

"Without a vision, the people will perish"

Proverbs

# Vision...



## Safford First United Methodist Church Newsletter ◇ April 2010

View from the pulpit...

Once again spring has finally arrived. I'm not sure if you noticed it or not, but the seasonal change kind of sneaked up on us without a whole lot of fanfare this year. I've enjoyed my early morning walks and the beginning of each new day. I've noticed it's been getting brighter and brighter day by day which I think is an amazing sign of God's grace being spread all over the world. With springtime upon us, once again it's time to let our hearts be warmed. Warmed to the new season and the new growth God invites us all to experience.

Springtime also brings thoughts of spring cleaning. But I don't mean spring cleaning around your house. As we enter into this Lent season, it's also a time for some spiritual spring cleaning if you will. Even though we should ALWAYS be thinking about our relationship with Jesus Christ every day, Lent is a time for some extra spiritual spring cleaning where the focus is on prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and reading God's word. Lent... 40 days of spiritual awakening reminiscent of the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness in preparation for what He knew would be the beginning of His journey to Jerusalem and the cross. It's a time for us all to take a spiritual inventory and then cleaning out all those things that hinder or get in the way of our relationship with Jesus Christ and our service to Him.

For years, Christians all over the world have recognized Lent and the whole purpose of Lent as a

season of fasting, self denial, Christian growth, penitence, conversions and simplicity. So it's fitting that we began our observance of Lent with a symbol of repentance as well. Ash Wednesday was that day of recognition and repentance. This year there were over 80 people who came humbly to have ashes, the symbol of repentance, placed on their forehead.

During Lent we're also reminded of the need to embrace the whole truth of Jesus Christ, even in what some people view as absurdity. ***"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:17).***

Many of us have embraced the myth that if we live good lives, and live well, everything will be OK. While some people might embrace being a good person as the ultimate truth, it often falls far short of many of our experiences. Everyone, even Jesus suffers!

The question for us becomes what defines our lives? Do we simply surrender to the suffering? Give in; abandon our dreams and God's will for

First United Methodist Church  
1020 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Safford AZ 85546  
Office: 928-428-4211

[saffordfumc@vtc.net](mailto:saffordfumc@vtc.net)  
[www.saffordfumc.org](http://www.saffordfumc.org)

Minerva G. Carcaño,  
Resident Bishop  
Mike Pearson, Superintendent

Bob Holliday, Pastor  
Paul O'Dell, Office Manager  
Monika Ragland, Vision Ed.

our lives and live a marginal life out of fear of what might come? **NO!**

Jesus response to this was simple and straight forward, ***“Have faith in God.”*** The world around us is longing for us to stand up and embrace what faithful living is all about. I hope you’ll use this Lenten season and begin today.

***“We are called to be a community of generosity and love where we invite others to join us in becoming disciples of Jesus Christ for the good of the world!”***

Join us in making a difference in the world one person at a time.

***See ya in church!***

## Easter Cantata

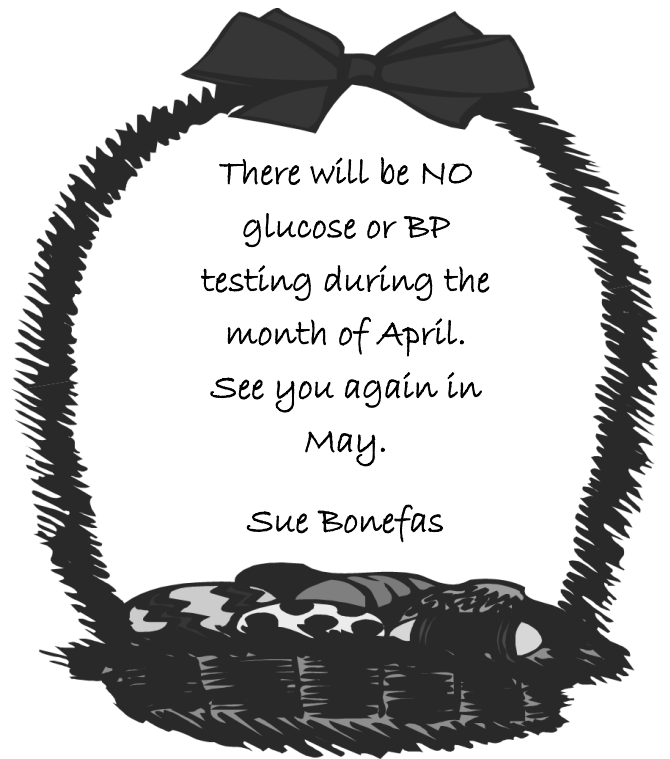


The chancel choir invites you to come and hear the story of Christ’s death and resurrection through song this Easter during the 10:30 am worship service. We will be presenting the multi-

media production of “Lift Up the Cross” as part of the worship service.

