

December/January  
2011-2012

Special points of  
interest:

- Our Vision
- Publication
- Spire Deadline
- Altar flowers
- Church hours
- Electronic giving
- Go green
- Church calendar
- Emergency number

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# THE SPIRE



## THOUGHTS FROM THE FARRER SIDE...

What's your best Christmas ever? I remember one time when my children were small when a blizzard hit on the night of December 23<sup>rd</sup>. I was working for the Chrysler Corporation and serving a small country church at the same time. I worked the evening shift and had to fight through blowing wind and snowdrifts to make it home.

By noon on Christmas Eve we were snowed in...in fact the entire county was snowed in. Shortly after that, our phone lines went dead (sorry, long before cell phones). It soon became obvious we were not going anywhere for quite awhile.

This could have been disastrous. We could have moaned about no church, no extended family dinner and no visits with friends, but we did not. We focused on our little family and the fact that Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ. We had a wonderful Christmas Eve enjoying each other's company and talking about the real meaning of the season.

Late that night, I trudged through the snow to a neighbor's house a block or so away and made several trips carrying a few presents each trip as we had hidden the presents for our kids there. On Christmas morning our children awoke to brightly wrapped gifts under the tree.

With no way to go anywhere, we enjoyed a leisurely Christmas morning. We started as always by reading the Christmas story and talking about the birth of Jesus. We opened gifts...ate brunch...and truly enjoyed each other and the day.

Later that afternoon we had a nice surprise as good church friends made their way to our house on snowmobiles and we celebrated this special day with them. It was a wonderful way to top off a surprisingly special Christmas!

Do you have special memories of a particular Christmas? Why don't you share them with someone this year and help spread the joy of Christmas!

**In Christ,  
Pastor Jim**



## OUR VISION

We strive to reach out to the community through:

- A ministry of continuous spiritual growth;
- A ministry with children, youth, and families in all their diversity, and;
- A ministry of music and the arts.

## LIKED THE SERMON?

You can now download the sermons onto your Ipad or listen via your computer.

Visit [firstchurchofmesa.com](http://firstchurchofmesa.com) and start reaching out electronically to friends, family, and those who are looking for God!

## DECEMBER SERMONS



### December 4th

#### [Communion Sunday]

Sermon Series: Characters of Christmas

Sermon Title: "Mary—A Song in Her Heart"

### December 11th

Sermon Series: Characters of Christmas

Sermon Title: "The Shepherds—The First Responders"

### December 18th

#### Christmas Cantata

Let us all join on this Journey to the Manger and in keeping Christ in Christmas.



### December 25th

Sermon Series: Characters of Christmas

Sermon Title: "Jesus—The Gene Pool"

9:00am Service Only on Christmas

## JANUARY SERMONS

### January 1st

#### [Communion Sunday]

Sermon Series: Characters of Christmas

Sermon Title: "Anna and Simeon—The Faithful and Patient"



### January 8th

Sermon Series: Bumper Sticker Life Lessons

Sermon Title: "Falling Down Doesn't Make You a Failure—Staying Down Does"

### January 15th

Sermon Series: Bumper Sticker Life Lessons

Sermon Title: "Faith is Journey—Not a Guilt Trip"

### January 22nd

Sermon Series: Bumper Sticker Life Lessons

Sermon Title: "Jesus Is Coming—Look Busy"

## **January 29th**

*Sermon Series: Bumper Sticker  
Life Lessons*

*Sermon Title: "God Bless the  
Whole World—No Exceptions"*

## **February 5th**

**[Communion Sunday]**

*Sermon Series: Bumper Sticker  
Life Lessons*

*Sermon Title: "We Must Be the  
Change We Hope to See in the  
World"*

## **WORSHIP**

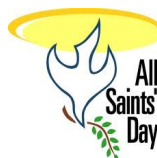


Organ Tuning – Dobson Organ Company was in the week of November 14, to do some mechanical adjustments and do a complete tuning of the organ. Ruth Nesbitt provided her patio home again for the workers to reside while they were with us. This gift provides substantial savings to our church and we Thank Ruth.



Hanging of The Greens – We want to thank all that helped with the hanging of the greens on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Linda Phillips for organizing this event.

