

October 2011

Special points of interest:

- Our Vision
- Publication/Spire Deadline
- Altar flowers
- Church hours
- Electronic giving
- Go green
- Church calendar
- Mark your calendar
- Emergency number
- Pod Cast Sermons
- Facebook/Twitter

Inside this issue:

Jeri's Corner/ October Sermons	2
Sermons/Hospitality	3
Missions/Outreach	4
Announcement	5
Blog with the Pastor/Children's Ministries	6
October Birthday & Anniversary Corner	7
Trunk or Treat	8

THE SPIRE



THOUGHTS FROM THE FARRER SIDE...

This month I am allocating my Spire space for a very important message from the Finance Committee. – Rev. Jim Farrer

Giving to God

Our Lay Leaders, Pastoral Staff, Finance Staff and our Council Chair are working on a Giving Campaign to significantly increase pledges for 2012. We will be celebrating this effort by dedicating our Pledges for:

"Giving to God through First UMC" on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20, 2011.

As part of this three year effort to significantly raise financial giving at our church we will be asking everyone to begin their increased pledge on December 1, 2011.

Giving is an outward response to what God has already given us. We will celebrate the positive directions at FUMC:

Increased Attendance, Increased Outreach, Increased Missions ,and of course, our incredible Music Ministry.

The Giving Team

Cooling Gift

Eight months into the calendar year, after the record heat of August, we are faced with higher than anticipated cooling cost. I am sure that is not a surprise to anyone in Arizona. And like many, the higher than normal heat caused havoc with several of our air conditioning units. We are asking each member to consider a **"Cooling Gift."** Your contribution of \$50.00, \$100.00, or \$500.00 or more is needed to meet these increased and unanticipated costs. There will be envelopes for your contribution in the pews and you can also give electronically or simply send a check marked "Cooling Gift." Thanking you in advance for your consideration of this request.

John Moore, Chair of the Finance Committee



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?

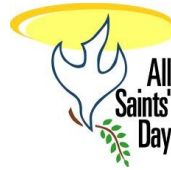
You can now download the sermons onto your Ipod or listen via your computer.

Visit firstchurchofmesa.com and start reaching out electronically to friends, family, and those who are looking for God!

JERI'S CORNER

On November 6th, 2011, First Church of Mesa will be celebrating All Saints Day.

"United Methodists observe this day in unity with Christians of many times, places, cultures, and languages. We celebrate the witness of all the saints -- all those who live and die in the Lord. In so doing, we bear witness to the hope that is in us, that we may be saints, those becoming perfect in holiness, in our own times, places, and cultural settings."



(the General Board of Discipleship of the UMC)

This traditional celebration includes a time of remembrance for those who have passed away during the year. (Nov 1, 2010-Oct 31, 2011) We would like to extend an invitation to those who have lost someone to celebrate this significant time with us. Please call the office with the name of the loved one you wish to celebrate this year and give us your contact information, so that these saints may be recognized and lifted up in worship. Their names will be read aloud and a candle lit in their honor.

Please extend this invitation to schoolmates, co-workers, neighbors, friends, relatives, or anyone else who would like to have a recently departed loved one recognized.

Contact:

Rev. Jeri Wilkerson

480-969-5577

Jeri@firstchurchofmesa.com

SERMON SCHEDULE



October 2nd

World Communion Sunday

Sermon Series: Headlines from the Old Testament

Sermon Title: "Joseph: A Cinderella Story"

October 9th

Sermon Series: Headlines from the Old Testament

Sermon Title: "Esther: Intrigue in the Palace"



October 16th

Sermon Series: Headlines from the Old Testament

Sermon Title: "Group Lost 40 Years in Wilderness—Found Alive"



HOSPITALITY

3 in 1 Sunday

October 23rd

Pastor Appreciation

Volunteer Fair

Lunch

October 23rd

Sermon Series: Things I Learned From My Grandma

Sermon Title: "If You Don't Know Where You Are Going- It's Hard to Get There"

October 30th

Sermon Series: Things I Learned From My Grandma

Sermon Title: "You Live Out What's in Your Heart"

November 6th

[Communion Sunday]

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



Sunday, October 23 is a special day! Join us between services for our Volunteer Fair, Lunch, and Pastor Appreciation. We will have lots to do that day so here are some details: Pastor Appreciation – spend time thanking our pastors for all that they do and have some cake in their honor!

Volunteer Fair – explore the volunteer opportunities at First Church by reading the information provided by our committees.

Lunch – enjoy a delicious catered meal.

Prayerfully consider where your talents can be used at First Church and be ready to sign up to volunteer! See you on October 23rd.

