

Circuit Rider

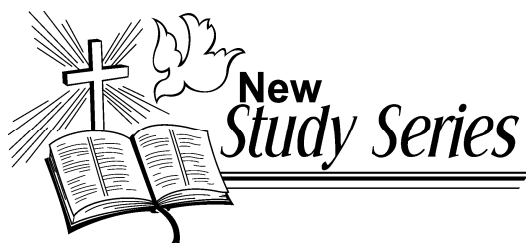
A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale · August 2010



Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Our church offers two adult Sunday School classes. Paul and Judy Cleaveland lead the Koinonia/Wayseekers class in Room 101 and Fritz and Marcie Linder lead the Friendship Class in the east section of the Fellowship Hall. Both classes begin at 11:00 am each Sunday.

This month, we want to share a little about the Friendship Class. We use the "Adult Bible Studies" (ABS) curriculum along with a companion magazine entitled, "Christian Living in the Mature Years." The curriculum booklet has weekly lessons with daily scripture readings which are "designed to help adults understand the meaning and authority of the Bible for Christian life." The companion magazine has stories of interest for those reaching retirement age and for those already there! It contains home and health tips along with stories and readings which relate to the weekly ABS lesson.



The "Adult Bible Studies" curriculum is published quarterly. The new study year begins in September and will include the following topics:

- Fall (Sept-Nov): God - The Inescapable God
- Winter (Dec-Feb): Hope - Assuring Hope
- Spring (Mar-May): Worship - We Worship God
- Summer (Jun-Aug): Community - God Instructs the People of God

If you don't have time for Sunday School, perhaps you would like to have copies of the materials so you can do the readings and study the lessons on your own. For those with vision problems, the Adult Bible Studies curriculum is available on CD so you can listen to it, too. If you are interested, contact the office (623-939-1409) or stop by the Friendship Class to look at the study guide and the magazine. We would be happy to order additional materials for you and please remember that new friends are always welcome in the Friendship Class!

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 • Web: www.glendalefirstumc.com

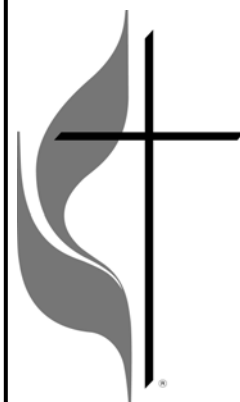
Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9:00 am—3:00 pm

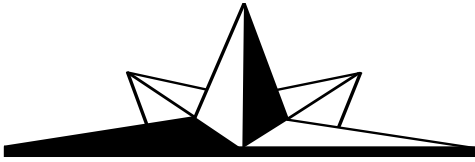
Sunday Worship Services

Communion 8:30 am • Traditional 9:30 am • Contemporary 11:00 am

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

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.

Tuesday, August 17

*Christian Education Meeting
6:45 pm, Room 101*

Tuesday, September 7

*Christian Education Meeting
6:45 pm, Room 101*

Sunday, September 12

Rally Day

Vacations

Paul and I are finishing our third vacation. We have had a week with family in Kansas City, MO, Canton, GA and Ione, WA. Every place we were, we experienced going to church. We were Methodist in Missouri, Baptist in Georgia and Baptist in Washington. The love of God and Bible teaching happened at each church experience. God's message is alive and moving wherever anyone chooses to travel. As summer comes to an end and fall is approaching let us remember to put God on the top of our list in any choices we make.

Rally Day

Sunday, Sept. 12 is Rally Day. Children will go to 9:30 worship and after "Good News" go to Fellowship Hall where Magician Steve and his wife will be there to inspire children, youth and Sunday School teachers. Our sno-cone man will be here and children will enjoy a sno-cone while listening to Steve and his wife. Don't miss this fun day!

Teachers Needed

If you are still thinking about teaching this fall (or being a substitute teacher) please call Judy Cleaveland at 623-930-9939 or email sunsjudy@cox.net. Or, you can be my friend on Facebook! Today's world is so full of choices, but the choice we need to make is to be obedient to what the Holy Spirit is guiding you to do. **Remember: I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together!** Together we can do what one person can't...

I look forward to fellowshiping with all of you and learning more about Jesus as we work together for the glory of Jesus Christ!

In Jesus's love,

Judy Cleaveland



We are updating our photo directory, as we have had a lot of changes since 2007.

