

# West District **Cactus Patch**



President Colleen Becker

Published for United Methodist Women

March 2022

Welcome back....women of the United Methodist Church!

## INDEX

- Page 1 Index
- Page 2 Calendar
- Page 3 Conversation with Colleen
- Page 4 United Methodist
  - Women purpose; Chatter with Christine (VP)
- Page 5 Chit Chat with Cheryl (Sec)
- Page 6 Money Matters (Treasurer)
- Page 7 Program Resources and Nominations, part one
- Page 8 Nominations
- Page 9 Spiritual Growth
- Page 10 What's Going on in the Neighborhood?
- Page 10 Trinity, Phoenix
- Page 11 Who Can We Be Together?
  - Mission u information
- Page 12 New Song
- Page 13 Prescott
- Page 14 Shepherd of the Hills
- Page 15 First United Methodist Women, Phoenix
- Page 16 Buckeye Community Church
- Page 16 - 17 Lakeview

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE  
WEST DISTRICT**

**2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

All of these events are dependent upon decisions made by the leadership of the  
Desert Southwest Conference according to the current pandemic conditions.

<b>Day of Giving 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	<b>March 23</b>
<b>Social Action Event - Legislative event, Zoom</b>	<b>April 8</b>
<b>Social Action Event - Planting Rainbows, Zoom</b>	<b>April 9</b>
<b>West District Leadership Team meeting, Sun City First, 8:30 am</b>	<b>May 7</b>
<b>Cactus Patch Articles Due to Cheryl</b>	<b>May 15</b>
<b>ASSEMBLY</b> Both in-person and ZOOM attendance available	<b>May 20-22</b>
<b>Desert Southwest Annual Conference, TBD</b>	<b>June 9-12</b>
<b>Virtual Mission u, all districts invited</b> <b>Mission u adult study - in person</b> <b>Red Mountain United Methodist Church</b> <b>2936 N. Power Rd.</b> <b>Mesa, AZ 85215</b> <b>Virtual Mission u ZOOM</b>	<b>June 24-25</b>     <b>July 22-23</b>
<b>Cactus Patch Articles Due</b>	<b>August 15</b>
<b>West District Leadership Team Meeting, Sun City First, 8:30 am</b>	<b>September 17</b>
<b>West District Annual Celebration</b> West District Host	<b>October 9</b>
<b>Desert Southwest Conference Annual Celebration, Zoom</b>	<b>October 29</b>
<b>West District Leadership Team meeting, Sun City First, 8:30 am</b>	<b>November 12</b>
<b>Cactus Patch article due</b>	<b>November 15</b>
Please send Cactus Patch articles to Cheryl Buchholtz: <a href="mailto:westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com">westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com</a> .	

### CHANGES CAME TO WEST DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The new 2022 West District Directory is DIGITAL again this year. Do you need a copy of the 2022 West Directory? Just let me know.... Additional copies will be sent to anyone contacting: [westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com](mailto:westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com) ~ Cheryl

Please send me any additions or corrections to: [westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com](mailto:westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com)  
(so far it has been corrected 6 times)

### *Conversation with Colleen*

United Methodist Women DSC WD president Colleen Becker

[cbecker14@cox.net](mailto:cbecker14@cox.net)

Leadership Development was held in January. The team went to Yuma to have our session in person, but it was decided that it was in the best interest for everyone that we should do a virtual training for the second one. It was good to have so many join us on ZOOM. My apologies to those I needed to mail documents. I was in quarantine and didn't have the energy to go to the store to buy envelopes or the post office to mail. Eventually everything got mailed. I applaud all of the units that worked hard to complete the activities to receive the Mission Today Award and the Charter for Racial Justice.

At the West District team meeting on February 26, we chose units that each of us would shepherdess for the year. You should hear soon from your new shepherdess. We are available whenever you need us. If you have questions, feel free to contact your shepherdess. If she doesn't know the answer, she will direct you to someone who does.

Assembly is approaching in May. This year virtual meetings will be available for those who do not feel comfortable going to Orlando for in-person meetings. I chose this option. Registration is still open, so it is not too late to plan to attend either in person virtually.

Officers for the West District team can only serve for a limited number of years. At the end of this year, several of us will have to retire as district officers. Please consider being our replacements. Vicki Keel is our nominations chair. Let her know if you are interested. Each of us will be happy to help you and answer your questions about the positions. We only have four team meetings a year as well as Annual Celebrations in October. It is very rewarding knowing that we work together to make lives better for women, children, and youth.

