

January-April 2016

Desert Footprints



A Note from Rev. Mike

The Book of Discipline tells us that the mission of the United Methodist Church, as a whole, "...is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." The Discipline has some guides to assist us in understanding this mission. Among the oldest are John Wesley's General Rules (pg. 76 BOD 2012). In short, the Rules are, as coined by Bishop Reuben Job, "Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God." Starting with Wesley, we have understood that being a disciple is both a personal and social activity.

We avoid harm to ourselves and others by refraining from evil. We do good to ourselves and others by acting in love. And, we stay in love with God by joining in worship, reading scripture, praying, etc. Wesley called these two "sides of the coin" personal and social holiness. We seek to be devout personally and socially. We seek to live God's will in our private and our public lives. We try to create God's kingdom in our personal lives and in the society around us.

Living out the mission of the UMC, then, is making disciples who are concerned about personal salvation and social salvation--both in the future and the present. Discipleship starts now; as we accept God's grace and start living and growing, through that grace, to become more and more like Christ.

The problem is how do we make disciples? It used to be assumed that if a person went to church that person automatically grew in love through grace. But we can see from our own experience, and through studies of the society around us, that just because a person goes to church does not mean that person becomes more and more like Christ.

One insight that's been gained from this observation is that at some point many churches stopped being intentional about making disciples. Many churches assumed their members were growing in Christ when in fact they were not. Not only do many in churches not engage in Bible study, prayer, service, worship, caring, and so on, many times these practices are not even taught, or emphasized, as part of what makes up a mature Christian.

Before this article becomes a pamphlet, let me just say that I have been working for years on trying to understand what a church needs to do to make disciples. I have read, asked professors at seminaries, asked leaders from multiple Annual Conferences, colleagues, and so on, and much of what I found out is that many understand there is a deficit in disciple making. There is a problem. Not many have a solution. BUT some do!

It would be the fulfillment of my call as a minister to work out, and implement, how to intentionally

A Note from Rev. Mike (cont.)

make disciples. That's how important this issue is to me. It would be the height of what I dream to accomplish. Disciple making is at the core of much of what ails our churches and our communities. If we were intentionally making disciples; intentionally making people understand how to be, and live, more like Christ each day of their lives then that would be an amazing sight and gift to our churches and our communities.

Without getting into too much detail, that is what some leaders in our church have been working on through the book Simple Church that I have mentioned frequently. Just about a year ago we started the Catch program. One of its primary questions was "Why do people need Jesus Christ?" If we cannot answer that question, then the other questions are meaningless. If we don't know why people need Christ, we cannot answer why they need to come to church or especially our church. Catch offered us a beginning challenge to answer why we think people need Christ.

Simple Church is the backbone to what we do when we answer that question from Catch. For instance, if the answer is, "People need Jesus Christ to discover, learn, and live into God's grace and love," then the next step is how are going to do that? How will they discover, learn, and live that? Well, they do it by belonging to a church. And, they do it specifically at a church that is organized to make disciples. That's why it is vital not only to understand why people need Jesus but to understand how to make disciples.

So, I will keep sharing with you all from time to time what our leadership is learning from Catch, Simple Church, and other sources, about how we go about organizing our church to intentionally make disciples so that we all can know we are intentionally growing in Christ. Because, figuring this out, with the help of our leaders and others, is one of the top 2 or 3 goals for me in my ministry. I hope I can make clear why this so important to me. For now, I thought I'd least let you all know that it is.

May God bless us, Christ show us, and the Spirit lead us, to discover what it means to be disciples and how to be disciples.

- Rev. Mike

[DFY]
DESERT FOOTHILLS YOUTH



30 Hour Famine 2016 is in the Books

Forty+ youth from three United Methodist Churches in the valley joined forces with World Vision to fight hunger in a 30-hour event that started January 15. What has become a tradition for Desert Foothills Youth [DFY] - 30 hour Famine is a 30 hour fast and day of service fund raising event focused on helping to end world hunger.

