

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Tucson, AZ  
Permit No. 361

Return service requested

# CONNECT February 2012

The newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Tucson, Arizona - Connecting people to each other and to the church.

## Worship

at First Church in February

### *The Season of Lent Is On Its Way*

**BUT FIRST:** A 3-Part Season on Jesus: *Who Can Jesus Be to Me?*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Features of the Day</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Theme</u>
February 5	Communion	Mark 1:21-28 Jesus in synagogue	One with Credibility	Difference between Authority and Power and how it is used.
February 12	Secular: Valentine's Day	Mark 1:29-39	One Who Lifts Me Up	Jesus as healer
February 19	Conference Day	Mark 1:40-45	One Who Knows and Loves Anyway	Jesus touches a leper

*See Page 3 for Lent Schedule*



**First United Methodist Church of Tucson**  
520 622-6481 [www.firstchurchtucson.org](http://www.firstchurchtucson.org)

### Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Lujet McCullough
Administrative Assistant	Carla Howle
Bookkeeper	Sue Smith
Building Manager	Paul White

### Volunteer Program Staff

Children's Ministry Coordinator	Martha Preston
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Anne Huth
Financial Coordinator	Bruce Billings
Membership Secretary	Carol Nelson

### Connectional Staff

Amy Barron-Gafford	Deacon in Connection, TMC Hospice
Michael Pearson	District Superintendent
Minerva Carcaño	Resident Bishop

Campus Minister	Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath
520-623-7575	
<a href="mailto:deedee@email.arizona.edu">deedee@email.arizona.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.tucsonwesley.com">www.tucsonwesley.com</a>

**First United Methodist Church**  
Giving ourselves fully to God's Will and Spirit

915 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tucson, AZ 85719  
Phone: 520-622-6481  
Fax: 520-617-0157  
Email: [office@firstchurchtucson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchtucson.org)  
[membership@firstchurchtucson.org](mailto:membership@firstchurchtucson.org)  
web: [www.firstchurchtucson.org](http://www.firstchurchtucson.org)

Office Hours  
Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Sundays at First Church  
8:45 am Pathfinders Adult Sunday School  
9:00 am Adult Sunday School  
9:00 am Children's Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship  
11:45 am Korean UMC Worship



## The Season of Lent

Let's talk Lent. Some of you have known the term most of your lives; for others it may be new. Let's unpack it a bit. To put it simply, Lent is the time, this year, between February 22 and April 7.

First off, the word itself is a Teutonic word meaning Spring. Lent first originated as a preparation time in the church year for those who were going to be baptized. It was a time of study and preparation. The fact that the season lasts 40 days has Biblical significance. You remember that Noah and all the animals were in the ark while it rained 40 day and nights. The Hebrews wandered in the wilderness under Moses' leadership for 40 years. Jesus was lead out into a wilderness area for 40 days, where he underwent all sorts of temptations, before undertaking his vocation as teacher/healer/Savior. The number 40 is symbolic, indicating a time of spiritual preparation.

If your math is any good, you will count that the days between February 22 and April 7 are more than 40 days. You are right. Sundays are not counted. Each of them throughout the year is considered a "day of resurrection; days to celebrate the resurrection, a sort of mini-Easter."

The first mention of the Lenten as a 40-day practice appeared in the records of the Council of Nicea in 325 C.E. By the time Augustine came along in the 5th century, all Christians were encouraged to see Lent as a time of personal preparation. Easter took on a penitential flavor in subsequent centuries, but Western Christianity (our heritage) and Eastern Christianity interpreted the penitential aspect differently. For the Western Church, penance had to do with making up for one's sins, but the Eastern Church saw penance as healing that which had been hurt.

It might be interesting this year to look at Lent from the Eastern perspective! And thus our theme this year for Lent "The Road to Resurrection." The road would be that toward living a life in which death has no hold on us, nor do those things which make us dead men or dead women walking!

