

"Without a vision, the people will perish..."

Proverbs

Vision...



Safford First United Methodist Church Newsletter ◇ **January 2012**

View from the pulpit:

I was in the grocery store just the other day, and as I was waiting in the checkout line, I did something I usually do not do. I picked up one of those "supermarket tabloids." The cover that caught my eye had this really bad drawing of Michael Angelo's painting called "Finger of God." It was quite different from the one Cheryl and I saw on the ceiling of The Sistine Chapel a couple years ago. The headline that splashed across $\frac{3}{4}$ of the front page said:

100 PREDICTIONS for the next 100 days.

It's interesting as every year comes to an end and we look forward to the New Year, there always seems to be this emphasis on predictions of the future. We hear about the newest predictions of Nostradamus (who died in 1566 by the way), or that the most recent religious zealot thinks they have figured out how to de-code the Book of Revelation or some other biblical reference. This is contrary to the words of Jesus Christ himself where he said, *"Concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come..."* (Mark 13:28-37)

NO ONE KNOWS! Not even Jesus Christ. I think that's a pretty clear warning and rebuke to those who think they have been able to figure out something Jesus didn't even know. But Jesus does go on to make a pretty good point here when he says, depending on the translation, for us to be watchful or stay awake because we also do not know when the time is so we should live our lives

making every day fit for Jesus to see us as we truly are and being ready at a moment's notice to meet Him face to face. Every day should become a day of preparation to meet the King.

Mark's gospel tells us three very important things. First it tells us, only God's people can see into the secrets of history. Leaders of real stature must be men and women of God. With all the pending political rhetoric I would encourage you to look for people of God. To guide this country or any country its leaders must be themselves guided by God. Only those who know God can enter into something of the plan of God.

The second thing Mark's gospel tells us about the second coming of Christ is that it contains a fact (or fundamental truths) that we too often forget or disregard at our hazard and to speculate about it is useless. There is going to come an end of time for all of us. Living our lives according to God's word, Jesus' example is the one thing you can count on.

The third thing Mark's gospel tells us is, of all things, to forget God and become more immersed in material concerns is the most foolish. Truly wise people never forget that they must be ready

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when their time comes. To gamble with life and put off Jesus' warning is in itself a big mistake. Being ready is to love our neighbor as ourselves, to forgive as we have been forgiven, to love our enemies, to be filled with love that is patient and kind, never jealous or proud, not ill-mannered or selfish, love that is not irritable or rude or keeps record of wrongs. For those who live in that memory, the end will not be in terror but eternal joy.

As I read the article in that supermarket tabloid, the only thing in all four pages of ramblings that I saw, that did make any sense, was that a feeling of good will and hope spreads across the globe as people of all faiths come together to promote tolerance and understanding. I hope your New Year, and the rest of your life is filled with the realization of that prediction!



See ya in church!
Pastor Bob

End of an Era

In March of 1980, the Safford United Methodist Church Foundation was incorporated. It had a board of directors who oversaw the goals and functions of the Foundation. Its main function was to provide scholarships to eligible youth members of the congregation that met the scholarship requirements.

Duane Spalsbury was there at the inception of the Foundation. He served as its Treasurer from the beginning. It was noted that he was always prompt and accurate with his accounting and could have earned good money with his skills. After 31 years, Duane has stepped down. As a congregation, we owe Duane a large debt of gratitude for his years of service to Safford FUMC, as do all the students who have benefitted from the Foundation's scholarships.

Thank you, Duane!

Leadership Changes...

As we venture into 2012 some leadership roles at Safford FUMC have changed. To assist people in knowing whom to contact here is a list of key Church leaders for 2012.