Olan Mills will be on campus to take pictures the week of September 27th. Hours are Monday through Friday 1:00 pm -8:20 pm and

Saturday 9:30 am to 5:10 pm. We will have sign-ups after 9:30 and 11:00 services August 29 through September 19. If you are going to be away, call Lucy Lawrence (623-435-0388) for early sign up. You don't have to be a member to be in our directory, and each family will receive a free 8" by 10" just for participating. You can also purchase additional pictures and Christmas cards.



SPOT- LIGHT ON...

LISA SANCHEZ

By R.M. Sanchez

Imagine being the President of an entire Little League whose boundaries range from Northern to McDowell and 43rd Ave to 83rd Ave. Now, try to recall the name of each of twelve players on two to six teams in seven different divisions. Then, play the guessing game of who belongs to what family. Do the crazed frenzy of picture day in 113-degree weather. Make certain that at the end of the year you have trophies for each kid. Run a snack shack six days a week, and, of course, figure a way to pay for all that and more, because the twelve hours you spend on your feet working at Cardinals games and various functions to raise money for the Little League certainly won't cover everything! Write up complex schedules that involve at the very least six different leagues. Then put together ten all-star teams that consist of fourteen players each, and acquire and verify their three different proofs of residency, their birth certificates, and a medical release on every single one of them—oh yes, and you have two weeks, if that, to gather the information. Later, make the district All-Star hosting schedules, and then have half of them not show up. Host some games your-

self, and also host some that don't even belong to your league. Find a way to pay the tournament fees because some of your teams are just so good they go all the way to the finals.

On top of all the players, you have to deal with their parents and family members as well; some of whom make the job worthwhile. But then, of course, there are some rude, obnoxious brats...and I'm not just talking about the players. To most people, what a bother supporting and nurturing these kids would be. Wouldn't you just want to quit sometimes? But you don't. You tough it out because when you see that little undersized nine-year-old get his jersey for the first time and the smile it puts on his face, it's all worth it.

Lisa Jeanne Sanchez does all that on a volunteer basis and still has time to for her own family. Her undying commitment to her children proves that. Having four kids, all of whom graduated high school, three of which now attend college, and another who already has his master's degree, isn't an easy feat. However, Lisa made it her mission to raise her

How well do you know your brothers and sisters here at First United Methodist Church? This new column, written by Rosie Sanchez, will feature a different member of our church each month.

children around sports, and most importantly, around God. All four of her children were student athletes, and one remains a student athlete at Southeast Missouri State.

Lisa was raised an Episcopalian, but converted to the United Methodist church about eighteen years ago, bringing her children up in that faith. She is passionate in her beliefs, and like reciting the entire rule book of baseball, she can tell you just about every story in the Bible. Lisa takes pride in the fact that when her youngest was five, instead of saying she loved daddy or mommy the most, it was God she said she loved the most. To give back to the church, Lisa decided to teach Sunday school, and to this day still does.

But let's not forget that everyone has to have a real job. Lisa works full time for a CPA office putting in 40–70 hours a week. She and her husband Jose ("Joe") Sanchez support their youngest three, and of course, their pets as well. Lisa works hard, not because at the end of the day she's hoping for recognition or appreciation, but because she knows that what she does helps the people she loves, and that, in itself, is enough for her.

News and Notes

For more information, contact the church office 623-939-1409, or office@glendalefirstumc.com

An Opportunity for Dads to Make Great Memories

Here's a great chance for dads to go to camp with kids! Mingus Mountain United Methodist Camp, located high above Cottonwood, AZ, will host their second annual Dad-n-Me Camp, October 15-17, 2010. The camp will be filled with all kinds of fun activities for dads and elementary-school children to share, along with a little Bible learning, some fun songs, and great food. The cost is \$125 for Dad plus one child, or \$150 for Dad plus two children. Register by calling the Desert Southwest Conference Camping Office at 602-266-6956, ext 215. For more information, contact Rev. Eric Brown at 480-620-4864 or via e-mail at pastor@journeyunitedmethodist.org.

Volunteers Needed to Open Sanctuary

The Evangelism Team is seeking volunteers to open the church on Mondays and Wednesdays between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet at the visitor's table on Sundays, or contact Donna Olson at 623-846-7624.

Outreach Beyond our Church's Doors

Approximately 15 years ago, Bette Mathis, Director of the Wesley Community Center put out a plea for someone to step forward to help set up a sewing center to teach ladies living in the Spanish section around the Wesley Center to sew. Cornelia Jones and Betty Austin spent several months assessing and obtaining donations of machines and materials for setting up a room at the center to start a sewing class. They were able to accommodate 10-12 students. These students had no or very limited knowledge of how to sew (threading and using a sewing machine, how to select a pattern, reading a pattern, how to lay a pattern out on a piece of fabric and cut it out, etc).