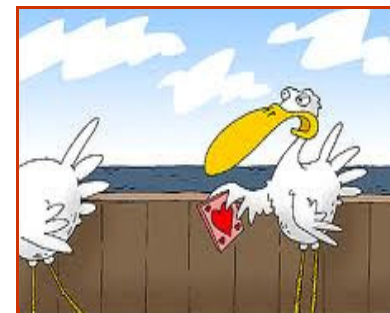
God Bless



### Please Pray

Each month churches in the South District pray with and for each other. Please pray for the pastors, congregation and community of the following churches:

*Bowie UMC, Bowie San Simon UMC, San Simon Grace UMC, Douglas*



Fine, don't be my valentine...I'm sure there are plenty of other stork girls on the ark who would loooove to!

### In Our Prayers

Please remember all these whose attendance in worship may be limited by their health or circumstances. If you know of someone who needs our prayers, please call the church office.

Rafael Arvizu	Ferne Lees
Walter Blakeslee	Onnolee Mosher
Walter Brightwell	Patricia Murphy
Ann Cole	Le Wanda Nietula
Sondra Cooper	Carroll Rinehart
Ann Erwin	Marilyn Rinehart
Nellie Fernandez	Grace Roland
Jo Haney	Edward Roland
Cora Hunt	Edna Rosenberger
Irene Hutcherson	Eunice Santos
Ruby James	Ann Truex
Herb Langen	Joan Wolfe
Linda Langen	Marilyn Wright
Kris Larsen	Ruth Ann Wright
Fred Latta	Tracy York
Diane Leadlove	Travis York

### Volunteers

*Many will be shocked to find  
when the day of judgment nears,  
that there's a special place in Heaven  
set aside for volunteers.  
Furnished with big recliners,  
satin couches and footstools,  
where there are no committee chairmen,  
no yard sales or rest area coffee to serve,  
no library duty or bulletin assembly,  
there will be nothing to print and staple,  
not one thing to fold and mail,  
telephone lists will be outlawed.  
But a finger snap will bring  
cool drinks and gourmet dinners  
and rare treats fit for a king.  
You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few  
and work for all they're worth?"  
Why, all those who reaped the benefits  
And not once volunteered on Earth.*



- 2/1 Winona Powell
- 2/1 Isaac Choh
- 2/6 Yvonne Windham
- 2/6 Joel Garcia
- 2/7 Howard Jones
- 2/8 Achim Biller
- 2/8 Cindy Turnbull
- 2/9 Jonadine Randolph
- 2/9 Jonathan Confer
- 2/10 Carolyn Redmore
- 2/12 Barbara Jones
- 2/13 Abbigail Turnbull
- 2/14 Jacob Fessenden
- 2/18 Gail Sinclair
- 2/21 Chris Stead
- 2/24 Brittany Turpen
- 2/26 J.J. Walker
- 2/27 Allie Armstrong
- 2/28 Sandy Don



- 2/12 Bruce & Judith Billings
- 2/19 Brian McCarthy & Judy Gray

*If your name isn't on these lists (or you know of someone who should be), please call the church office and let us know. We don't want to leave anyone out.*

## Regularly Scheduled Events

### Sundays

#### Pathfinders

The Pathfinders multi-generational class meets Sunday mornings in the Carillon Room. All are welcome to participate.

#### Child Care

Childcare is available during the worship service for children three and under.



### For Your Information

**Bulletin Announcements due by Wednesday of each week**

Please submit information by e-mail: either typed into the body of the e-mail message or as an attachment to: [office@firstchurchtucson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchtucson.org)

### Newsletter

#### Deadlines

**February 15  
For March 2012 Issue**

Please submit information by e-mail: either typed into the body of the email message or as an attachment to: [office@firstchurchtucson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchtucson.org)

## 12 - Step Support Groups

Each week at First Church we host meetings of 12-step groups. If you need support from any of these, please feel free to show up at a meeting.

**Alcoholics Anonymous ~**  
(aka *Campus Nooners*)  
Monday - Friday 12:00 pm  
in the Carillon Room.

**Gamblers Anonymous ~**  
Saturday morning 9:30 am  
in the Carillon Room

**Mid Town Nooners ~**  
Daily Narcotics Anonymous  
Meetings 12:00 pm in the  
Underground

**Narcotics Anonymous ~**  
Monday - Thursday nights  
7:30 pm  
in the Underground

**Overeaters Anonymous ~**  
Monday night 5:30 pm  
in the Carillon Room

**Divorce Recovery**  
Tuesday afternoon 1:00 pm in  
the Library

## Especially for Women

### Women on a Spiritual Quest

The WSQ meets Mondays, 5:30 pm in the Arizona Room for study and service. Call Eunice Santos at 623-4118 or Anita Lange at 325-9196 for more information.



