



Red Mountain Matters

SEPTEMBER 2011

VOLUME 30

NO. 9

ARTSedge - something new!



Pictured here are some of the sixty children who participated in our **ARTSedge Camp in July**. The children made art projects, learned rhythm, music and dance, and most of all, prepared for and performed a musical presentation, **“Life School Musical.”** It was a wonderful week for everyone! In fact, we had such a good time at our **ARTSedge Camp**, that we have decided to add an **ARTSedge “afternoon”** to our popular E.D.G.E. Nights Wednesday program, which will begin on **Wednesday, September 7.**

will take place from **3:55 – 5:10 pm**, and will include music education, rhythm, dance, singing, hand bells/chimes, drama and art. The children will also begin preparing for a Christmas season musical, **“Camel Lot.”**

During this same **ARTSedge “afternoon,”** parents and other family members can participate from **4:00 – 5:00 pm** in **Zumba**, an energetic dance/fitness program with a Latin beat, or in an informal discussion group, **99 Ways to Raise Spiritually Healthy Children.**

Dinner for all ages is in Madsen Hall, from **5:15 – 5:45 pm.**

E.D.G.E. Nights classes begin at **5:55 pm** for children, and **6:00 pm** for youth and adults.

SPK Preschool (Shout Praises Kids!) and **SPK Elementary** are high-energy, fun-filled, creative classes where the children participate in interactive Bible Stories. More information about children’s classes may be found on the back of the children’s registration form.



See the enclosed registration forms for children, youth and adults. More information is also on page 4.

Pastor Mary

SEPTEMBER 2011

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DOT...

"Sharing Faith"



When we become members of the church, we promise our support through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Most of this seems feasible enough, but the one thing that can seem the most daunting at times is "witness." For years this concept conjured up in me images of myself, standing in the produce aisle of some unsuspecting supermarket, sweaty palms clutching a helpless head of lettuce, while I stammer some incoherent words about my deepest feelings of faith to a complete stranger, trying to get them to accept Jesus. Fortunately, this is seldom how faith sharing works.

The General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church has published an article on faith sharing which reminds us that relationship is an important part of the equation. Most people hear friends, relatives, acquaintances, and neighbors share their faith many times before coming to faith themselves. We are one of many witnesses to faith. Our commitment is not to make sure someone else accepts Christ, but to be faithful in sharing our own faith. In an article titled, "How to Talk About Faith at School or Marketplace," Kwasi Kena writes: *"The short answer to the 'How should I share my faith?' question is this: Be a caring Christian friend. The term 'Christian friend' implies that you are intentionally modeling what it means to participate in God's reign on earth."*

Here is a short list of actions to include:

1. Make a list of people in your web of relationships with whom you may share faith. Begin praying for them and for your willingness to share as opportunities arise. Often, a personal crisis (yours or another person's) becomes an open door for bearing witness to Christ. If you are in crisis, people will observe how your faith helps you through it. If others are in crisis, your empathetic ear and prayerful support can serve as a powerful witness.
2. Practice sharing your spiritual autobiography with your church family in preparation for sharing it with others. Review how you came to Christ: Which people were helpful in the process? How has your faith helped you? What is the benefit of belonging to church? What difference has it made?
3. Learn to share the good news in your own words. Here is a simple memory device called "The 3 Rs" to frame your thoughts:
Relationship (with Jesus Christ and others)
Reign (What does it mean to live under God's reign?)
Reconciliation (The ministry of believers is helping reconcile others to Christ. *See 2 Corinthians 5:18-19*). Be able to talk about each "R."
4. Learn several Bible passages by telling them in your own words. Consider learning some parables, psalms and proverbs, and stories of biblical people and events. People will expect you to know something about the faith you profess.

In addition to sharing faith with those in our circles of relationship, we can also share faith with the children of our church who come eager to learn about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We can also bear witness to our faith as we extend hospitality within and beyond our church. Our new Firm Foundations class can help us as we seek to explore, deepen, and express our own faith. We would do well to practice sharing our faith in as many ways as we can. One of the saints has said that the only gospel most people will ever read is the one written on your life. May our lives and our words bear faithful witness to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peace, Dot ☺

Sunday Worship Services
7:45, 9:00 & 10:30 am

O LORD, HEAR MY VOICE
...the Cries of Our Hearts

Sunday, September 4 *Psalm 10*

Where is God When It Hurts?

"Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? Rise up, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed" Psalm 10:1, 12. Does God feel our pain? How can we feel God's presence?

Sunday, September 11 *Psalm 85*

Can Good Come Out of Evil?

"Restore us again, O God of our salvation; revive us again so that your people may rejoice in you" Psalm 85:4-7. God always intends for good. God can redeem suffering. God works through us to be the answer of prayer to others.