Dick Spining – Administrative Council
John and Jennifer Manning – Family Ministries
Dorine Chancellor - Treasurer
Sharon Worland - Recording Secretary
Lowell Hinkins – Foundation Board
Barbara Haralson – Lay Leader
Sharon Worland – Congregational Care
Carrie Glaspie – Worship
Sue Bonefas – Missions
Peggy Hunter – Historian
Dave Etter – Scouting Coordinator
Ronnie Glaspie – Staff Parish
Bruce Stanfield – Finance
Monika Ragland - Financial Secretary
To Be Determined – Trustee Chairperson, selected at January meeting

HELP WANTED

Nursery Volunteers, Substitutes and Assistants



There has been some interest in providing Nursery Care for those parents with small children who would like to attend any of our adult Sunday School Classes. So we can provide the additional nursery care for any of those parents, we are looking for adult volunteers to assist our nursery attendants from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. We are also needing to identify possible substitutes for attendants when they are not available due to illness, vacation or maternity leave. If there are any adults or young people interested in assisting in the nursery, please contact the church office or any of the church staff.

OOPS...

The "Family and Friends Church Directory" distributed recently needs a few updates. Please add the following information to your copy: Under Joey Martinez and under Ananda Evans, please add Matthew, their newborn son. Under Scott and Julie Glaspie, please add to their family the names Savannah and Kaitlynn in addition to their son Stetson. As new information is available, we will alert you to changes.

WALK TO EMMAUS

If you have never had the opportunity to participate in the Walk to Emmaus, I want to ask you to prayerfully consider participating in this year's Walk.



The Walk to Emmaus does not involve any physical exertion, rather a time of deep spiritual strengthening and contemplation. The basis of the Walk to Emmaus is scriptural, as found in Luke 24:13-32.

The Walk to Emmaus begins on a Thursday evening and completes on Sunday evening, 72 hours. My Walk to Emmaus made the love of God for me so real, and His call to service became so clear to me.

This year's walks will be held in Sierra Vista. The Men's Walk 215 is March 15 – 18, 2012, and the Women's Walk 216 will take place March 22 -25th. I am blessed to serve as the Lay Director for the Women's Walk this year. Several people from Safford First United Methodist Church will be a part of the Men's or Women's Team. Men and women attend on separate weekends so that they can each concentrate fully on their personal walk with Jesus.

Applications are available in the Church Office or on the table in the Narthex. Spots fill up quickly, so it is important you get your application in as soon as possible. Please take this opportunity to experience

what could be one of the most spiritual weekends of your life. I look forward to sharing this weekend with you.

In Him ~
Barbara Haralson, Lay Director
Walk to Emmaus #216

Mark your calendars for these training opportunities in February!

February 4, 2012 -South District Leadership Training

Members of the Administrative Council are encouraged to attend The Desert Southwest Conference UMC South District Leadership Training to be held Saturday, February 4th at Christ United Methodist Church in Tucson from 8:00AM until 2:00PM. Registration costs for the training will be covered and transportation will be provided from the Church for all who attend. Attendees will choose from among six workshops: Marketing Your Church, How to Have an Effective Meeting, Staff Parish Committee Training, Local Church Outreach, Welcoming Training and Disaster Response Teams.

February 18, 2012 -Church-wide Leadership Development Workshop

The Administrative Council will be hosting a leadership development workshop to which all members of Safford 1st UMC are invited. The workshop will be held from 9:00AM to 4:00PM on Saturday, February 18th, with lunch provided. Participants, through hands on and interactive learning experiences will develop the means to put our Guiding Principles into action. Each work area of the church: Congregational Care, Evangelism, Education, Family Ministries, Finance, Missions, Staff Parish Relations, Trustees, Worship, and Youth Ministries will be provided leadership tools to engage in ministry. While persons currently serving in the work areas of the church will be participating in the workshop, all church members are encouraged and invited to attend. Come to learn

more about our church, our denomination and to be a vital part of God's ministry to the world.

Questions concerning this training can be directed to Dick Spining, your 2012 Administrative Council Chair. Phone: 928-428-1414
e-mail: dick@spinfam.com.