About six months after I joined this church, Cornelia Jones learned I knew how to sew so invited me to go with her one morning to class. I was hooked! The class, after a couple of years, became so popular the decision was made to split the students up into two classes, offering them the choice of Monday or Tuesday from 9:00 am-12 noon.

I moved to the Monday class along with three other teachers to instruct that class.

Several years ago, the Tuesday class disbanded but I have continued on with the teachers

still running the Monday class. After my 10-plus years there, I still feel it is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. There still are language barriers but we have no trouble communicating and the friendships are long lasting.

All materials and use of machines are at no cost to the students. We have 12 Viking Daisy sewing machines which were obtained 8 or 9 years ago through a grant. To this day we still rely on donations from churches and private parties for materials. (See list at the end of this report of items we are in continuous need of.) Our biggest expense now is the cost of keeping the sewing machines and sergers in top working condition so the students don't have down time.

This is an outreach project beyond our church doors and its local community - it is an outreach that extends to south Phoenix and the Conference. I am not sure there are many people in our church who know this project is even happening every week but I am proud to be a part of it.

—Diane Voss

We gratefully accept the following items: elastic in various widths, cotton fabric, dual duty thread (all colors), interfacing, quilting pins, and financial donations for repairing machines.

Earl Quintel is a member of First United Methodist's Memoirs Class. It meets here at the church at 10:00 am the second Friday of the month, and everyone is welcome. Each month, a different memory will be featured in the Circuit Rider. Earl's poignant story about his beloved grandmother touched our hearts, and we wanted to share it with you, too.

My Grandmother by Earl Quintel

My mother's mom passed away when she was only 13, so I only had one Grandma, my dad's mom. We lived just three miles from Grandma's house, so I got to see her a lot.

My grandma was a typical grandmother. She had eleven children, four boys and seven girls. All the girls' names ended with an "a" — Alma, Clara, Hilda, Meta, Lydia, Erma, and Ida.

Grandma's house had a pantry, and she always had fresh-baked cookies there. Sometimes, if she knew I was coming, she would hide the cookies. I would look all over for them, even opening the pots and pans. I could hear Grandma laughing as I continued my hunt. Of course, I always found the cookies, no matter how hidden they were.

Every summer, I would spend a week with her. We would bake bread, pies, and, of course, cookies. Grandma's stove was a wood-burning model.

Grandma had a big garden, and I would help her. We would gather eggs together, because the rooster liked to chase me, and I was afraid of him. Grandma and Grandpa lived on an 80 acre farm. I spent lots of summer days there.

When I got older, I would stop by her house and see her. Then Grandma got sick and had to go to the hospital. I was working by then, and had just turned 21 years old. I would stop after work to visit her. One day, the doctor was there, and I asked him why my grandma wasn't getting better and going home. He took me aside and told me she had cancer and would not be going home. I hurried to my house to tell my parents. They already knew about Grandma's cancer, but didn't want to tell me.

Two weeks later, Grandma passed away. She believed in the Lord, and I'm sure she's with Him now in Heaven. At the funeral, I cried. I already missed her. I have tears in my eyes as I write this. I miss you, Grandma.

Report from UMW

Submitted by
Vesta Roper, President
First Glendale UMW

Summer's almost over; time to gear up for fall. Even though our UMW slowed down for the summer months, we still had some projects. We provided a meal for VBS, had special treats on Father's Day between services, and decorated Fellowship Hall for the 4th of July. Several members assisted "Stitches of Love" Back to School Clothing Drive. Five ladies (Pastor Gerri Bast, Susan Hebert, Glenda McCarthy, Vesta Roper, and Irma Wilson) went to the Conference School of Missions July 23-25, and will be reporting to our unit on Saturday, September 11th at our annual retreat.

Don't forget about using grocery cards when you shop at Fry's, Safeway, Albertsons or Bashas. A certain percentage of your grocery bill is returned to us. If you would like to participate in this painless way of raising funds for mission work see Lila Smith between services.

Another way to help in local mission is to save labels from Campbell soups and other products and put them in the small box in the narthex. Contact Margie Connell at 623-937-7802 for more information.

Wonderings from Pastor Kim...

The Foolishness of Prosperity!

Prosperity may not seem so foolish these days. Those who have saved up are in a much better position to survive the economic slump we are in. It makes good sense to plan (save) for emergencies, Christmas, education and retirement. There are far too many horror stories about people working hard all their lives, only to be faced with financial struggles in their retirement years.