YOURS ARE THE HANDS OF CHRIST

Sunday, September 18 -- Bible Sunday *Luke 4:16-30*

The Hands of Christ – Devoted Hands

As Jesus began his ministry, he took the scroll of Isaiah in his hands, and read the passage that defined his mission. As our hands become the hands of Christ, we, too, begin by holding the Bible, allowing it to define our Christian life.

Sunday, September 25 *Luke 13:10-17*

The Hands of Christ – Touching Hands

We cannot think of Jesus' ministry without thinking of how often he reached out and touched others, especially those who were considered untouchable. When Jesus touched the woman who had been bent over for 18 years, he healed her and set her free from a life of physical and emotional pain.



SEPTEMBER 11

A special commemorative service will be held at all three worship services on **Sunday, September 11**, as we remember the 10th

anniversary of the tragedies that took place that day. We will honor first responders at each service so if you know any fire fighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians or other first responders, please invite them to join you at worship that morning. Red Mountain Ringers will play a special Handbell piece "Prayer For Peace" written in commemoration of September 11.

BIBLE PRESENTATION

On **Sunday, September 18**, Bibles will be presented during the **9:00 and 10:30 am services**. Please contact the church office with names of any third grader or children in fourth grade or older who have not yet been presented with a Bible. It is a blessing to our church to have this opportunity to share God's word with the children of our church and community!



YOURS ARE THE HANDS OF CHRIST

Saint Teresa of Avila, a 16th century Spanish nun known for her life of devotion to Christ, is credited with writing this well-known poem:

Christ has no body now on earth but yours
no hands but yours
no feet but yours

Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks
with compassion on the world
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good
Yours are the hands with which he blesses
Yours are the hands of Christ

In our sermon series which begins **September 18**, *Yours Are the Hands of Christ*, we will be contemplating what it is to be Christ's hands. Looking at various stories from the gospels, we will be exploring what Jesus did with his hands, and what we are called to do with ours. James Howell writes, "We must become the hands of Christ in this world. Christianity must become something real, tangible, something that pervades all that we are and do."

As part of our Stewardship theme, "Making a Difference . . . Reaching Out," we also will be lifting up those in our congregation who have reached out and made a difference in the lives of others--those who have become the hands of Christ in the world. Think about Jesus' hands. Healing hands. Feeding hands. Praying hands. Touching hands. Serving hands. Giving hands. Now think about your own hands. How are they the hands of Christ in a hurting world?



NEW ADULT CLASS

10:30 am in Room 202:

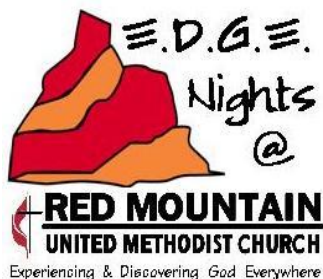
COMMON GROUND: Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Father Abraham

How much do we know about Judaism? Christianity? Islam? This class, led by **Rev. Gene Barnes**, explores the history, beliefs and scriptures for a better understanding.

Sunday, September 4: Speaker: Mr. Ahmad Daniels

Sunday, September 11: Judaism--God's Everlasting Covenant with Israel.

Sunday, September 18: Faith and Obedience--exploring faith and obedience as a foundational belief in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.



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

E.D.G.E. NIGHTS BEGIN **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

Registration forms are included in this newsletter so you can sign up for the many offerings in Session 1 from **September 7 through October 5**. Children's information is given on page 1 and on the back of the children's registration form. Listed here are the offerings for youth and adults. There are lots of new and exciting classes to choose from! **Dinner** is served in Madsen Hall at **5:15 pm** followed by two class sessions at **6:00 & 7:05 pm**. Childcare is available all evening (except for dinner time). You can also register online at www.RMUMC.com.

New to Edge Nights! **Youth and Adults**

ARTSedge 4:00--5:00 p.m.

Zumba classes feature exotic rhythms set to high-energy Latin and international music. Participants achieve fitness and energy levels soar! It's easy to do, effective and exhilarating fun! Led by Zumba Instructor, Tina Rees.

99 Ways to Raise Spiritually Healthy Children--

There's no such thing as a perfect parent. No matter how good our intentions are, we will make mistakes. But we can be good parents. Pastor Mary will facilitate this informal discussion, and share tips and ideas for raising happy and healthy children. *(for parents, grandparents and guardians)*

Class Session #1 6:00-7:00 pm

Tween/Teen Fellowship led by Youth Director John Durkin. For Junior High and Senior High youth. Come for a brief Bible Study, faith sharing, games, and fellowship.

Yoga -- Spend an hour de-stressing through relaxing stretching in a calm and serene environment. Taught by experienced yoga instructor, Don Krakauskas. Bring a floor mat for comfort.

Zumba *(see description above)*

From the Caves to the Castles -- Learn about the history of Art and how Church History affected artistic expression, both positively and negatively. Led by Marsha Lehman, this class will be filled with fascinating information taught in creative and imaginative ways.

