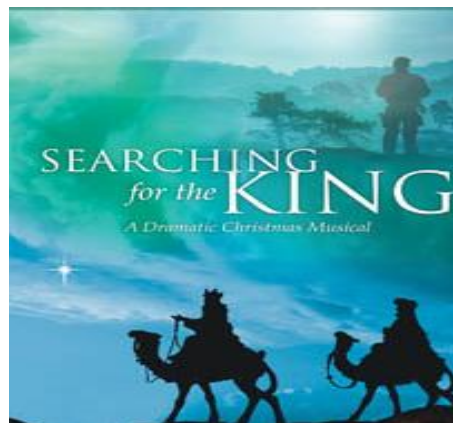


HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

COMING UP IN
DECEMBER -
Mark your
Calendar Now!

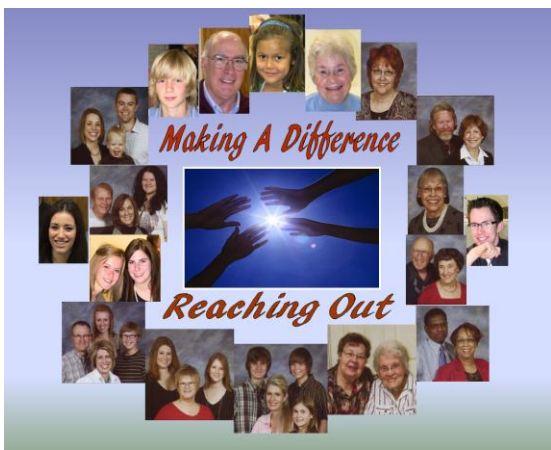


A special presentation by our
Children's Music Ministry
December 11, 4:00 pm
Worship Center



Sunday, December 18
7:45, 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship
SEARCHING FOR THE KING

Drama and music combine to tell the story of two journeys separated by two millennia; yet the questions faced by our travelers are universal in time and scope. For each, the way is difficult and filled with the unknown. But at the end of their journey, each will find the answer in the birth of a Messiah, a Savior, Christ the Lord. Plan to be present at one of the worship services on **Sunday, December 18**, for “Searching for the King”, presented by our Chancel Choir.



Submitted by Marilyn Husted,
Co-Chairperson of Stewardship Committee

WHY PLEDGE?

During the past few years the Stewardship Committee has tried to cultivate a culture of the importance of giving in our church. Our members and friends have responded in so many ways. They have volunteered their time and talent to transform lives and truly make a difference. Financial contributions have continued to increase to allow us to start new programs, expand ministries, and help world-wide missions.

We are now embarking on our pledge drive for 2012 which will help the church plan God's work for the year ahead. By completing a pledge card you will be able to state what you plan to give next year to the General Ministries Fund and to the Mortgage Fund. Your contributions help insure that our church continues to have a strong presence in our local, regional, and global communities.

In order to make our pledge drive a little more personal, I decided to ask a few people why they pledge. Here's what my husband, Eldon, shared: ***"I believe that pledging is the financial expression of our Christian faith. The church is important, in fact necessary, to propagate Christianity. In order for the church to function, it needs money it can count on to not only carry on its day-to-day functions, but to support its ministries and missions here at home and beyond. My Christian faith is extremely important to me. I want to do my part in carrying out the vision of the church. One way of doing this is by fulfilling the pledge I make each year on a regular basis."***

Judy Fox described an experience that solidified her commitment to the church: ***"I always remember what my father told me at a time in our lives when our son was having a difficult time financially. We were considering giving our son the money that we had pledged to the church. When I told my father about this, he told me that he considered pledging very important and that when we fulfill our pledge things will always work out. We heeded his advice and shortly after some unexpected money came our way that we could give to our son. I learned that God will provide."***

Bob O'Neil, Chairperson of the Administrative Council, responded on why he and his wife pledge: ***"I have thought long and hard about this question. We pledge because we want to support the Church. It is our avenue to be with fellow Christians and to worship God. We want Red Mountain United Methodist Church to prosper and succeed. We want them to use our pledge to do God's work. The Lord has blessed my family 10 fold and we want to give back. We are so lucky that we can."***

Lynn Martin, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, also expressed why she and her husband pledge: ***"We pledge for many reasons. At first, it was because it was a family tradition with which we were raised, but today, it is a commitment to the church and to God."***

Pledge cards, accompanied by personal notes, have been sent to members and friends of the church. We hope that each of you will prayerfully consider your financial contribution for next year, completing and returning the pledge card to the church office by mail or in the offering plate at one of the worship services.



