

Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale · September 2016



Mile of Quarters Nearly Complete!

The Mile of Quarters is nearing the finish line: Northern Avenue. We started over a year ago—the walkathon was held last October. We are now 90% of the way there.

We began at the corner of 59th and Glendale Avenues. Some may remember Larry Del Ray laid down the very first quarter. We started going north, laying down US quarters every foot of the way. We galloped past Glenn Drive. Palmaire was soon in our rearview mirror. We ran past Myrtle and Northview. State and Gardenia seemed to fly by. Every foot took 12½ quarters. That's \$3.125 if you do the math. Orangewood, the half-way point, was easily passed and we kept on walking—literally during our walkathon.

Next came Vista and Morten and our pace began to slow. We trudged past Belmont and Frier. At the end of 2015 we were crawling past Hayward—the three-fourths point. But this last quarter mile to Northern has been a bear. Maybe because there are no more streets—just the big parking lot next to the shopping center. But we have still made progress. Every week, more quarters are laid down along 59th Avenue.

We have raised over \$15,000 for the tuck and point project. A full mile of quarters will be \$16,500, so we are less than \$1,500 from our goal. Ted Turner is threatening to hold another walkathon, but at these temperatures, that might just kill us all. So I'm asking everyone to



2015 Mile of Quarters Walkathon

dig a little deeper, shake the piggy bank a little harder, and let's finish this mile. Olive Norris, the inspiration behind this fundraiser, will be grateful to everyone—especially if she doesn't have to do another walkathon!

Thanks for your support of First United Methodist Church's aging sanctuary. The old bricks can use a good tuck and point into their joints.

—David Mosley



First United Methodist Church 7102 N. 58th Drive · Glendale, AZ 85301

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Email: rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com · Web: www.glendalefirstumc.com
Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00 am–3:00 pm; closed Friday at 1:00 pm

Sunday Schedule

8:00 am (Lay-led Communion) • 9:00 am Worship • 11:11 am Worship
10:10 am Sunday School Classes for all ages

Rev. Kim Gladding, Senior Pastor

What is Your Purpose?

Romans 8: 28 says: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

What is your purpose? Could it be that your purpose is to give back to God your musical talent? Could it be that your purpose is to encourage people you know to become part of our music ministry, to enjoy the fellowship of a warm accepting church community and to make joining our choir their first step into God's family at First United Methodist Church of Glendale?

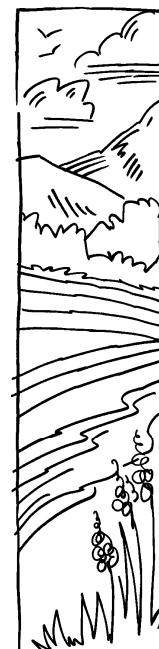
The members of the Chancel Choir make an effort every week from September to May to bring a joyful noise to our traditional worship service. Every Wednesday evening the group meets to prepare the service music and a special anthem. Why? Because they understand the importance and the calling to service God expects of them. Does every anthem, every Sunday reach the mark of excellence? To be honest, no. Some anthems are better than others. Some services click, others don't. But for whatever reason or excuse we may apply to the imperfections or missteps of the musical offering, the choir often does excel and greatly contributes to the presentation of God's word through music. To

be true, every member of the choir is dedicated to serving with total dedication and determination.

Over the last few years that I have been Director of the Chancel Choir, I have as have you, noticed the number of singers decrease. I know of three people that quit participating reportedly because they didn't feel my selection of music or designation of who would sing which part was to their liking. I fondly remember five or more members who passed from us to join God's heavenly choir. I recall three more members that left Glendale First because of other life or church direction reasons. For whatever reason, these losses hurt us both musically and personally.

The present members of the choir are to be thanked, appreciated and supported. They are the good souls that understand that the greatest gift the choir can give is to follow the Bible verse mentioned above and to do as God wishes according to His purpose. The choir members are constantly striving to present the worthiest gift to God they are able to do. They support their efforts with practice, energy and sincere motivation.