Firm Foundations (The Heart of Faith) --

This class is for new members, long-time members, regular attendees or seekers -- anyone who would like to know more about the Christian faith. Topics include basic beliefs, worship and the sacraments, and spiritual gifts. Led by Pastor Mary and other church leaders. **This class will prepare you for membership.**

Current Issues: the Economy and Our Community

Distinguished guest speakers each week will help in understanding the continuing effect of the Great Recession.

- September 7--Helping Families in Crises: United Methodist Outreach, **Darlene Newsom and Nichole Barnes**
- September 14--Excellent Schools in a Time of Diminished Resources, **David Peterson**, Superintendent of Scottsdale School District
- September 21--Challenges in Arizona Healthcare, **Barbara Fanning**, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
- September 28--Our Neighbors at the Border, **Jim Perdue**, Southwest Conference Border Ministry
- October 5--Politics and the Mesa City Budget, Mesa's **Mayor Scott Smith**

Financial Peace University (FPU) -- Dave Ramsey's

Biblically-based class on how to manage money, reduce debt and bring financial peace to your home. This 13-week class has a fee of \$99 per family, which includes all materials, plus online access for additional help. Facilitators: Steve Heppe and Dennis Martinsen *(meets each week until 7:30 pm.)*

Care and Support Groups

Grief Care led by Pastor Dot Saunders-Perez and Marie Pettegrew. This group offers support to those who have experienced a recent loss in their lives.

Divorce Care *(start time 6:30 pm)* led by Susan Roehrig. This group offers support to those who are in the middle of separation or divorce, or those who have recently gone through a divorce.

Class Session #2 7:05-8:00 pm

Prodigal God -- Based on the book by Timothy Keller, this study is intended to reveal the powerful message of Jesus' Parable of the Prodigal Son and to apply the truths gleaned to our lives. Taught by John Skinner.

Why? Making Sense of God's Will -- Everyone asks 'Why?' when confronted with evil, innocent suffering and unanswered prayer. Using primarily a DVD and book by Adam Hamilton, Pastor Mary will lead this class, as we discuss the age-old question of how to understand God's will in the face of tragedy.

A Spiritual Path to Wholeness -- Led by Pastor Dot Saunders-Perez and retired United Methodist Pastor Ellen Phillips, this group uses a 12-step process for healing and growing in relationship to God, others, and ourselves.



5th and 6th GRADE FELLOWSHIP

A special fellowship just for 5th and 6th graders begins on E.D.G.E. Nights, **September 7, at 7:00 pm** in Madsen Hall. **Reed and Sue Webb** will again lead the group in such activities as group-building games, Bible lessons, indoor sports (such as hockey, flag football, speedball, etc.), inspirational stories, Christian friendship and their unique circle of prayer. Events will include a Christmas movie night, and horseback riding into the Superstition Mountains, complete with a campfire, western music, food and program. Contact the Webbs at azwebbs1@cox.net with questions.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY THEMES

September: God Calls a People

As we hear stories of people God called long ago—Abraham, Sarah, Lot, Isaac, and Rebekah—we learn that we too are called by God. This month we will learn that we are blessed by God and that God calls us to be a blessing to others!

September 4: **Be a blessing—we can be a blessing!**

September 11: **Live Peacefully—God wants us to live peacefully with one another**

September 18: **Trust the Lord—God keeps promises**

September 25: **Follow God—God will guide and bless us**



ALL-CHURCH CAMP

Come and discover God in our every day at all-church camp. It begins on Friday evening,

September 23, and goes through noon Sunday, **September 25**. Imagine yourself out of the intense heat that we have had this summer, and in the cool, majestic pines of Mingus Mountain United Methodist Camp located near Prescott Valley off Highway 89A. “Got Spirit” is the theme for the camp and, through wonder, gratitude, hospitality, and worship, we will explore ways to find God in the every day life. Activities have been planned with the entire church family in mind—children and adults of all generations. Lodging is in comfortable retreat cabins and the scrumptious meals will be prepared for us by the camp staff...with no work on our part! Cost is \$75 for an adult with a reduced rate of \$50 for ages 18-25. Youth ages 13-17 are \$25 and children under 12 are free. Scholarships are also available by speaking with **Pastor Dot**. Registration is taking place now! For a down-loadable registration form visit the website: <http://mesachurchaz.org/fellowship/all-church-camp/> or contact Pastor Dot at the church office.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP/ CLASSICS

On **Saturday, September 17, at 5:30 pm** the Adult Fellowship (also known as “Classics”) will meet in Madsen Hall and celebrate the Red, White, and Blue! It’s a potluck dinner so bring a main dish or salad to share. Drinks and dessert will be provided. A sign up list will be available on **Sunday, September 11**. Check out the RMUMC.com website for details on future activities which include:



October 15 – Desert Belle Paddle Boat on Saguaro Lake; **November 12** – Potluck and “Radiozona” in Madsen Hall; **December 9** – Holiday Banquet at Apache Wells. Contact Sue Killebrew for information about the Adult Fellowship at skillebrew@gmail.com.