"I SAW GOD TODAY"

Submitted by Ken Hershner,
Stewardship Committee

I am sure that Larry and Sonja Coffelt would tell you that I am still fulfilling my apprenticeship as a member of Red Mountain United Methodist Church since I have only been a member for a little over a year. But when Larry and Sonja were marketing the attributes of Red Mountain, they couldn't say enough about a young lady they referred to as "Dot." She has the vitality of a teenager with the wisdom of an elder, they would say. She is deeply involved with the children and youth and their missions. She is a big reason the participation of young people at Red Mountain United Methodist is a huge success. Wow, I thought, can't wait to meet this lady they call "Dot."

Well, as we all know, "Dot" is the Associate Pastor of Red Mountain United Methodist Church. Again this month, I have the privilege of trying to put into words, how "Dot" ***Makes a Difference***. In my interview with "Dot" she told me of her childhood years in New York and her love of the area. She told me that she had taken guitar lessons as a kid but reminded me to be kind if I wrote about it because today, she couldn't play a lick. Now how was I going to make that work in an article? I think every parent told us we needed to learn piano or some instrument and most of us paid little attention. Piano lessons would take away from playing tag, hop scotch, kick the can, or just being a goofy kid. And how would we ever stand the teasing from those who thought playing a musical instrument was for sissies? *(continued on next page)*

“Dot” did tell me that in school she was always one with a joke. She liked to laugh and laugh with those around her. She said she even got in trouble a couple of times for telling her jokes and disrupting the class but she seemed to be good with that. It was part of her brand. As “Dot” preaches and even as she carries herself, you can see the smile on her face and know that behind that smile is someone who honestly has something to smile about. In her sermons she typically includes a joke to assure that she has the attention of everyone in the audience. I am sure God has even got a laugh out of a few of them. *(You know, he already knew the joke, he is just laughing with the joke teller and how “Dot” articulated the joke’s humor.)*

As I sit in the congregation listening to “Dot” preach I can’t keep from looking at “Dot’s” eyes; and through her eyes I see one who is a living witness for God. There is a George Strait song called “*I Saw God Today*”. The chorus goes:

<i>I've been to church,</i>	<i>His fingers are everywhere,</i>
<i>I've read the book,</i>	<i>I just look down and stop</i>
<i>I know He's there,</i>	<i>and stare,</i>
<i>But I don't look,</i>	<i>Open my eyes and then I</i>
<i>near as often as I should,</i>	<i>swear, I Saw God Today,</i>

Larry & Sonja, you were right. “Dot” is pretty awesome and every time I see “Dot,” I look in her eyes and leave knowing that through her passion for the love of Christ, “*I Saw God Today.*”

INTRODUCING OUR SEMINARY INTERN



MEET SANDE KIMBLE

What a friendly church community you have here! If I haven’t already met you, let me introduce myself. I’m Sande Kimble and I am fortunate enough to be doing an internship here at Red Mountain UMC. I started in

September and will be here part-time until late May, 2012. Internships are the “hands on” part of study for a Master’s of Divinity degree, where we students get to practice in the real world what we have learned in school. After graduating from Fuller Theological Seminary, I hope to be ordained as a pastor.

I have lived in Scottsdale for the last twenty-two years, and in Minnesota, Illinois, Colorado, Alabama, South Carolina, Washington state and Okinawa before moving here. (Yep – I am an Air Force brat!) My husband Bruce and I have been married thirty years. We have a grown son and daughter, both living in California, and a Sheltie named Peachy who has stayed home with us. My home church is Paradise Valley UMC. Thank you for the warm welcome you have given me! I look forward to serving with all of you.



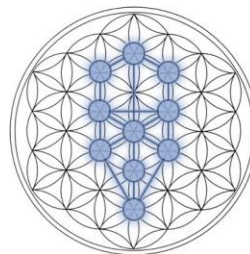
CIRCLE OF PROMISE --TREE OF LIFE

Submitted by Jacqueline Sidbeck

Just as our “tree” in the Narthex is a visual symbol of God working through us, so are the following visual symbols found in spiritual traditions practiced around the world. Many times these trees symbolize life itself. The tree of life has come to represent love, wisdom, rebirth, strength, redemption, friendship, bounty and encouragement.



Yggdrasi: The Norse tree of life appears as Yggdrasi, the world tree, a massive tree with extensive lore surrounding it. This pictures an adaptation as described in the Icelandic Prose Edition by Oluf Olufsen Bagge.



Jewish Mysticism: The tree of life is depicted in the form of ten interconnected nodes, as an important part of the Kabbalah. Pictured is the Kabbalah Tree, the tree of life as derived from the flower of life.