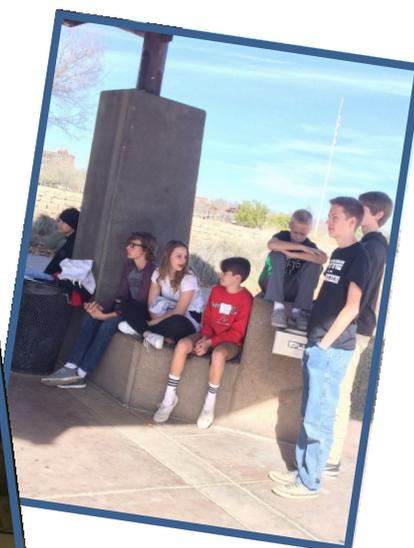
Every 11 seconds a child dies of hunger or hunger related causes. That is a hard statistic to digest.... especially when we are witness to so much excess here in the US. World Vision does more than just send money, however. They provide tools and training and the support needed to help end hunger long term. A donation of \$35 will feed and care for one child for a whole month. This year [DFY] and our partners in this event raised enough money to care for two children for

[DFY]

DESERT FOOTHILLS YOUTH 30 Hour Famine (cont.)

more than a year.

Many thanks to the youth and chaperones who participated – and also to all of you who donated soup and bread and desserts for the meal at Desert Foothills to break our fast. You all are truly a blessing – and our impact is wider and greater when we work together for good.



This year, Desert Foothills, Paradise Valley and First Mesa UMC braved the cold, sleeping outside in cardboard boxes to immerse themselves fully into an experience of scarcity of food and resources! It was a cold night on empty stomachs - followed by a day of service with multiple Phoenix charities.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Sharing our gifts makes us stronger. Jim and Kathy Iverson shared their gift of pottery-making with Desert Foothills Youth this year to make beautiful bowls for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Souper Bowl of Caring is a longstanding [DFY] tradition where we collect canned goods and money for a local food pantry. This year, the money will come from the auction of the bowls on Feb. 7, Super bowl Sunday. The bowls have inspirational words from the youth and are hand made by Jim Iverson. There's a whole potter/clay metaphor here - I know it - please support Desert Foothills Youth and the Kyrene Resource Center with your donation this year!

- Jill Sears, Youth Leader



Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry is your Ministry

Stephen Ministry belongs to you, the congregation, your family, your friends and the community.

Stephen Ministry provides both men and women with confidential, one on one care. Please don't think you have to have a "big" crisis in order to have a Stephen Minister to listen to and help you; although we do provide care for those in crisis. Stephen Ministers help with any concern you may have. It can be something that you feel that just having someone to listen to and understand you, without judgement, will help ease your mind. They are your Christian friend.

Confidential, means just that. The only people who will know you have a Stephen Minister are the referral coordinator and your Stephen Minister. It is not something that becomes public knowledge to the congregation or anyone else for that matter; that includes other Stephen Ministers.

Help, hope and healing are what we provide for you. Remember, Stephen Ministers are the care givers, God is the cure giver. Stephen Ministry is here for you. Please contact our referral coordinator, Deb Browning at 480-826-4048 or you may use our confidential email at: stephenministry@desertfoothills.org.

- Maureen Kartchner, Stephen Leader

Trustees

Trustees, or What's up with the Church Property?

The Trustees are happy to report we have lots of projects underway to maintain and utilize the church property. Spring workday, bequest policy, prayer garden and exterior improvements are some of our projects for the quarter.

The Desert Foothills United Methodist Church Board of Trustees is a six-member committee responsible for proper keeping of God's house as a way to honor God and facilitate the ministry of the local church. Gifts of monetary contributions to the church and your service allow the Trustees to fulfill our mission.

- Kevin Chadwick, Trustees President

Prayer Garden



Have you visited the Prayer Garden lately? Trustee Ed Jones leads the effort to maintain this area as a shaded, quiet place for anyone to use for prayer, reflection or conversation. He needs some assistants to help him keep the landscape in the garden looking good. He also is finalizing plans for a memorial donation of a concrete bench to replace wooden benches that are wearing out. Call Ed or leave him a message through the church office (480-460-1025) if you can assist him and/or want to make a gift.

Spring Workday!



DFUMC Trustees count on volunteers for some work on our property. ***Our Spring 2016 Workday is scheduled for Saturday, March 19***, the day before Palm Sunday. Please put this on your calendar and plan to come up to shine up our building, inside and out, for Easter. Inside we'll be cleaning dust and cobwebs from those hard to reach spots, washing windows and other light work. Outside, we typically work on irrigation lines, clean windows or maintain the prayer garden. The workday runs from 8am until noon, and you can come for all morning or just an hour. Join us for a morning of fellowship, snacks, and a little work.