REFLECTIONS

Put your pen in hand and join the ladies pictured above at Reflections, a writing group that meets monthly supporting each other in their writing endeavors. They will meet on **Saturday, September 17, from 10:00 am to noon** at the home of **Bobbi Heppe**. **Dana Tramba**, a Certified Life-writing Instructor, leads the group and invites anyone to join at any time. Contact her at Dandyt123@cox.net. Look for Reflections to be a part of the second session of E.D.G.E. Nights beginning in October.

WALKIN' LIKE a D.S.
(as in “District Superintendent”)



All men are urged to attend the annual Men’s Retreat sponsored by the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. This year it takes place from **September 30—October 2** at United Christian Youth Camp in Prescott. Check-in begins at **4:00 pm on Friday** and departure is **noon on Sunday**. The weekend includes recreation, music, relaxation and even a 9-Hole Frolf tournament (did you guess this combines Frisbees and golf?). Registration forms with more information are available in the church office for this spiritual renewal weekend. Featured speakers include our **Bishop Minerva Carcaño**, plus all of the District Superintendents--**Rev. Candance Lansberry, Rev. Dr. Robert Burns, Rev. Gary Kennedy and Rev. Michael Pearson**. Registration deadline is **September 21**. Go to www.desertsouthwestconference.org/umm.



WOMEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 21-23

Calling all women! Treat yourself to a special weekend away at Mingus Mountain. This marks the 10-year anniversary of our women's retreats, and many memories will be relived. The theme is "The Prodigal Son".

Sue Webb, Evy Hartley, and Mary Beth Jones will lead worship as well as provide energetic activities! Housing is in the large retreat cabin and we can relax and sit back while being treated to tasty, delicious meals served in the camp dining hall. Total cost of the weekend is \$100 which includes two nights and five meals. All payments for the fall retreat are due by **October 1**. Contact **Sue Killebrew** at skillebrew@gmail.com for more information.



HELP WITH CLEAN UP

We hope many people will participate in our all church clean-up day on Saturday morning, **October 1**. We will be cleaning

out closets, storage areas, Sunday school rooms, youth rooms, Madsen Hall and the Worship Center, as well as sprucing up the outside landscape. This is a great opportunity to serve. All ages and abilities are welcome. No experience necessary.

SPECIAL WEEKEND, OCTOBER 29-30

- **Blessing of the Animals**--Saturday morning, **October 29**. Church families, friends and neighbors are invited to bring their pets and animals for a special outdoor service of blessing. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, we will be celebrating all creatures of God's creation.
- **Bible Retreat**--Saturday afternoon, **October 29**. Elementary children will enjoy a fun afternoon learning how to use their Bibles. Puzzles, games and snacks are included. Come in costume as your favorite Bible character. Friends are welcome.
- **Children's Sabbath**--Sunday morning worship services, **October 30**. Our children will help lead worship as we celebrate children and lift up issues of social justice that affect children and families.



MOLLEN CLINIC HERE

On **Sunday, November 7, from 8:30 am until 12:00 pm**, the Mollen Clinic will be at our church to give flu shots. You will need to pay cash that day or use your insurance.



LIVING WELL WORKSHOP

Individuals of all ages who have been diagnosed with a chronic disease such as heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, asthma,

bronchitis or emphysema are invited to participate in a Living Well Workshop, a free series of six classes, to learn more about living a healthy lifestyle, even with these conditions. An **Information Session** will be held on **Tuesday, October 4, from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm**, in the Education Building, Rooms 203/204. The Living Well Workshop, beginning two weeks later at the same time and place, starts on **Tuesday, October 18** and goes through **November 22**. For registration information, call 480-728-5414. For child care and transportation requests, call the church office at 480-981-3833.

Holiday Boutique

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Friday, November 4 -- 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday, November 5 -- 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Shoppers will find great gift ideas! There will be some one-of-a-kind items offered in a silent auction! The United Methodist Women will be holding their annual bake and book sale!

RED MOUNTIAN CRAFTERS

Do you like making craft items? Do you like having fun with others while making craft items? Then join the Red Mountain Crafters when they meet every **Thursday from 6:00 – 9:00 pm** at the home of Penny Gumser. They are preparing for the Holiday Boutique in November. Contact Penny Gumser at pennygum@cox.net.