Blessings to all units for another successful year.

## The Purpose of The United Methodist Women

**United Methodist Women shall be 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.**

*Chatter with Christine,* [jones.sensei@gmail.com](mailto:jones.sensei@gmail.com)

United Methodist Women DSC WD vice president  
Glendale United Methodist Church

Welcome to the new year and the beginning of spring. We are three months into the year 2022 and exploring what it means to be part of God's kingdom and disciples of Christ. In January, the West District held the Leadership Development Day. In planning the event, our hopes were to not only provide training to those who are new to their office but to give information to all attending that might encourage them to become leaders. Our sudden transition to online was a rocky experience but it also proved to demonstrate the patience and flexibility of our wonderful West District members.

The local units are doing a fantastic job of coming back to our mission focus as we come into this new year. Let me encourage you to send in your articles for the *Cactus Patch* about what your unit is doing and share with your sisters your ideas and opportunities for new programming and training. There is so much happening that we don't hear about when it isn't shared.

We have a fantastic opportunity to make more of an impact by attending "Turn it Up!" The United Methodist Women Assembly in Orlando, Florida, which offers the opportunity to attend virtually. This wonderful and exciting event will be May 20-22.

We also have another wonderful opportunity to make an impact with this year's Mission u. With this year's study on Luke 13, the Mission u team of the Conference has developed a single offering that integrates spiritual growth, justice, and national and global social issues. There will be an opportunity to attend in-person at Red Mountain United Methodist Church in Mesa and a second opportunity July 24-25 on Zoom.

I don't know about you, but I am still practicing some of the lessons I learned from last year's United Methodist Women Retreat on Holy Humor. The Laughter Yoga is still something I find myself doing at random times. I wonder if doing a program on that would be fun for my unit? What about you? What kind of fun or educational programs do you have planned for this year? I would love to hear from you.

I would like to end by sharing with you this traditional Irish Prayer in translation.

May God give you...

For every storm, a rainbow, For every tear, a smile,  
For every care, a promise, And a blessing in each trial.  
For every problem life sends, A faithful friend to share,  
For every sigh, a sweet song, And an answer for each prayer.

In His hands,  
Your Sister in Christ,  
Christine Jones

## *Chit Chat with Cheryl*

United Methodist Women DSC WD secretary and communications coordinator  
Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix  
[westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com](mailto:westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com)

Well, this has been a most interesting month - and here we are - going into the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of the new year. Things are starting to pick up activity-wise and one of the things I've learned is that there are some things that never change...like the importance of helping others, feeding those who are hungry and praying for those in need.

Thank you to everyone who attended our most recent Leadership Training. It is always nice to meet and train members of our United Methodist Women, knowing how important our roles are in the bigger picture of service. Even if we are in the same position in our unit and have had training before, it is always nice to welcome new secretaries, share tips, creative ideas and "what's new!"

I must admit that I am very concerned about filling the offices of the retiring West District leadership team. Year after next, if you think you might be interested in either the secretarial position or communications job, let me know. We would have plenty of time for me to walk you through the processes of either job and I would be there should you need any help. I can show you short cuts that will make both jobs much easier. So, keep that in mind and let us know.

Blessings and heaps of love,  
Cheryl



## \$\$\$\$ Money Matters \$\$\$\$

United Methodist Women DSC, WD

Michele Justice, West District treasurer, Liberty



Dear West District United Methodist Women:

It is the beginning of a new year, a new chance with new opportunities to serve!  
Happy New Year to All!

This past year, West District United Methodist Women squeaked by and managed to meet and pay our pledged amount of \$35,000 for 2021 !!! Thank you to all the units that generously gave over and above their individual pledged amounts! Without your financial commitment and dedication, we would not have met our pledge!

So, we begin a new year, and I am hopeful that with the creative fundraisers we are able to participate in this year, we will readily meet our goal for 2022. I have sent, via email, our updated year-end reporting form with inclusion of a space to report the pledge amount for the coming year. If you need any of the new forms, please send me an email and let me know. I am closing with this prayer of hope for all United Methodist Women in the new year.

*Lord, You are our Strength, and all power belongs to You. We pray for strong and vigorous bodies that can easily do the necessary work, engage in exercise, and continue to have a strong resistance against illness. We thank You that as We trust in You, We will find new strength, and as in Isaiah, soar high like an eagle, run and not get weary, walk and not be faint. We thank You for your blessings too numerous to count.*

Sincerely,

Your sister in Christ

Michele Justice

Is your unit having problems coming up with programming that holds the interest of your membership? CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES ON THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WEBSITE. <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/programs-events>

## *Program Resources, Janet Rummel*

United Methodist Women DSC WD

[giraffejanet@hotmail.com](mailto:giraffejanet@hotmail.com)



Hi Ladies,

I am so excited about the books that were added to the 2021-2022 Reading list.