As the size of the choir dwindles, the challenges grow. Less and



*We know
that all
things work
together
for good for
those who
love God....*

Romans 8:28

less music is available for small groups. Voicing is problematic when two men make up the entire male section. When the age of many vocalists reach the upper years, the flexibility of the vocal cords becomes more restricting. This doesn't mean that we quit trying or that we accept anything less than perfection. We must try to do our best and we will, with God's help, continue to contribute to the ministry of the church the best we can. Every person brings something to the choir, every voice adds to the beauty of our musical offerings and every effort made by every choir member means everything to all.

Would it be great if more people would join us? Absolutely! Would even one or two or three new members be a great gift to the choir? Without a doubt, it would! Will we all understand

Money is an important part of life. For those who are struggling to make ends meet (as I have, a time or two), it can be stressful! But even though we worry about paying our bills on time and honoring our commitments; in the long run, we have every thing we need. We may have to eat leftovers, but we have enough to eat. We might keep looking and hoping for a greater source of income, but we manage to pay all our bills and fulfill some of our obligations. Our house or apartment may be modest, but we have relief from the extreme heat and have a place to sleep. Our stress is related to making sure we can afford the basic necessities of life. We may not think our life is profitable, because we're constantly trying to catch up or get ahead. We also may feel sadness and guilt for not being able to help others or support ministry and projects that are close to our hearts.

On the other end of the spectrum, if blessed with financial security and wealth, our stress may be experienced in other ways. There's little worry about paying bills and meeting our obligations, but we may sense pressure from what seems to be an endless line of people,

projects and non-profits asking for help and support—I've felt this stress every now and then as well. When those asking are confident in their approach, feelings of guilt or obligation can be troubling. We may wonder if we're doing everything we could or should do for the good of others. Though these uncomfortable feelings might be stressful, the opposite would be worse.

Let me say it another way. If we feel NO obligation to give to anyone or anything, including God, we are on a course toward ruin and destruction!

How could that be? It's true that financial freedom (no worries about our present and future financial need) removes many restrictions we might otherwise have in life; but that same freedom increases our responsibility in other areas.

Think of it this way... when you can only afford to eat out once a week at an inexpensive restaurant, a tip of 10-20% is small, usually \$1-\$2. But, if you have the financial resources to treat your family and friends to a meal at a 5-star restaurant—with appetizers, fancy drinks and dessert the appropriate tip can run \$30-\$60! Putting this in a spiritual context, the greater the

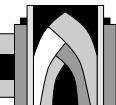
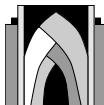
The Profitable Life...

By Pastor Kim

gift (service) we have received, the greater the obligation to pay it forward! The more we are able to give, the more profitable our lives will be. In the first letter to Timothy, we are given a glimpse of what a truly profitable life looks like. It's not chasing after more wealth for ourselves, or placing our hopes in the wealth we possess; rather it is trusting more in God, "*who richly provides everything for our enjoyment.*" (*I Timothy 6:17*) This the scriptural advice given to us when we have no financial stress. Dave Ramsey, author of *Financial Peace University*, teaches one how to achieve financial freedom. Ramsey clearly identifies generosity as the greatest benefit of financial freedom. Whether wealthy, middle class or just scraping by, the more we are able to give, the more treasure we lay up for ourselves in heaven. Didn't Jesus say something like that?

Striving after generosity with you,

— Pastor Kim



News and Notes

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

Are You a Family Caregiver?

Family members often don't consider themselves to be "caregivers" when they have responsibilities for aging loved ones, and thus don't seek help. Yet – receiving guidance and support can help them better care for their loved ones AND themselves. Are you a caregiver, or do you know someone who is?

