

# NEW SONG NOTES

New Song United Methodist Church

DECEMBER 2011

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*“...they will call him  
Immanuel”  
— which means,  
“God with us.”*



*Matthew 1:23*

# New Song

United Methodist Church

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*Where Faith & Friendships Grow  
Hand in Hand*

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16303 W. Bell Road  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
Office: (623) 544-1400  
Fax: (623) 214-5071

Pastor: Reverend Lyndon Mason  
Office Manager: Debra Osmussen

## Our Vision...

*is to become a great church  
that builds the kingdom of  
God by making disciples of  
Jesus Christ and by making a  
difference in the world.*

## Sunday Schedule

[schedule effective January 4, 2009]

9:00am Traditional Worship  
9:00am Adult Sunday School  
10:30am Contemporary Worship  
10:30am Youth & Children Sunday  
School

### Church Office Hours:

Church office is open 8:30am—2:30 pm, Monday thru Friday.

### SUPPORT FOR OUR MILITARY SERVING OVERSEAS

Please provide the name and overseas address of any military relative or friend, so we can send support and encouragement to them. Contact the church office with the above information to update our list.



### Prayers for Our Churches in Central West District

Please pray for the following churches in our district this month. It is important to know that other churches are praying with and for each other. Please pray for the pastors, congregation and the communion of of:

Shepherd of the Hills UMC, Sun City West  
New Song UMC, Surprise  
South Mountain Community Church, Phoenix

Also, please pray for our New Song staff members this month:  
Jan Hicks, Sunday School Superintendent

# A Note from Reverend Mason

## **Rush, Rush, Rush**

The hurriedness of this time of year has always fascinated me. I have often asked why? Why do we run, run, run, ourselves to death when we should be slowing down and waiting upon the Lord, and waiting upon each other.

I know that procrastination is often the culprit. The details of living squeezes out all the free time that we should have normally planned to take for God and Family. When the holidays (or High Holy Days) finally come the emphasis on just living has usurped our greater calling. So we work hard to squeeze out more time from our already crowded lives and usually something has to give. The first area that gives is usually our feelings; like time we expect more when we haven't planned for more. We expect more from family and friends and they usually can't meet our neediness. They suffer, like us from the more, more, more. What's the Solution? Give each other some slack. God gave us slack by giving us Jesus when we didn't deserve Him. Forgiveness of each other is the hallmark of the Christian faith.

I know that part of our rushing is due to filling our proverbial God hole with other things, other priorities. God gave us freedom to pursue Him or pursue the world; the world somehow looks better because we pursue what we see and not what we experience in faith. Scripture informs us to walk by faith, to pursue faith, to seek God's face first; if we are able to do this then all the other things (the stuff) will be given to us. In my experience I have found that the more that I fill my God hole with God, He has given me the peace and strength to change my priorities resulting in a diminishing in my neediness for things and my real needs seems always to be met. Wow what an answer to my prayers. I just wish I had learned this earlier in my life.

The greatest challenge I have now, as a father, is trying to help my children understand their neediness for stuff does not constitute my neediness to answering their wrongful desires. My children are teaching me about my own prayer life with God! They, like we, must grow up in our faith, God loves us enough to let us wonder away like little sheep; but God loves us enough to send us messengers to turn us around; and if that still is not enough God loves us so much that He has provided us with a savior. Thank you Jesus!

My prayer for you is that this Christmas will be slowed down enough that you will be able to rest in your Church's love for you, that you will be able to rest in your families love, and ultimately you will experience God's greatest gift to you - Jesus!

Have a Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Mason



A STEPHEN  
MINISTRY  
CONGREGATION



## ARE YOU IN NEED OF A STEPHEN MINISTER?

By: Leroy Abinanti

New Song has Stephen Ministers available to help you through your grief/crisis journey. We have been trained to provide a one-on-one Christian caring relationship with anyone who is experiencing or going through a difficult time.

Being with a Stephen Minister is being in a safe place for the person who is going through a difficult tie, referred to as the "Care Receiver," to Recognize, Accept and Express their Feelings.

Your Stephen Ministers are Trustworthy, and will Listen while being Non-Judgmental. Care Receivers and Stephen Ministers will be assigned by the Pastor or Stephen Leader on "best fit" situation, female/female or male/male.

There is not a time frame assigned for the journey. The relationship will only end when the Care Receiver is ready to move on.

We would typically meet once a week at a mutually agreed location for about an hour. Be assured that confidentiality will be maintained throughout the process.

Please contact the Church office (623) 544-1400 or our Stephen Minister Coordinator Kim Riddlesworth (928) 965-4806.