### United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 11:00 am and conclude with a Potluck Luncheon in the Arizona Room. All are invited.

See page 5 for our exciting trip to Phoenix in February.



## Meet 'n Eat Group

How would you like to get together for lunch with other friends from the church on Friday, February 10, at 12:30 pm? The Meet 'n Eat lunch group will gather at the Golden Corral Buffet at 6865 N. Thornydale and would like to see you there. Whether you are a recent visitor or have been a part of the church for years you are welcome to share the fellowship. With many choices and an all-you-can-eat meal for either the senior price of \$7.29 or regular price of \$7.99, not including beverage and tip, you can't go wrong. Some of the group (you know who you are) think the chocolate fountain alone is worth the price! Call Glen or Shirley Murray at (520) 297-4796 by Wednesday, February 8, to RSVP in case we have a large group and need to reserve a private room..

## Worship During Lent

### The Road to Resurrection - Lent 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Feb. 26	Lent 1 Ritual of Ashes	John 8:1-11 Woman at well	In the Pits or Rock Bottom	What to do when we hit a low
March 4	Lent 2	Luke 14:22-26 Peter gets out of the boat	Mustering Courage	First steps out of Fear
March 11	Lent 3	Mark 3:1-6 Pharisees and the law	Beware the Ruts	The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth
March 18	Lent 4 Consecration Sunday	TBA	TBA: Guest Preacher, Rev. Kirk Reed	Stewardship
April 1	Palm/Passion No Communion	Mark 11:1-11	The Only Way To, is Through	We try to find easier, softer ways to desired ends, but often we have to go through rough spots to get to the good, to learn the lessons
April 5	Maundy Thurs Simple Soup Supper	The Last Supper		
April 12	Easter Sunday			

## Study Opportunity for Adults

### Paul and Philippians

All are invited to join in the study of Paul and Philippians at 8:45 am Sunday mornings in the Carillon Room (east end of education wing). Jim Goff and Rev. Lee Scott will share in leading this study.

*Lenten Study to be announced  
by the Adult Education Team.  
Watch for it!*

## Project Hospitality

Thank you to the congregation for responding to the request for help on Tuesday night's Project Hospitality. However, there is still a need for the preparation of February dinners, breakfasts, and lunches. If you have not joined the team or want to do a task again, please call John Olbert (297-5326) or email: [johnattu@yahoo.com](mailto:johnattu@yahoo.com)





# Stewardship on the Way

What is **blue**, **gold** and **green**?

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### WHY?

These colors represent our mission statement:

- Blue** stands for liberty,
- Gold** stands for power,
- Green** represents our faith.

On February 14, 2012, Arizona celebrates its Centennial--100 years of statehood. From a frontier town in Arizona Territory, to statehood, to leadership among the United States, Arizona reflects the values of its pioneers in the colors of our flag. Arizona's colors are **blue** and **gold**. **Blue** is the "liberty blue" identical to the color in the United States flag field of stars. **Gold** and **red** were the colors carried by Coronado's Expedition to the Seven Cities of Cibola in 1540. **Green** represents our Christian faith.

As Arizona honors its Centennial, First Church celebrates 133 years of service to God and the people of Arizona. In 1879 Pastor George Adams was sent to a small town called Tucson in the Arizona Territory to establish a Methodist Church. This is our beginning and we have built on this legacy.

Through the years First Church has participated in Tucson's growth and in service to the community. Significant community agencies such as the Community Food Bank and Tucson Metropolitan Ministries (now TMM Family Services) had their beginnings in First Church.

First Church has also expanded beyond Arizona. At First Church we are blessed to be a multicultural faith community. Among our members are people whose roots are in global areas such as Argentina, Democratic Republic of Congo, England, India, Japan, Mexico, and Nigeria. We are strong in this diversity that extends the boundaries of our faith and mission.

Our location in the University area enables us to open our doors to students. They worship with us and some serve God through volunteering at First Church. Our relationship with Wesley Foundation further strengthens our student ministries.

