

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

Proverbs

Vision...



Safford First United Methodist Church Newsletter ◇ **August 2011**

View from the pulpit...

I don't know how many of you have ever been a member of an organization or a club when you were younger, but every year around this time, I tend to think about what it means to belong to an organization or a team. In fact, when I was traveling all across the country doing workshops and leadership development training, that's one of the questions I used to ask people. "What does it mean to belong to your organization?" I think we sometimes take it for granted. But one of the interesting things people have shared with me over the years is this idea that to belong to a particular organization means we also share some of the duties and responsibilities for the organization.

At one point, some of my colleagues and I produced a short documentary of what it meant to belong to a team. I had made arrangements to interview a number of university coaches, some community service leaders and even the head of the University Medical Center's Heart Transplant Team. What I found really interesting was that each of them had a very similar view on what it meant to belong to their particular organization. They all indicated a kind of willingness to give of themselves for the benefit of the organization to which they belonged. They all seemed to share this



same idea that belonging also meant sharing a common vision, a willingness to give of themselves, and a willingness to share ideas and listen to others. It kind of reminded me of Jesus's discussion with his disciples about what it meant to belong to the Kingdom of God. We're all invited to belong to the Kingdom of God. But what does that mean?

If you consider Webster's definition of "belong" which is to be a member of a group or something, to have a rightful place where you belong, or to be connected with in individual or group; there are some interesting things that seem to go with it. Obviously to belong to something means you must first understand what it is you belong to so you can then make some kind of decision to continue your association with whatever it is you belong to and then some kind of willingness to do something as a result of your belonging. Phew... but whatever the definition, whatever the cause or whatever the organization (even the church) they

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are all dependant on people belonging and doing and sharing and rejoicing together. According to Jesus's explanation, there are three things necessary to belong to the Kingdom of God: Understanding, Commitment and Total Devotion to God's word above all else. A person who does not understand the Word of God often loses sight of the Kingdom of God. The person who lacks strong commitment will often drift away because of peer pressure, inconvenience, embarrassment or what they think is persecution. The person who is not totally devoted will often succumb to the pettiness of worldly life and the desire for wealth, power and status. All this is really important because the Kingdom of God is not some far off place in some far away time that we can only dream about until we die. The Kingdom of God is here and now among us and within us!! Don't you want to belong?

See ya in church!

Pastor Bob

FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT



Chase Field and the Arizona Diamondbacks are again sponsoring Faith and Family Night on Friday, August 26th. The Diamondbacks will

be playing the San Diego Padres. The game begins @ 6:40 so we'll need to be on the road by 2:45 p.m. Among the highlights will be the Fireworks show immediately following the game, D-Backs question and answer/testimony time and Christian artist TobyMac will provide the concert. The player appearance and concert will start about 20 minutes after the fireworks on a new and improved roll-out stage. Tickets are \$15 and are for bleacher or bullpen reserve. To ride the bus you'll need to pay \$5 so altogether the cost will be \$20. I'll need \$15 for the tickets no later than noon Friday, August 12th. I'll be ordering the tickets after that. I'll need 10 people to ride the van to make this happen.

Conference Report

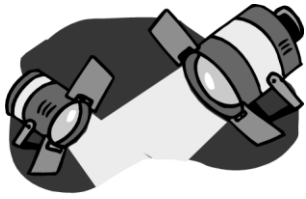
A lot of information and learning opportunities were afforded those that attended the Annual Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church in late June of 2011. Unfortunately, the picture that was painted doesn't shine brightly, but at the same time doors to face and conquer the future were opened to anyone desiring to take the steps wanting to brighten the future.

Some alarming data presented to us included numbers such as: In the past forty (40) years there are nearly three (3) MILLION fewer United Methodist in the United States while the average age of people in the United States is 37 the average age of United Methodist members is 52! Church attendance is down 22 percent and the number of churches has been reduced by 20%. In the USA 66% of the population is Anglo whereas 92% of United Methodist is Anglo.

