

# Vision...

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

Proverbs



## Safford First United Methodist Church Newsletter ◇ May 2010

### View from the Pulpit...



Well I think there's no question spring is here. The days are getting longer and warmer and Mother Nature has begun to wake up from her winter nap. In fact... soon it will be Mother's Day. In honor of Mother's Day this year, we want to make sure ALL Mother's from our church are invited to a special

**Mother's Day Breakfast Tea.** On Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day), we will host a **Mother's Day Breakfast Tea Party** at 9:15, in the fellowship hall complete with assorted teas, homemade scones and jellies and a special carnation for each mother. We will also have a special recognition during worship services for all the mothers who are in attendance. Even though Mother's Day has only been "officially" recognized in our country since 1914, there are records of religious festivals and celebrations honoring motherhood that go all the way back to when the Roman Empire began to convert to Christianity and it became part of the Christian liturgical calendar.

I think spring time is such a spiritual time. So many things happen and have happened in the spring time. When Jesus fed the five-thousand (Matthew 14:15-21 & Mark 6:31-44), it was in the spring. When the disciples plucked the ears of corn on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23), it was spring. But spring time always seems to have an even deeper significance because of the idea of rebirth, renewal and regrowth. And every year that rebirth, renewal and regrowth happens again and again. How interesting it is that God's creation is reborn, renewed and regrown every year. But what about you and me.

When we read about Nicodemus' misunderstanding of what it means to be born anew, how often do we misunderstand also. William Barkley says, being born anew is undergoing such a radical change in the way we think about our relationship with God and those around us that it's like a whole new identity. Something happens deep within our soul where we realize this new perspective, new outlook or new way of life is so much better than what we've had in the past, it's like being born all over again, brand new. I think this is what the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm refers to when it says, "... you restore my soul." And it's all a God thing! God restores our soul, God loved us first, and it's by the grace of God we're offered the opportunity to be born anew!

This phrase "born anew" or the idea of rebirth is not something that is mentioned only with reference to Nicodemus. It runs throughout the New Testament. Peter talks about being born anew by God's great mercy (1 Peter 1:3). The Apostle Paul also comments a number of times, on this idea of starting all over. In his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Corinthians he says if any person is in Christ it is as if they had been created all over again (2 Cor. 5:17). And when this happens as John talks about (John 3:1-6), we are born of water and spirit when Jesus *con't p. 8*

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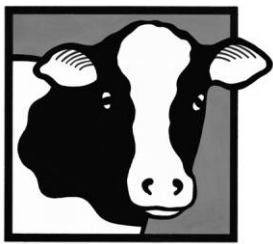
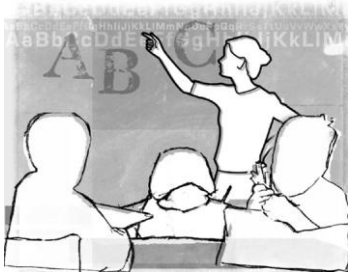
Minerva G. Carcaño,  
Resident Bishop  
Mike Pearson, Superintendent

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

# Make Mom Proud

## Heifer

**International's** goal is to guide people in developing nations toward self-reliance through livestock and education—by providing them with revenue-producing livestock, like cows, a goat or a flock of chickens. The training provided allows the participants to raise the animals, producing protein-rich, life-sustaining milk and eggs. They also learn holistic agricultural methods, ensuring productive land use for future generations. In addition to receiving the gift of an animal and training in sustainable farming practices, **recipients agree to share one or more of their animals' offspring with others in need in what is called "Passing on the Gift"....paying it forward!**



**Heifer International** is a nonprofit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty and caring for the Earth. FUMC Mission Committee would like to highlight

**Heifer International** this spring as a way to make a difference in the lives of so many struggling families in countries around the globe.

How can we do this? Making a monetary donation in any amount is a great way to start, and a challenge to all of us. What a great way to remember our mothers, our grandmothers and godmothers on the upcoming Mothers' Day celebration, either as an honor for a living mother or a memorial in honor of a deceased mother!

**And how do you do that? Please write a check (separate from your monthly church tithe or offering) and earmark it specifically for Heifer International; or give the check or cash to a Mission Committee Member (Dorita Vail, Barbara Haralson, Sue Bonefas); or leave it at the church office with Paul! Easy, huh?**

When notified of a monetary gift in honor of a living loved one, the Mission Committee will send a gift card acknowledging your wonderful support of this special project to your loved one.