-The Hospitality Team

Publication Deadlines

Sunday Bulletins / Announcements

Wednesday Noon

Spire Deadline

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

October 10th

(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

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

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

Thank you

Our thanks to the members of the congregation that have continued to provide supplies for the Wednesday night Homeless Women Project. We are grateful, too, for the untiring job Peggy Tenney does in the laundering of the sheets and towels for that program.

East Valley Men's Center

For the past few years our church has provided meals for the East Valley Mens' Center. We wish to acknowledge members who have helped with that program. They are Phyllis Kern Howe, Gary Foote, Marge Jensen, Doug and Donna Conger, Joanna and Bill Rickey.

During the month of November we will have a cereal and breakfast bar collection for the residents of the East Valley Mens Center.

Wesley's Wardrobe

Alison Jordan volunteered many hours to get the used clothing closet, "Wesley's Wardrobe", ready. It has become necessary for Alison to relinquish her responsibility. Bill and Laura Elliot have agreed to keep that program going. Volunteers are needed to sort and organize the used clothing. Wesley's Wardrobe is open the second Wednesday of each month for anyone who is in need of the clothing. There is a limit of one free outfit per person, per month. If you know anyone in need, please pass the word on to them.

During October there will be a canned food drive and then in December we will begin our Journey to the Manger/ Christ in Christmas. Volunteers will be needed. Watch the Spire for more information on those opportunities to serve in the coming months!

Ripple Outreach = Homebound Connection:

The Ripple Outreach Committee is now being called Homebound Connection. This committee makes visits to First Church's homebound members. We also assist with activities and provide a Bible Study at Friendship Village. Please think about joining this vital committee.



NEW MEMBERS



Welcome to our new members who joined First Church on September 18:

- Blaine and Trish Harris
- Clara Herrin
- Jackie Mings
- Carol Strouse
- Michael and Amber Valenzuela

HELP NEEDED

Our Safe Haven project is in NEED of more volunteers.

The volunteer carries the 'baby' phone, car seat and diaper bag for a week at a time and is available to pick up a newborn, transport it to an ER, and turn it over to social services if necessary during that week. If interested please call Mary for more details and training at 480-969-6906.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Please Help Us: Say "No" to Panhandlers on Campus

It's a rare Sunday when I don't encounter a panhandler on the First Church campus. Last month a neatly-dressed woman came to the front of the sanctuary at the end of the service, ostensibly to join the church. She handed me the blue card that she had filled out and immediately asked me for \$60 to help with her rent. A couple of weeks earlier I was approached for money by a visitor in the Fellowship Hall between services. Most recently I was in the nearly-empty parking lot on the way to my car at about 12:30 on a Sunday afternoon when I was approached by someone asking for money.

What is a Christian to do when confronted by a panhandler? My answer to that question has varied over the years, and it has recently changed again. Here is how I have responded:

- First, treat them like human beings who are loved by God and who bear the image of God. When you treat them as less-than-human you are behaving in a way that is less-than-Christian.
- Engage them in a conversation, if you are comfortable. Ask them where they are from, if they have family in the area, etc. Consider the conversation a learning opportunity. (Panhandlers are used to being ignored and treated like sub-humans.)
- If they are on the church campus I say something like, "We are pleased to have you be a part of worship services and Sunday School classes. Please feel free to have coffee and refreshments in our Fellowship Hall between services. But you may not panhandle on this campus."

- Off campus I say kindly something like: "I never give cash to someone I don't know, but I support the work of Justa Center, UMOM, St. Vincent de Paul, etc. (Give them an address or phone number if you have it.) Visit them, and they will help you get off of the street, if you want to."

Here are some reasons why I no longer feel guilty when I say "No" to panhandlers:

- Many panhandlers are not homeless.
- Giving people cash can be the LEAST helpful thing you can do. One person called it "cheap love." (We give to ease our consciences, not to transform lives.)
- What many of these people really need is a lifestyle change—to get off drugs or stop drinking. Save your money to give to effective programs that empower the poor and help them out of their plight.
- There are numerous church-based options, including United Methodist.

One organization I found on the internet features a picture of a homeless man holding a sign that reads,

Give me spare change

and I may never get off these streets.

Give to organizations that could really help me

and you could save my life.

It's up to you.

BOTTOM LINE: Please say "No" to panhandlers on campus.

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

GET THE NEWS AS IT HAPPENS!

Do you Tweet? Find the latest happenings by following First Church @ twitter.com/firstchurchmesa

Are you on Facebook? If so become a friend of First Church of Mesa by searching First United Methodist Church of Mesa.

Get a copy of each weeks service on CD at the Welcome Booth every Sunday.

Pod Casting is **HERE!**



BLOG WITH THE PASTORS

Our Pastors are blogging, are you? Here is a recent post by Pastor Jim:

I just got over a four day headache... have you ever had anything like that? Tried meds, tried prayer, tried sleep, tried whining...nothing seemed to help until I finally woke up one morning and it was gone...Hallelujah for that!