Add the following numbers to the mixture: 1 out of 2 children are eligible for free or reduced lunch; 1 out of 3 households are considered as working poor; 1 of 4 children live in families that fall below the Federal Poverty Level; 1 of 6 are on a food stamp program. These numbers apply to ARIZONA!! Add to that that only Mississippi has more people living in poverty than Arizona. These are startling numbers and the picture is dull. However, there is hope and we discovered means to address these numbers as we venture forth. You can choose to see the glass as half full or half empty.

In troubled times we can either give up or "take the bull by the horns". Watch – listen – and get involved in the near future as we as a congregation become proactive and meet and surpass the challenge. Don't hesitate; get aboard from the beginning; together we can accomplish great things.

From voting delegate, John Bonefas



New Member Spotlight!

Dale Ferguson joined our First United Methodist Church family on June 19, 2011, and says he feels at home here and appreciates the Christian fellowship and Bible-based focus of our services.

He is originally from Michigan, where his parents still reside. There he worked for Total Petroleum and moved around quite a lot with the company, living for a time in Texas, California, and Washington. He and his family moved to Tucson in 1989 where he bought his own trucking business named Tanker Yanker, Inc. His route was originally between Tucson and New Mexico. However, when his route changed so that he drove from Globe through the Gila Valley, it became more convenient to locate to this area, which he did nine years ago, and now he and his family are happy to be settled in Pima.

Dale's son, Craig, 26, and Craig's wife Meghan, live near him here in the Gila Valley, and his daughter, Kellie, 12, lives at home. She has experienced serious medical problems and was on dialysis for two and a half years before her kidney transplant in April of 2010. During this time she missed a lot of school, so she has some catching up to do, but her last check up was very good and the future looks bright for her. She has a sincere love of Jesus and smiles with joy at the mention of His name.

Other misfortunes have also assailed the family. Their oldest son, Rodney, was the victim of a murder in 1994 and is buried in Tucson, and Kristie, Kellie's mother, is currently recovering from spinal surgery. At the time of this writing, she is home in Pima

and working on arranging rehab, which should help her enjoy a great improvement in her health. The surgery was more difficult because her doctor had to deal with scar tissue from a previous surgery, but expectations are that she will be able to walk unaided, which has not been possible during the last five years.

When asked about his background, Dale shared that when he was young, his parents insisted on church three days a week, which made him rebel for a time. Although he was married in the Methodist Church, he found TV ministry and personal devotions served his worship needs for a time. Now he is happy to be part of a congregation again. He and Kellie are regular participants in weekly worship services and Sunday School classes, and Kellie also helps welcome members and distribute bulletins at the 8:15 service. Dale especially appreciates the church's web site and says his mother in Michigan uploads the sermon each week so she and Dale can discuss it and worship together.

FUMC is so pleased to welcome Dale and Kellie into our church family, and we pray for God's richest blessings to the Ferguson family, including good health for Kellie and Kristie and Dale's continued ability to care for their needs as they recover from serious medical situations.

***BP and glucose checks
will be held Sunday,
August 14... same time,
same place!***



Let There Be Light

We take many things about Worship for granted. The preacher always preaches. The musician always plays the hymns. The Sanctuary is clean. The candles on the Communion Table are lit. It is a special part of Worship for a young person to bring the light into the Sanctuary and light the candles. At the end of Worship, the candles, representing the light of Christ, give light to the lighter's wick so that the gift of light may be taken into the entire world. Only then are the Altar candles extinguished. This is an important and symbolic part of Worship.

Young people who wish to become acolytes know that there are certain responsibilities which go with this important task. Dependability is very important. If you are in 4th grade to 8th grade, you could be an acolyte. Please call the church office or Janet Foreman 424-2220 to find out more.

To the Congregation of Safford
FUMC,

Thank you for your prayers, cards,
flowers, and support during our
son Mark's illness and death. Your
friendship will long be
remembered.

May God bless you for your acts of
kindness and we hope to see you
this fall.

Duane & Alice Winquist



August JJR & IJR News

The decision was made to
cancel John's *Junior* Ringers

for the rest of the summer. We will return to regular classes each Sunday at 8:45 on September 18th. IJR will not play on July 31.

