

# Circuit Rider



*A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale · February 2010*

## ***HAITI: How can you help? Provide UMCOR Health Kits...***

UMCOR's two relief supply warehouses are asking United Methodists to provide health kits that can be sent to earthquake-devastated Haiti.

"For people who are feeling powerless in being able to help those in Haiti, providing health kits is a tangible way they can make an immediate difference," said Kathy Kraiza, director of UMCOR's relief supplies. She estimates that hundreds of thousands of kits will be needed in the days and months ahead.

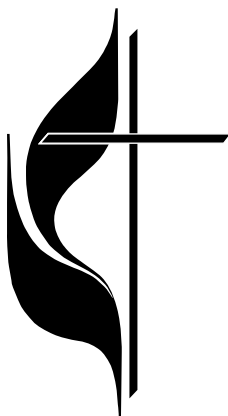
The kits, valued at about \$12 per kit, contain everything from towels and washcloths to sterile bandages and bar soap. They will be distributed to those who have been forced to leave their homes as a result of the earthquake.

For individuals or groups that want to contribute basic necessities, UMCOR requests that the following **NEW** items be placed in a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27"). No kitchen towels.
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

(Toothpaste is purchased in bulk to be added to health kits to ensure that the product does not expire before the kits are sent.)

Because the emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations and strict rules govern product entry into international countries, UMCOR requires that the kits contain only the requested items – nothing more. Health kits may be placed in the box in the narthex on Sundays, or brought to the church office Monday-Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm. Thank you so much for helping the people of Haiti.



### **First United Methodist Church**

**7102 N. 58th Drive · Glendale, AZ 85301**

Phone: 623-939-1409 · Fax: 623-934-4591 · Assistance Office: (623) 939-9911

Email: [office@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:office@glendalefirstumc.com) · Web: [www.glendalefirstumc.com](http://www.glendalefirstumc.com)

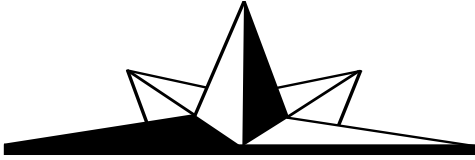
Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9:00 am–3:00 pm

#### **Sunday Worship Services**

Traditional 9:30 am – Contemporary 11:00 am

Sunday School: all ages at 9:30 am; age 3–6th grade at 11:00am

**Rev. Kim Gladding, Senior Pastor · Rev. Gerri Bast, Associate Pastor**



## Education Page

*Do you have questions, ideas or suggestions about the Education Ministry of our church?*

*Contact Judy Cleaveland, the Education Team Leader, at 623-930-9939, or [sunsjudy@cox.net](mailto:sunsjudy@cox.net).*

**Tuesday, February 2**  
Education Team Meeting  
6:30 pm Fireside Room

**Sunday, February 7**  
Teachers' Breakfast  
8:30 am Jr. High Room

### The Happening

Thanks to everyone who helped make the 5:00 Christmas Eve Service a blessing for all who attended. Thanks to technology I was able to be in the snowy Midwest, turn on my laptop and see the program. How did that hap-

pen? Brian Swanton was gracious enough to videotape the program and put it on Facebook and YouTube. If you haven't heard, Facebook is a way on the internet to connect with your family and friends, and YouTube is a website where you can share videos. As I am writing this, I have only seen part one of the program and I am anxiously awaiting to see part two and three. If you are interested in seeing the videos in high definition, go to [www.youtube.com/user/bswanton](http://www.youtube.com/user/bswanton). Click on the "HD" logo on the bottom right corner of the video to watch in HD quality.

### Participating

Pastor Gerri will be leading a six-week **Lenten Bible Study**, beginning Monday, February 22, 7:00—8:00 pm. Plan now to attend and see if we can meet our goal of having at least 20 people who will be blessed as they pray and study the Bible.

### Preparing

Now the Christian Education Team is planning for the VBS program. The dates have been set so mark your calendars for June 14 to June 18. The hours will be 6:00 to 8:30 pm. The directors are Chris and Lisa Monken. (Thank you, Jesus for their willingness to be servants of God.) We already have the following volunteers:

- Meal coordinator: Jeanne Rumbold
- Crafts: Debbie Sneddon
- Recreation: Bob Sneddon
- Camera Duty: Chris Monken
- Music: Rev. Gerri Bast
- Adult Bible Study: Susan Hebert
- Shepherding Children: Glenda McCarthy; Kathe Neyer

Please see the Monkens or Judy Cleaveland to volunteer wherever your heart leads you.