I would like to suggest three of the books I have read.

*Small Great Things, Before We Were Yours, and Love is the Way.*

Have you checked your local library to see if they have any of the books on the list? Our local library has 25 of the books other than the ones suggested. You might make a list of them and place it near your books so people can get them from the library if they want

Also, have you watched any of the Faith Talk series that are presented every month. If you watch two of the podcasts it will count as one book under the Spiritual Growth category. Just go online under United Methodist Women and click on Faith Talks and you will get all the information you will need.

Let's make this a banner year for the Reading Program

*Janet*

*Please take the time to read this very important article from our Chairperson of Nominations:*

## *Nominations Report - Vicki Keel*

United Methodist Women DSC WD

[Vkeel55@gmail.com](mailto:Vkeel55@gmail.com)

### **West District Committee on Nominations...February 2022**

When I was writing last December's article, I came up with three words that capture my outlook on 2022 as it pertains to United Methodist Women and our West District. One of the words I settled on was Optimistic.

Do you remember why? I said that the Committee on Nominations would be reconnecting with some of you and getting to know many of you better. I was optimistic that,



with your help, we'll make contact with women who will become our future, West District Leaders for 2023.

Will it be you? Will it be someone in your circle? How will we do this - by reaching out via email and phone calls.

You will be hearing from myself or someone on the nominations committee after our district meeting later this month - so please answer! In the meantime, think of your peers and come up with the name of someone (yourself) who might make a good candidate.

In this issue: I would like to put a spotlight on a few of the duties of the Office of Treasurer.:

- Receive funds from local treasurers and remit funds to the conference treasurer.
- Present the quarterly treasurer's report to the District Leadership Team at the quarterly district team meeting
- Reconcile bank statement using Quick Books. Give a copy of the statement and reconciliation to the District President.
- Present the quarterly treasurer's report to the District Leadership Team at the quarterly district team meeting.

Wow, when I read over those duties; they sound pretty dry. But let me tell you, Michelle Justice, our current Treasurer, is anything but dry. *She is funny, sweet, and one of the most welcoming women that I know.* She will be on hand for training, explanations, and guidance. She will be available to guide and assist.

Remember that we're looking for ladies to fill several vacancies - Social Action, Spiritual Growth, and President (more about that in the next article) to name a few. As always, look around and even ask around; often all it takes for someone to step forward is for someone to be asked.

Your nominations committee will be looking and asking!

And remember, United Methodist Women is a very important organization that many depend on. We need to make sure it continues which means we all need to take a turn at leadership. During the past several years, three to four churches have filled between 8 and 10 positions on the leadership team. A change of leadership brings with it - new faces, new energy, and new ideas. It is revitalization for any organization.



## *Spiritual Growth - Jen Kistler*

United Methodist Women DSC WD

[Jenkistler@cox.net](mailto:Jenkistler@cox.net)

Hello Ladies,

Welcome to the family of Christ!

Even though we have been hampered by the pandemic, have been challenged to accomplish the mission of the United Methodist Women, and have had to deal with a multitude of what I call "normal life issues," we have remained very active toward our mission purpose. As a matter of fact, in some cases, the United Methodist Women has found ways to continue and increase our mission giving.

United Methodist Women are persistent, faithful, spiritual forces to be reckoned with. We are able to accomplish many things because we trust in God. We know we have the ability to do many things in His name because of our faith and that trust in God and His goodness.

Our faith gives us strength.

*"My grace is enough, it's all you need. My strength comes into its own and in your weakness." - 2 Corinthians 12:9*

*"This is my Son, the chosen. Listen to Him." - Luke 9:35*

Once I heard that I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began focusing on the gift. It was a case of God's strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take the limitations in stride.... I just let Christ take over.

May God bless you and yours and keep you safe!

In God's love,  
Jen

Stay in touch with your West Side District. Follow this link:

<https://dscumc.org/districts/west/>

- to go through the Archives - articles and news that has appeared in a variety of West District publications.
- The United Methodist Women has a link to all four district newsletters, the Conference United Methodist Women newsletter, information on the Charter for Racial Justice, DSC United Methodist Women Legacy Stories on Facebook, the Legacy Fund 150 and the Living Timeline.
- There is a list of Conference Staff and ways to contact them and there is a Living Timeline - Telling our Stories. Check it out.



