

Vision...

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

Proverbs



Safford First United Methodist Church Newsletter ♦ **September 2011**

View from the pulpit:

As we approach September 11th, I can't help but think back over the last 10 years and all the things that have happened. It's a day none of us will ever forget. There were so many fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, friends, partners, colleagues, coworkers, conservatives, liberals, republicans, democrats, independents, gays, straight, white, black, Christians, non-Christians, young, old, citizens, immigrants, healthy, handicapped – all who were children of God who were killed that day. We will forever hold a place in our hearts for the shock and horror, but we will still endure!

The good news – even the GREAT news – is HOPE is still alive! “Those who HOPE in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint (Is 40:31).

One of my favorite Christian authors, Max Lucado wrote “our asking “where is God?” is like a fish asking “where is water?” or a bird asking “where is air?” God is everywhere! Equally present in New York City and Safford, Arizona. God is as active in the lives of the Japanese overcoming the tsunami as in the lives of you and me having to deal with our own insecurities. You will never be able to find a place where God is not. The Apostle Paul helps us to understand this concept where he states “*if God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us*

all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us who God has chosen for his own? No one- for God himself has given us right standing with himself....Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? NO, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us. (Romans 8:31-37)

Scholar, author, Catholic priest and one of the most loved spiritual thinkers of our times Henri Nouwen writes in his book, *Turn My Mourning Into Dancing*.

“Hope is not dependent on peace in the land, justice in the world, and success in business. Hope is willing to leave unanswered questions unanswered and unknown

unknown.
Hope makes you see God's guiding hand not only in the gentle and pleasant moments but also in the shadows of

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Mike Pearson, Superintendent

Bob Holliday, Pastor
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disappointment and darkness.”

“No one can truly say with certainty where he or she will be in ten or twenty years from now. You do not know if you will be free or in captivity, if you will be honored or despised, if you have many friends or few, if you will be liked or rejected. But when you hold lightly these dreams and fears, you can be open to receive every day as a new day and to live your life as a unique expression of God’s love for humankind...”

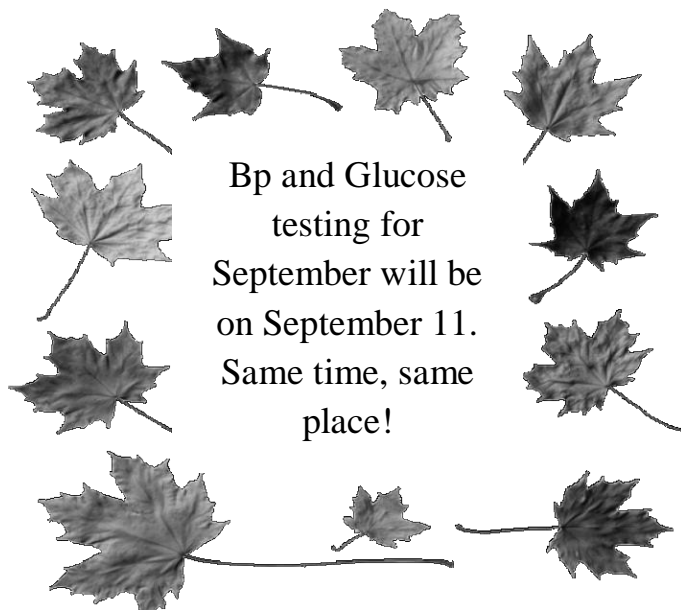
Dr. McNair Wilson, the famous cardiologist wrote in his autobiography, *Doctor’s Progress*, “Hope is the medicine I use more than any other – hope can cure nearly anything.” Years ago Dr. Harold Wolff who was professor of medicine at Cornell University Medical College said, “Hope, like faith and a purpose in life, is medicinal. This is not exactly a statement of belief, but a conclusion proved by a meticulously controlled scientific experiment.” When suffering and difficult times hit us personally, the common cry is “Why me? What’s the reason?”

People without faith or a personal relationship with Jesus Christ always have different reactions to painful situations. But without Jesus Christ, our attempt to find the right response to difficult times and suffering will only be a futile attempt to find answers to questions that cannot be answered. Now more than ever, we need to know how to find strength to live life to its fullest to have hope even in the midst of tragedy and loss.

Hope prevails and brings new life!

See ya in church

Bob



Bp and Glucose
testing for
September will be
on September 11.
Same time, same
place!

Don't get left in the heat!

The annual Safford FUMC camp out at Luna Lake is coming up on the weekend of September 2nd through the 5th. There is always lots of room as well as a wonderful time to be had by everyone. Pack up and beat the heat! See you there.



*YOU ARE CORDIALLY
INVITED TO ATTEND
The Luncheon Meeting of
United Methodist Women*

Thursday, September 8, 2011

11:00 a.m.