Source: www.wikipedia.org/wiki/tree_of_life

AGUA PRIETA BAGS



Our church will again this year participate in the Feliz Navidad project for children in Agua Prieta, Mexico. Beginning **Sunday, November 6**, we will distribute the names of 60 different children. You may take a name and prepare a gift bag appropriate for the age and gender of that child, including a warm winter sweatshirt. Complete instructions will be provided for each child. The gift bags are due back at the church no later than **Sunday morning, November 20**. Our bags – along with those from several other United Methodist churches in the valley – will be taken to Mexico in time for a Christmas party for the children of the Methodist community in the border town of Agua Prieta. Thank you for your participation and generosity in this project. We know the children of Agua Prieta appreciate all you do.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

Submitted by Sue Killebrew

OUR UMW 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.

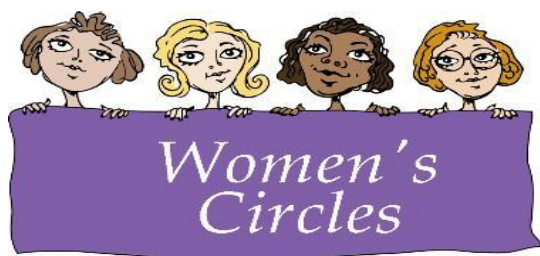
UMW EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President – Bonnie Smith – user240546@aol.com
Vice President – Linda Munsil – linda@munsil.org
Secretary – GayLynn Brewer – brewerinaz@cox.net
Treasurer – Carolyn Miller (call office for phone)

All women are invited to all UMW events and Circle meetings, whether a member of the unit or not. Contact any of the officers listed above about any of our programming and any Circle Chairperson listed below.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 4 & 5, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm – Annual Book and Bake Sale in conjunction with the Holiday Boutique.
November 12, 9:00 am – UMW Executive Meeting in Room 202.
December 10, 11:30 am – UMW Holiday Luncheon, “Christmas Star”, with a special guest harpist.



Circle Groups are small groups meeting monthly. Attending a Circle is a great way to meet and make new friends. The women in circle groups develop a spiritual link with each other and provide ideas and outlets for valuable service projects. You are invited to attend and be a part of any of these special groups meeting this month:

Faith – Tuesday, November 8, 6:00 pm – Lynn Martin’s home. Carol Taylor – caroltesa@cox.net
Grace – Tuesday, November 8, 6:30 pm – Rooms 203/204. Sue Killebrew – skillebrew@gmail.com
Irene – Wednesday, November 16, 9:30 am -- Madsen Hall. Betty Rose – tombettyr@yahoo.com
(continued next column)

Hope – Thursday, November 17, 9:15 am -- Madsen Hall. Myra Moir – myramoir1@q.com
Rebecca – Thursday, November 17, 9:30 am -- Mickey McNichols’ home. Verna Berndt (call office for phone)
Doves – Thursday, November 17, 1:00 pm – Room 203/204. Jan Crippen – crippenaz@hotmail.com



Reading Program

This year’s Reading Program has had a wide selection of books to read which can enable all of us to be aware of the current issues in our world while also deepening our spirituality. Adding more variety of books to the reading choices has increased readership! All you do is read a book from each category and keep a list of the books you read. By the end of the year, you will turn in your reading list to your circle chairperson or one of the UMW officers.

Here are some brief personal reviews of a few selections:

- **The Noticer** – A fun read about a man who “notices” others and tries to help them. This book can lead you to a more positive outlook on life.
- **Like Breath and Water** – A short and easy read, but with a powerful message about prayer.
- **Disfigured** – A woman’s strong determination to overcome a terrible tragedy.
- **Just Choose Happiness** – A great book for just reading or discussing in a group study.
- **Connected Wisdom** – A celebration of living systems (spider webs or ant colonies) and how they can affect each part of our life.

UMW is active in social issues. With support from endeavors through our Circle Groups, The Preschool has been given supplies, servicemen have received care packages and many of our local shelters have received personal care items. Here are some ways you can help provide through social action:
CAMPBELL’S SOUP LABELS: Continue to bring your “Labels for Education” to the church and place them in the proper basket in the Worship Center Narthex or in a container placed in the Madsen Hall kitchen. The UMW donates these labels to the Wesley Community Center in Phoenix which in turn uses them to “purchase” educational products that the Center would otherwise be unable to afford.



NIKE SHOE RECYCLING: Many tired and worn-out tennis shoes have been taken to the Nike donation center and kept out of our landfills. Continue to bring them (clean ones!) to the Worship Center Narthex where there is a basket used for this collection. Nike takes the shoes and recycles them by breaking down and using the new product for ball courts, running tracks, etc. Go to the website at www.nikereuseashoe.com and watch a fascinating video!