—Judy Cleaveland, Chair  
Christian Education Team

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins February 10

A new Wednesday morning Bible study will begin on February 10. It will be based on the "Faith Lessons" series by Ray Vander Laan. Mr. Vander Laan is the founder of "That the World May Know" ministries and has created a 10-volume Bible study with DVDs exploring how the land and the culture of the Hebrew people shaped their story. The series explores the historical, geographical and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures. The DVDs provide armchair travel opportunities, visiting many significant Holy Land sites. Come join us; our first gathering is Wednesday, February 10 from 10:00 – 11:30 am in Room 101. If interested, please register by calling the office 623-939-1409 or Rosie Miller 623-934-6639.

**I**f. There's nothing wrong with the word: if. It's a perfectly good word, and one we employ often. In fact, "if" helps us evaluate choices and decisions. If I spend 2 hours studying for every hour of lecture, I greatly increase the odds of earning a higher grade in the class. If I treat others with respect, more than likely, they will return me the same respect. But "what ifs" can be a liability. Let me explain.

*If* may be the greatest obstacle in our spiritual or personal growth. *If* can also stand in the way of the church following Jesus. As our brother Lyle Clark has shared, the *if only(s)* gave him a reason to hold back. Sometimes others impose the *if*. If you do that, then I will leave, or quit, or be angry, or... In these instances, this small 2-letter word, *if*, has the potential to become very powerful.

But what if "if" is transformed into "must"? Sound strange? It's not uncommon that words have an impact on what we choose to do or not do. I know the saying, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." In fact, words can and do influence our choices, including how we live in our faithfulness to God and Christ.

Consider this: In the 13th chapter of Luke, Jesus is warned by some Pharisees that Herod wants to kill him. Jesus could have employed the "if" principle: If I don't stop what I'm doing, Herod will find and kill me. If can even be perceived as more powerful than God: If I don't leave now, the God's mission will be cut short because Herod will kill me and stop God's work. Jesus' response to the Pharisee's warning is to affirm that he must keep on doing what he is doing.

As followers of Christ, we too must carry forward the work God puts before us, even if that work brings us into the line of fire. As we enter the season of Lent, a time of prayer and penitent reflection, let us ask God to forgive us for allowing the *ifs* to keep us from the *musts*.

Years ago, while serving a struggling inner city congregation, I was asked how our church could continue providing meals for children and families that were hungry, when we had so little money. Our assets barely covered utilities, staff and conference responsibilities. Insurance and pension were supplemented by conference funds. It was a

## *Ponderings from Pastor Kim*

### *When "If" becomes "Must"*

debatable question, that when answered, could have justified the termination of those ministries. Without any thought, I answered the question. "How can we not do it?" (provide food for hungry people)

When we in the church view ministry as a "must" rather than an "if," we will have joined our leader and guide, Jesus, who said, "Today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way..." By the way, Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, where he would be killed. No ifs, ands or buts about it!

Yours in the urgency of love,

—*Pastor Kim*

**The February Worship Schedule  
can be found on page 5.**

## News and Notes

For more information, contact the church office 623-939-1409, or visit [www.glendalefirstumc.com](http://www.glendalefirstumc.com)

### Notes From Finance

We are well under way for 2010 but wanted to give you some final information for 2009. We brought forward \$16,646 from 2008 for the General Fund. We received \$388,764 in 2009 from pledges, Sunday School, unpledged giving, rental fees special holiday gifts at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We had expenses of \$390,646 which included an unbudgeted repair to the boiler system for \$12,671. We ended 2009 with \$14,764 in the General Fund, a net decrease from 2008's ending balance of only \$1,882. Thank you for giving generously and keeping up with your pledges, and special thanks for giving extra when you had it. Every extra dollar helps!

Our Capital Improvement Fund received special gifts to pay for new carpeting in the sanctuary and balcony (\$8,007) and we installed a new A/C unit for the office building (\$4,412). We also borrowed \$30,000 from our savings to help pay for the cooling tower project (\$34,131). We are planning to return the

\$30,000 to savings over the next 5 - 8 years so our reserves will be available for future needs. We also paid the balance on the organ purchase from the Organ Fund (\$18,030).

2009 saw many major improvements, and more are planned for 2010. We were blessed to have the NOMADS with us last winter and they did a tremendous job refinishing the stage floor in the Fellowship Hall, preparing the balcony for new carpet installation, remodeling the bathroom in the office and many other projects. They are with us again this year from February 1-18. When you see them, give them a warm welcome and let them know how much they are appreciated. Thanks to all who are preparing meals for them while they are here on campus.