### COMMUNION for SHUT-INS

Communion for shut-ins is available the first Tuesday after Communion Sunday. If you know of someone who desires this visitation, call the church office or Kim Riddlesworth (928) 965-4806.

### Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study group is continuing their study "*Falling in Love with Jesus*" by Dee Brestin and Kathy Troccoli. Please join us from 9:30—11:30 AM each Wednesday for this study and fellowship. Please contact Laura Holloman at (623) 388-3256 for more information.

### Brown Bag Bookie

The book club meets the fourth Monday of each month at 12 noon at the church. We welcome anyone who enjoys reading and a lively discussion. For further information call Marlene Northup, (623) 975.5367.

**ATTENTION to our Winter Visitors**  
**re: Church Pictorial Directory**

We had some bad info on the dates for the  
**Snow Bird Photo Directory** dates.

The ACTUAL scheduled dates are:  
Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012: 1 – 8 PM  
Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012: 9:30 AM – 5:10 PM

Sign up sheets will be out in January, 2012.

*POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS*

This year we would like to adorn our altar with poinsettias.  
If you would like to provide one or have me purchase one  
for you, please sign on the list at the table outside.  
Order by December 4, 2011. You can pick up your poin-  
settia after the Christmas Eve service.

Questions: Charlene Weir (623) 546-9688



Joan K. Battreall passed away  
August 21, 2011.

Prayers for Carol Gove and her family  
on the passing of daughter.  
Carol Gove's daughter.

## **UMW - December - Newsletter**

Our next meeting is on **Saturday, December 10, at 10:30 AM**. There will be a brief business meeting to elect officers. The UMW Committee on Nominations, presents the following slate of officers for 2012:

President: Nancy Stokes  
Vice President: Michele Olsen  
Secretary: Marge Heer  
Treasurer: Lila Dell'Aringa  
Secretary of Program Resources: Mariel Van Noy  
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth: Reta Rabe  
Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation: Phyllis Hall  
Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach: Doris Pyle  
Mission Coordinator for Social Action: Sandy Stainer  
Nominations Co-Chair: Carol Fritz and Kay McGarry

Following the election of officers, **Rev. Steve Marshall** will be with us for our program and present a new art sermon. The program will be followed with a potluck salad and dessert luncheon. We gladly extend an invitation to you to join us, everyone is welcome.

**PLEASE, sign up on the patio on November 27 or December 6 between services so we know how to set-up for the meeting.**

Looking ahead: Sunday, January 22, 2012 is UMW Sunday.

**Reminder** - please update your **pledge to mission giving** before December 31, 2011. Contact Lila Dell'Aringa at 623-547-1901 for information regarding your pledge.

The UMW Conference officers met November 10 - 12 and decided to focus on three current social issues in 2012 - domestic violence, human trafficking, and immigration. We plan on scheduling programs throughout the year to discuss these issues. If you have an interest in a special program that you would like to have scheduled, please let one of the officers know and we will do our best to arrange it.

Thank you for your participation and support.

Nancy Stokes, President (623) 266-2001

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Many wonderful, generous people contributed to the Thanksgiving Food Boxes and gift cards. Four church families and our Local Family In Need had much to be thankful for when they received your gifts. You have shown love to your neighbor as Jesus taught us. Blessings to all.

## **Finance Committee**

Included is a summary of the Mission Budget through October 2011. If you would like to see the breakdown of expenses, we have posted a copy on the bulletin board outside the church office, along with the latest reconciliation of the Designated Funds.

<b>Mission</b>	<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>	<b>Month TTL Spent</b>	<b>YTD Spent</b>
REACH	\$148,823	54%	\$16,292 (10.9%)	\$124,518 (83.6%)
TEACH	\$ 70,618	26%	\$ 8,811 (12.5%)	\$61,055 (86.4%)
TEND	\$ 34,789	13%	\$ 3,612 (10.4%)	\$30,333 (87.0%)
SEND	\$ 20,050	7%	\$ 2,145 (10.9%)	\$ 16,898 (85.7%)

Our meeting in November was devoted primarily to distribution of approximately \$30,000 in funds which will be remaining in our general fund account at the end of the year. We voted unanimously to pay \$5,000 toward our donative lien, \$7,000 for computers and/or software which will need to be replaced in the office and up to \$8,000 for a sign at our Sarival Avenue entrance.

You may remember that when we re-amortized our loan last year, we promised to make additional payments as possible toward our mortgage. Through God's grace and your dedication in designating funds to the mortgage, making your pledges and honoring those pledges, we also voted unanimously to send \$10,000 to our mortgage holder to pay on the principal of our mortgage.

We also received a donation which will allow us to put \$1,000 toward Adult Education materials, \$2,000 toward our Evangelism efforts in 2012 and to put additional funds toward the sign on Sarival Avenue.