Bequests

Trustees are responsible for receiving and administering gifts made to the congregation, including gifts from estates. If you want to consider a gift for the church, we have access to resources from the United Methodist Southwest Conference. We are finalizing details of a new policy for administering bequests and assisting our congregation with confidential gift and estate planning information.

Community

One of the goals of the Trustees is to reach out to the community through use of our building. Preschool, music lessons, quilters and others non-church related groups rent parts of the building when not needed for church activities. Rents go into the church general fund.

Interested parties can contact the church office for more information.

Hospitality

Sharing Faith

May this verse teach and remind us of sharing faith at every opportunity:

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

Our church gives us so many opportunities to share our faith. This is true hospitality.

- Hospitality Committee

Volleyball



Adult Volleyball

Adult Spring Recreational VB leagues start Monday, Feb 1. League play will be on Monday nights from Feb 1- Mar 21, with a tournament on March 28. If interested, please contact Dwight Daniels at 480-962-4588 or dwight.d@cox.net. The Adult Summer VB league will be here sooner than we think - starts in June. Please let Dwight know if you're interested in playing the summer.

Youth Summer Volleyball

The Youth Summer Volleyball league will start the first week of June. If you're interested in playing, please talk to Jill Sears &/or Dwight Daniels. Please watch for sign up opportunities on the [DFY] Google Doc page. We anticipate league matches will continue to be played on Wednesday nights through June & July - same as past seasons. No prior experience necessary. Come out and have a ball!

Witness

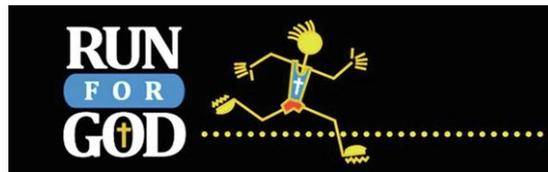


Random Acts of Kindness (RAK!)

Rev. Mike and Christine Doller were on hand for the presentation of our bounty of box tops to Lauren Doller and the principal and PTO president of Kyrene de la Esperanza school. We collected over 850 box tops during our "Box top Bonanza." Lauren Doller - is a fourth grader at Kyrene de la Esperanza elementary school - and awesome Desert Foothills kiddo. Her school name was drawn from a hat to be the recipient of our random act of kindness. Thank you to all who clipped and shared your box tops. Together we collected over 850 box tops worth \$85. This money will be used by the PTO to purchase supplies or equipment for the school as needed. Thank you all for your generosity! The school representatives were truly appreciative and surprised by our kindness. What should our next R-A-K be? Please share your ideas with Jill Sears or Susan Osman of the Witness Committee.

Witness

Run for God



Ahwatukee Run for God Teams Forming NOW:

Run (or walk) with a Purpose – even if you never have before!

Are you ready to take up the Challenge? Run for God 3.0 starts January 30 at 8am here at DFUMC (2156 E Liberty Lane). The Run for God Challenge is a program designed for runners and runner wannabes who crave the connection of mind, body, and spirit. Was that YOUR New Year's Resolution?

Run for God was founded by Mitchell Hollis - an Atlanta runner and Christian who found the key to connecting his love of running to his spiritual journey – and has shared it across the nation. The mission for the program that has changed thousands of lives is this:

Mission

Preparing people to be better witnesses for Christ... Physically, Mentally, and Spiritually

Physically

Creating a healthier you and reaching and connecting with believers, non-believers - potential believers!

Mentally

Learning the discipline and endurance that it takes to "Run the Race Set Before Us"

Spiritually

Learning always to give God the glory for all that we accomplish.

So – are you ready for the 12 week challenge? Are you ready to make a spiritual connection to your workout and your life for 2016? Groups of walkers, novice runners, and experienced runners are forming now! We will begin Saturday, Jan. 30 at 8am and weekly thereafter for a brief meeting and group walks/runs. There is a 5K challenge, 10K, and even a half marathon. Student books and guest speakers will lead us through this family-friendly & community-friendly program. Bring the kids - everyone is welcome! On April 3 we will attend our goal race as one Run for God team!

To register or for questions, please contact Susan@desertfoothills.org or jill@desertfoothills.org.