I also want to thank all those who contributed to Staff Christmas Gifts. We were able to give each of our employees a gift of \$100 this year.

Happy Valentine's Day to all my UMC sweethearts!

—Rosie Miller, Treasurer

### Stewardship Update

We have received 133 pledge cards for 2010 totaling \$309,220. That is close to where we were for 2009 (134 pledge

cards and \$308,488). That is a good start at funding our \$395,150 budget for 2010. If you need giving envelopes, packets of 12 or boxes of 52 envelopes are in the narthex. If you give cash, remember to write your name, first & last, on your envelopes if you want us to be able to post your gift to your giving account.

### Fellowship Hall Flooring

The trustees are planning to put new flooring in the Fellowship Hall. This project, long talked-about, will begin in the spring. The stage area will be vinyl flooring, and the center and fireside areas will be carpeted. Many people and groups have already made donations to this project, but additional funds are still needed. If congregation members would like to make a donation to this project, individual carpet squares are "on sale" for \$15 each. You can contribute for one, or many carpet squares! Thank you!

### Youth Director Wanted

We are accepting applications for a Youth Director, a part-time, 10-hour per week position. Applications and a job description are available in the church office or on our website, [www.glendalefirstumc.com](http://www.glendalefirstumc.com).

Applications will be accepted through Friday, February 5. Call Bob Sneddon 602-789-0320 or Paul Cleaveland at 623-930-9939 for more information.

**Happy Valentine's Day!** This is the month that we focus on love. For some, it is a time for flowers, chocolate, stuffed toys, special dinners and so forth. Others remember shared times with a loved one that is now with the Lord. This time can also bring sorrowful memories and thoughts of failed relationships.

Love is a term that we tend to take lightly. It can mean anything from loving a specific food to the very protective love of a parent for a child. How unsatisfactory it is that we have just one word for such an important emotion. We say we love coffee or chocolate. We say we love our pets. We say I love you to a

spouse. We say I love you to our children. There are so many nuances to that word.

I am currently leading a study to a small group of women on Max Lucado's book, [3:16](#). It focuses on the John 3:16 passage that states, "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**"

That is the greatest form of love anyone can show. "There is no greater love than one who lays down their life for another."

The Greeks had 3 words for love. One was for the love of self, narcissism. Eros stood

## *Pastor Gerri's Page*

### *The Greatest Kind of Love*

for sexual love, and agape stood for an unconditional form of love. Jesus was the greatest example of the agape form of love. I wish that we had more than one word for love in our language. It would probably clear up misunderstandings among people when they hear the word love.

What would the world be like if we truly loved each other as we are commanded by Christ? Would we extend a hand of friendship to a stranger? Would we welcome others that are not like us? Would we have compassion for the single, unwed mom trying to do the best she can for herself and her child? Would we embrace those who spoke other languages than our own? Would we invite the poor, the lost, the least, the helpless, homeless, the unclean, the hurting, or the diseased to share our space and the table God has blessed?

Love is a peculiar word. Yet, we are commanded by Jesus to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love others as ourselves. How are you doing in the love department? If you could look at others through the eyes of Christ, every day would be Valentine's Day.

## *Worship Schedule for February 2010*

### **February 7: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*Fishing Secrets...*

Read: Luke 5: 1-11

### **February 14: Transfiguration**

*Calm Before the Storm*

Read: Luke 9: 28-43a

### **February 17: Ash Wednesday**

*Service of Ashes, 7:00 am, 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm*

Read: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51 1-17, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

### **February 21: First Sunday in Lent**

*40 Days in the Whole: Spirit Bound*

Read: Luke 4: 1-13

### **February 28: Second Sunday in Lent**

*When If Gives Way to Must*

Read: Luke 13:31-35

## *Evangelism Team Report*

Attention congregation members, you had better hang on to your hats! Because this team is on fire! And I mean Holy Fire. We are all geared toward the same thing, first, to make sure you have accepted Christ into your life. So what does that mean? One, we are looking into what it would take to have an outdoor revival on our campus. Second, we want to welcome people to our church in a whole new way. Third, we want to have our church open for people to come in and pray.

February 17 is Ash Wednesday and the Evangelism Team decided to have the church open all day for people to come in to pray. The pastors will be having worship services at 7:00 am, 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm for the applying of ashes. Thank you to the congregation members who have signed up to help keep our church open, not only on Ash Wednesday, but every Monday and Wednesday.