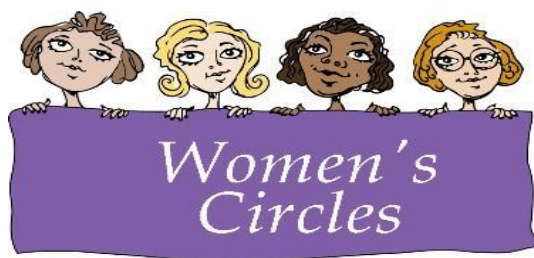
IMMIGRATION FORUM

An educational program about immigration issues from all perspectives will be presented on **Saturday, October 15, from 9:30 am -- 3:00 pm** at Dayspring United Methodist Church, 1365 E. Elliot Road in Tempe. The forum is open to all and will provide an opportunity for those with differing viewpoints on this controversial issue to listen and to be heard. A catered lunch will be served at a cost of \$7. Registration is needed by **October 10**. Registration brochures are available in the church office or you can email **Jane Baker** at janepbaker@cox.net.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

(Articles 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.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September – Circles resume meeting (see next column)

September 10, 9:00 am – UMW Executive Meeting, Room 202—We have a special agenda for this meeting since our unit has been asked to host the District Annual Meeting. We will be planning all the details for this special day. Want to help? Contact one of our officers listed below.

October 8 – United Methodist Women Central East District Annual Meeting at RMUMC (see article below)

October 20, 7:00 pm – Fall meeting in Madsen Hall – Special speaker from Rwanda

November 4-5 – Book and Bake Sale in conjunction with Holiday Boutique

December 10 – Holiday Luncheon – with guest Harpist

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 number)

CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The district annual meeting will be held on our campus on **Saturday, October 8, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Women from all churches in the district will be on campus that day. The theme for this year is “Faith Moves Mountains” and the keynote speaker is **Rev. Dr. Bob Burns**, District Superintendent. District officers will be installed with our own member, **Linda Munsil**, continuing as Vice President. Four focus groups are being offered on the subjects of human trafficking, the reading program, mission giving and circle meetings. Cost is \$15 which includes materials and lunch. Registration forms are available in the church office. Deadline to register is **Friday, September 23**.

CIRCLE MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Contact the Circle Chairperson with questions

Faith – Tuesday, September 13, 6:00 pm at Lynn Martin’s home. Chairperson: Carol Taylor – carolmesa@cox.net

Grace – Tuesday, September 13, 6:30 pm in Rooms 203/204. Chairperson: Sue Killebrew – skillebrew@gmail.com

Hope – Thursday, September 15, 9:15 am in Madsen Hall. Chairperson: Myra Moir – myramoir1@q.com

Rebecca – Thursday, September 15, 9:30 am at Gay-Lynn Brewer’s home. Chairperson: Verna Berndt—cver nab@cox.net

Doves – Thursday, September 15, 1:00 pm at Judy Dunn’s home. Chairperson: Janet Crippen – crippenaz@hotmail.com

Irene – Wednesday, September 21, 9:30 am, in Madsen Hall. Chairperson: Betty Rose – tombettyr@yahoo.com



Reading Program

UMW READING PROGRAM

Several 2011 books have been added to the UMW reading cart in Madsen Hall. Continue to read a variety of books to participate in the program. Please check out **one book at a time** and return it in a timely manner so

that others can enjoy it also. Here are some new books reviewed for September:

“**Like Breath and Water: Praying with Africa**” – A Bonus Book by Ciona D. Rouse. Ciona Rouse started her journey to Africa prepared to learn about prayer, to listen to the prayers of the people and record their stories. Once there, she learned that the prayers that fuel our heart, our very survival, run deep in the soul of Africa. For the people she met, prayer does not simply petition God, but it is a life force, like breath and water.

“**Claiming Earth as Common Ground: The Ecological Crisis Through the Lens of Faith**” by Andrea Cohen-Kiener. Can people of faith save the environment? Can the environmental challenge save religion? Our planet is in trouble, and it will take an amazingly large and powerful force to shift into a more sustainable way of living. Spiritual leader and environmental activist Andrea Cohen-Kiener tells us that people of faith have the numbers, the passion and the mandate to do it – and that nothing else is strong enough to counterbalance “business as usual.”

Making A Difference



Submitted by Ken Hershner

About six months ago, I went with my wife Mary to the church. It was there that she and Kim Ramelli were going to practice Mary's solo for the following Sunday. When I pulled into the church parking lot that evening there were about eight cars parked randomly with one of them being a VW Beetle. I had no idea who the Beetle belonged to but it was my bet that it was Kim's car. I see her smile every Sunday morning organizing the 7:45 church service. Her beaming smile and smirks of disgust while pushing the chain of disorder to get all of us under control, makes her the perfect candidate to be a VW Beetle owner--a woman who knows what she wants and looks forward to zipping in and out of traffic as she speeds to her destination. Have fun, won't take "no" for an answer, always ready for a challenge--yeah, those are the qualities I believe make up Kim's personality--and now I have the pleasure of sharing with everyone just how Kim "makes a difference."

Not only does Kim lead the 7:45 Worship Service but she also plays in the hand bell choir and sings in the chancel choir at 9:00 am. She seems to be involved in everything going on at the church. Her husband Eric may say that is because she just doesn't know how to say "no." But I believe the truth is that she feels her mission is to make people like myself comfortable and welcome in the Red Mountain United Methodist family.