- *Witness Committee*

Family Promise

DFUMC hosts Family Promise-February 7-14

Twice a year, DFUMC participates as host to homeless families who are a part of the Family Promise program.

In cooperation with local churches, the Family Promise program provides basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter, but also provides a safe, encouraging, and constructive environment for families that feel lost and scared. Family Promise's long-term goal is to break the cycle of homelessness and to create a sense of community for the families that participate in the program, and the thousands of volunteers that have contributed to this program over the years.

The families stay overnight at Desert Foothills on air mattresses provided by Family Promise. The Family Promise van and driver provide transportation each evening and morning for the families. Our volunteers provide a warm dinner, conversation, hospitality and an open heart. Besides providing meals and snacks, there are many opportunities to be involved in this ministry. These include help in set-up and clean-up on the Sunday mornings when the families arrive and leave, dinner hosts, breakfast on Saturday morning and overnight hosts. In addition, snack foods, grab and go breakfast items, or a need at the Family Promise center such as milk or laundry soap can be provided.

Our volunteer needs on a typical day during our host week looks like this:

Meal providers: dinner arrives at 5:00pm

Dinner host: 4:45-7:00pm- opens church for families and meal providers, helps with set-up and clean-up of meals.

Often the volunteer meal providers along with the dinner hosts eat with the families.

Two overnight volunteers are required by Family Promise. The volunteers arrive at 7 pm, lock doors between 9-10 pm and turn lights out. Volunteers sleep in the church office or adult Sunday school room on air mattresses. Overnight hosts prepare coffee and wake up reminders to the families at 5am. After the van picks up the families and leaves at 5:15am, the overnight hosts then does a quick clean-up, locks up the church and leaves.

Over the years we have had many volunteers help with this ministry, and we are the ones who truly receive the blessing of this program. If you have any questions about this program or would like to know about volunteer opportunities, please contact Jill Kyroudis (jillak@prodigy.net), Susan Osman (susan@desertfoothills.org) or Mark Osman (markosman@gmail.com). Thank you.

Missions

Mother's Day boxes

DFUMC will again provide Mother's Day boxes to the women of the Fuente de Vida church in Agua Prieta, Mexico. Watch for an announcement in the coming weeks. These boxes are presented to mothers in AP and are filled with needed and fun items such as hair brushes, perfume, small jewelry items, note pads, kitchen towels or hot pads, shampoo, lotions, etc.

Children's Day

Children's Day will be celebrated Saturday, April 30th at our sister church, Fuente de Vida, in Agua Prieta, Mexico. We will again send candy and small toys to the ladies of Fuente de Vida to put together gift bags for the children so the church can celebrate Children's day. This is a fun-filled day full of special events, activities and small gifts that the children of Mexico look forward to all year!

Layette Project

The Missions committee has long supported the Wesley center with Layette bags for new mothers. Many hands will be needed to help in assembling and delivering the bags to the Wesley Community Center. [DFY] have also agreed to help with this project! These bags are given to new mothers with very limited resources who need to care for a new born babies. Watch for dates in the announcements!

Throw in the Towel!

There is a huge need at our partner Fuente de Vida church in Mexico for towels, (bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths and soap) for local families, for use when the church opens up the center to the community, and for the King's Table Day (church provides showers, haircuts, clothes, etc. to local homeless people). We will be accepting gently used towels or new towels at the church in February. Look for tubs and a poster in the Narthex in February.



Scripts Gift Cards

Gift Cards we purchased in November by DFUMC earned just under \$500 for Missions work! Thank-you for your participation in the program's.



Fry's Cards

Thank-you to everyone who has linked their Fry's card to DFUMC.. For /9/1/15 to 11/30/15 we had 27 households linked and earned \$277.16. (Safeway no longer participates in this program) If you haven't registered your card yet please consider doing so. This is "free money" to our church and helps the Missions committee support many needed projects!

- Shirley Coomer, Missions Chairperson

Missions

Feliz Navidad Bags

On Sunday, January 17, 2016 a video was played in worship of the children of Fuente de Vida at their annual Feliz Navidad party celebrating and receiving the gift bags donated by DFUMC and other valley UMC churches under the leadership of DFUMC's Mission Committee. Pastor Gela sent a wonderful thank-you letter that was also shared with the congregation and can be found on the next page. Thank-you to everyone for their general support of this heart-felt project! Peggy Thornhill actually attended the party on Dec. 20. She reported that the children had a wonderful time and loved their gifts. Missions contributed \$200 for their party.