HELPING HANDS NEWS

HELPING Hands continues to work to meet the needs of economically disadvantaged homeowners in Graham County. The donations we have received through Safford FUMC members are very helpful in the purchase of needed materials. Helping Hands of Graham County thanks those of you who have donated to support our efforts.



Whereas, Church policy does not permit us to learn of the donor's name we are using this media to thank you for your support. All financial and physical support is dearly cherished.

We still need volunteers; it is very rewarding and at times so sad!! In late November we completed a handicap ramp for two individuals who desperately needed assistance. Both of them were friendly and kept us supplied with coffee as we built and painted the ramp. Sad to say one of the two passed away in early December. They and others in need are in our prayers.

3:16 BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

On Monday, January 9th the Max Lucado adult Bible study will continue. The four remaining sessions are: *God's Gracious Grip*, *Hell's Supreme Surprise*, *What Makes Heaven Heavenly* and *the Last Word on Life*. Come to the Friendship Classroom at 6:30 p.m. to discover the hope that God provides and to commit to living in light of His hope. It's not too late to join.



The *Vision* is pleased to introduce Kim and Al Jeremy, who became members of FUMC on June 19, 2011. They, along with Al's mother Geri, usually attend the first service and are supporters of many of our activities.

Kim was born in Safford and raised in Klondyke, AZ, where her family still has a ranch and where she and Al were married in 1981. She has always had a love of ranching and spends as much time there as possible. Although Al was born in Wisconsin, he, too, loves life on the ranch, and they spend a lot of their free time contentedly riding, branding, and enjoying other round-up activities.

After Kim and Al were married, they moved to northern California for a short time, then back to Klondyke for 8 years running the Haby ranch, then to Wisconsin for 17 years, and finally back to the Safford area. Working on the ranch is in addition to their regular jobs, which is at Sollers Construction in Central. Al is Superintendent and Kim is the company's bookkeeper. Sollers Construction is owned by Kim's sister Lori Sollers and her husband Bill Sollers. Kim has two sisters and two brothers all in this area. Alan has one brother and 3 sisters, none of whom live here.

Mentioning their two children and three grandchildren brings smiles to their faces. Their son James in Wisconsin has one daughter, three-year-old Lily, whom they see as often as possible. In addition, their daughter Nicole has two children, Dawson, 2, and Payson, 9 months old. Because Nicole lives in the Gila Valley, they are able to see her and her children often.

They are happy to be settled back in the Gila Valley where they have been for the past four and a half years. One of their greatest joys is being close to family, and Al says that if he could, he would love to ranch full time. Since that's not possible, they're grateful for the opportunity to spend a lot of time at the Klondyke ranch.

A major concern in their lives at this time is the health of some of Al's family. His sister in Colorado has been ill and will need a lot of care in the future, a nephew (the same sister's son) is

disabled, and the husband of another of his sisters died in October at age 53. Recently his mother, Geri, who lives with Al and Kim, was in Colorado for a while to help, but she is safely back in the Gila Valley now. Our prayer requests over the last weeks have focused on those in Al and Kim's family who are struggling with these health problems, and we continue to keep them in our prayers.

When asked what they particularly like about FUMC, they mention the welcoming environment and the Bible-based messages. They say that while past experiences in other congregations have been negative at times, the positive focus of this church's ministry is refreshing and attractive.

We welcome Kim and Al to our FUMC family and look forward to all the times when we can share God's Work and Word together. It is a pleasure to have them as co-workers in our ministry for Christ.

Short Announcements...

- ✓ **New Directories available in church office and Narthex**
- ✓ FUMC Worship Committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make our 5th Sunday combined services a success in 2011. We will return to two services on the 5th Sunday in 2012.
- ✓ **Taking down the greens has been scheduled for January 8th after the 10:30 service**
- ✓ Sidewalk Sunday School on break until January 11
- ✓ Thank you to everyone who gave of themselves to help make the Christmas Stocking available to our Sidewalk Sunday School friends and their guests.
- ✓ Thank you to everyone who participated in the Angel Tree giving!

