

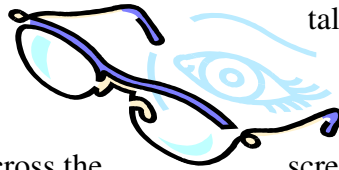
March
2011

CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton United Methodist Church, 4900 E. Thomas Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85018
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Jean's Jottings

It was just a little over three years ago that I had surgery to remove the cataract on my left eye. That afternoon, we took the bandage and shield off my eye, and after the first few seconds and the “fog” cleared, I was startled by the bright light—it was around four in the afternoon—and what seemed like the “neon” colors in the living room! My grandsons had floor pillows; the cover of one has reds and blues in it and the other one has oranges and yellows on it. The colors seem to almost SHOUT at me! WOW! Then a couple of hours later, my daughters were preparing to go out and pick up something for dinner, so I asked them to turn on the TV so I could at least listen to the news. Without my glasses, I’d never been able to really “see” the TV before, so I really didn’t expect things to be different that afternoon. The TV was turned on and then our attention was diverted as we talked about what we wanted for dinner. It wasn’t until they got ready to leave that I glanced at the TV. All of a sudden, I realized I could read the words of the advertisement that was on the TV screen. I could read the words *without my glasses!* I called to my daughters and then began to read everything that came across the screen—including the weather report and the forecasted temperatures for the week!



I was in shock! For me, it was like watching those commercials for the allergy medicine, Claritin, when the announcer talks about being “Claritin-clear” and then it seems like a sheet of fog rolls across the screen, and the colors in the picture—which originally seemed to be bright—are now even brighter. I had no idea that my sense of color had been so dulled by the cataract. Even now three years later, I’m still surprised by colors and by all I can see!

I wonder . . . does the same sort of thing happen with our faith? Do we really “see” clearly what Christ would have us see? Are we really “in tune” with the way Christ would have us live, or have we become so use to taking our faith for granted that we’re missing out on seeing life clearly as Christ would have us see it—cataract-free . . . “Claritin-clear”—without fog or haze dulling our vision?

As we move into the season of remove the “cataract” from the eyes drawing closer to our Lord and



lent, may each one of us seek to remove the “fog” . . . of our heart as we spend time in prayer and devotion Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Seeking a “Claritin-clear” heart!

Jean

Praying Through the Connection

As part of the Central East District of the Desert Southwest Conference, we as a congregation are invited to join with other congregations of our district to **pray through the connection** by lifting in prayer different churches, their congregations, and their pastors up in prayer each month. During the month of **March**, let us pray for the following:



First UMC, Gilbert – Michael Bryant and Eve Williams
 St. Paul's UMC, Globe – Rula Colvin
 Gold Canyon UMC, Gold Canyon – Fred Steinbert, Hubert Rhymes, and Robert Deits
 Living Water UMF, Gilbert – Julius Keller

In a Quiet Place

Dear Child,

Prayer is a daily way of sharing your life with me. It's that simple. You don't have to be an expert on prayer to pray. I am not grading you like a teacher with a red pencil. I am not moved by intellectual words or poetic language. I just want to be with you. Release yourself from the need to achieve a great, impressive prayer life, and just give yourself permission to practice my presence. Be aware of how near I am to you. Talk to me as someone you trust. Take me into every situation. All that I ask for is your honesty. All that I long for is your company. Come to me. Bring your secret failures and your sad regrets. Bring your hopes and your happiness. Bring yourself to share with me. And you will find me waiting - A Father you can trust and a Friend you can depend on.

Ever your,
 Abba

(From *In This Quiet Place* by Claire Coninger)



2011 Bishop's Confirmation retreat

DARE TO FOLLOW Living for a world in Need

Confirmands Helen Crook, Ofa Maafu, Jane Morris, and Hakeem Richards and mentors Kelley Gaston and Fran Leon and Pastor Jean will join youth from around the Desert Southwest Conference for the 2011 Bishop's Confirmation Retreat at Mingus Mountain Camp on April 8-10, 2011.



The retreat includes campfire, campfire prayers, speakers, food, fun & fellowship with kids from around Arizona and Nevada!

Cost of the retreat is \$105 per person for lodging and meals, so the Confirmands are hosting a fundraising "Potato Bar and Salad Luncheon" on Sunday, March 13, after the worship service to help with expenses. To help with the purchase of food, tickets for the luncheon (\$10 per person) must be purchased before March 10 and can be purchased from any of the Confirmands or their leaders.