## Women of Faith Conference

The Women of Faith Conference begins on Friday night and lasts through Saturday about 4:00 P.M. It's a time of singing, laughing, Christian speakers, and an opportunity to spend time with your sisters in Christ. It's a great time to renew and grow in faith. You can go on-line and find more information at [WomenofFaith.com](http://WomenofFaith.com). This year's conference is October 1-2 in Phoenix. Tickets are \$89.00. They will sell fast, so please don't wait. Contact Carrie Glaspie at 428-3706 for tickets. **There is a June 1 deadline for tickets**



## ALPHA COURSE UPDATE

The Alpha Course has just completed 10 weeks of worship, prayers, group discussions, viewing videos, fellowship, fun and plenty of food.

A new course will be offered in the fall of 2010. Sign up now in the church office if you are interested in Alpha Course #15.

The Alpha Leadership Team would like to thank EVERYONE involved in presenting this successful program.





## ***Helping Hands***

Have you ever felt like you wanted to do something to help someone in need, but you just didn't know what you could do? Are you looking for a way to offer a hand, but you don't know where to start?

Helping Hands for Graham County is a non-profit agency dedicated to performing home repairs for people who are physically and/or financially unable to do the work themselves.

What does that have to do with you? You might be just the person to help with a simple repair. Helping Hands is looking for individuals to partner in home repairs. We have many applications waiting for much needed home repairs. Are you willing to learn some new skills, work with other Christian friends, and be blessed in the process?

If you are interested in volunteering with Helping Hands, or if you would like to know more about this program, please contact Barbara Haralson at 428-5466 or John Bonefas at 428-0275. **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!**

## **Salad Luncheon**

The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual May Salad Luncheon, sponsored by the Safford Unit of United Methodist Women will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

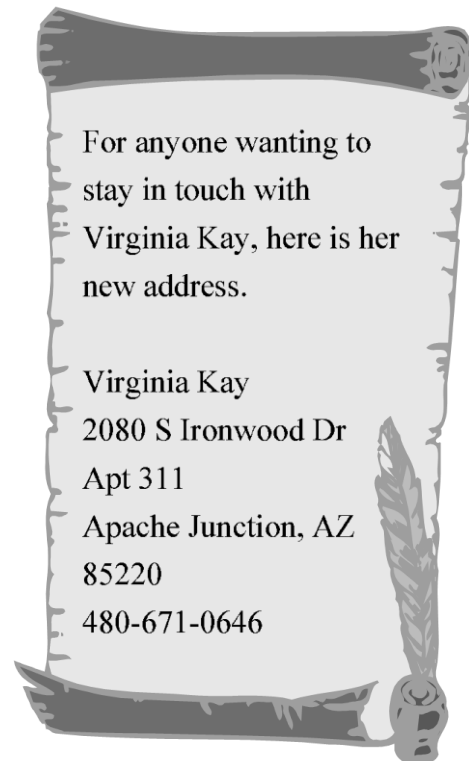
Donation is \$6.00 per meal and you may eat in at the Fellowship Hall or order take-out prior to 10:30 a.m. that day by calling the Church Office at 428-4211. Take-out meals may be picked up in the Friendship Classroom.

The United Methodist Women have hosted this luncheon each year on the first Thursday in May as the unit's main fundraising project.

Many mission programs have been supported by this event including Mt. Graham Safe House, Gila Valley Ministerial Association, Graham County Interfaith Care Alliance (which includes Our Neighbor's Pantry), the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, youth scholarships for Acquire the Fire, camping and Scouting as well as providing materials for the weekly Sidewalk Sunday School program.



Tickets may be purchased from UMW members, at the Church Office, or at the door the day of the luncheon.



For anyone wanting to stay in touch with Virginia Kay, here is her new address.

Virginia Kay  
2080 S Ironwood Dr  
Apt 311  
Apache Junction, AZ  
85220  
480-671-0646



Celebrate Mother's Day by getting your blood pressure and glucose checked!

May 9, 9-10:30 a.m. in the Family Room of the Sanctuary.

### Be Part of the Kairos Prison Ministry

Arizona Kairos will be conducting a weekend at Red Rock Correctional Center in Eloy, May 13 - 16. Kelly Capps, Gene Etter, Barbara Haralson, Steve Haralson, Pastor Bob Holliday, Ed Hunter, Barbie Spining, Dick Spining, and Scott Welbaum 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.

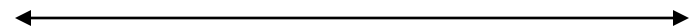
Our prayer is that each of you recognizes Kairos as an opportunity to be part of Christ's call, "I was in prison and you came to visit me". Matthew 25:36. Here are some concrete ways that you can participate.

- ❖ **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 and given to a team member.