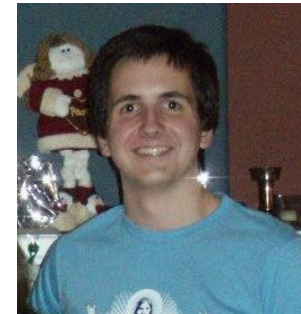
Since 1879 First Church has been a beacon to all who seek God's love. God is now calling us to further our mission. This is the time to consider how we will support our mission into the future. Our heritage is strong and our faith moves us forward.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH IS CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

## Wesley News

### Wesley Students

Meet two of our Wesley Students. We would like you to meet some of the students you support:



My name is Daniel Bos. I'm from Gold Canyon, Arizona and my hometown church is Gold Canyon United Methodist Church. I'm currently a sophomore and I'm studying Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences with a minor in Psychology and in Theatre Arts. I like to play tennis and I play guitar. I love going to see plays and performances and I used to act a ton back in the day. I currently lead the Co-Ed Life group. It's definitely been one of the highlights of my semester. I may not be able to go to Wesley every week, but my life group gives me the spiritual and emotional boost that I need to get me through my semester. Wesley has been my church home away from my church home, and it's a blessing to be a part of it!



Hello! My name is Nick DeLong and I am a graduating senior (December 2011) at the University of Arizona. My major is Regional Development with a minor in GIS (Global Information Systems). I was born and raised in Prescott, Arizona and grew up at the Prescott United Methodist Church.

Nearly four years ago, I entered the doors at the First United Methodist Church to attend the Wesley Foundation for the first time. I didn't quite know what to expect, didn't know any of the other members, and was rather nervous. However, four years later, I can safely say that my first visit to Wesley was one of the most important decisions that I made during my college experience that not only greatly shaped who I am today, but also my overall time spent at the University of Arizona.

During my four years at Wesley, I have participated in just about every area possible. From being on the leadership team for two years to helping in various mission projects, and from leading a L.I.F.E. group (small Bible study) to creating the PowerPoint used each week, my experience has taught me many different valuable skills.

The biggest skill I have been taught through my participation at Wesley is that of leadership. This skill as well as various other ones I have learned throughout the past four years have not only helped me to grow as a person, but will help benefit me once I finally enter the real world. My favorite part of Wesley has been meeting all of the wonderful people who attend. It is quite overwhelming to try and meet friends with similar values as you at a campus as large as my own hometown. By participating in Wesley, I have made countless friends and finally felt part of a community. To me, being part of a caring community is what can make or break one's college experience. By being part of this community, I have gained so much in my life and it is truly what has helped me to not only survive, but enjoy my college experience. While I do not know where God will take me once I graduate, I do know that the friends, skills, and experiences that I gained through the Wesley Foundation are ones that will last a lifetime.



# Youth News

## Calling All Sweet Toths (or should I say Sweet *Teeth*?)

Youth in Action is gearing up for another Silent Auction Bake Sale to be held Sunday, February 12! This is just in time for Valentine's Day and homemade baked goods can be a perfect gift for your loved ones. All proceeds will support the construction of a school for Abul, South Sudan. This school is the vision of John Akuar, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, who came and spoke to our group this Fall with Carolyn Redmore and others from St. Francis United Methodist Church who are involved with the project.

The goodies will be displayed on a table inside or just outside of the Social Hall. Bidding will be held from 9:45-10:00 am and will again after church during the first 15 minutes of Coffee Hour. We will then announce the winners of all the treats!

If you would like to donate some type of baked goods to help the cause please contact Anne Huth at [amkhuth@gmail.com](mailto:amkhuth@gmail.com) or 743-8343.

Please feel free to visit our blog at: [azyouth.blogspot.com](http://azyouth.blogspot.com)



The Sunday School and Youth performed a presentation during Worship in celebration of Epiphany on Sunday, January 8th, under the talented guidance of Miss Lucinda. The photos capture it all!