Missions

Thank You from Gela Villicana

Dear DFUMC's brothers and sisters,

Sometimes words are not enough to express what heart feels but we try to do our best.

We want to say thank you for your support in Christmas party. Before the party we had a magnificent Christmas church where some of the children got involved in a children's choir for this special event. After our service we went to the place where we had our party. There was good food, funny games, spontaneous laughter, amazing gifts and a lot of joy.

Let me tell you a couple of stories. After Christmas I went to visit a family from our church, children ran to say hello and I asked them what did you receive this Christmas? They showed their toys and their mama told us what we did is we took the gift from church and put it in gift boxes and we place it under our Christmas tree and that's all they receive. They were so happy.

The other story is Janine's. She is a beautiful 8 year old girl, always smiling and making happy everybody around her. Before Christmas she went with her mom to make some shoppings. Janine saw a beautiful dress in a store and she felt in love with it but her mom could not afford it. I can imagine Janine going to bed thinking of that dress. When she opened her gift she was so surprised, because she received the same dress, can you believe it? I think she received more than a dress, she received a kiss from heaven and you were like the lips God used for that.

I will send you a video with pictures for you can see what you made possible.

Blessings,
Gela Villicana

Lent

Prayer Flags are Coming!

A Tibetan tradition is being adapted during the season of Lent at Desert Foothills. This year during Lent we will be focusing on prayer. Not only will Rev. Mike be preaching on prayer - there will be a focus on prayer in the youth Sunday school classes and shared with our younger Sunday school classes too. In front of the church we will create a beautiful visual representation of prayer with our prayer or peace flags for our church and community.



Traditionally, prayer flags are used to promote peace, compassion, strength, and wisdom. The flags do not carry prayers to gods, which is a common misconception; rather, the Tibetans believe the prayers and mantras will be blown by the wind to spread the good will and compassion into all pervading space. Therefore, prayer flags are thought to bring benefit to all. Over the years, Christians and others have adapted the prayer flags in various ways. Our hope is that our flags will bless our community and be a symbolic representation for us to pray without ceasing to the One who knows us and died for us.

Because the symbols, names and prayers associated with each prayer flag are sacred, they should be treated with respect. They should not be placed on the ground or used on clothing. Old prayer flags should be burned.

Flags will be available for everyone beginning Sunday Feb. 14 along with some instructions. Please take the opportunity to make as many prayer flags as you would like - and flags will be made for each prayer request received during worship and on the prayer chain as well. Our prayers will cover the community and be carried on the wind to God.

Easter Parade - Saturday, March 26!

Desert Foothills will be marching in the Easter Parade in Ahwatukee!

We will also have a booth with activities for young kids.

The theme of this year's parade is Kids Love Easter...

We will have banners for different groups of **DFUMC Loves...**

Volleyball

Run for God

Missions

Whatever...

Sign up - Show up - SHARE YOUR JOY!

Lent & Easter Worship

Lent and Easter Worship Services

The first Sunday of Lent is Sunday, February 14.

Ash Wednesday:

February 10, 7-8pm

Palm Sunday

March 20, 9am and 10:30am

Maundy Thursday

March 24, 7-8pm

Good Friday

March 25, 7-8pm

Easter Sunday, March 27

Sunrise Service 6:30am

Contemporary Service 9am

Traditional Service 10:30am

Childcare available in the nursery at all three services.



DFUMC

Your DFUMC Volunteer Leaders and Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mike Kerr-Osman

Choir Director: Leia Wasbotten

Finance Director: Susan Osman

Office Staff: Sallie King and Stephanie Giel

Praise Band Director: Charles Wolff

Youth Leader: Jill Sears

Ad Council Chairperson: John Doller

Christian Education Chairperson: John Doller

Finance Chairperson: Kevin Dietriech

Hospitality Chairperson: In Transition

Lay Leader: Paul Browning

Lay Members to Annual Conference: Karen Colbourn and Susanne Rudolph

Social Committee Chairperson: Dennis Wilson

Stephen Ministry Leaders: Deb Browning Maureen Kartchner and Bette Knoche

Trustees President: Kevin Chadwick

Witness Committee Chairpersons: Susan Osman and Jill Sears

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