It caused me to think about the Apostle Paul...remember him. One time he tells us that he has "thorn in his flesh" that will not go away. In fact he says that he has prayed for God to remove it many times but it is still there.

Have you ever wondered why Paul didn't tell us what it was? Why couldn't he have just said that I have arthritis, or struggles with greed or a four day headache? Wouldn't that have been better for him to tell us?

I really think the reason that Paul didn't tell us was so each of us...no matter what "our thorn" could identify with him and get strength from his struggle and from his realization that "not even an Apostle gets all he asks for in prayer".

Funny I have met some Christians over the years that seem to suggest that if you have enough faith that you won't have headaches or cancer or halitosis. They seem to suggest that we are just not strong enough Christians. Yet here it is...Paul, the chief of the Apostles, continuously struggling with his thorn that not even God would take away. Seems like God doesn't promise us a pain-free existence...God just promises to be with us! And may that be enough for us.

Blog about Jim's sermon, upcoming events at First Church, or just your own theological thoughts. Invite friends and family who are lost or looking for a church to read some of

Pastor Jim's blogs.

First Church is reaching out to accommodate everyone's form of communication, from the printed Spire, to having it e-mailed, to e-news, to Facebook, Twitter, and now blogging. This is part of The Journey: i-serve, i-connect, i-praise. It's your Journey and the communication committee is providing you the outlets to assist with that Journey!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Trunks are needed for our Community Trunk or Treat on Saturday October 29th here in our parking lot. Volunteers needed to park their car in our church parking lot and pass out candy to the children as they walk about. Traditionally the trunks are decorated but is not required. We will be having a contest for the best decorated trunk! We will also need volunteers to help with crafts and games. We are also accepting donations of candy to pass out to the children. If you are able to participate please contact Jamie Webb at CMC@firstchurchofmesa.com or at 480-593-1136.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Boggess	10/01	Kay Turk	10/24
Jeffrey Moore	10/01	Flora Streety	10/25
Robert Brown	10/02	Bob Mitchell	10/27
John Byers	10/02	Tillie Whitford	10/27
Kermit Davis	10/02	Alcira Steenson	10/28
Amanda Elliott	10/02	Ken Boggess	10/29
Ellen Gurevitz	10/02	Anna Murray	10/29
Stuart Leathers	10/02	Kyle Hitchcock	10/30
Dottie O'Neal	10/02	Cassandra Mehan	10/31
Beth Bruns	10/06	Nancy Seidel	10/31
Donna Lucchesi	10/07		
Agnes Rathai	10/08		
Jazzmin Morgan	10/09		
Marvin Rathai	10/09		
Gavin Rittenhouse	10/09		
Emelia Morgan	10/10		
Jeri Wilkerson	10/11		
Vaughn Pirlo	10/12		
Esther Valenzuela	10/12		
Rodney Mindrup	10/13		
Jill Smith	10/16		
Reta Kennedy	10/18		
Shirley Olsson	10/18		
Shirley Wheeler	10/18		
Tevita Hakaumotu	10/19		
James Turk	10/19		
Raymond Blais	10/20		
Avery Grace Day	10/20		
Jeanne Kuhse	10/20		
Michael McGee	10/20		

ANNIVERSARY CORNER

10/4	Norman, Justin & Kimberly
10/6	Fransen, Rocky & Laura
10/7	Tripoli, Joe & Emily
10/9	Phillips, Rick & Linda
10/16	Harris, Blaine & Trish
10/16	Kern, Kelly & Celeste
10/17	Mason, Tom & Melody
10/19	Dingle, Ed & Cinnamon
10/28	Woodcock, Greg & Amanda
10/28	Webb, Matt & Jamie



Congratulations to all our October 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.

Emergency

Pastor On-Call

Have a medical emergency and need to get a hold of the Pastor after office hours? Call 480-772-0866



COMMUNITY Trunk or Treat

Saturday October 29th

6:00PM - 8:00PM

Fun For the Entire Family

- ▶ Mysterious carnival games
- ▶ Popcorn and Snow-cones
- ▶ Face painting and crafts
- ▶ Prizes for the best decorated trunk
- ▶ Prizes for the best costume



Youth sponsored Haunted House 7:00pm-9:00pm for the brave at heart...
beware you have been warned! Located in the second floor of the Family Life
Center

Volunteers needed! Need volunteers to park and pass out candy from their trunks (traditionally decorated but not required) and in need of candy donations. To sign-up your trunk please contact Jamie Webb at
CMC@firstchurchofmesa.com or 480-593-1136.

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

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THE SPIRE

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9 am - 2 pm Friday

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.

The deadline for submission of articles for the next issue is October 10, 2011.

The Spire Newsletter Team

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