If so, Duet cordially invites you to attend their Caregiver Symposium: How to Find Hope While Coping with Stress and Grief, on October 6. Renowned researcher, author, and psychologist Dr. Pauline Boss will share proven techniques for coping with the losses of care giving and reclaiming hope amidst grief. A session for family caregivers will take place from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (includes lunch) and a session for professionals and students takes place from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Duet, 555 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix. Each session is only \$20. To register, visit www.duetaz.org or call (602) 274-5022.

Volunteers Needed!!

Are you looking for a way to help individuals and families in our community?

Even as far back as Deuteronomy in the Old Testament, God commands, "...You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to the needy and poor in your land." – *Deuteronomy 16:17*

The Riner Outreach Center is looking for a volunteer or volunteers (to rotate) who can commit to making the weekly grocery run. The volunteer would receive a list of needed items to be purchased for the week. Examples include 4 loaves of bread, 20 cans of ravioli, 20 packages of dried potatoes, etc. Groceries are usually purchased at Walmart, Costco, and/or a dollar store. After making the purchases, the church will reimburse the volunteer. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a HUGE difference for a lot of people!

Another volunteer opportunity includes providing lunch for members of the community who attend our Weekly Open Worship (WOW) service on Wednesdays. Volunteers rotate on a monthly or (with enough volunteers) bi-monthly basis. The volunteers commit to provide lunch for approximately 50 people once a month or once every 2 months. Again, the volunteer will be reimbursed (keep receipts!) Examples include 12 pizzas (approx. \$66.00 from Little Caesar's) 4 bags of salad, a watermelon and dessert; a giant sub sandwich, chopped/sliced veggie tray with dip, and dessert; a crockpot full of chili, corn chips, cheese, chopped onions and a salad with dessert; pot-pies; or anything you can dream up!

Thank you for prayerfully considering your ability to care for those in need around you!

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in..." – **Matthew 25:35**

—Sherry Paddie
Director of Outreach and Nurture

Enroll in Fry's Community Rewards to Support the United Methodist Women

Last year, we asked you enroll in Fry's Community Rewards if you shopped at Fry's Foods. Many of linked your VIP card, and the church has earned donations from Fry's all year. We've received a notice that everyone needs to enroll again for the upcoming year, and we may begin re-enrolling in the 2016-2017 program. Please use the process below to re-enroll:

How to Re-Enroll for the Fry's Community Rewards Program

1. Go to www.FrysCommunityRewards.com
2. Click on 'Sign-In'.
3. Enter your email and password, click on 'sign in.'
4. Click on your name (top right hand corner), under 'Account Summary' scroll down to 'Community Rewards.'
5. Click on 'Edit' under Community Rewards.
6. Under Find Your Organization: Enter 80330, then select 'search.'
7. Under 'Select Your Organization,' click on the circle next to First United Methodist Women.
8. Click on 'Enroll'

If you have re-enrolled correctly, you should see a green box with 'Your enrollment in the Community Rewards Program has been updated. Thank you for participating!' You will also see the information listed under 'Community Rewards' on your Account Summary page.

Everyone must re-enroll to support the UMW; you If you have any problems, please call Rebecca, 623-939-1409, menu option 2.

What Is Your Purpose?

(Continued from page 2)

the debt we owe to the men and women who commit themselves to Wednesday rehearsals and Sunday services? I certainly hope so! God joins the choir every time we meet! You can join us with your prayers and possibly your attendance.

We look forward to contributing to the presentation of God's holy message for the next 9 months and we anticipate your support for all our offerings.

Praising Jesus in our lives,
—Larry Del Rae

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm in the choir room (church office building) and sings on Sundays at the 9:00 am Traditional Worship service.

For more information, contact Larry Del Rae at Idrae@cox.net or 602-390-4624.

Meaningful Moments

Do you have an occasional hour or two to spare? Become a Duet volunteer and make the most of your moments! Choose from providing rides to medical appointments, to being a visitor, grocery shopper, computer trainer, handyperson, or paperwork helper for an isolated elder. You could even provide a breather for a family caregiver who needs a break. To begin, simply sign up for a volunteer orientation at www.duetaz.org or 602-274-5022. Thank you!