## SEDER MEAL

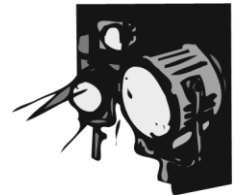
We will be hosting a condensed Seder meal on April 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets will be \$5/person. The program will consist of a shortened hagaddah with a complete meal and foot washing ceremony. Come take advantage of this opportunity to be a part of this holy reflection that has been remembered for thousands of years.



There will be **NO**  
glucose or BP  
testing during the  
month of April.  
See you again in  
May.

Sue Bonefas

## *New Member Spotlight...*



Kim Mariani and her three children, Xander, Bella, and Elijah, were welcomed into FUMC’s membership on November 28, 2010. They moved here from Phoenix to be near Kim’s mom and soon became important members of our church community.

Xander, Kim’s oldest child, is in kindergarten this year. Bella attends our Methodist Day Care three days a week, and Elijah enjoys being with his grandmother while Kim is at work at Hatch Brothers where she is the Office Manager. The children take time every Wednesday to participate in Sidewalk Sunday School, which is where Kim and the children became acquainted with Sherry Brady and many other members of our congregation. They love attending that activity, and Kim says the children have learned a lot as a result. They also love Sherry’s energy!

When asked what she and her family like best about the Gila Valley, Kim says she likes the smaller size of the town as compared to Phoenix because here she feels safer and more secure. She likes to spend her limited spare time with her children. Two of their favorite activities are watching movies and walking.

When asked what she and her family like best about our congregation, she says that the congregation's welcoming spirit has been so important. It has made them feel very comfortable in our midst. At some time in the future, when her life is not quite so busy, Kim would like to become more involved in church activities, and she'd especially like to work with children.

Having Kim, Xander, Bella, and Elijah as part of our church family has been a blessing to us, and we sincerely welcome them into our congregation.

### *Clothes Exchange!*

*Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall*

*Have clothes you don't need? Need clothes and on a budget? Clean clothes will be available for exchange. Reduce fashion consumption and instead recycle those inactive garments. Clothes of all sizes will be available and everything is **free**. Bring some clothes (please have them washed); take some clothes. Everyone is invited to come and take what they can use. You can contact Sherry Brady for more info.*



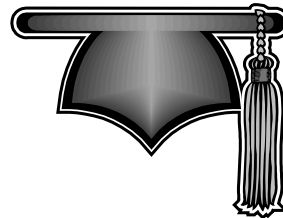
### **Shop 'n' Go Spring Show**

April 16<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 2 pm  
\$20/table

Monies raised will go towards Youth SSP trip. We are asking vendors to stay the entire time.

Please contact Tricia Stone to sign up for more info @

928-792-6108



**If you or someone you know is graduating this year (8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school, trade school, college, or other educational institution), please let the church office know (428-4211). We would like to celebrate this great achievement with you!**

Women of Faith tickets now on sale. The conference is in Phoenix on September 23-24. Tickets are \$89.00. Call Carrie Glaspie for tickets. We have limited tickets so they will go fast.

## Mission Moment....

Again in 2011, as Mother's Day approaches, the Mission Committee of FUMC is encouraging you to honor your mother, grandmother, godmother or other cherished friend with a donation in their honor to HEIFER INTERNATIONAL. This organization is dedicated to ending hunger permanently by providing families with livestock and training so they can feed themselves. When the flock or herd increases in size, the family is asked to donate an animal to another family so they also can feed themselves....paying it forward! HEIFER INTERNATIONAL has a 67 year history of the spirit and desire to end world hunger.



Please make checks payable to HEIFER INTERNATIONAL, place in the offering plate, send to FUMC or give to Sue

Bonefas, Barbara Haralson or any member of the Mission Committee. If you wish an acknowledgement sent to the honoree, please include that information and mailing address with your donation.

## Come Join the Boy Scouts for lunch!

Sundays: April 3 & 17, May 1 & 15 after the 10:30 am worship service. They will provide the food!

The scouts are asking for a donation each lunch to help raise funds for camp and camping materials. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Etter.



## April JJR News

The Children's Chime choir continues to show progress and has begun to settle into positions. Their sponsors, John's Joyful Ringers, have voted on a name for them, and they will be known as John's Junior Ringers. They will perform for the first time on May 8.

On March 13, JJR played "Deep River", which was originally planned for February in honor of Black History month, but was rescheduled.

John's Joyful Ringers continue to accept and meet new challenges. We are currently reviewing music theory and symbols to reinforce what we have learned by osmosis over the past three years.