Your Finance Committee continues to need your prayers and support.

Pat Howard, Chair

### **NEWS from your WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

- Sunday, December 11   Choir music
- Sunday, December 18   Caroling to Shut-ins and Progressive Dinner  
Meet at church—2:30 pm
- Saturday, December 24   Christmas Eve Services (only 2 services)  
6:00pm—Family Service  
8:00pm—Traditional Candlelight Service  
(no communion)
- Sunday, December 25   To The Light of the World, Happy Birthday!  
(only one service)   10:00am
- Sunday, January 1, 2012   Covenant Reaffirmation Sunday/Communion  
(only one service)   10:00am   Happy New Year

### **Food and Christmas Gifts for Local Families In Need**

Christmas gifts, food boxes and gift cards for 14 families with 42 children are needed. 8 families are referred to us by the social worker at Dysart Schools in our community, 5 are church families who have lost jobs and/or have medical bills plus our Local Family In Need that we have been helping for several years. Gift tags are on cards with 2 tags per child – one for clothing and one for a new toy. A value of \$20 to \$25 is suggested for each tag. You may take one tag or as many as you want.

Lists for the food boxes and gift cards are also on the patio Dec.4 and 11. Some special requests for several families are sheets, blankets, frying pans, towels, blender and a high chair. Please call me if you have these new or gently used items to donate. Please bring wrapped gifts, gift cards and food boxes to the church on Dec. 18. If you prefer, cash or check donations will also help. Assistance is needed Monday Dec. 19 at 9:30 am to sort the items. Delivery will be Monday Dec. 19 at 1:00 pm. Please sign up to assist with sorting and/or delivery.

Your participation in this outreach to the less fortunate in our community will be rewarding and greatly appreciated. Help spread the celebration of Jesus' birthday to all in our community.

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Myrna Bishop, (623) 935-7078

## **EVE'S PLACE**

Each month, a small group of women gather in our kitchen and prepare casseroles, brownies and cookies to be delivered to Eve's Place, the local shelter for abused women and children. Recently a unit has been opened for abused men as well.



So far this year we have made 1,200 servings of a variety of casseroles. Brownies? Too many to count thanks to those of you who have religiously baked brownies in your home and brought them to church to be frozen until our next delivery.

There is always a need for paper towels, toilet paper, disposable diapers, Pine Sol, and brownie mixes. There is a red bin on the patio marked Eve's Place. Your donations are always appreciated.

## **The Thank Offering**

**Thank you** to all who have been donating to the Mission Fund by using the Thank Offering envelopes on the backs of the pews. This month we have received five anonymous donations and thank you donations from Carol Fahy and Martin Lond. This is our only fund raiser to aid all of our mission programs. Donations big and small will continue to help: Our Holiday Food Boxes, Local Family in Need, UMOM, Westside Food Bank, the Fiji Mission, The Wesley Center, and Family Promise, to name a few.

The Mission Committee coordinates the donations and programs throughout the year. Please see Jerry Brawner if you think there is a mission our church should support.

## **FOODBANK REVISITED**

New Song volunteered many years at the West Side Foodbank. Two years ago when the economy went south, they relocated the food sorting to Phoenix. Now they have brought those jobs back to the West Valley and could use our help again. A sign-up sheet is going to be on the patio. If you are interested in volunteering again or for the first time, please sign the sheet.

We used to go once a month, the third Thursday of each month. The Foodbank is asking us to be there from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. We are in need of leadership of this mission, please indicate if you would be willing to do this or share it.

If we can get 10 to 12 people to volunteer, we would start in mid-January, 2012. If you have questions, please call Jerry Brawner at (623) 544-4844.

## **PRAYER FORCE**

Kathy Norris and I are the leaders for Prayer Force. We meet every Monday, throughout the year at 9:15 am in the sanctuary. Our group has never missed a meeting as long as I have been a part of this extremely important mission of our church.

We take this as a number one priority in our lives, praying fervently over the concerns and needs of our beloved church family. I have been and participated in almost every area of the church where I have faithfully attended throughout the year. I know in my heart at this time I need to be doing this as my gift.

Growing up in the Evangelical Church our family always attending the Wednesday night Prayer Meeting Service. The congregation was faithful and devoted to prayer. I remember kneeling next to my father and mother while many would pray out loud; my dear mother especially never missed her turn. At the opening for Sunday School we were given the opportunity to pray aloud, also.

Our Evangelical Church had revival meetings every year for 2 weeks and the evangelist was invited to have supper in our home and also we had Missionary meetings of one to two weeks every year. The missionaries we sponsored came to talk to us.