Submitted by
Phil Hartley,
Treasurer



I can't believe that I could have such an effect on a congregation! I take off one month in my report writing and look what happens! For the first time this year we were short of matching our gifts to our bills. Maybe I should ask for a raise for doing this report – maybe ten percent?

Seriously, the numbers are not that bad. The total deficit for the year to date is similar to last year's shortfall at this time of year.

General Ministries Fund

	<u>Sept '11</u>	<u>Sept '10</u>	<u>Total to date '11</u>	<u>Total to date '10</u>
INCOME:	\$ 35,068	\$ 37,795	\$426,011	\$397,797
EXPENSES:	\$ <u>45,688</u>	\$ <u>41,775</u>	\$ <u>436,627</u>	\$ <u>408,357</u>
CHANGE:	(\$10,620)	(\$ 3,980)	(\$ 10,616)	(\$ 10,560)

We can now see the effect of the new mortgage on our payments. We paid the same monthly amount to the bank as before, but a far greater percentage now goes toward reducing the principal. That means we can close out our mortgage much earlier. Your dollars have never worked harder.

Mortgage/Columbarium Fund

	<u>Sept. '11</u>	
INCOME:	\$ 9,566	Fund Balance: \$ 1,152
DISPERSED:		
Interest	\$ 3,545	
Principal	\$ 9,725	Total Mortgage
Columbarium	\$ <u>173</u>	Principal: \$ 928,380
TOTAL	\$ 13,443	
SHORTAGE:	\$ 3,877	

Evy and I enjoy our summer away because it keeps us close to our children and grandchildren. However, it is always good to get back “home” and to our “home” church. There are so many wonderful and exciting classes, trips, interest groups, and activities to get involved in where we can meet new people and renew old friendships. I think this, along with the great worship services with their inspirational messages and music, help our congregation get into the proper attitude for giving back to God a generous portion of the blessings He has given to us. I'm sure that in the next few months we will make up the

deficit that now appears in our balance sheet. But, we cannot think that it is the job of the next person. We each need to seriously and prayerfully consider what we owe to our church for the benefits that we receive and what we owe to God for the blessings He has provided. If someone is short of money, there are plenty of other ways to give back to God. We have, as members, promised to support our church with “our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.” Now is a good time to think about what we each can give and where we can best serve.



LIFE CARE PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL

Submitted by Judi Willis

Most of us are uncomfortable talking about our wishes if we become severely ill, disabled or

die. It may also be an awkward topic to bring up with one's spouse and parents, but it is a crucial conversation to have, before the need arises. There are many resources available to help guide the discussion, with two of the most popular summarized here. Both meet all of the legal requirements for the State of Arizona.

The Arizona Attorney General's office provides a free, downloadable Life Care Planning packet. The packet includes forms with instructions for a Durable Health Care Power of Attorney (POA), a Durable Mental Health Care POA, Living Will (end of life care), Letter to My Agent and Pre-Hospital Medical Directive (Do Not Resuscitate). Find the packet online at www.azag.gov, or ask for a copy from the church office.

The Aging with Dignity organization offers *Five Wishes* to help you express how you want to be treated if you are seriously ill and unable to speak for yourself. It is unique among all other living wills and health agent forms because it speaks to all of a person's needs: medical, personal, emotional and spiritual. *Five Wishes* also helps structure discussions with your family and physician. You can find the *Five Wishes* documents at www.agingwithdignity.org. The cost is \$5 and, once it is signed and witnessed, it becomes a legal document. You may also find it helpful to purchase a book that guides you in providing critical information for your loved ones. Two that I discovered include “What My Family Should Know” and “When I'm Gone.” A Google search will help you locate these.
-- *The Health & Wellness Committee of RMUMC strives to provide information to our church members. You are encouraged to read the articles, to consult your personal physician and to make decisions regarding your personal health based on the advice of your physician.*



MISSION MOMENTS

*Submitted by Carolyn Ball,
from the Prayer Calendar*

*“My spirit sang with joy up-
on seeing a former client at
the supermarket. Three years
earlier, she came to our little free clinic held in Sunday
school rooms. She was in great pain. Our volunteer
discovered she had an aggressive form of breast cancer.
Many hours were spent arranging treatment. Against all
odds she lived!”*

**Deaconess Lynn Sloan Barnes, The Ark,
Western North Carolina Annual Conference**

*“As director of the Arkansas Justice for Our Neighbors,
I am engaged in advocacy work. During the past six
months we have had great success. I am chair of the
Arkansas Friendship Coalition, whose mission is to pre-
vent passage of any legislation in the Arkansas Legislature
which is punitive toward immigrants. We were successful,
in contrast to states like Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi
and Arizona.”*

**Steve Copley, church and community worker,
Arkansas Justice for Our Neighbors,
Little Rock, Arkansas**



Recently in the Hospital:

**Wilda Buckbee
Laura Wilson
Susan Thorpe**

**LeNora Donovan
8/23/1913 – 9/29/2011
Mother of Dana Tramba**



**JoAnn Sweet
death of her brother
Amber McCall
death of her nephew**

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!