In our interview we discussed her passions. Kim said that she loves to read and is presently using this talent as a "reading coach" within the school district where she works. She has always enjoyed singing and playing the piano. I think she may have slipped when she told me that she can play the tenor saxophone, because she quickly told me that she probably couldn't remember a note. (*I wonder, is there another Kenny G in hiding there?*) Kim said that she likes where she is at right now. She looks forward to being overbooked and making things happen. (*Does that not fit her personality description?*) Kim said that someday she would like to go on a mission and, as a matter of fact, she is planning on helping next summer at the youth church camp. When I asked her if she had questions about religion, she said that if she had the chance, she would ask God to explain the Trinity.

Kim went on to tell me that if we listen well during the sermon, there will be at least one portion of the sermon that is directed to us as individuals and will touch us on the cross that we may be bearing at the time. (*Amen to that!*)

Thank you, Kim, for "making a difference." Some people think that Sunday is the last day of the week and the week begins on Monday. Look at your calendar. Sunday is the first day of the week and Kim takes it upon herself to make sure that the first day of my week, at 7:45 Sunday morning, starts off with a smile and a song. Oh, and by the way, Kim told me she bought the Beetle because it is small and she would not have to share it with too many large people.



CIRCLE OF PROMISE TREE OF LIFE

Submitted by
Jackie Sidbeck

The Circle of Promise Tribute Tree, located in the Narthex, is a reminder of the **Tree of Life** that is found in the Bible, connecting all forms of creation.

The **Tree of Life** is symbolically described in the book of Revelation as having curing properties:

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the **tree of life** with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."
-- *Revelation 22:1-2*

The Old Testament gives us these messages:

"And out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the **tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." -- *Genesis 2:9*

"The fruit of the righteous is a **tree of life**, but violence takes lives away."
-- *Proverbs 11:30*

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a **tree of life**."
-- *Proverbs 13:12*

"She is a **tree of life** to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy."

Proverbs 3:18



ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Submitted by George Stickney

The 27th Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference was held in Glendale, Arizona on **June 23--26**. The total attendance of 697 people included 239 Clergy and 263 laity members. The others were alternates, guests and observers.

Although all the worship services were notable, the opening sermon by

the **Reverend Dr. David Wilkinson** and the closing sermon by the **Reverend Kyle Woodrow** "book ended" the entire conference from beginning to end with messages that were inspiring and challenging. The **Reverend Jimelvia Martin** read Deuteronomy 8:1-9 at the Saturday morning worship service with an unmatched fervor.

The respect shown for the deceased clergy and spouses in the Thursday evening Service of Remembrance worship service and for the retiring clergy in the Friday evening Celebration of Service banquet was matched by the dignity of the Service of Retirement, Commissioning and Ordination worship service on Saturday night.

A high point on Friday morning was the presentation of the Desert Southwest Conference's \$100,000 contribution to African University, thereby completing the \$500,000 needed to endow the **Joel Huffman** Chair of Health Sciences. **Patience Na'Unga**, presently a member of Trinity UMC in Phoenix and a Zimbabwe recipient of aid for nursing school from the Conference, personally expressed thanks for the support from the Conference for educating people in Africa.

Youth and young adults were very active participants. They were included on the dais to observe all the sessions, two of them gave the very lively communications presentation, and one young adult was elected as a representative to attend the Jurisdictional Conference.

The tedious, lengthy process for electing representatives to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences (six ballots for Laity and thirteen for Clergy) showed how the procedures are structured to provide the maximum opportunity to have diverse representation to these meetings.

For the second year, provision was made for "A Day of Learning" which benefitted all attendees. **Gil Rendle** used themes from his book, "Journey in the Wilderness: New Life for Mainline Churches," to challenge us to change our identity from group to individual and our actions from members to participants. His five-hour presentation provided both identification of the issues and suggestions

for methods to address this long "Wilderness Journey." As lay members, we all had much opportunity to interact with people from other congregations during mealtime. Our thanks to Red Mountain UMC for electing us as Lay Members to Conference, and allowing us to participate in this enlightening experience.

*Karen Murphy, Dean Richardson
and George Stickney*



REMEMBERING 9/11—TEN YEARS LATER

A special Reconciliation Ecumenical Prayer Service will be held **Sunday, September 11**, at **4:00 pm** at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 100 W. Roosevelt Street in Phoenix to remember September 11. **Bishop Minerva Carcaño** will speak at the prayer service. All clergy and congregations are invited to attend. Clergy are also invited to vest in white and process.

CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Central East District will hold its conference on **Sunday, September 18**, at Creighton Methodist Church in Phoenix from **3:00 – 5:00 pm**. Worship will be held with **Jay Cooper** and **Sarai Case**, new pastors in our district, as the speakers. Officers for the District will be elected and a discussion will take place giving those who attend a chance to understand the Vital Congregations initiative of the United Methodist Church and what each of us is being asked to do. We will also consider approving the re-establishment of a District Builder's Fund. Creighton UMC is located at 4900 E. Thomas Road in Phoenix. The district offices are now housed on the campus of Creighton UMC and tours of the new offices will take place from **5:00 – 8:00 pm**. Refreshments will be provided.