***Remember to check the coupon boxes in the Fellowship Hall for lots of \$\$\$ savings on your grocery and personal shopping items!***

## May JJR News

John's Joyful Ringers demonstrated their professionalism during the Holy Week services. On Palm Sunday they played "Were You There?" our first professional musical arrangement, and tried out a new table arrangement. On Easter Sunday, they played "Fanfare for Easter Morning" as the introit. Sunday, April 11 was JJR's regularly scheduled Sunday to play, and they again demonstrated their continuing growth as a choir. A different table arrangement was tried because of complaints that the tables were in the way. Unfortunately one of the music stands slipped off the table in the middle of the anthem. I made a grab for it, and in the process, knocked another stand off the other end of the table. The unaffected choir members continued to play while the three affected members picked up their music and jumped back into the anthem, finishing with the rest of the choir. That is professionalism at its best and demonstrates the progress they have made in two short years.



Having a larger choir has many advantages. More ringers means more chimes can be used in an anthem, giving a fuller sound. It also means less stress when someone is not available for a performance. Lisa Angle

had plans to go to visit her grandchildren for Easter. There were all sorts of options to cover the vacant part – divide her chimes up among other ringers, delete extra chimes and reassign the ringer to Lisa's part, just to name some.

We opted to import an experienced ringer from North Carolina. Yes, that was Stephany Caylor Taylor you saw playing the introit with JJR on Easter Sunday morning. She had plans to visit family in Safford for Easter and asked if she could play with us. We were happy to have her in the choir once again.

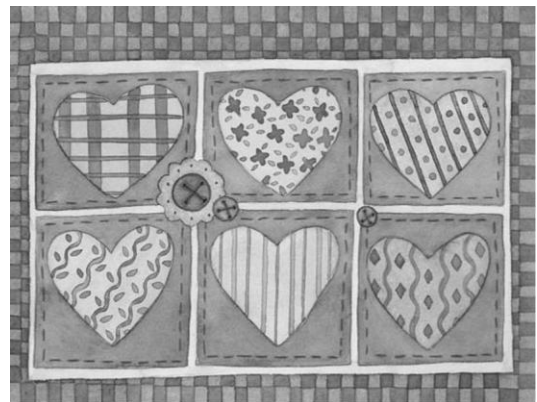
We have had several people recently tell us how much they enjoy hearing the chime choir play. Always on the lookout for new members, we invite them to come and try us on for size. Invariably they

say they don't read music, and we assure them that it not necessary. Only a few members of the choir can read music, usually from some long ago, almost forgotten music lessons or school music experience. All it really takes to learn to play chimes is the ability to count to 6 and to recognize basic colors. You will absorb musical knowledge as you go along. With our mentor program, you will have one-on-one training, as well as willing help from the other ringers. Yes, you can learn to ring chimes. Come to rehearsal at 5:00 PM on Wednesday and give us a try.

The Outreach /Quilting Circle have been very busy every Thursday making quilts for our local missions. April 11<sup>th</sup> Pastor Bob blessed them in the church service.

We want to thank everyone who donated materials for the quilts.

God Bless You.



### DID YOU KNOW??

- † That the UMW gave the church general fund \$1,000.00?
- † That the UMW circle has made 7 quilts to go to local missions?

- † That the UMW bought 4 tables for the church use?
- † That the UMW paid for one Boy Scout scholarship?
- † That you can honor your mother, grandmother, sister, or any special woman in your life by making a donation to Heifer Project?
- † That that 198 people attended the second service on Easter Sunday?
- † That Andrea Pritchard is the Sunday School Superintendent?
- † That Sunday school attendance among the children has increased 30% from this same time last year?
- † That E. J. Romeo teaches a Teenage Sunday School class centered on current events pertinent to the lives of teenagers every Sunday morning beginning at 9:15?
- † That a Prayer Request box is available at the back of the sanctuary?
- † That the Witness Committee is committed to responding to each request?
- † That our shut-ins are being visited on a regular basis. Communion and recordings of the worship service are provided?
- † That "Responding to Jesus's mandate to visit those in prison (Matthew 25:37-40) eight of our number will be serving on a Kairos Weekend at Red Rock Correctional Center in Eloy in May. You also can be part of this mission through prayer, and making symbols of our love called Agape. For details, read "Kairos Responds to Christ's Call to Visit Those in Prison" elsewhere in this edition of the Vision?
- † The Chancel Choir started preparing for the Easter cantata on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Besides

weekly practices, choir members listened for countless hours to practice CD's and attended a 3-hour retreat. All this on top of preparing weekly anthems!?

## Welcome...

This is the first of several interviews that the Vision will be printing to introduce new members to the congregation. The spotlight will be on members who joined during 2009 and 2010.