Gift Cards – Linda Miller has agreed to take charge of ordering gift cards for Basha's and Fry's. The earnings from the church for this endeavor will benefit the Worship committee in their work in the sanctuary. Please consider ordering cards for Christmas giving as well as your own use.



All Saints Sunday—The worship committee wants to thank Pastor Jeri for a very meaningful All Saints Sunday Service.

## **END OF YEAR GIVING**

For Tax Purposes gifts must be received by December 30<sup>th</sup>. Please try to complete your 2011 giving by this date.

Also, if you have a required minimum distribution due on your IRA you might consult your tax advisor and consider making it as a contribution to First United Methodist. All it requires is a direct deposit between your account and the church. It cannot touch the owner's hands! Thank you for your consideration.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

Thank you to all those who supported Children's Ministries by purchasing a Thanksgiving pie. We sold a total of 59 pies! A special thank you to Linda Miller for making all the wonderful pies and to all the volunteers who helped pass out the pies.



## **Publication Deadlines**

Sunday Bulletins /  
Announcements

Wednesday Noon

## **Spire Deadline**

All articles to be submitted to the church office no later than

January 10<sup>th</sup>

(Holidays and vacations may advance or delay these deadlines by a day or two.)



## **Altar Flowers**

To place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of someone special contact the Church Office at 480-969-5577

### CHURCH HOURS

M-TH:  
9-4:30 pm

Friday:  
9-2 pm

PH: 480-969-5577

The Church office will be closed for the holiday's on 12/26, 1/2 and 1/16

### Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is a direct debit program where your contribution is debited automatically from your checking or savings account, either weekly or monthly. This is an easy way to fulfill your stewardship commitment, even when you are unable to attend church. You can pick up an authorization form in the church office, and talk to Phyllis Kern Howe for further details. **CHECK OUT** our new option to give with a debit/credit card on our website at [firstchurchofmesa.com](http://firstchurchofmesa.com)

### MISSIONS



#### AGUA PRIETA BAGS

A very special thank-you from all the children in Agua Prieta, Mexico who will have Christmas gifts because of your thoughtfulness! Thanks for filling the Christmas gift bags and participating in this Christmas gift project!



#### PRAYER WALK AROUND MESA!

Sunday January 8, 2012, 3:00 p.m. A prayer walk is being organized to encircle the perimeter of the City of Mesa to pray for our city and its leaders. Each church is asked to select a mile for their part of the walk. We have chosen Country Club Drive from University to Brown Road. We encourage all of you who are able to walk, run or ride a bike, to join us. If you are unable to walk a mile, come and do what you can! Please call Virgil Schatz, 480-380-9693, or e-mail at [mvschatz@gmail.com](mailto:mvschatz@gmail.com) or call the church office to register for this great event as we pray for our city!

### WELCOMING MINISTRY

#### Welcome to Our Newest Members!!!

On Sunday, November, 13 the following people joined First Church: Dave Brown, Jim Brown, Deanna Cantrell, Darien Cantrell, Chasity Cantrell, Betty Harmon, and Pamela Nelson Please be sure and welcome them to our congregation!



### WELCOMING MINISTRY

#### Pastor Appreciation, Volunteer Fair, and Luncheon

#### 2012 Volunteer Commitments:

Thanks to everyone who attended our 3 in 1 special event between services on October 23! Your commitment to volunteer at First Church is greatly appreciated! If you have not completed the volunteer form, you can hand it in to the Church Office or the Welcome and Information Booth. We will have extra forms at the Booth. Please be sure and turn in your 2012 Volunteer Commitment Form ASAP!

**Thank you:** The Welcoming Ministry/Hospitality Team worked very hard to provide an enjoyable and smooth Volunteer Fair and Luncheon. Thanks to the Team, for all of their hard work! However, we could not have done this without the others who assisted us. The following volunteers helped us tremendously and we would like to thank them: Kevin Cannon, Pat Shaw, Doug Scott, Chuck White, Rodney Mindrup, Virgil and Mary Schatz, Ruth Ann Haines, Betty Fuchs, Raymond Mindrup, Corrie Schreiber, Dick Snodgrass, Matt Likens, Dave Oman, Katie Mozurkewich, Julie Harris, Jean Harris and all of the people who manned the Volunteer Fair Booths! If I have missed someone, we truly apologize but know that your assistance was greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank our cook, Ed Rodriguez, as he did a great job of cooking our delicious meal! If you see Ed, please take time to thank him as well.