Paul O'Dell conducted chime choir rehearsal on March 16 as Anne was out of town due to a family illness. Thank you, Paul, for what I understand was a very fruitful rehearsal.

Now that cold weather is over and spring is here, it is a good time to think about becoming a member of John's Joyful Ringers. Stop by the sanctuary at 5:00 PM on Wednesdays and check us out.



## THE WALK TO EMMAUS

Mt. Graham Emmaus Community Gathering will meet in the church patio on Friday, April 15th. 6:30 pm for dessert and fellowship. Call Peggy Hunter for more information 428-0722

## KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

Arizona Kairos will be conducting a weekend at Red Rock Correctional Center in Eloy, May 5 - 8. Gene Etter, Steve Haralson, Pastor Bob Holliday, Ed Hunter, and Dick Spining, represent Safford 1st UMC on the team. As blessed as we feel to be part

of the ministry, we are mindful that Kairos is not our ministry but God's mission for all people bringing Christ to every prison throughout the world.

Our prayer is that each of you recognizes Kairos as an opportunity to be part of Christ's call, "I was in prison and you came to visit me". Matthew 25:36. Here are some concrete ways that you can participate.

- **Prayer:** Pray intentionally that inmates within the prison will be called to participate in the weekend and through the experience will know the love of Christ. Sign up in the Church Narthex for a specific time on the Safford 1st UMC Prayer Vigil that will be taking place during the weekend. Your prayer will become part of a literal prayer chain that is constructed and carried into the prison as visible, physical evidence that the men of Red Rock are cared for and being prayed for.

- **Cookies:** Cookies made lovingly and prayerfully by members of Christ's church are wonderful symbols of his Agape Love. Instructions on how you can do this can be obtained at Church each Sunday, from the Church Office, and from any of the team members. The goal is to personally hand to each of



the 1000+ residents of Red Rock Correctional Center a packet of cookies accompanied by the simple words, "Christ Loves You". We give cookies to the prison guards and staff as well.

- **Posters and Placemats:** Adult and children's Sunday school classes, prayer groups, church organizations such as the United Methodist Women and the Methodist Men's Breakfast group are encouraged to prepare placemats and posters that will be used at meals and displayed on the walls. This expression of Christ's love can be a way you step into the prison as part of the Body of Christ.

- **Letters:** If you are moved to write brief letters as expressions of Christ's love, see one of the team members about how to do this. An example of a letter is displayed in the Church Narthex.

- **Financial Support:** Team Members are each asked to raise \$125.00 towards the cost of conducting the weekend. The team must purchase all food and supplies. We contribute as well to the work of Kairos throughout Arizona, the nation and the world. Any financial contribution, small or large can be directed toward "Kairos Arizona", placed in the offering plate or given to a team member.

## United Methodist Women's Meeting

You are invited to participate in "A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial: A Gift of Love" on Thursday, April 14. This year's special offering will support the Retirement Benefits Fund that provides for pensions and health care for retired United Methodist Women deaconesses and missionaries. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. with lunch served at 12 noon. Bring a neighbor or a friend!

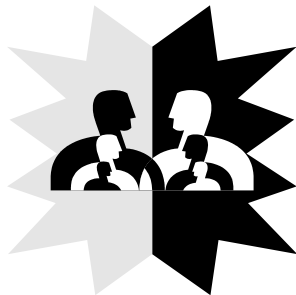


Safford United Methodist Women Announce the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual "Cinco de Mayo" Salad Luncheon Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mark your calendar now  
Tickets available beginning April 15<sup>th</sup>  
from members & the Church Office  
Look for more details in upcoming bulletins.

## Men's Fellowship News

The men's fellowship are planning to help the Boy Scouts put on a steak dinner to help them to go to camp. We are only going to help and it is up to the scouts to do most of the work. It will be on Sat. April 30th in the fellowship hall. Tickets will be available soon.



We are also planning on hosting the Labor Day camp-out at Luna Lake this year. The men's fellowship will be paying for the camp ground fees. Campers will bring all food and personal things. More on this as time goes on.

Also we would like to encourage the ladies to remind their spouses that we meet every third week of the month for a good breakfast and fellowship. There is always a good speaker and the time is well spent. We encourage all men to come.

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

Did you know that the Mission Committee is holding a drive for the local School Nurses? Items needed include pants or shorts sizes 5 -12 and new underwear for boys and girls, and flip flops.

Did you know that it takes about 6 hours to put together the Vision?

Did you know that it takes almost 4 hours just to print the Vision?

### **Forgiveness...**

Lent is an appropriate time for forgiveness. Search your heart for that kernel of resentment you might harbor and work on forgiving whoever might need your forgiveness. As God forgave us, he asks us to forgive others. Now is the perfect time.