## What's Going on in the Neighborhood?

### *Trinity United Methodist Women, Phoenix*

Although our paperwork got lost, congratulations to our unit for completing our submissions for the Charter for Racial Justice Award, the 5-Star Mission award and the Mission Today paperwork. We also had several women complete their reading for the United Methodist Women Reading Program.

We are now gearing up for 2022. Our United Methodist Women Sunday focuses on the needs in Tonga. One of the congregations that worships at Trinity UMC is Tongan and our member's families that are still in Tonga have been very hard hit by the recent volcano and tsunami. We are learning about the needs of our Tongan brothers and sisters and are collecting items and cash to assist in their recovery.

We were able to send extra money to the missions we support at the end of our calendar year. We are planning our Easter Bake sale to raise money for our budget to further support missions and our District Pledge.

Many of our United Methodist Women are also assisting with the distribution of prepared meals through a project in conjunction with the City of Phoenix. Those meals have been distributed each Wednesday afternoon. Busy, busy, busy!



mission u 2022

# Who Can We Be Together?

## Building Communities of Hope and Joy

*Great news— COMMUNITY is God's desire for us! Please join us at Mission u 2022 as we reflect on the community that Jesus is calling us to be!*

*This year, as we study Luke 13, we find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, divisive political climate, unaddressed systemic racism, ecological crises and economic turmoil, we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia.*

*Our hope is that we will leave Mission u with a bigger and broader vision of the community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief and massive disruption. What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways, as Jesus did in Luke 13?*

*Our newly designed Mission u 2022 is more flexible and intergenerational than ever— with curricula for youth, children and adults focused on the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Luke.*

**Registration opens March 24, 2022 for both the In-Person and Virtual Mission u Events!**

**The book is available now for only \$10. At [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)  
"Who Can We Be Together?" All are welcome to attend! Men, Women, Youth!**

**Please join us on**

**Friday, June 24 1pm-8:15pm Saturday June 25, 2022 8:30am-4:00pm**

AT

**Red Mountain UMC**

**2936 N. Power Rd.**

**Mesa, AZ 85215**

church office: 480 981-3833

**The in-person Mission u costs \$70. It includes: Friday dinner; Saturday light breakfast; Saturday Lunch**

\* Childcare available if requested 10 days prior to the June event. Contact the Dean or Assistant Dean.

*Hotels nearby Red Mountain UMC if needed:*

\* La Quinta Inn & Suites, Mesa Superstition Spgs. 6530 E. Superstition Springs Blvd. Mesa, 85206 480 654-1970

\* Best Western Superstition Springs 1342 S. Power Rd. Mesa, AZ 85206 480 641-1164

The Virtual Mission u will be held on July 22 5:30pm-8:30pm & Saturday July 23, 2022 8:30am-2pm on Zoom. \$20.

### Our awesome Study Leaders:



**Rev. Dr. Rula Colvin** is a 3rd generation native of Arizona. She grew up in the small town of Gila Bend. Before answering the call to ministry she worked for the US Postal Service. She received her BA degree from Ottawa University, a Master of Divinity from Claremont School of Theology, and a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Seminary. She served in a variety of church settings during her 20 years of ordained ministry. She retired from full time ministry in 2020 and enjoys reading and traveling. She has begun taking fused glass art classes, and has recently been appointed as part-time Minister of Congregational Care and Red Mountain United Methodist Church. She loves teaching and learning.



**Rev. Pamela Wagner** is a retired United Methodist Minister who has served churches all over the Desert Southwest conference. She also served as the chair of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for a few years. Her last appointment was in retirement, at Velda Rose UMC. She received her Master of Divinity from Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, California. The call to ministry actually came later in life for Pam. Her first career was teaching in elementary school. It was after she attended the Walk to Emmaus that she began to feel again the call that God had first placed upon her heart when she was baptized at age eleven. Pam finally had to retire for good in 2020 to care for her husband Bob, to whom she had been married for 50 years when he passed away in early 2021. She has two wonderful daughters, two delightful sons-in-law, and three brilliant and talented teenaged grandchildren who still think she is the coolest grandma!