## SPECIAL TRIBUTE

### A TRIBUTE TO DAVID HAKAUMOTU



Tavita (David) Hakaumotu will retire from custodial services on January 1, 2012. He has been the chief custodian for First United Methodist Church since 1987, or 24 years. He has served under the following pastors: Jack Troutman, Nathan Holt, Cecil Lackore, Jim Bussy, Mel Munchinsky, and Jim Farrer.

His wife, Puii has also been part of the custodial staff, as well as all his children, Patricia, Eula, Tangilima and Alexandria.

David has said that he feels so lucky to be part of this church and that he has learned so much from each pastor. But in truth, we as a church have been the fortunate ones.

David and Puii not only did all the work they were assigned to do without question or hesitation, they also did much volunteer work in the Tongan community and also for our church community. David helped with the Scout program when Tangilima was a cub scout. He always put up the Christmas tree for the UMW. His whole family would make fry bread for the Fall Festivals. As a service for us, every Palm Sunday David hangs the date palm branches around the sanctuary. When we had the golf cart, David would always have it ready to go on Sunday mornings.

When David was asked if anything stood out in his experiences, he said that it has been his association with the many homeless people who have tried to stay in the bushes and recesses of the church. Each night on his security check when he finds men or women, David always stops to talk

to these persons and explains why they need to move on. He said he feels like they are a part of his family. When Lima was only five years old, he took him on the rounds one night. Lima asked his dad why the people couldn't just come live in their house. So you see, David's great empathy and love of fellow humans had been passed on to his son.

Even though David and Puii won't be the custodians, they will live in the same house and David will act as security of the campus. His experiences as a police officer in Tonga will be very beneficial to First Church.

Please join us in a celebration of David and Puii on December 18th. We will have a presentation first service and enjoy cake between services. If you would like to offer a love gift, please mark your checks accordingly.

**Thank you David and Puii**

### SPIRE PUBLISHER NEEDED

The Communications Committee is looking for someone interested in putting the monthly Spire together. Publishing the Spire requires someone with computer experience, preferably Publisher or Pagemaker. It's a commitment of about 4-8 hours a month, depending on the number of articles for the Spire. We will no longer have anyone to continue this role beginning in January.

If you are interested contact the Church office (480-969-5577) or one of the Communications Committee members.

### HELP US GET IT RIGHT AND GO GREEN

*If your name or address is incorrect; if you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically; or you want your name removed from our mailing list, please let us know and we will be happy to make the changes . We appreciate your help!*

### Church Calendar

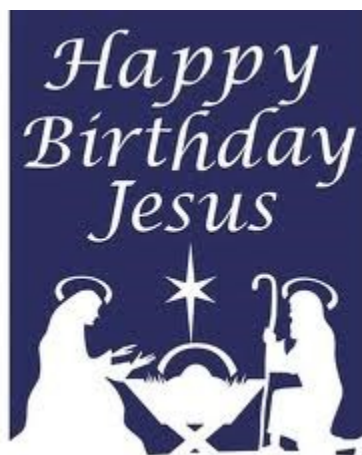
Is now available on the church website at [firstchurchofmesa.com/news/index.html](http://firstchurchofmesa.com/news/index.html)

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Victor Bunning	12/2	Helen Mabry	12/21
Marie Duffey	12/2	Margo Reed	12/21
Sarah Baum	12/3	Lorraine Kirby	12/22
Ashley Gurevitz	12/4	Nicholas Mozurkewich	12/22
Chloe Rizzo	12/4	Lillian Tripoli	12/23
McKenzie Hairston	12/5	Laura Brown	12/25
Aaron Kuck	12/5	Phil Garrison	12/25
Ryan Perkins	12/5	Tatyana Nelson	12/25
Janet Gorin	12/6	Michelle Ramsey	12/25
Crystal Lucchesi	12/6	Tracy Blais	12/27
Joseph Portis	12/6	Kevin Gardner	12/29
Jordyn Tinsley	12/6	Alita Holt	12/29
Kevin Robinson	12/7	Christopher Morgan	12/30
Lois Haines	12/9		
Jeff Harris	12/9		
Mason Schreiber	12/9		
Julia Thatcher	12/10		
Stephanie Tyers	12/10		
Harriet Cummings-John	12/14		
Sheila Hitchcock	12/15		
Rhianna Olges	12/15		
Marilyn Warden	12/15		
Doug Knappenberger	12/16		
Kathryn Bering	12/17		
Pete Lewis	12/17		
Timothy Chapman	12/20		
Buford Miller	12/20		
Scott Robinson	12/20		