Our Heavenly Father through Jesus listens and answers our prayer. "What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer."

Our prayer group continues to ask Jesus to inspire more to join us. We believe there are many who feel as we do, and want to come and become one of us. Please come next Monday at 9:15 am to the church sanctuary. You will be sharing and be blessed as you pray for others and yourself.

Elton Tietz

## **FOREVER FRIENDS**

Come one, come all to a fun Christmas Party at 6 PM on Dec 9 at New Song Church. Bring a festive dish to share as well as a White Elephant for the exchange. Sign up on the patio. Be there or be square. ?? call Lila Dell'Aringa or Pat Seabert.

CAROLING TO SHUT-INS  
and  
PROGRESSIVE DINNER  
Meet at Church

Sunday, December 18th, 2:30 pm

Help make the Season a little brighter for our shut-ins (approximately 19-20 that we know of)! For those who have gone caroling in the past, the smiles on their faces make it such fun!

How it will work! At church we will be split into groups. Your group may go to 1 shut-in to carol and then go back to the Appetizer house. Another group may go to 2 or 3 shut-ins, then go back to the Appetizer home. Next stop, more caroling and then Main Dish home. More caroling with all of us ending up at Church for dessert!



PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE PATIO. If you are willing to be a HOST home, you will not have to cook, but be willing to have **several groups** of 10-15 in your home. We will need a few cookers with food going to HOST home ahead of time.

TO MAKE THIS WORK WE REALLY NEED A GOOD COUNT — so please sign up.

Questions: Call Ann Haggerty (623) 544-2878  
Charlene Weir (623) 546-9688

### **Last call for Family Promise Donations**

We have been collecting household articles since July to give to our Family Promise Families this Christmas. We have collected kitchen utensils, pots, pans, towels, wash cloths, sheets, blankets, beautiful handmade table runners from our Stitchers and now we are preparing to wrap and deliver the gifts the second week of December. So-o-o-o-o, there is still time. Whatever you are able to give, be it a washcloth or a towel, or a set of sheets. We are short in every category, so anything you can give will be appreciated. Look for the red oval bin on the patio.

Do you go on Facebook? Do you want to know  about Family Promise? Become their “friend” and read about all of  wonderful programs they have to help homeless families become successful in their search for employment and independence. We are very happy to say that our Missions program supports this worthy cause.

### **Thank you**

We want to express our thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, e-mail and love and concern with Stan’s recent surgery and recovery. It meant so very much.

God Bless our Church Family

Stan and Phyllis Frank

Changes to New Song Directory:

Nancy Hale—moved & left no forwarding address

Tom Ryan—cell No. (480) 231-0397

Billie Ryan—cell No. (602) 513-9313

Max & Nancy Turner, Apt #123

Collecting donations for books from Cokesbury for the church library. Please contact Katy Oliver (623) 363-8029.



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |       |                 |        |                 |
|-------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| Dec 2 | Bob Snow        | Dec 9  | Edna Hermann    |
| Dec 3 | Ron Nelson      | Dec 12 | Pete Osmussen   |
| Dec 3 | Bev Regoulinsky | Dec 13 | Marty Lond      |
| Dec 5 | Helen Park      | Dec 13 | Lysa Thank      |
| Dec 6 | Marilyn Dunbar  | Dec 16 | Sandy Klein     |
| Dec 6 | Sandy Stainer   | Dec 18 | Myrna Bishop    |
| Dec 7 | Bev Glaser      | Dec 19 | Juanita Howard  |
| Dec 7 | Nanci Nathan    | Dec 23 | Orca Galloway   |
| Dec 8 | Jan Huber       | Dec 23 | Ann Haggerty    |
| Dec 8 | Paulette Wade   | Dec 30 | Bryson Gonzalez |

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- |        |                                     |        |                    |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Dec 1  | James & Carolyn Hopkins             | Dec 22 | Rex & Helen Wiant  |
| Dec 14 | Ray Sharp & Betty Young             | Dec 27 | Ken & Carol Quinn  |
| Dec 19 | Tom & Pat Howard                    | Dec 28 | Dean & Ruth Hansen |
| Dec 20 | Prashant Macwan<br>& Felisiya Parma |        |                    |

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Flowers are coming to our altar on Sunday mornings.  
Please sign up at the table on the patio. If you have  
any questions, call Charlene Weir (623) 546-9688.

If someone knows of a church member in the hospital, get  
their permission to call the church office to advise what may  
be helpful. This will allow Church Nurturing as needed,  
whether it is with (or without) visits, cards, calls or prayer.

For Spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional enrichment  
join the Prayer Force on Mondays @ 9:15 AM.  
It changes your whole life!