- ✓ **Blood pressure and glucose checks on January 8, 2012!**
- ✓ The quilting circle is on hiatus until Jan. 5th. We have made a lot of progress in the meantime and have 6 more quilts waiting to be given away. If anyone has a family in need please contact the church and we will see to it that the need is filled.

United Methodist Women



JANUARY 12th IS THE DAY!

United Methodist Women are starting off the new year with a new series of programs designed to challenge us to expand our concept of mission in today's world.

Our first program is titled "We In The World". Each person is asked to bring a small photo of yourself to be used on a poster. We will begin at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. Please join us as we examine ourselves as women of faith in this world.

SANCTUARY FAMILY ROOM DEVELOPMENT

The Trustees are updating the Wesley and Vision rooms located in the rear of the sanctuary. The Vision room, since it is adjacent to the Women's restroom with the changing area, is now designated as the Family Room. Sunday Worship Kid Bags are now located here and some toys are available for little ones who become restless during the service. There is also a rocking chair for parents who would like to rock their baby. If you have toys or books that your own children have out-grown, we would welcome the donation to add to the Family Room. We are a child-friendly church and want your family's worship experience to be enjoyable.



CHURCH HISORY

From These Roots... "The years erase so many things we would like to remember. These facts, stories, activities are so important, we do not realize until one day...others would like to know what happened."



It's that time of the year, we are collecting all church records and materials no longer in current use to be placed in our church archives. Records and historical materials include all documents, minutes, journals, diaries, reports, letters, pamphlets, papers, manuscripts, maps, photographs, books, audiovisuals, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, or any other documentary material. There is a designated container in the church office for such materials. Thank you.

Peggy Hunter, Church Historian



Thanks for helping with the Christmas packages for our military people. Sharon paid for shipping. Two boxes were mailed to the grandsons of Peggy and Ed Hunter. We are thankful that Vance Moya, Stephanie Etter, the Hunter boys, and Philip Attaway are home for Christmas!

I prepared a box from our church to the widow of my soldier friend, Jonathan Monzingo, who passed away from pancreatic cancer. Jon's wife, Tamarah Monzingo, daughter of Drew and Debbie John, will be home (here) for Christmas. Please continue to pray for comfort for the Monzingo family, and for all our military families and deployed persons.

Next Christmas, I plan to help my daughter in law, Brandi Shannon, with her support for military families. I will not do the Christmas boxes again. (Ate too much candy and cookies!)

Hope and pray there truly will be Peace on Earth and no more need for loved ones to be separated at Christmas!

Thanks,
Liz Garver, an Army Mom



The Month in Scripture

January 1, 2012
Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4: 4-7
Luke 2: 22-40

Jan. 6: Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12

Jan. 8: Genesis 1: 1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19: 1-7
Mark 1: 4-11

Jan. 15: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6: 12-20
John 1: 43-51

Jan. 22: Jonah 3: 1-5, 10
Psalm 62: 5-12
1 Corinthians 7: 29-31
Mark 1: 14-20

Jan. 29: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8: 1-13
Mark 1: 21-28