CONFERENCE MISSION TRIP TO AFRICA

The deadline is approaching to participate in the conference mission trip to Zimbabwe, Africa. This exciting opportunity is scheduled for **February 19-27, 2012**. As part of this trip, we will visit Africa University, which was founded by the United Methodist Church in March, 1992, the first private university chartered in Africa. To honor Joel Huffman, the first treasurer and administrative officer of the Desert Southwest Conference, a Chair of Health Sciences will be dedicated in his name. A deposit of \$200 along with the application is due in the Conference office by **September 15**. Information on the trip can be found at the Conference web page, <http://desertsouthwestconference.org> or you can contact Bill Sanford at 602-266-6956 ext. 217, or at his e-mail bill@desertsw.org.





Submitted by Phil Hartley,
Treasurer



Financially, July was certainly a great month for Red Mountain UMC. Our income was greater than our expenses so that we are still in the black for the year. We got our new mortgage at an even lower rate than we had expected. We went from a 6.5 % interest rate to a 4.39% rate. (But, more about that later.) This means, to me, that we are doing things right and we need to continue praising God, listening to Him and not be afraid to go where He asks us to go. As you look at the numbers below, remember that last year was a good year, financially, for Red Mountain. And we are ahead of that! I believe that we are ready to do even greater things at the church, in our community and in the world.

General Ministries Fund

	<u>July '11</u>	<u>July '10</u>	<u>Total to date '11</u>	<u>Total to date '10</u>
INCOME:	\$ 50,916	\$ 40,517	\$352,147	\$315,841
EXPENSES:	\$ 49,780	\$ 47,892	\$342,101	\$323,494
CHANGE:	\$ 1,136	(\$ 6,892)	\$ 10,046	(\$ 7,653)

In July, we took some money from an account that had been established to help pay the mortgage in case we ran into problems in the future. It was part of a gift from the settling of a member's estate. Using this money, we made sure that our loan would be below the one million mark, saving us a substantial amount in closing costs. With our new mortgage, if we pay the same premium that we have in the past, we will save over \$130,000 in interest charges and our mortgage will be paid off about one year sooner. I believe this is good stewardship. Thanks for the hard, and often tedious work, by Red Mountain staff and volunteers, as well as those people at Chase Bank who worked on getting the approval.

Mortgage/Columbarium Fund

	<u>July '11</u>	
Received:	\$ 62,414	Fund Balance: \$ 9,223
Dispersed:		
Interest:	\$ 9,341	Total Mortgage
Principal:	\$ 49,682	Principal: \$ 947,907
Columbarium exp:	0	
Total Mort/Colum:	\$ 59,023	
Excess	\$ 3,391	

I believe that we have demonstrated our fiscal strength and now need to use it, fearlessly, to ask God what He wants us to do with it. The answer may not come from a person in leadership, but from an unsuspecting source or sources. What do you think God is calling us to do? Have you prayed about what God is calling you to do? How can Red Mountain UMC challenge you and others to spread the Word as we are all called to do? I'm not talking about starting a new class on EDGE night. No, I'm talking about something that will make people in the community and even the world get to know the name of Jesus through Red Mountain UMC. I believe He wants us to get involved with something that will turn on a vast majority of our members and attract others to join us. This has to be something not for ourselves, but something that will make an impact on many of those around us. We have heard sermons and attended classes that have told us it's time to get involved. Now we have the resources to do it. Let's get started!

NEW ADDRESSES FOR THE STAFF
 When e-mailing the church office, please make note of the new e-mail addresses which are now in effect:

- rmumc@rmumc.com
- mary.bullis@rmumc.com
- dot.saundersperez@rmumc.com
- cris.bass@rmumc.com
- peter.gutierrez@rmumc.com
- debbie.hollenbach@rmumc.com
- erin.gray@rmumc.com
- the.preschool@rmumc.com



Pictured above are the young adult volleyball champions from RMUMC! CONGRATULATIONS!



MISSION MOMENTS

*Submitted by Carolyn Ball
from the Prayer Calendar*

The following centers are dedicated to working with children and the community. Websites are given so that you might see for yourself the good they are doing:

Epworth Children and Family Services, St. Louis, Missouri, is a United Methodist Women-supported national mission institution. www.epworth.org.

United Community Center, Fort Worth, Texas, is also supported by United Methodist Women and has been working with the Fort Worth community since 1909. The center offers a variety of services, including child care, emergency assistance, GED preparation and English-as-a-second language. www.unitedcommunitycenters.org.

Henry Fork Service Center, Rocky Mount, Virginia, provides preschool and other enrichment activities for the community. United Methodist Deaconess and church and community worker Elizabeth Nichols is the executive director of Henry Fork Service Center. www.gbmg-umc.org/hfsc.