John's Joyful Ringers played "America" on July 10. The challenge of the month was a shortage of ringers with members on mission trips, vacations and working. Thanks to Candace Brady for helping out.

Watch for a new direction for JJR's this fall.

Billie Ringer has moved to
a new place. Her new address is:

Billie Ringer
c/o Villa Maria
4310 E. Grant Road
Tucson, AZ 85712
(520) 323-9351

Soul Overhaulin' starts September 10

Summer is over! Some schools have begun, and Soul Overhaulin', adult Sunday School Class will gather together on Sunday, Sept 10 at 9:15 am in the room just south of the church office to continue its study of the bible. It will continue with the outstanding DVD which takes place in the Holy Land. We will see the Holy Land where Jesus lived during the years of the New Testament. We will learn how to talk with our children, grandchildren and others we impact, about our faith, as spiritual leaders in our family and community. Come join us.

Hope to see you there.

Ed Hunter, facilitator

For info call 928-428-0722, or 928-322-0563

OUR NEIGHBOR'S PANTRY

Food Bank Fundraiser

Our Neighbor's Pantry invites you to help feed the hungry and feed yourself at the same time. That's right! Friday, August 12th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Safford First United Methodist Church join



us for a spaghetti dinner. Dinner includes spaghetti, bread and salad for \$5.00 per ticket. Desserts will be available for sale as well. Tickets will be available from Board Members or call 428-5466 or 965-4607.

See you on the 12th~

DOUBLE POT LUCK DINNER!

Methodists and Lutherans pride themselves in their God-given ability to put together a good potluck! With that in mind, the members of Faith Lutheran invite everyone at First United Methodist to join together for a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall **after the second service on Sunday, August 14th**. We'll have great food and time for socializing, and after that committees from the two churches will spend time talking about ways we might continue working cooperatively in the future. See you there!

Children—Our Future

The First United Methodist education committee would like to find more adult volunteers for our children and youth.

Sunday School:

We are thrilled to report that the numbers of children and teens attending Sunday school has

grown. However this means that we have a greater need for more adult helpers.

We were lucky enough to have three teachers last year; two for elementary ages and one for teenagers. Though it went well enough we'd like to go larger.

We'd like to be able to divide the elementary aged students into three age groups. Also, it would be ideal to have an additional teacher to add to the elementary schedule allowing for a Sunday off now and then.

In addition it would be helpful to have a few substitutes available for our teacher of teenagers.

The lessons we use are the best programs available and easy to follow. The children are, of course, wonderful to work with, yes even the teenagers. Of all the work one could do for God many people find working with children the most rewarding.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Children's church:

Kid's Praise is different than Sunday school. It is not meant to replace Sunday school, but to boost the experience that our children get in Sunday School and to provide a family friendly option for parents. Our church has been conducting Kids' Praise worship services for about a year and a half, during 10:30 worship service. It's carried out as a sort of campfire sing along. We have one volunteer who leads it. A substitute would be given a DVD showing songs and actions for everyone to easily follow along. Two substitutes are needed in the 2011-2012 school year to guarantee continued success of this important program.

To summarize; we are seeking two Sunday school teachers (or even just helpers) for elementary aged children, two substitutes for the teen Sunday school class and two substitutes for Kids Praise worship.

Teachers will start the education year on Kick-Off Sunday, August 28, 2011, which will be a games Sunday, without lessons. There will be a one-hour training session for new teachers and substitutes on September 11.

Volunteers need to be at least 18 years old.

- Would you like to help?
- Do you know any family members of our children who would like to give back to the Sunday school program? If so have them call.
- Do you know of someone who might be a good fit? Could you talk them into trying?

If you have any questions or if you are unsure of the skills needed or the commitment required feel free to call one of the numbers below. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Call Andrea Pritchard-Sunday School Superintendent at 348-0679, or Patti Hinton-Education Chairperson at 485-2814 (home) 928-322-3399 (cell).



During Kid's Praise children's church we will be practicing a song called God With Us specifically to sing in church on August 28th. We'd love to have your child sing with us.

Thank you to all of those who volunteered to teach Sunday School lessons to the children during the summer.

Kick Off Sunday...