Janette Gann, Dean [Jgann1329@gmail.com](mailto:Jgann1329@gmail.com) 480 980-1329

Billie Larime, Assistant Dean [B\\_larime@yahoo.com](mailto:B_larime@yahoo.com)

# *New Song United Methodist Women*

Submitted by Kimi Ivy

The New Song United Methodist Women have gotten off to a roaring start for 2022. After the fabulous December Christmas Tea that had over 60 attendees, we moved on to our January United Methodist Women's Day for our congregation.

The Tea had a theme of the Joy of Giving and resulted in the donation of numerous socks and personal items to a local shelter. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, those that both attended and served were greatly blessed by the time and fellowship.

Our United Methodist Women Sunday saw several of our leadership team take their places and lead various aspects of the worship service. The highlight of the day was the announcement of our Special Recognition Award. This annual award went to our own Lila Dell'Aringa for her seventeen years of overall service to United Methodist Women, both on the local and district levels.

Due to our ladies' faithful giving over the last year, we were also able to make donations to not one, but two organizations: Trinity Opportunity Alliance and Employed and Overjoyed Foundations. Our small, but mighty group also was able to earn the five star award for missions: Faith, Hope, and Love in Action. What a blessing!

But wait, the year has just begun, and we have grand plans going! Our February fundraiser has begun as of this writing. Like last year we are having our Sunday "Souper" Bowl soup sale on Super Bowl Sunday. This is a church wide event where our ladies (and gents if they want) make their favorite soup to sell on that Sunday. It was a real hit last year and we hope it will be the same for this year.

Other plans for our congregation and ladies include possible Home and Garden Tours, piano concert, Family Fun



Night and even a Chili Cook off! There are plans for several months we have yet to come up with! Overall, we hope to be a blessing to both this congregation and community as we go forward into a year of showing God's Love to all.

## **A Prayer for Love**

God,

Remind me that love is always near, because you are never far.

When I feel unworthy of love, remind me that You have made me worthy. And when I feel incapable of showing love, help me to remember what You've sacrificed for me.

Remind me of how loved I am so I can remind others of how loved they are.

In Jesus' name. Amen.



## *Prescott United Methodist Women*

In January we had our special United Methodist Women weekend at Prescott United Methodist Church. The Board participated in the service as well as having special recognition acknowledgments and officer installation during each service that weekend. We recognized two of our members who had made such a difference over the years and even though they watched it all on the internet due to special circumstances, we were proud to let them know how much we care about them and how appreciative we are of all that they contributed to United Methodist Women through the years.

The January meeting was all about communication and personalities. We had a fun time in taking the personality inventory and talking about all the unique communication styles and how we all benefit from the diversity in personalities. Fun exercises helped us to understand others' thoughts and actions. This brought lots of laughs and great connections in sharing.

Our February meeting meant each had a special Valentine, special treats, and a wonderful program on healthy habits and how we can so easily make a difference in our perspectives and lives with breathing exercises alone!

We greatly appreciated our recognition certificates received from the District for our work together over the last year. We remain focused on our spiritual mission of feeding the hungry kids in our local community, understanding social justice through reading and missional work, and caring for each other as we grow as sisters in Christ. Our fundraisers in 2021 broke records in resources achieved. We were even able to contribute significantly to the music program of a local elementary school we help support in many ways through our church. We certainly were blessed with generous people supporting our fundraising missional efforts.

Our meetings this year are all on Saturdays. A switch from Thursdays and Saturdays last year as we alternated. We also are adding in field trips and other activities to energize our year with something different for connectional and relationship building within the church. As I am writing this now, we have gained four new members to date by mid-February. What a wonderful start to our year!

In March we have invited others from the church to join the United Methodist Women on a field trip morning to the Desert Botanical Garden to see the Chihuly exhibit. We'll hold our business meeting there and then enjoy the art, fresh air, and time together in a different way appreciating our many blessings in the beauty of art and nature coming together. We are looking forward to others from the church joining us in the carpool caravan as another way to encourage potential members to join United Methodist Women in the future. In other words, get to know us in other ways too!

As always, we are blessed from the love, fun, and spiritual uplifting we experience from our pastors and staff that support the Prescott United Methodist Women. Blessings to you all, and may your spring bring hope, love and energy to all you do!

Respectfully submitted and blessings to all,  
Cheri Hull, President

## *Spring News* *Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Women*

Submitted by Sandy Bradley, President

As we enter a new year, we are thankful to be bigger and stronger in spite of Covid-19. In the past six months, we have welcomed ten ladies into our membership. Our Christmas luncheon was a big success. We served 58 ladies. They brought books and puzzles (126 books and 71 puzzles) which we delivered to Dysart Community Center; Wesley/Golden Gate Community Center, and to the foster children's program, "A Mighty Change of Heart".