**ANNIVERSARY CORNER**

12/11	Buscas, Juan & Amanda
12/27	Schreiber, Mason & Corrie
12/28	Bogges, Ken & Barbara
12/31	Cummings, Geoff & Kim



**Emergency**

Pastor On-Call

Have a medical emergency and need to get a hold of the Pastor after office hours?

Call

480-772-0866

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Justin Robinson	1/1	Brandon Woodcock	1/25
Felipa Escobedo	1/1	Shannon McCraw	1/26
Burdett House	1/1	Beverly Smith	1/26
Rebekah Richgels	1/3	Warren Schreiber	1/28
Isabella Buscas	1/4	Michael Valenzuela	1/28
John O'Neal	1/4	Shawn Wauneka	1/28
Sue Kilgore	1/4	Geoff Cummings	1/28
Naomi Sublett	1/5	Carol Strouse	1/28
Betty Black	1/6	Devon Portis	1/30
Tom Lewis	1/8	Dean Wauneka	1/31
Shirley Rennick	1/8	Kathleen Smith	1/31
John Friederich	1/9		
Lola Switzer	1/9		
Amanda Woodcock	1/10		
Debbie Ferguson	1/13		
Joshua Snodgrass	1/15		
Nancy Weber	1/16		
Sherry Olges	1/18		
Dale Coffin	1/18		
Sheryl Hitchcock	1/19		
Adam Snodgrass	1/20		
Davis Ramirez	1/20		
Caleb Standage	1/21		
Kyle Standage	1/21		
Dylan Haines	1/22		
Larry Chenier	1/22		
Harrie Kramer	1/23		
Matthew Likens	1/24		

**ANNIVERSARY CORNER**

1/6	Huffer, Carroll & Jeannine
1/10	Royer, Ryan & Tina
1/28	Smith, Kenneth & Beverly



Congratulations to all our December & January birthdays and anniversaries! If your name is not on our list (or if you know of someone who should be), please call the church office so we may update our information. We truly do not mean to leave anyone out.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE SPIRE,  
15 E. 1st Ave., Mesa AZ 85210



**DATED MATERIAL– DO NOT DELAY**

Pastors:

Rev. Dr. Jim Farrer

Rev. Jeri Wilkerson

Rev. Dr. Bob Mitchell

Rev. Cecil Lackore - Pastor Emeritus

[www.firstchurchofmesa.com](http://www.firstchurchofmesa.com)

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***THE SPIRE***

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Office Hours: 9 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Thursday

9 am - 2 pm Friday

**The deadline for submission of articles for the next issue is January 10, 2012.**

*The Spire* Newsletter Team

**Editors:** Katie Mozurkewich and Jamie Webb

**Publisher:** Matt and Jamie Webb

**Printers:** Jo Ann Ramirez Davis, Kermit Davis

**Assemblers:** Pam Rutkowski, Irene Risser, Tillie Whitford, Carla Zwald, Linda Miller, Margaret Desenberg, and Bob Brown

Editorial Policies: The mission of *The Spire* is to be one communication source for the First United Methodist Church of Mesa. Other communication sources include e-mails, the Sunday church bulletins and verbal announcements made at services or other official meetings. Chairpersons of Boards and Committees, coordinators, members and friends of First UMC may submit announcements, information or items of interest that relate to the mission of the church.

The Editor shall reserve the right to either accept or reject articles, to edit for space, grammar and accuracy. Currently, the Spire is being published monthly. Deadline for submission of articles are published both in this newsletter and weekly bulletins.