Youth Page

Upcoming Youth Events and News

We've listed plans for a few months, and encourage all youth to attend future gatherings!

September 9-11....Family Camp at Lynx Lake

September 18.....Combined Youth Group at our church; volleyball & games, 4:00-6:00 pm

September 24.....UMOM walk at the Phoenix Zoo (registration begins at 6:30am) cost is \$20 for student, \$25 for adults before Sept 11. Please let me know if you are interested!

September 25.....The Hunger & Thirst Games continue in the youth room; games begin at 1:30 pm.

October 9.....The Hunger & Thirst Games continue in the youth room; games begin at 1:30 pm.

October 16.....Combined Youth Group @ Mission Bell UMC, 4645 W Bell Rd in Glendale.

October 30.....Youth Sunday—we will assist with both worship services.

November 13.....The Hunger & Thirst Games continue in the youth room; games begin at 1:30 pm.

November 20.....Combined Youth Group at Trinity UMC, 3104 W Glendale Ave in Phoenix.

November 25.....The Hanging of the Greens (We may have to add an additional date for the Hanging of the Greens).

December 11.....Our youth group is meeting in the youth room at 2:00 pm.

The current standings for The Hunger & Thirst Games are as follows:

District 2 and District 10—25,000 points

District 5—15,000 points

District 1—10,000 points

Fire Nation District and District 3—5,000 points

District 11 and District _____ (purple) —0 points

Remember, you can earn more points by bringing a guest as well as memorizing verses!

—Karen Render, Youth Leader (karen_render@yahoo.com)

**Single United
Methodists' 24th
Southeastern Arizona
Retreat, Sept 3-5, 2016**

Join the Desert Southwest Conference Singles Ministry at the serene and scenic Holy Trinity Monastery, a Benedictine oasis in St. David, AZ, 50 miles east of Tucson.

The theme for this year's retreat is "*Three Simple Rules for Living a Christ-Centered Life,*" using Rueben Jobs' inspirational writings and DVD.

Cost is \$110 for two nights' lodging, five meals and everything except transportation to the site. Carpools are available! **Registration deadline is September 1, 2016.**

Rebecca in the church office has registration forms—questions regarding registration and payment should be directed to Verna at the Desert Southwest Camping Office, 602-266-6956.



Celtic Cross at Holy Trinity Monastery

Worship Schedule for September 2015

- September 4:** Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
The Profitable Life: Use It Before You Lose It!
Read: Luke 16:10-13
- September 11:** Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
The Profitable Life: Who Manages Your Financial Affairs?
Read: 1 Timothy 6:6-11, 17-19
- September 18:** Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Clay Nation: Lessons from the Potter
Read: Jeremiah 18:1-11
- September 25:** Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Clay Nation: Lessons from the Potter
Read: Isaiah 45:9-10, 64:8 & Romans 9:20-21

Upcoming DSW Conference Lay Servant Training

The purpose of Lay Servant Ministries is to enlist, train, guide and support lay servants as they equip and prepare others "for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12).

September 23-24—Shepherd of the Valley UMC, Phoenix
You Can Preach; Justice in Everyday Life

October 14-15—St John's UMC, Tucson
The Basic Course

October 14-15—St. Matthew UMC, Mesa
Accountable Discipleship
Delivering Effective Sermons

November 19—Shepherd of the Hills UMC, Sun City West
The Basic Course

November 18-19—St Paul's UMC, Tucson
Life Together in the United Methodist Connection
Advanced Class: Leading in Prayer

Go to www.desertsouthwestconference.org/lay-servant-ministries
for more information and to register for these courses.

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Key Dates

- Labor Day, Office Closed
September 5
- Family Camp, *Sept 9-11*
- New Choir Season, *Sept 11*
- UMOM Walk at Phoenix Zoo,
September 24
- Charge Conference, *October 25*

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