January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday	2 Office Closed 7 pm – Day Care Board (FC) John 3:16 Bible Study – on break	3 11 am – Sisters at Heart (FC)	4 Sidewalk Sunday School BREAK 5 pm – Prayer Meeting (VR)	5 9:15 am – Quilters (FH) 6 pm – Absolute Worship snacks 6:30 pm – Absolute Worship Service	6	7
8 BP & Glucose Checks between 8:15 and 10:30 services Taking down the Greens – After the 10:30 service	9 6:30 – John 3:16 Bible Study (FC)	10 11 am – Sisters at Heart (FC) 5:30 pm - Pastor's Roundtable 6:15 pm – Church Supper 6:45 pm – Various church meetings	11 2:30 pm – Sidewalk Sunday School (PG) 5 pm – Prayer Meeting (VR)	12 11:00 am – UMW business meeting and luncheon - FH 6 pm – Absolute Worship snacks 6:30 pm – Absolute Worship Service	13	14
15 7 am – Men's Fellowship Breakfast Youth Winter Retreat – Jan. 15 and 16	16 6:30 – John 3:16 Bible Study (FC)	17 11 am – Sisters at Heart (FC) 7 pm – Ad Council (FC)	18 2:30 pm – Sidewalk Sunday School (PG) 5 pm – Prayer Meeting (VR)	19 9:15 am – Quilters (FH) 6 pm – Absolute Worship snacks 6:30 pm – Absolute Worship Service	20	21
22	23 6:30 pm - John 3:16 Bible Study	24 11 am – Sisters at Heart (FC)	25 2:30 pm – Sidewalk Sunday School (PG) 5 pm – Prayer Meeting (VR)	26 9:15 am – Quilters (FH) 6 pm – Absolute Worship snacks 6:30 pm – Absolute Worship Service	27	28
29	30 6:30 – John 3:16 Bible Study (FC)	31 11 am – Sisters at Heart (FC)				

Weekly Church Events

Sunday

8:15 am – Essentials Worship Service (S)
9:15 am – Sunday School (Various)
10:30 am – Liturgical Worship Service (S)
6 pm – Youth Group (YR)
6 pm – Wesley Group (FH)

Wednesday

5 pm – Prayer Meeting (VR)
5 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thursday

9:15 am – Quilter's Group (FH)

Weekly Community Events

Monday

6 pm – Cub Scouts/Webelos (FH)
6 pm – NA (L)
7 pm – Boy Scouts (FH)

Tuesday

6 pm – NA (L)

Wednesday

6 pm – NA (L)
7:30 pm – AA (L)

Thursday

5 pm – Brownies (FC)
6 pm – CMA (L)

Friday

6 pm – CMA (L)

Saturday

6 pm – CMA (L)

Property Location Key

(FC) Friendship Classroom, (FH) Fellowship Hall, (L) Library, (PG) Pecan Grove, (S) Sanctuary, (V) Vision Room, (W) Wesley Room

Birthdays

Jan 1 Kellie Ferguson
Jan 2 Teresa Bailey
Jan 4 Valorie Michaud
Bob Howell
Michelle Rhodes
Paula Schade
Troy Walker
Jan 9 Joe Delgado
Jan 12 Levi O'Dell
Jan 14 Eleanor Claridge
Jan 15 Talia Decker
Tim Franklin
Eileen Stauffer
Jan 19 Clyde Mitchell
Jan 20 Allen Jones
Susan Moore
Joshua Romero
Jan 21 Elijah Hunter
Jan 22 Valerie Bailey
Jan 23 Brianne Fisher
Bob Fly
Billie Ringer
Jan 24 Hank Slotnick
Jan 26 Ilana Decker
Jan 28 Teri Romero
Jan 29 Weston Lewis
Jan 31 Jan Oller

Anniversaries

Jan 1 Hank Slotnick and Mary Lou Fuller
Jan 6 Stuart & Andrea Pritchard
Jan 9 Mark & Brenda Adamson
Jan 28 Bob & Mary Howell

We support the church through our:

PRAYERS: Activate the prayer chain by phoning Judy Fisher at 428-6485, or the church office at 428-4211. You can also write special prayer requests on cards in the pew racks, and turn them in Sunday during worship. We also invite you to take time each Wednesday to pray for the ministry of the First United Methodist Church.

ATTENDANCE:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Nov. 27	150
Dec. 4	140
Dec. 11	181
Dec. 18	174

SERVICE: Thank you to all the folks who helped decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. As always, it was beautiful!

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Happy New Year