Hattie B. Cooper Community Center, Roxbury, Massachusetts, is a United Methodist Women-supported national mission institution that provides vital educational services to the community. www.cooperctr.org.



Recently in the Hospital:

Susan Thorp

Logan Bryan

Kathleen Shubert

Reed Wade

Wally Abraham

Al Bauder

Laura Lucas

Verna Berndt

Ellen Phillips



*Blessings for these births
into our church family:*

Micah James Mitchell, born July 18, grandparents are *Steve and Rebecca Wiseman*.

Tyler Martin Gregson, born August 6 in Nashville, Tennessee, grandmother is *Marcia Tharp*.

David Ray Livingston, born August 16 in Plano, Texas, to parents *Jim and Susan Livingston*, grandparents are *Sandra Haynes and the late Skip Haynes*.

Colton Joshua Livdahl, born August 18, grandparents are *Rod and Marsha Livdahl*.



Thank You Messages:

Thank you very much for your donations and prayers to help me go to China this summer. I enjoyed spending five of my weeks learning the culture of Chinese students and teaching them our culture and our faith. I loved spending time with the students and building friendships with them. My friendships with them are still growing because I am continuing to keep in touch with many of them through emails. Without your prayers and support, I would not have been able to accomplish any of this, so I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

God bless, Jared Cummings

Thank you so much for all the cards, emails and prayers during this difficult time with the loss of my mother. We are so lucky to be part of such a loving congregation.

In Him, Kim Ramelli

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!

Note Regarding Bertha Johnson:

Bertha Johnson, who has moved to Assisted Living, is trying to sell her home. She needs a round or square 40" table and chairs and two twin bed-spreads. After the house is sold, these items will be returned. Please contact her daughter-in-law Karen Johnson at KMJ06238@yahoo.com



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Mesa, AZ 85215

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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

SEPTEMBER

RED MOUNTAIN MATTERS

A publication of Red Mountain United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2011

VOLUME 30

No. 9

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
Kim Ramelli, Coffeehouse Worship Leader
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

OFFICE CONTACTS:

PHONE: 480-981-3833
FAX: 480-807-8483
E-MAIL: rmumc@rmumc.com (New!)
WEB SITE: www.rmumc.com

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY – THURSDAY
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
FRIDAY
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

SEPTEMBER



To

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Harris Albright
Cris Bass
David Bullis
Andrew Gaitan
Webb Perryman</p> <p>3 Nathan Hinze
Tamara Michel
Steven Olson</p> <p>5 Makenna Fullford
JoNelle Greenwalt
Mara Peterson
June Powers
Lewis Ricci</p> <p>6 Grant Paulsen
Ellen Phillips</p> <p>7 Cynthia Armstrong
Kaira Miller
Frank Moir
Maxine Rathjen
Chris Shubert</p> <p>9 Eldon Husted</p> <p>10 Mark Knowles</p> <p>11 Jeff Ferm
Carol Taylor</p> <p>12 Cheryl Durkin</p> <p>13 Dennis Crippen</p> <p>15 Hailey Taylor</p> | <p>16 Theresa Lintala
Pat Quadlin</p> <p>17 James Carpenter
Kitty Van Blitterswijk</p> <p>18 Terence Byas
John Olson</p> <p>19 Shirley Adams
Conner Rose
Emily Rose
James Troyer</p> <p>20 Beverly Maynard</p> <p>21 Wilda Buckbee
Eric Gaitan
Lee Munsil Jr.</p> <p>22 Aubrie Guss</p> <p>24 Natalie Ferm
Ed Toner</p> <p>25 Terry Johnson</p> <p>26 Dona Martinsen
Andy Wooton</p> <p>27 Fae Aukes
Loriann Bauman
Logan Bryan
Evelyn Methfessel</p> <p>28 Kathryn Brockman
John Moore</p> <p>29 Prescott Smidt
Stephanie Stimson</p> <p>30 Dale Barrows</p> |
|--|---|



- | |
|--|
| <p>2 Dennis and GayLynn Brewer
-- 16 years
Ron and Marilyn Kingma
-- 51 years</p> <p>4 Fred and Sue Byas – 57 years</p> <p>5 Steve and Lisa Brooks – 13 years</p> <p>7 Carl and Jackie Larson
-- 54 years</p> <p>8 J P and Cindy Smith -- 39 years</p> <p>13 Stan and Chyrl Stikna – 3 years</p> <p>14 Alan and Barb Taskler
-- 21 years</p> <p>17 Don and Gail Perkins – 45 years</p> <p>18 Curt and Barb Eshelman
-- 62 years</p> <p>29 Don and Betty Messenger
-- 62 years
John and Alyssa Olson
-- 4 years</p> |
|--|



There are still a few “glitches” with the new data base operator. I apologize for omitting these August birthdays. Happy belated day to you all!

August 1-- Blaire Willis
August 9 – Don Underwood
August 18 – Rose Meyers
August 26 – Wally Abraham