# United Methodist Women Traveling to Phoenix

Have you ever wondered what can be done to alleviate the increasing problems of homeless and low-income families and individuals? The United Methodist Women's group in our church is planning a trip to UMOM (United Methodist Outreach Ministries) New Day Centers, Inc., to view first hand, a successful program to help people break the cycle of homelessness

UMOM is a private, nonsectarian, non-profit agency based in Phoenix since 1964. The agency has multiple services and facilities available to assist those in need of food, shelter, security, case management, job search, child care, education, medical care, transportation, supplies, housing assistance, crisis counseling and domestic violence. As stated on their web site, "We place more than 90% of the families in the transitional program in permanent, affordable housing."

The UMW would like to take a contribution to UMOM and they informed us they have a special need for twin or full sized bed linens and kitchen cookware items. Those items may be gently used if clean and in good condition.

Seeing such a successful program can provide both hope and inspiration for those visiting so anyone interested is invited to join the UMW on this excursion. Departure from the church parking lot will be at 8:15 a.m. for an 8:30 a.m. departure on February 7. We will eat lunch at UMOM with an average price of \$8-\$10. If you can join the group or have questions concerning the trip, please call Shirley Murray at 297-4796 or email [gsmurray56@comcast.net](mailto:gsmurray56@comcast.net) by **Monday, January 30.**



## Tucson to Host Church Women United In Arizona Assembly

Friday & Saturday, February 10 - 11

*"God's Renewed Creation:  
Call to Hope and Action"*



**A special invitation to all to join CWU in worship, Friday, 7 p.m.**

Guest preacher: Bishop Minerva Carcaño of our own Desert Southwest Conference

Chapel at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 7650 Paseo del Norte  
(NE campus; parking on the north side of building complex)

*For more information about the Assembly*

*contact Carolyn Redmore, CWU in Arizona President, (520) 319-1319, or [cdredmore@aol.com](mailto:cdredmore@aol.com)*

## Evening Prayer \*

*Song and scripture*

*Silence and psalm*

*In—grace received*

*Out - with thanksgiving*

*Rhythm of my breathing*

*As I am formed and freed*

*Tiny glows in the face of indigo deepening*

*Looming with unknown possibilities*

*Light that cannot be consumed by evil*

*No matter how disturbed*

*Flicker heart, flicker soul*

*Shine, shine with courage*

*For you are a part of that eternal Fire*

*God's passion poured out.*

\* By Rev. Cynthia Langston Kirk, 2003,  
Pastor at First Church, 2002-2004.  
This poem found on p. 62 of "And Beyond," sequel to  
"12 Decades" history of First Church



## Reflection on:

*Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor: Laugh Your Way to Grace*  
by Susan Sparks

"Is that you calling, God?"

That was the question for Susan Sparks, author of "*Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor: Laugh Your Way to Grace*," which is now in the church library. For years Sparks was a trial lawyer, moonlighting as a stand-up comic. She began to feel the call to ministry, but wondered along with friends and colleagues how that could possibly be: "Where would you / I find a church that would have me as pastor?" However, the sense of call was persistent enough that Sparks left law practice, put all her assets into an income producing portfolio and traveled the world for two years. She began in India working with Mother Theresa, moved on to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro and wound up motorcycling across the U.S. on a Harley. Somewhere along the way she decided, indeed, God was calling her into ministry. She got her M. Div. from Union Theological Seminary in New York City and now serves as senior (and first woman) pastor at Madison Avenue Baptist Church, NYC.

For a transplanted Tucsonan with southern roots, the following piece in Chapter 1 about childhood images of God hooked me. (paraphrased) "Growing up Southern Baptist, I knew that God lived in heaven, a gated community populated only by Southern Baptists [substitute your own bias -mine is Protestant] who live in houses proportionate to the size of their tithe. All the other people on Earth (some 6.8 billion) had to go to someplace like Phoenix in August."

I first heard Rev. Sparks tell this story preaching to over 400 Church Women United sisters at their 70th Anniversary Celebration in early December. Drawn to the title, I had picked up the book on the resource table at a United Methodist Women's district meeting (but not read it). I now realize that I first heard about Rev. Sparks from Pastor Lujet who heard her at a Homiletics (fancy word for "dealing with sermons") Conference during her Study Leave. It is both a delightful and substantive read.

I can think of no better way of celebrating my February birthday than sharing it with my church family. Personal testimony: I laugh more freely now....and find that to be infectious.