At our January luncheon, we were installed by our Shepherdess, Janet Rummell. We are pleased to have two new members on our Team. Our "Pledge to Mission Campaign" has been a huge success and we feel great about being to make our commitment and add even more dollars to our Pledge.

Our United Methodist Women Sunday was held on January 9 and Jason Rentscheler, the Chief Operating Officer at Wesley Community and Health Center, was our keynote speaker. He discussed how difficult it has been to serve Wesley's community in this time of the pandemic. At this service, we thanked the congregation for their support of our Mission Candle Program. Each time they light the candle in memory of someone or to celebrate someone or an occasion, they help us, help others. In 2021 our Mission Candle income was \$1800.00

Because of the uptick of the Covid-19 and the vulnerability of our congregation, and on the recommendation of our congregational task force, we cancelled our February luncheon and our March one will only take place if the numbers keep going down.

Our plans for spring include our Easter Basket Project. We always ask the congregation to join us in bringing filled baskets that we give to Valley View Bank to go out to those families served by this very important community program. We plan to have their director, Jesse Ramirez, be our guest speaker at our April luncheon. We send our love to all you other units out there and pray that you all stay safe and well.

And we all send mighty prayer to God to send the virus away!!!!!!

*And to celebrate... **United Methodist Women**  
at First United Methodist Church, Phoenix*



Here is a picture for the *Cactus Patch* of First United Methodist Church Phoenix's Christmas party December 9, 2021. This photo is a combined membership of Rachel and Eve Circles as well as members from residents at the Beatitudes.

The traditional potluck United Methodist Women style (lots of food) was followed by a White Elephant exchange. It was an enjoyable evening and we enjoyed in-person camaraderie that we have not been able to have for quite some time.

We now look forward to planning future meetings and events as we slowly gather post-pandemic.



## *United Methodist Women of the Community Church of Buckeye*

Submitted by Barbara Floyd

The United Methodist Women at Community Church in Buckeye has been donating Little Golden Books to Abrazo Hospital since April 9, 2016. This project was started to promote literacy, to advertise our church, and to honor Alice Charman.

Alice Charman was a saint in our church who now resides in Heaven. She was a retired school teacher who promoted our public libraries every chance she got. We place a sticker in each book that has our church name and address and says "In Memory Of Alice Charman".

These books are sent home with the newborn babies. In later years, we decided there were many other little books that were educational and entertaining other than the Little Golden Books. And many were cheaper.

We are a small group and, I am sure, don't reach every baby that is born at Abrazo Hospital. But we do reach some. So far, we have donated 717 Books for Babies. After all, you are your child's first teacher. Reading with your child every day is the best way to build the language skills they'll need to learn to read. So, cuddle up with a book and read together.

What a wonderful way to honor a former member.

## *Lakeview United Methodist Women*

Submitted by Susan Briner

### **I HELP**

I HELP (Interfaith Homeless Lodging Program) (I-HELP) provides shelter for up to 12 homeless persons each night through local congregations that provide space where the homeless can be fed and sleep.

Here in the Northwest Valley, I-HELP is coordinated by Lutheran Social Service of the Southwest. This safe, proven ministry works like this:

- Homeless men/women are screened at 4 p.m. at the Surprise Resource Center
- The homeless guests are taken by church buses to a congregation that is housing. The church for that night provides transportation.

- An evening meal is provided by the host congregation, and they also provide breakfast. A lunch sack for noon is optional.
- Guests sleep on mats, cots, provided by the host church. The host church also provides sheets, pillows, blankets, towels, wash cloths etc. Showers are optional as not all churches have them. Laundry facilities for the guests is also optional. The guests clean the host facility. They are up and fed breakfast and out the door by 7:30-8:00 a.m. and transported back to the Surprise Resource Center.
- Peer Monitors have responsibility for overnight management and ensuring rules are followed, the participants are safe and to also address any emergencies.

The homeless are allowed to stay in I-HELP for three months and receive case management services from LSS. During the day, program participants work with LSS staff to prepare for transitioning to permanent housing help in the areas of:

- Job Placement
- Medical Referrals
- Bus Passes
- Benefits Connection (SNAP & AHCCCS)
- Housing assistance

Because of the donated space and meals provided by local congregations, this ministry is able to house persons at the cost of \$32 per bed night. Participants in I-HELP must be sober, not seriously mentally ill and cannot be a sex offender.