*Safford 1st United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall*

*Speaker: Rev. Sharon Ragland
Pastor at St. Marks UMC, Tucson
Will speak on the topic of
“Peaceful Reconciliation”*

*Hope to see you on the 8th!
Bring a friend*





New Members...

Deann and David Schade with their children Jessica and Hannah joined FUMC on June 10, 2011. Since Deann and David were both raised in the Gila Valley, they say that

returning to this town and this church feels like coming home.

Deann grew up in Thatcher and still has family there. David grew up in Safford, and many in his extended family not only live in Safford but also attend this church. In fact, on a recent Sunday, four generations of the Schade family were in attendance at the worship service!

After finishing school in Safford, David attended the University of Arizona and received a BA degree in Communication. Following his graduation, he and Deann moved to Payson where David worked for the Pepsi Company. Now they are back in Safford, David working at the local Pepsi business and the entire family enjoying being near their extended families and friends.

Both Jessica and Hannah are wonderful additions to our congregation. Jessica is in 4th grade at Dorothy Stinson school this year. She loves gymnastics, volleyball, and swimming. Hannah, three years old, is happy to spend her days at home with mom and especially enjoys reading, swimming, and swinging.

Perhaps Jessica gets her interest in volleyball from Deann, who plays in a local volleyball league. Mostly, though, Deann and David spend their time with their family. Their goal is to have a happy life and enjoy seeing their children grow.

When asked what they especially like about FUMC, they mentioned the appearance of the church, the welcoming congregation, and Pastor Bob's ministry. As they appreciate special aspects of our church, we, in turn, appreciate their participation in our walk with Christ. It is a pleasure for us to welcome Deann, David, Jessica, and Hannah to our church family.



Month in Scripture

Sept. 4: Exodus 12: 1-14
Psalm 149 (or Psalm 148)
Romans 13: 8-14
Matthew 18: 15-20

Sept. 11: Exodus 14: 19-31
Exodus 15: 1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14: 1-12
Matthew 18: 21-35

Sept. 18: Exodus 16: 2-15
Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1: 21-30
Matthew 20: 1-16

Sept. 25: Exodus 17: 1-7
Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2: 1-13
Matthew 21: 23-32



JRR & JjR News

NEWS FLASH!!! John's *Junior Ringers* will start up again on Sunday, September 18 at 8:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

In August, JJR played "My Faith Looks Up to Thee", an old favorite from my early years, and a favorite of others. As a point of interest, this was originally scheduled for March. We had been working extra hard to learn "You'll Never Walk Alone" for an event in February. We liked how it turned out so well that we decided to play it for our regular Sunday in February.

That left "Deep River" that we originally learned for February, which was then played in March. We laid "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" aside for a later time, and August turned out to be the time. This was also only the second time in our 3½ year history that we got off to a bad start and had to restart.

JJR has been continuing to learn new skills and meet new challenges. At the present time we are working on being able to recognize and find the assigned notes in the music. This not only helps the ringer catch notes that missed being marked, but allows ringers to mark their own music. The second challenge is to become familiar and comfortable playing in other positions, which allows ringers to play wherever they are needed.

Contacting Bob Borland...

Everything went fine at the hospital, very nice place with very nice people. He is at a very nice rehab center because he is on 24 hour intravenous anti-biotic. If anyone wants to know, his address is:

Robert Borland, Room 447, Advanced Health Care, 16825 North 63rd Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85306. He has his cell phone with him - 520-507-7727.

Seeking New Shores

On September 23rd and 24th, the Second Annual "Seeking New Shores" conference for small and rural churches will be held right here in Safford at First United Methodist Church. This year we will feature discussions on:

- The realities of doing small church in a changing world and the dynamics of small church ministry.
- We'll explore ways for providing ministry in a predominantly Mormon community and reaching out to those lost in the mix.
- To help small and rural churches increase their visibility and outreach, we'll discuss and share examples of how to use web sites and social media in an ever increasing technological world.
- As the economy takes its toll throughout the state, small and rural churches are ever the place where people in need go for assistance. The dilemma is how small and rural churches are managing human needs with fewer resources.
- Then we'll look at some of the past, present and future possibilities for small and rural church ministries in ecumenical and collaborative environments.