### Joy Lehto

Joy Lehto was welcomed into membership on April 26, 2009. A woman of rich and varied experiences, she has shared some of her history with us. Because her first husband, Mel Conn, was a translator for General McArthur, he and Joy learned Japanese and traveled with the military for 10 years. Glen died following 20 years of marriage, and later Joy married Jim Lehto. Subsequently, she became an administrator for a Japanese bank, traveled throughout Illinois, New York, Kentucky, Ohio, and California as part of her work, and passed the Illinois bar to be a lawyer. Jim, a Christian counselor and chaplain for the Gideons, was a man of deep Christian commitment. During their 38-year marriage, they traveled extensively and finally settled in Lexington Pines #85 where they enjoyed the community and did mission work here and in Mexico. When Jim died two and a half years ago, Joy stayed in Safford near her many friends.

She delights in her 6 children, 19 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren, soon to number 11 with the imminent birth of a grandchild's twins. She is proud that all her children are Christian, that many of her Japanese friends to whom she witnessed are Christian, and that she is a Godparent to 4 Japanese children.

Overcoming difficulties has been a necessity for Joy, who was raised in an orphanage with 3 siblings. She never knew her parents but did have a relationship with her grandmother. Ironically, her second husband Jim had a similar background, being orphaned at age 7. She married young, had help from her in-laws to get her college degree, and worked hard to be successful. However, Joy says, "I'm a very blessed person! Every time something

bad happened, something good came out of it.”

Joy loves sewing and cooking, contributing to the life of the church, and visiting with her many friends, especially UMW members. “People in this church are absolutely wonderful!” she says. Church members and friends say the same thing about her!



Dear First United Methodist Church,

Recently I attended an adult leadership course called Wood Badge. It was a 6 day course on methods of scouting that not only

taught leaders how to be more effective in their positions but also how to catch the vision of Scouting. The mission of Scouting is to “prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime”. This course has changed not only the way I approach Scouting but my daily life as well.

This June the older boys of our troop have the opportunity to experience this same training at the National Youth Leader Training course in Heber, AZ. Thanks to the generous donations by members of the First United Methodist Church, these young men will have a life changing experience. The leadership skills they will learn will not only help the troop but each young man will be better equipped to “make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime.”

Thank you again First United Methodist Church for supporting Scouting in the Gila Valley.

Bill Nidiffer  
Scout Master  
Troop 5023



As was mentioned earlier in this edition of Vision, one of our members has moved-- Virginia Kay. Before leaving, she donated her Safford home to FUMC. Therefore, if anyone knows of someone who might be interested in a singlewide mobile home to purchase, please have them contact either

Bob Bigando (428-3675) or Sue Bonefas (428-0275 or 928-432-1900). Please leave a message if there is no answer.

The particulars of the home are:

- Located in an established park on a rental lot.
- 2 bedrooms
- 1-1/2 baths
- Newer carpet & linoleum flooring
- Covered patio
- One car carport
- Air-conditioned
- Sold as is-- \$4000 cash OBO



## Sierra Service Project

### 2010 Trip Deposit Due

It may be early, but it’s time to start thinking about being a part of the 2010 Sierra Service Project. We will again be participating in urban ministry in Los Angeles at Vermont Square United Methodist Church. We will be going the week of July 18-25, 2010. Pastor Bob, Dick Spining and Sherry Brady will be chaperones again this year, and we will have space for 10 young people totaling 13 spaces. A deposit of \$50 will be required of each young person to reserve your place, and that is due in the office. We will be having fundraisers between now and then so don't get discouraged. If you have never joined us before for this mission trip, go to [www.sierraserviceproject.org](http://www.sierraserviceproject.org) for more information.

### **SOUTH DISTRICT JR. HIGH MISSION TRIP**

For those of you that have worked so hard at fundraisers and aren't old enough to go on The Sierra Service Project here's the mission trip for you. The South District Jr. High Mission is June 9-12. Some of you went last year and even knew people that you had met at camp. For those of you that haven't been to the mission trip, the event begins with dinner, worship and games on

Wednesday and concludes with an afternoon at Breakers Water Park on Saturday.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, teams of youth will be traveling to different parts of Tucson to be involved with a number of service projects.

All youth who have completed the 6th through 8th grades this spring are eligible to participate. I'll be sending many of you an application, but more brochures will be available by the youth bulletin board. Put this weekend on your calendar, and invite a friend.