Note: Due to the potluck to welcome the NOMADS on February 14, our next team meeting will be one week earlier this month, on February 7 at 12:30 pm in the center section of Fellowship Hall.

— Donna Olson  
Evangelism Team Chair

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## *United Methodist Women Update*

Have you broken all of your New Year's resolutions yet? Or do you even bother making any? If one of your resolutions was to attend a UMW meeting, it's not too late. Our February unit meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4 at 2:00 pm in the stage area of Fellowship Hall. Mary Martha Circle will have refreshments for all at 1:30 pm. Come join us! If you need transportation, call Vesta Roper at 623-937-8885 or Olive Norris at 623-937-4682.

### **Circle Meetings:**

Mary Martha Circle ..... Monday, February 8 at 11:30 am, Bitzee Mama's Restaurant

Esther Circle ..... Tuesday, February 9 at 9:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall

Lydia Circle ..... Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

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## *Duet— Help for Homebound Adults*

Have you given up driving due to health issues? Duet, invites you to call for rides to doctor appointments or help with grocery shopping. Or, you may wish for a visitor, or need minor home repairs, help with paperwork, or computer training. Duet recruits and trains caring volunteers and pairs them with homebound adults who need a bit of caring support. Volunteers come from our own faith community as well as other can-do congregations. Request help or volunteer at 602-274-5022. Not sure about volunteering? See [www.duetaz.org](http://www.duetaz.org) for a map showing people needing your assistance, using general locations and first names to protect privacy. You'll attend an orientation prior to serving. Thank you!

## "Burning" Questions: Ash Wednesday Q & A

Every year, I hear people raise a few questions about Ash Wednesday. Here are a few I have been asked:

### Q: Why Wednesday, and not Sunday?

A: It's not that everyone needs to start fasting because they ate too much on Fat Tuesday. Ash Wednesday is always 46 days, 40 not counting Sundays, before Easter. Why 40 days? The number 40 is significant in the Bible. After spending 40 days in the wilderness, Jesus begins his ministry. Noah, members of his family and many animals survive the great flood (40 days and nights of rain). The Hebrews lived on manna 40 years in the wilderness. Moses was on a mountain 40 days and nights, while receiving instructions and the 10 commandments from God.

### Q: Why is it called "Ash" Wednesday?

A: Ashes are a sign of repentance. There are many references in the Bible to ashes and sackcloth being used as a sign of mourning and repentance. During the Ash Wednesday service, a mixture of ashes and oil are applied to

one's forehead as a sign of one's willingness to enter into Lent with an attitude of prayerful repentance.

### Q: Are the ashes from someone's fireplace?

A: No. The palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday are dried and burnt for Ash Wednesday.

### Q: How long should I leave the ashes on my forehead?

A: As long as you want. Typically the ashes wear off with normal activity. The ashes are harmless, and a sign of one's desire to live a more godly life.

### Q: Isn't Ash Wednesday a Catholic ritual?

A: It is a Christian practice, and therefore common in both Catholic and Protestant traditions.

### Q: Why are the words: 'Remember you were dust and to dust you shall return,' said as the ashes are imposed on one's forehead?

A: These words are said as a reminder that we are humble creations of God. We are the creatures of God, in need of



**February 17, 2010**

**Service Times:**  
(all services held in the sanctuary)

7:00 am

12:00 pm

7:00 pm

The sanctuary will be open 7:00 am—7:00 pm on Ash Wednesday for prayer and meditation.

God's grace. It is in remembering this that we become perfected in love. Sometimes the following words are also used: **"Repent and hear the good news;"** or **"Turn away from sin and be faithful."**

This year we are offering Ash Wednesday services at 3 different times, 7:00 am, 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. The sanctuary will also be open all day for prayer and meditation. I hope to see you at one of these worship opportunities.

—Pastor Kim

### Special Days for February 2010

- February 1-28 Black History Month
- February 1-18 NOMADS working on church campus
- February 5-7 Glendale "Chocolate Affaire" Festival
- February 14 Church-wide Potluck to welcome NOMADS
- February 14 Transfiguration Sunday, Valentine's Day
- February 15 Presidents' Day
- February 17 Ash Wednesday
- February 21 First Sunday in Lent

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*The church office will be closed February 15 in observance of Presidents' Day.*

Deadline for the March Issue is February 12. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm.  
 email: office@glendalefirstumc.com  
 fax: 623-934-4591

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