This conference is also supported and sponsored by Rev. Jan Flatten of Arizona Ecumenical Council, Bishop Minerva Carcaño: resident bishop of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bishop Kirk Smith: resident bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, Bishop Steve Talmage: resident bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and Rev. Jose Olgares past executive of the Grand Canyon Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the USA. Registration is \$60 which includes all meals, resources designed to support small and rural church congregations, and information about each featured discussion. A special message from Bishop Carcaño and registration information is available on line at:

http://desertsouthwestconference.org/churchmembers/conference_events/seeking_new_shores/

PAINT GRAHAM COUNTY

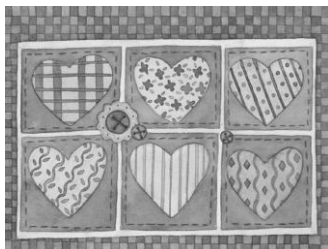


SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011
TO CELEBRATE VOLUNTEERISM MONTH
YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE FOR A NEEDY HOMEOWNER*
IN GRAHAM COUNTY.
GET TOGETHER A TEAM OF 8 TO 14 PEOPLE
WHO WOULD LIKE TO PAINT A HOME
YOUTH WILL NEED ADULT SUPERVISION
AND NO YOUTH UNDER 12 YEARS OLD
PLEASE

INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT GRAHAM
COUNTY ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT THE
NAME AND A SHORT LETTER NOMINATING
A NEEDY FAMILY* WHO WOULD BENEFIT
HAVING THEIR HOME EXTERIOR PAINTED.
FIVE HOMES IN GRAHAM COUNTY WILL BE
SELECTED. SUBMIT LETTERS TO BARBARA
HARALSON

443 E YUCCA DR, SAFFORD AZ 85546 OR
bharalson@cableone.net
questions? 428-5466
no later than October 1, 2011

*Recipients of services must financially qualify at
federal poverty level guidelines



The UMW quilting group has started up again after a summer break. Not everyone has returned from the North, but we are going full steam. Anyone can join us! We meet the 1, 3, & 4th Thursdays from 9:15 to noon. Coffee's on!!

Sunday School News...

Soul Overhaulin' Class to Begin September 11
The Adult Sunday School Class that uses DVDs, on alternate Sundays, by Ray Vander Laan filmed in the Holy Land, with one of his classes will begin the fall semester in the Sunday school room closest to the office.

Features of the class include:

- An introduction to all Books of the Bible, cycled thru the year
- The Following of current student interests, as other adult classes do
- Discussions on what our church is about, by introducing key disciplines
- Starts with New Testament, and follows the Old Testament, as from last year

Students may enter any Sunday. This class may be a good fit for parents of all ages who want to share with their children, and others.



The Adult Bible Study Sunday school class will be taking a new direction beginning in Fall 2011. While maintaining our focus on study of the Holy Scriptures, we will work to apply what we learn to problems and issues we encounter as Christians in our daily lives. What do the scriptures tell us about living as Christians in a primarily secular world? How should our relationships with our family, our workmates and the people we encounter everyday be governed by what God's Word tells us? How can the Holy Scripture help us address modern problems of living such as stress, loneliness, and feeling as if our lives have lost meaning and/or direction? The only prerequisite for the class is your willingness to open your hearts and minds to the Word. Taught by Dick Spining, the class meets every Sunday in the Friendship Classroom between services from 9:15AM to 10:15AM.

MISSION INVOLVEMENT

Merriam-Webster defines the noun Mission as follows:

- 1 *obsolete* : the act or an instance of sending
- 2 *a* : a ministry commissioned by a religious organization to propagate its faith or carry on humanitarian work *b* : assignment to or work in a field of missionary enterprise *c* (1) : a mission establishment (2) : a local church or parish dependent on a larger religious organization for direction or financial support *d plural* : organized missionary work *e* : a course of sermons and services given to convert the un-churched or quicken Christian faith
- 3 a body of persons sent to perform a service or carry on an activity
- 4 *a* : a specific task with which a person or a group is charged
- 5 : Calling, Vocation

Having grown up on “Mission Impossible”, I was surprised by the large amount of “church” in these definitions instead of spies.

Our church has almost as many missions as it has members. It truly is a case of, “There’s something for everyone.” Below is a list of the missions supported by Safford First United Methodist Church. It probably has a few missing that I’m not aware of. Check it out and see what speaks to you, what calls for your involvement.

Scouting
Kairos
Heifer Project
Angel Tree
Food Bank
Helping Hands
Operation Shoe Box
Alpha
Sidewalk Sunday School
Community Outreach
UMW Quilting group
Methodist Pre-School (daycare)

Find your Mission in life and get involved!

Importance of Walking

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$7000 per month.

My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60... now he's 97 years old and we don't know where he is.

I like long walks-- especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.

Every time I utter the dirty word, 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say, 'Well, she looks good doesn't she?'

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years, just getting "over the hill".

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

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>
July 24	118
July 31 (Combined Service)	90
August 7	136
August 14	139
August 21	147

SERVICE: A huge thank you goes out to all the wonderfully talented people who provided special music though the summer. Your shared talent was a blessing to us all!

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