



"First Things First"

It was shortly after arriving at my first church assignment that I met Bill. I was a young clergy person right out of seminary and assigned to work with Junior High, Senior High and Young Adults at a large United Methodist Church. Bill was one of the young adults. By that I mean he was in his early twenties, a college graduate and working his very first job. I had heard about Bill from Ed, one of the retired clergy who served on the staff. Ed was a seasoned pastor who continued to work in retirement because he loved the church and he loved the work of a pastor. Ed was a kind man, experienced by a career in the church and one who had seen it all. Yet Ed was amazed by Bill, that young adult who was an active part of the church and one whose life would only cross paths with mine for a couple of months and yet he still comes to mind years later and is the subject of this Good News article.

Ed said to me upon my arrival at the church that, "there is an amazing young man in this church that I want you to meet." That person was Bill.

Bill was friendly, smart and a good looking young man. He was new to Arizona when he arrived here for that first employment. It turns out Bill worked for the same large organization that employed Ed's son, who was the same age as Bill.

It was Ed's son who first told his dad about Bill. "Bill was brand new to the job. He didn't know anyone. He walked up to his desk on his first day of work. He arrived early, and before he ever sat down, he knelt next to his desk and offered this prayer. 'Lord, let me honor you by doing my very best at this job.' Bill then stood up and moved to the chair and sat down and began to work." He was hard working; he learned fast, was helpful to others and got along with everybody. He always arrived early, said his prayer and then was pleasant as he did his job well. Not a single person ever complained about his prayer, probably because of how well he worked with others and so effectively. Bill was promoted in short order and left the city. I am sure that wherever he went, he honored God by doing his best and being his best. I think about Bill from time to time. He didn't have to talk to people about God, he showed them. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God..." Matthew 6:33. He arrived early every day. He prayed first every day. He put "first things first."

See you in church or you see us on livestream!

Pastor Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

- 2 Ed Davey
- 6 Helen Woodward
- 11 Helen Duke
- 19 Peggy Johnson
- 23 Helen Hunt
- 25 Tom Shultz



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

- 1 Ray & Sherry Langhammer 65th
- 3 Dave & Priscilla Funk 56th
- 4 Rhett & Carol Sears 62nd
- 6 Bill & Shirley Pitzer 68th
- 10 Mike & Jo Allen 55th
- 10 Jon & Robbie Ierley 50th
- 14 Ed & Loretta Allen 64th
- 17 Steve & Lorraine Arend 55th
- 17 David & Pat Shontz 55th
- 19 Ron & Kathryn Laumann 57th
- 20 Karl & Joyce Henn 54th
- 22 Tony & Karen Anthony 59th
- 24 Lawrence & Eleanor Verwers 66th



Bring your own Bible, your favorite translation, to the Monday morning Lectionary Bible study in the Library Lounge. Everyone is welcome; each time is unique, so come when you can. We will read and discuss the lections for the upcoming Sunday. We study for one hour, so we will be done at noon. No special Bible knowledge necessary to come, talk and learn



The weekly readings for JUNE are:

CLASS DATE	DATE USED
May 30 (NO MEETING)	June 5—Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17	John 14:8-17 (25-27)
June 6	June 12—Trinity
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
June 13	June 19—Father's Day
1 Kings 10:1-15a	Psalm 42
Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39
June 20	June 26
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62
June 27	July 3
2 Kings 5:1-14	Psalm 30
Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20



Expressing my appreciation for the reception that was held for me in April for my service as Sabbath Services Manager for well over sixteen years. The Worship Committee and Rev. Gary gave a marvelous presentation. Each table had a speaker to speak highly of my service. The arrangement of the service and food was outstanding. It was really wonderful and I am so grateful. God bless all of you and Willowbrook UMC.

Love,
Mary Bailey



Thank you for all the cards that brightened my days during the months of isolation as I had very painfully broken my hip and femur. My new motto is "Watch where you step."

Thank you for remembering me.
M. Joan Glendon



To our sweet Willowbrook family, For those whom we love and have loved us in so many ways, we send a THANK YOU so big it wouldn't be contained at all on these pages! We feel so fortunate in having you as dear friends as both of us journey through this awful time in our lives. We also want you to know how we love our God as He's brought us to this point and makes no effort to leave. We thank Him for all He's done already and we thank you for your constant prayers for us. We ask that they might continue as we seek answers from the medical industry for our many health problems. Again . . .

BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU!!!

Love to all,
Lois & Ron Leonard



Personal Items for Teen Girls

HART Pantry was joined by Women4Women in Surprise on Saturday, April 9th to prepare bags of personal items for teen girls. It was amazing to be among 34 women from several churches and community organizations who helped bag up 440 bags for HART Pantry to send to local high schools.



Pictured are Willowbrook ladies who helped bag items for teens: Marilyn Ledbetter, Ruth Langford, Executive Director of HART Pantry, Ann Martin, guest Betsy Blackmar, and Jan Van Vugt.

Each month we join other churches in prayer for churches of the West District in the Desert Southwest Conference.



JUNE

Haven UMC, Jerome
Lakeview UMC, Sun City
Liberty UMC, Buckeye

Benevilla Caregiver Support Group

1st & 3rd Thursday of the month
9:30-10:30am
Willowbrook Library Lounge
Hybrid in-person and on ZOOM

This group is intended for caregivers of loved ones with various diagnoses who want to connect with other caregivers for support.

Willowbrook has partnered with Benevilla to facilitate a safe place to share, learn and support others who are experiencing the challenges of being a caregiver.

It is important to take care of yourself during times like this, and there is comfort in knowing you have the support and understanding of others.