After lunch, relax and enjoy watching a family-friendly movie, munching on popcorn, and movie-trivia game time!



"A Taste of Mingus" Cookbook

On sale now is a wonderful new cookbook called "A Taste of Mingus" which contains not only tummy-pleasing, mouth-watering, camper-favorite recipes but also colorful pictures of life around Mingus Mountain Camp! The cookbook sells for \$20, and 100% of the proceeds go into the Conference Campership Scholarship Fund. So far, over \$13,600 has been raised. Call the church office now to reserve your copy!



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All About United Methodist Women

Who Are We? We are women who have a passion for mission work, especially missions for women, youth, and children. Mission work includes not only financial support (which is essential) but also education and leadership development. We educate ourselves through our School of Christian Mission and our reading program. We provide leadership development by participating in training events and supporting each other by using a “team approach” in all we do.



What Are We? United Methodist Women is a community of women whose **Purpose** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



Why Are We? We know that many injustices are happening in our world. We feel called to respond through advocacy work and education regarding the environment, women’s health, human rights, racial injustice, immigrant rights, etc. We may differ in our opinions on these issues but we still understand that they are issues and we need to do some work on them.

Where Are We? We have national and international mission institutions and missionaries. We are local, right here in AZ, CA and NV; we are national through our institutions such as Wesley Community Center in Phoenix, Alaska Children’s Services in Anchorage, and Epworth Village in York, NE; we are international through our institutions such as Women’s Development Center in the Philippines, Arnoldine Primary School in Headlands, Zimbabwe, and Department for Women’s Work, Bamenda, Cameroon. We are everywhere!

How Are We? We are united through local UMW units who provide the financial support for all of these organizations, projects, and missionaries. We may also be working at local food pantries, clothing outlets, or mentoring in local schools. Our passion carries us beyond the limits of United Methodist Women into local projects; however, our main passion as a member of UMW is to be the support of the projects, missionaries, and institutions that are a part of our organization.

We are not just a social organization, although we do have lots of fun together. However, we are here to serve a **Purpose** beyond our own pleasure. We are here to help others under the name of **United Methodist Women.**

Our Creighton UMW has a day Circle and an evening Circle. The night one meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.; the day one meets at 10:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month. We often meet in the homes of the members. All women are invited to come as a guest or to join us to become members. For more information, please see Anita Benzing, Sandy Cross, Pat Palmer, or Fran Selleck.



Blessings for 2011!

Lending a Helping Hand!

Looking for something to do . . . something different . . . something you haven't done before? Looking to help someone who is less fortunate than you are?

This year's Annual Conference Mission Project involves members of congregations working together to prepare Birthing Assembly Kits that will be sent to UMCOR—United Methodist Committee On Relief—West Depot in Salt Lake City. Churches will be recognized at Annual Conference for the number of kits that are donated by each church.

As with all kits, the included items must be exactly as UMCOR lists. Kits are to contain the following items: 1 hotel sized bar of soap; 1 pair clean latex gloves; 1 sq. yard of clear 4 ml plastic sheeting; 3 pieces of clean string each 12" long; 1 clean single use razor blade wrapped in paper for protection; 2 flannelette receiving blankets, each 1 sq. yard.

If you feel like the Holy Spirit is tapping you on the shoulder and saying, "Here's that something different you wanted to do," please call the church office or contact Pastor Jean for more information.

Jazz Cabaret

**Sunday, April 10
1:30 p.m.
Arizona Biltmore**

**Sponsored by
Duet**

**Make your
reservations (\$85) by
April 1**

**www.duetaz.org
602-274-5022**

"Understanding the Journey of Dementia"

This free presentation for family, community, and professional caregivers teaches ways to enhance communication with people with dementia.

Presented by Hospice of the Valley

March 12, 2011

At Paradise Valley UMC
4455 E. Lincoln Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253-4019

“Thank You” for your caring!

From Missionaries Terry and Muriel . . .

Dear Friends:

Monday afternoon turned into our celebration day! All the test results were in and we took them to Muriel's physician in the City of Puebla. The tests show that my broken foot is not the result of cancer. There is no bone metastases! Glory be to God! We are extremely joyous!