## Camping News

There are camp registration forms available in the office and in the youth room. Early registration online is immediately available @ [www.dsccamps.org](http://www.dsccamps.org). Follow the link to camp forms. You may also access the individual camp websites @ [www.mingusmountaincamp.org](http://www.mingusmountaincamp.org) or [www.southdistrictcamps.org](http://www.southdistrictcamps.org) Partial scholarship are available from our church as well as from the Conference.

### **South District Camping Dates (check site location for each camp)**

#### **Sr. High Camp—June 7-12**

Youth entering grade 10-12 & newly graduated seniors.

Site: Mingus Mt.. Prescott, AZ.

#### **Elementary Camp—June 14-19**

Campers entering grades 3-6

Site: Mingus Mt.. Prescott, AZ.

#### **Jr. High Camp—July 5-10**

Youth entering grades 7-9

Site: Mingus Mt.. Prescott, AZ.

#### **Super Camp—July 19-24**

Children & youth entering grades 3-9

Site: Triangle Y Ranch, Oracle, AZ.

### **Confirmation News**

**This year our church had participants in the Bishop's Confirmation Retreat down at the Triangle Y Ranch in Oracle. Pastor Bob took Sierra Stone, Haylee Lopez, Philip Capps, and Jesse Stone. They were able to meet other confirmands from the South District, meet Bishop Minerva Carcano and understand the whole confirmation process. When you see these young people, congratulate them.**

### **View from the Pulpit con't...**

takes possession of our lives it's not only that the past is forgiven and forgotten because if that's all there were to it, we would probably mess things up all over again. But when we do allow God to redesign our lives, there's a new power that enables us to do and to be what we can never be and do by ourselves.

The exhilaration and enthusiasm so many people feel when they finally come to the realization there is a better way, is so awesome. Those who don't get it usually think we're nuts. But then again if you and I really follow the Christian way of generosity, forgiveness, and loyalty to Jesus Chris, there will always be less generous, less fogiving and less loyal people in the world who will make excuses for ther lack of generosity, lack of forgiveness and lack of loyalty to Jesus Christ for whatever reason. Try asking them where Jesus set the example for us to descriminate, label, profile, separate from their families, call names, injure, or disregard.

By the grace of God... see ya in church

Pastor Bob

# May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	1/8
	*9 am - UMW Board Meeting (FH)			*11 am - UMW Salad Luncheon (FH)		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>Mother's Day Confirmation Sunday</b>  *9 am - BP & Glucose Screening (W) *9:15 am - Mother's Day Tea (FH)		*5:30 pm - Pastor's Roundtable (FC) *6:15 pm - Church Meal (FH) *6:45 pm - Church Meetings (Various)		*11 am - UMW Luncheon (FH)		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
*7 am - Men's Discipleship Breakfast *10:30 am - Praise Team Sunday (FH)		*7 pm - Ad Council (FC)				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
						*6 pm - Memorial Weekend Get Together (Pecan Grove)
30	31					
<b>Graduation Sunday Peace w/Justice Sunday</b>						

## 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)  
5:30 pm - Praise Team Practice (FH)  
6:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

## 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 6 pm - CMA (L)  
6 pm - NA (L)  
6:30 pm - Cadets (FC) - 1st & 3rd Wed's  
7:30 pm - AA (L)

Thursdays 9 am - Quilting Group (FH)  
5 pm - Brownies (FC)  
6 pm - CMA (L)

Fridays 6 pm - CMA (L)

Saturdays 12 pm - CMA (L)

## May Birthdays

1- Hector Benton  
4- Nathaniel O'Dell  
8- Jennifer O'Dell  
Dona Schreur  
10- Anne Borland  
11- Justin Foote  
Victor Moya  
Jordan Nichols  
12- James Girardot  
Valerie Moya  
14- Jeff Hawthorne  
19- Cameron Coppola  
24- Gail Metivier  
25- Goldie O'Dell  
26- Melody Jordahl  
29- Walker Lewis  
30- Toni Aguilar

## May Anniversaries

3- Bob & Anne Borland  
5- Troy Walker & Ruth Nations  
6- Gene & Donna Etter  
20- Jeff & Lisa James  
23- Carlos & Toni Aguilar  
Chad & Teresa Bailey  
31- J.T. & Linda Cotter

(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 & OFFERINGS:**

March 28	182	\$4,480.82
April 4	234	\$5,395.19
April 11	134	\$4,201.00
April 18	161	\$3,343.00

**SERVICE:** A special Thank You to all the musical people in our church. We were especially blessed with beautiful music during the Easter Season from the Chancel Choir, John's Joyful Ringers, and special music by Rebecca Zilm.

First United Methodist Church  
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(928) 428-4211

Address correction requested

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