## The Month in Scripture

April 3: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5: 8-14  
John 9: 1-41

April 10: Ezekial 37: 1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8: 6-11  
John 11: 1-45

Palm Sunday  
April 17: Matthew 21: 1-11  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29  
Isaiah 50: 4-9a  
Psalm 31: 9-16  
Philippians 2: 5-11  
Matthew 26: 14--27: 66 (27: 11-54)

Maundy Thursday  
April 21: Exodus 12: 1-4 (5-10), 11-14  
Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11: 23-26  
John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday  
April 22: Isaiah 52: 13--53: 12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10: 16-25  
John 18: 1—19: 42

Easter Sunday  
April 24: Acts 10: 34-43  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3: 1-4  
John 20: 1-18



# April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
				Women's Walk to Emmaus at St. Paul's UMC (thru April 3rd)		
						*7 am - ONP's Food Walk (Safford Middle School Track)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
*Women's Walk cont. --11:45 am - Boy Scout Fundraiser Dinner (FH)	*4 pm - Visitation Team Mtg (FC)					*9 am - Chancel Choir Retreat (S)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		*5:30 pm - Pastor's Roundtable (FC) *6:15 pm - Church Meal (FH) *6:45 pm - Church Meetings (Various)		*11 am - UMW Luncheon (FH)	*6 pm - Emmaus Gathering (Patio)	*8 am - Shop 'n' Go Show (FH)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>Palm Sunday</b> *7 am - Men's Discipleship Breakfast (FH) --11:45 - Boy Scout Fundraiser Dinner (FH) *6 pm - Movie Nite (FH & S)		*7 pm - Ad Council (FC)		<b>Maundy Thursday</b> *6 pm - Christian Seder Meal (FH)	<b>Good Friday</b> *6 pm - Good Friday Service (S)	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Easter Sunday</b> *6 am - Sunrise Service (Pecan Grove) *6:30 am - Pancake Breakfast (FH) *10:30 am - Chancel Choir Cantata (S)						*5 pm - Boy Scout Steak Fry (FH)

### Weekly Church Events

Sundays	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)
Mondays	5:30 pm - Life After Loss (FR)
Wednesdays	5 pm - John's Joyful Ringers (S) 5 pm - Prayer Meeting (VR) 6:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)
Thursdays	9 am - Quilting Circle (FH)

### Weekly Community Events

Mondays	6 pm - Cub Scouts (FH) 6 pm - NA (L) 7 pm - Boy Scouts (FH) 7 pm - Webelos (FC)
Tuesdays	6 pm - CMA (L) 6 pm - NA (L)
Wednesdays	2:30 pm - Sidewalk Sunday School (Pecan Grove) 6 pm - CMA (L) 6 pm - NA (L) 6:30 pm - Cadets (FC) - 1st & 3rd Wed's 7:30 pm - AA (L)
Thursdays	5 pm - Brownies (FC) 6 pm - CMA (L)
Fridays	6 pm - CMA (L)
Saturdays	12 pm - CMA (L)

### April Birthdays

- 1- Elizabeth Constantian
- Jared Nichols
- 2- Jeff James
- 3- Betty Hall (Campbell)
- 4- Marge Gentry  
Mickie Hunter
- 5- Taylor Nichols
- 6- Debi Huckey
- 7- Dorine Chancellor
- 8- Eddie Moya
- 9- Sarah Bailey
- 11- Faith Capps
- 12- Lacie Hinton
- 14- Brittany Sears
- 15- Presley Romero
- 17- Gale Switzer
- 18- Phil Gyger
- 19- Sue Bonefas  
Travis James
- 20- Dolan Campbell  
Jacob Neff
- 22- Ed Smith
- 23- Karen Coppola  
Luke Romero
- 24- Bryan Sears
- 25- Kara Calloway  
Liz Garver
- 27- Colin Gyger
- 28- Rayna Fite
- 29- Lauren Wilson

### April Anniversaries

- 10- Gale & Timalee Switzer
- 14- Hector & Denise Benton
- 15- Darwin & Paula Jackson
- 16- Richard & Teri Romero
- 17- Gordon & Barbara Gilpin
- 18- Dolan & Betty Hall Campbell
- 19- Terry & Christine Fisher
- 29- Will & Melanie Foote  
Patrick & Arlene Provencio

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

\* Please let the church office know if a birthday or anniversary was missed

***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>
Feb. 20	113
Feb. 27	125
March 3	131
March 13	163
March 20	115

**SERVICE:** Thanks to everyone who helped make the District Pinewood Derby a success!

First United Methodist Church  
1020 S. Tenth Avenue  
Safford AZ 85546  
(928) 428-4211

Postage Paid  
Safford, AZ  
Permit No. 44  
Non-Profit Org.  
Standard Mail