In the parable of the *Rich Fool*, Jesus seems to warn against such wise financial planning. "You fool!" he warns, "this very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" (Luke 10:20) On the surface, it seems that Jesus condemns saving for the future. However, when looking deeper (seeking to understand the context, or reason he tells this parable) we discover Jesus is warning against greed.

It all begins with a brother demanding that Jesus help him get his fair share of the family inheritance. "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." I can imagine I might say something like that. It doesn't seem fair that one family member keep the entire inheritance. But Jesus sees beneath the surface of what seems like a reasonable demand. Both brothers are blinded by the dollar signs in their eyes. It's sad, but true, that many families argue over how to divide the family inheritance. One practical lesson from this parable is to establish a plan for the distribution of our inheritance while we're alive.

Make it a priority to set up a will/trust while you are living. This allows family members to do what's most important after your death; that is, grieve, remember and celebrate your life. However, the lesson Jesus offers in this parable is more urgent than it is practical.

Thankfully, Jesus offers us something far greater than an equal share of the family inheritance. He offers us an abundant life; rich in love, not in gold. Once below the surface of this parable, beyond the initial irritation that Jesus is being sucked into a family inheritance dispute, we become aware of the life-giving message Jesus offers. No one within audible range is let off the hook. "Be on your guard against all kinds of greed," he warns. "Life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." (Luke 12:15) Isn't it amazing how Jesus steps aside (instead of choosing sides) and points us back to what's most important in life? It's love that makes life worth living, not the accumulation of wealth. Life really is *priceless*.

Yours in the richness of love,

Pastor Kim

Worship Schedule for August 2010

- Aug 1: Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**
The Foolishness of Prosperity!
 Read: Luke 12:13-21
(The Sacrament of Holy Communion)
- Aug 8: Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**
The Unexpected Hour
 Read: Luke 12:32-40
- Aug 15: Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**
The Sign of the Time...
 Read: Luke 12:49-56
- Aug 22: Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**
What's Keeping You From Praising God?
 Read: Luke 13:10-17
- Aug 29: Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**
Pastor Gerri Preaching
 Read: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16



August is often considered the end of summer. Schools start. Some people try to squeeze in one last vacation. People start looking towards the Fall and Winter holidays. For some, it is a letdown; back to work, school, etc. For others, it is a new beginning. For the church, it is a major time of planning and looking towards the future. The different ministry teams start planning out their calendar of events for the next nine months and beyond. We start thinking about monthly activities. August becomes an exciting month.

I usually take some time for myself in August. I take a major block of time to center myself and listen to God's voice. I try to get out into nature and focus on God's creation and the beauty of it all. It gives me a chance

to remind myself that I am just as much a part of God's creation as everything I see around me. It reminds me of how valued I am by God. It helps me see a little more clearly the path that God wants me to take. All in all, this time prepares me to be a better pastor as we move into the busy seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and beyond.

Hopefully, each of you will take August and develop an even stronger relationship with the God that created you. I know it's hot, but take some time to really look at the world around you. It will remind you that we have a Creator that can create such grand and glorious sights. Take time to look at yourself through the eyes of the One who made you. Take time to look at others through the eyes of Christ. You may see them in a whole new way that leads you to a closer relationship with both them and the one who created them.

Let August be the month that you look forward to growing ever-closer to God. Prepare yourself to become more involved in learning, studying scriptures, attending not only worship but Sunday School, a Bible study or a new small group study. Make a commitment to grow a stronger and deeper relationship with God. You will find that it truly brings you joy.

—*Pastor Gerri*

Is the Church in Your Will?

Have you or someone you know and love been blessed by the church, by its ministry? Do you believe the church plays a vital role in changing lives and transforming our world? If your answer is yes, it's likely you support the present ministry of our church through regular giving. We can also sustain that blessing by investing in the future of our church. Giving to the current capital campaign will ensure our beautiful buildings are well cared for and inviting in the years ahead. Naming the church in our will, if we have not already considered this, is also a way to investment in God's future promise. We can't take it with us, so we share it with those we love and that which we believe in. Consider Jesus' promise about the investments we make in God's work: "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap." (Luke 6:38) Imagine what great and wonderful things God can and will do with our investment in the future church. We need only remember what God has done for us to realize how great the return will be! Thank you for giving!

—*Pastor Kim*

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"He Googles you ... that's how God knows all about you."

Deadline for the Sept Issue is August 14. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm.
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 fax: 623-934-4591

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