The tests did show a cyst in my liver and another one in my right kidney but the doctors are confident that they are caused from all the medications I take for my auto-immune diseases. There is also an encapsulated tumor in my left lung but they explained that it could be from the radiation I had in 2005 for breast cancer. There is evidently quite a bit of bone mass loss that they say could be due to hormone deficiency and the steroids I'm taking, etc. So I guess for someone almost 64 I'm just where I should be body-wise and I'll have the cysts and tumor situation looked at by my oncologist and surgeon in Phoenix when I travel to Phoenix in the spring.

My broken foot continues to heal and I'm a bit more mobile with a boot cast and a cane, although having it up is more comfortable. Consequently Terry made me a wooden desk board to fit over an easy chair that just fits my laptop. So I keep busy. Fortunately our dear friends, Barbara and Joaquin Garcia are here in Mexico again, helping us with the teams and courses. God is so good.

Thank you for your prayers, dear friends. Rejoice with us in this, the most recent of the numerous blessings we have experienced during this past month.

In Faith,

Terry and Muriel Henderson
UMC-GBGM Missionaries
The "Give Ye Them To Eat" Program

From the O'Neal Family . . .

Thank you for all of the Creightonians for attending John O'Neal's 90th birthday celebration at Sun Lakes UMC.

From Carolyn Newman . . .

Jim and I wish to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers for David Taylor (Carolyn's nephew). He continues to gain strength and regain some motor skills.

News Around Campus!

STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Meets most Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
Creighton Hall – East Room

Study schedule:

Feb. 24	Introduction and Chapter 1:1-17
March 3	No class (Parking Lot Sale prep)
March 10	Chap. 1:18-3:8
March 17	Chap. 3:9-4:25
March 24	Chap. 5:1-6:23
March 31	Chap. 7:1-8:39
April 7	Chap. 9:1-10:21
April 14	Chap 11:1-12:21
April 17-24	No Class (Holy Week)
April 28	Chap. 13:1-15:13
May 5	Chap. 15:14 – 16:27
May 12	Intro to Gospel of John

OUCH!

Because of a false alarm that was set off on December 27, 2010, Creighton UMC has been assessed a \$96.00 fine. Money used to pay this fine means there is less money for the ministry of the church.

If you happen to be the last one “out the door,” please remember to set the alarm! Thank you!

Finance Committee

New neighbors in the neighborhood!

Come the middle of March, the Central East District Office of the Desert Southwest Conference will be moving to Creighton!

District Superintendent Rev. Bob Burns and his secretary, April Martinez, are in the process of packing up their office in Mesa and are pleased with the decision to rent the recently renovated two-story Murphy House. Should you see them around when you are on campus, please *welcome* them to the neighborhood!

If We Knew . . .

If we knew that on one Sunday, God's hand could touch a child, and save that child's life, we would respond. If we knew that on one Sunday, God's wisdom could guide a nurse to comfort and care for someone dying of AIDS, we would help that nurse all we could. If we knew that we could make a difference in the lives of so many, we would, because we have.

In 2007, the Desert Southwest Conference in Health Sciences at Africa University, a Sciences department at Africa University (AU) Africa, but particularly in the rural areas. There, education to fight malaria and HIV/AIDS among such devastation upon the continent, yet we find hope as AU graduates impact communities and save lives. This work must continue.



covenanted to endow the Joel Huffman Chair \$500,000 commitment. The Health trains nurses who are placed throughout nurses bring both medical care and other health concerns. These diseases have left

We celebrate with joy that our conference has raised \$400,000. The opportunity before the churches and congregations of the Desert Southwest Conference is to raise the final \$100,000. We are so blessed. Most of us can only wonder what it is like to watch your own child fall ill with malaria or AIDS. We can do more than wonder. We can make the ultimate difference!

In support of the tremendous work of Africa University and the impact AU graduates are making on their villages and communities, *this year's Easter offering has been designated to outreach ministry and in support of the Joel Huffman Chair in Health Sciences at Africa University.* Please give generously!

Leadership Training Workshop Coming to Creighton!

Church leaders, are you looking for some fresh ideas for raising funds for the ministry God is calling you to undertake?

Lucille Sterling, Executive Director of the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation, will present a *Leadership Training Workshop* for church leaders at **10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 26, in Creighton Hall.** The workshop will include presentations on fundraising, stewardship, and planned giving.

Mark your calendars now to be there!