Dearest RMUMC family ‘one-&-all’: *My extended and eternal thanks and appreciation to the most wonderful church family ever! You are Awesome! I can’t express how grateful we (Tony, Quinn and I) are for all you’ve done to help us out. All the prayers, words of encouragement and hope, food, pantry items and financial gifts-- everything has been a true blessing. Really. . . I can’t express enough how thankful and full of appreciation we are. I love and praise our Lord and the beautiful, caring people God put in my life!!!*

With all my heart. . . Thank you, ELane Michel



To my friends at Red Mountain: *Thank you very much for your concerns for Debbie, my daughter. Pastor Dot’s prayer just before she went into surgery comforted her so very much. Pastor Mary’s visit and all of your prayers have inspired her so much that her recovery has been remarkable. We are so very grateful.*

Love, Mickie McNichols and Debbie

To our church family: *We want to thank you for your prayers, love, concerns and visits during George’s ordeal. He is stronger now than he has been in a long time. “All things work together for the good of those who love and trust Him.” God bless you all, George and Edna Blare*

Dear Pastor Mary and congregation: *I would really like to thank you ever so much for the opportunity I had to go to the Leadership Conference at the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. It was awe-inspiring and changed my life in so many ways! Blessings, Marsha Lehman*

Keep up with your church--

**Visit Our Web Site at
www.RMUMC.COM**

- **View the church calendar**
- **Read the church newsletter**
- **Find a class or study group**
- **Link to the Daily Devotional**
- **Become a fan on Facebook**
- **Follow us on Twitter**
- **Sign up for weekly e-news**



Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Elizabeth Coburn
Richard Krouse
Marty Nelson
Maddy Paap
Suzanne Taylor</p> <p>2 Joshua Blankenship
Stephanie Day
James Fox
Larry Norris
Cassie Sampson
Michelle Williams</p> <p>3 Joseph Caldwell
Rosemary Clark
Mary Beth Jones
Rameses Magtanong
Barb Taksler</p> <p>4 Carolyn Ball
Jackson Brooks
Roger Clark
Ryan Gray</p> <p>5 Sue Gill
Ashley Meyer
Emily VanLuven</p> <p>7 Nicholas Armstrong
Gina VanLuven</p> <p>8 Janet Hutter</p> <p>9 Boyd Brown
Mary Kay Lininger
Paul Thistlethwaite
John Tokach</p> | <p>10 Ivy Green
Luella Johnson
Wilma Steinle</p> <p>11 Dale Faist
Roger Tonkinson</p> <p>12 Gail Perkins</p> <p>14 Amy Bryan
Rod Fetter</p> <p>15 Jared Chambers
Sonja Coffelt
Barbara McGee
Jennifer Ruttman
Norm Tramba</p> <p>19 Juliette Hoag
Jon Mills
Tina Wibe</p> <p>20 Janet Crippen
Eric Jones
Kelley Meeks</p> <p>21 Mickey Antwiler
Tom Rauls
Doris Russell
Betty Snover</p> <p>23 Mike Lucky</p> <p>24 Sarah Ewing
Mary Hershner
Marvin Peterson</p> <p>25 Charles Herron
Jamie Procter-Mattert</p> <p>26 Sheri Kent
Irene Mueller</p> <p>27 Christian Smith</p> <p>29 Shane Durkin
Charlotte Gollins</p> <p>30 Susan Killebrew
Bryn Prinsloo
Kellie Pulizzano</p> |
|---|--|



- 3** *David and Cynthia Armstrong*
-- 11 years
- Steven and Rebecca Wiseman*
-- 32 years
- 14** *Wally and Ginger Abraham*
-- 52 years
- 22** *Richard and Marilyn Krouse*
-- 42 years
- 27** *Ken and Val Grobe*
-- 46 years





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NOVEMBER

RED MOUNTAIN MATTERS

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VOLUME 30

No. 11

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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
Kim Ramelli, Coffeehouse Worship Leader
Erin Gray, Preschool Director
Frank Moir, Custodian
Richard Ullmann, 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

OFFICE CONTACTS:

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OFFICE HOURS:

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8:00 am – 4:00 pm