Registration is not required. Co-facilitators are Stephanie Lamb, Benevilla and Bill Lusk, CSA [Certified Senior Advisor] with Care Patrol of Northwest Phoenix.

Call Benevilla 623-584-4999 or check E-News for ZOOM link.

Holidaze Craft Faire

Save the Dates!
November 4th & 5th

NEEDED: Willing hands and feet

Call: Janet Sjoberg or LuAnn Sloan
[Numbers in Church Directory.]



Purchase the altar flowers for \$45 to honor the life or memory of a loved one.

In the Flower Book in the narthex write your name, your loved one's name, the occasion and the date you would like to have the altar flowers presented.

Bring or mail your check for \$45 marked "flowers" with date to the office or place in the offering plate.



Deposit eye glasses, sunglasses, hearing aids, and cell phones in the Lion's Club box in Wilson Fellowship Hall. The Lions refurbish and distribute to others who are less fortunate.



Willowbrook Feeds the Hungry Next Food Drive:

June 4 at Sabbath Service
June 5 in Fellowship Hall

FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



Kitchen Update

It is important that we maintain our excellent rating for our Commercial Kitchen. The following changes will help us:

- ◆ If you sponsor an event, you are responsible for cleaning and washing all items used, as well as the tables used.
 - ◆ After an event you are to take all left-over perishable food home. DO NOT LEAVE LEFT-OVER FOOD IN THE REFRIGERATOR.
 - ◆ If any open containers are left in the kitchen they will be discarded.
 - ◆ Turn off all appliances including the dishwashers.
- Thank you in advance for your help.
Jim Dodd, Kitchen Committee Member



KRIS KRAFTERS

Stay Cool!

What could be more fun and worthwhile than getting together and helping others? The Kris Krafters meet on the first and third Thursday of each month, even during the hot summer months in Arizona. It's cool inside Wilson Fellowship Hall, and warm friendships are evident as the Kris Krafters crochet, knit, sew and craft items for those in need.

Donations of acrylic yarn and washable fabric are put to good use as the Kris Krafters make baby blankets, sweaters, hats, cancer caps, coverings for medical devices and much more. Everyone is welcome! The Kris Krafters will meet from 9 to 11 am on June 2 and 16.



Pictured left: Eleanor Verwers packs up some of the unique baby sweaters she knit, and pairs them with custom made baby caps. Pictured right: Karen Anthony stands next to the convenient new location for Prayer Shawls under the Kris Krafters bulletin board.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of Willowbrook provides warm, washable shawls and lap robes for those in need of comfort. Each Prayer Shawl has been made with love and care for the person who will receive it, and the shawl has been part of a group prayer and blessing given by Rev. Gary Kennedy. A printed prayer and signed card from one of the Kris Krafters is attached to each shawl. If you know of someone ill, recovering, or grieving, please pick out a shawl, sign the list (to prevent duplications) and deliver it.



June 10—6:00pm
Movie—TBD
Ice Cream & Dessert
Cost \$3.00
Sign-up May 28-29 & June 4-5



United Women in Faith

Summer & Beyond

Continuing our tradition, the United Women of Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) will meet for lunch during the summer months.

- June 20 at noon—Join Mary Circle at *Coco's*, 9801 W. Bell Road, Sun City AZ 85351
- July 18 at 12:30pm—Join Rachel Circle at *Paulie's Little Bite of Italy*, 15456 N. 99th Ave., Sun City AZ 85351. (Bring school supplies to be donated to one of our mission projects.)
- August 15 at noon—Join Dorcas Circle at *Brother's Family Restaurant*, 8466 W. Peoria Ave. #1, Peoria AZ 85345.

The Mission Team has planned an interesting slate of programs for our fall meetings:

Our first unit meeting in the fall will be September 19 when we will hear about the *Criminalization of Black Youth*. October unit meeting will focus on *World Wide Communion* with a program on the importance of bread in the life of the church and all cultures. We look forward to the World Thank Offering in November with a Thanksgiving-style potluck. And of course our Annual Christmas Tea will have a special program.

United Women of Faith is open to all women in the church. There are four circles that meet monthly except in summer.



Doing the Most Good

Excerpt from a recent letter from the Salvation Army

"Here in our local community, many of our neighbors are struggling to recover from lost income and other impacts of the past two years. They are turning to us in need—and their single greatest need is food."

Each 1st weekend of the month, Willowbrook receives your gifts of food which are then given to the Salvation Army center in Surprise. Know that your gifts, not only provide nourishment, they also give hope to those in need.

Thank you for your generosity!



Our condolences to family and friends on the death of the following Willowbrook members and/or family & friends:

- Lois Sharp on April 13 in Kansas
- Larry Hudson on January 29 in Iowa
- Our Accountant, Cynthia Reid's mother on May 10 in North Carolina
- Earl Sjoberg on May 12
- Former member Sherry Pilar in TX

June

May 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

July 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

CH—Chapel
 CR—Conference Room
 CT—Courtyard
 LL—Library Lounge
 MR—Music Room
 PR—Prayer room
 Sanc—Sanctuary
 WFH—Wilson Fellowship Hall

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH	2 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL	3	4 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
5 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	6 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	7	8 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH	9	10 DSW Annual Conference 6:00 pm Youthful Srs Event—WFH	11 DSW Annual Conference 9:00 am Winsome Widows— JiMichaels Restaurant 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
12 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	13 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	14 FLAG DAY 11:00 am Sjoberg memorial—CH/WFH	15 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH	16 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 2:30 pm Outreach—CR	17	18 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
19 FATHER'S DAY 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	20 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	21	22 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH	23 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	24	25 11:30 am Winsome Widows—Mercers Restaurant 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
26 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	27 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	28 10:00 am-1:00 pm Outreach—Kitchen	29 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH	30		