The new Sunday school year 2011-2012 will start with a bang, on Kick Off Sunday August 28th, for

students of all ages. The purpose of Kick Off Sunday is to provide students and parents with information about Sunday school classes, introduce the teachers, and to recharge excitement for upcoming year. If you are already a regular attendee plan on joining the continuing fun. If you have been considering trying Sunday school youth classes for your children, or adult classes for yourself, Kick Off Sunday would be a great time to start.

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
(Deuteronomy 6:7 ESV)
Sunday School begins at home.



Join us for our Back to School lock-in! We'll have food, a scavenger hunt, food, bowling, & games. Did we mention food? Our first food will be spaghetti that we'll be helping to serve at the Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner for Our Neighbor's Pantry. Then we'll be getting on with rest of the fun for the evening. Saturday we'll finish up by having a cookout and swimming at Matt & Mickie Hunter's. Bring a friend and have a great time!

Date: Friday. August 12th - Saturday August 13th

Time: 4:45 p.m.—1:00 p.m

What to Bring:

\$5 for bowling

Swimsuit

Pillow/Bedroll

Toiletries

Good Attitude



AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	4:00 pm – Nominating Committee (FC)					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		5:30 pm – Pastor's Round Table (FC) 6:30 pm – Church Meal (FH)			4:45 pm – Back to School Lock In (through 1 pm on Saturday) 5 – 7:00 pm – Food Bank Spaghetti Dinner	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Double Pot Luck Dinner after 2 nd Service		7:00 pm – Ad Council Meeting				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					Faith and Family Night at Diamond Backs	
28	29	30	31			
Sunday School Kick Off						

Weekly Church Events

Sundays

8:15 am – Essentials Worship Service (S)
 8:45 am – John's Jr Ringers practice (on hold til Sept)
 9:15 am – Sunday School (Various)

10:30 am – Liturgical Worship Service (S)
 6 pm – Youth Group (YR)
 5 pm – John's Joyful Ringers
 5 pm – Prayer Meeting (VR)

Wednesdays

Weekly Community Events

Mondays

6 pm – Cub Scouts (FH)
 6 pm – NA (L)
 7 pm – Boy Scouts (FH)
 7 pm – Webelos (FC)

Tuesday

6 pm – CMA (L)
 6 pm – NA (L)
 6 pm – CMA (L)
 6 pm – NA (L)
 6:30 pm – Cadets (FC) 1st & 3rd Wednesday

Wednesdays

7:30 pm – AA (L)
 5 pm- Brownies (FC)
 6 pm- CMA (L)

Thursdays

6 pm- CMA (L)
 12 pm- CMA (L)

Fridays

Saturdays

(S) Sanctuary, (FH) Fellowship Hall
 (FC) Friendship Classroom, (V) Vision Room

(L) Library, (W) Wesley Room

August Birthdays

- 1- Kevin Pennington
- 2- Susan Decker
- 2- Mason Hunter
- 5- Laci Anglin
- 5- Rhonda Sears
- 6- Preston Lindsey
- 7- Amanda Evans
- 7- Jessica James
- 8- Megan Stone
- 10- Henry Dunkerson
- 10- Paula Jackson
- 10- Ruth Nations
- 12- Hopi Fitz-William
- 14- Barbara Gilpin
- 14- Matt Hunter
- 15- Lisa James
- 17- Gordon Gilpin
- 18- Avalon Fitz-William
- 18- Don Thomas
- 18- Rebecca Zilm
- 20- Randall Lindsey
- 20- Emily Tecca
- 21- Sean McCamy
- 21- Bobbi Stamer
- 21- Timallee Switzer
- 23- Bob Holliday
- 28- Ron Garver
- 28- John Manning
- 30- David Decker
- 31- Patti Hinton

August Anniversaries

- 7- Troy & Gail Damron
- 12- Dick & Barbie Spining
- 19- Doug & Carol Jones
- 30- Clyde & Marty Mitchell

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>
June 26	118
July 3	124
July 10	120
July 17	40 & ?

SERVICE: Thank you to all of our delegates who traveled to the annual conference to represent us.

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School is starting.
Watch out for children!