



The Catalina News

May, 2024

Volume 73, Issue 05

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MIKE

As we get closer to June when we will celebrate Pastor Matt’s retirement and recognize his many years of service to our Annual Conference and then prepare to welcome Pastor Kelli onto our staff, I thought I would share a few thoughts about this staff transition. When I first came to Catalina, I was listening to something on organizational change and heard a quotation attributed to W. Edwards Deming. It said, “Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets.” I took that to mean that, if we keep doing things the same way, we can expect to keep getting the same results.

Based on the recommendations of our consultant, Paul Nixon, and based on a book I read in late 2022 *Reorganized Religion*, we decided to try and do something different. In the book, Central United Methodist Church in Sacramento had seen decline in their church. Their attendance was low and the congregation was largely an older congregation. They decided to do what is called a church plant within a church. In other words, while the two pastors continued ministering to the established congregation, they also started an additional congregation at the same site.

That additional congregation, called (continued on page 4)

MISSIONS UPDATE

Market on the Move – Another successful Market on the Move outreach was held on April 20th. We had a supply of tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, summer squash, spaghetti squash, and various breads that sold out in less than two hours. Our final Market on the Move event of the year will be held on May 18th, starting at 7:00 am and finishing at 9:00 am in our east parking lot. Interested in helping? We serve neighbors and friends on a “drive thru” format. Food is priced at \$10.00 for up (continued on page 2)



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MISSIONS UPDATE (CONTINUED FROM PG 1)

to 60 pounds. This is an excellent way to re-distribute tons of surplus food that might otherwise end up in the landfill.

Primavera Men's Shelter – Scott and Laurie Campbell have a cooking team ready to shop, cook, serve, and fellowship with the men residing at the Primavera Men's Shelter on April 27th. We still need volunteers for May 25th and monthly thereafter. If you would like to volunteer, please notify Doug Wingert at dougwingert@gmail.com or contact the church office. We cook and serve a great five course meal to men living with homelessness and they so appreciate our efforts. This outreach runs on the fourth Saturdays of each month, from approximately 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The menu is planned, and the grocery shopping is done by team leaders. New volunteers are always paired with experienced volunteers. The work involves standing and lifting, cooking, and serving. All volunteers who are vaccinated, gloved, and over the age of 12 are welcome.

Casa Maria Soup Kitchen – We cooked and served our excellent chicken-vegetable soup to approximately 275 people on Saturday, April 6th. It was a cool morning, and the hot soup was in high demand. Now we need a few volunteers for Saturday morning, June 1st. This is an early morning mission outreach where a team of 3 or 4 volunteers cook and serve more than 200 bowls of soup for our neighbors. We start very early, (approximately 6:30 am), and we finish by approximately 10:30 am. This work involves standing, lifting, cooking, and serving, using large commercial pots in a very small kitchen. All volunteers who are vaccinated, gloved, and over the age of 12 are welcome. Please notify Doug Wingert, at dougwingert@gmail.com or contact the church office, if you are interested in volunteering.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Making – We are getting so fast at making peanut butter & jelly sandwiches! On Friday afternoon, April 5th, our volunteers made more than 500 sandwiches, bagged, boxed, and ready to go in less than 2 hours. These sandwiches were delivered to the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen, where they were added to sack lunches for those living with hunger. Our next sandwich making marathon has not yet been scheduled, so stand by for a future date to put on your calendars.

Committee Members Needed – We've added two new members to the Church & Society-Missions Committee. Welcome to Fay Sias and Emily Mason. We still need to fill two additional vacancies. Several committee members completed their 3-year assignments on the committee. Our current outreach efforts are well defined for 2024, and our missions budget has been approved. This committee operates more like an ongoing (continued on page 3)



MISSION UPDATE (CONTINUED FROM PG 2)

“task force,” so potential committee members might anticipate no more than quarterly update meetings. Are you interested in knowing more? Please contact Doug Wingert at dougwingert@gmail.com.

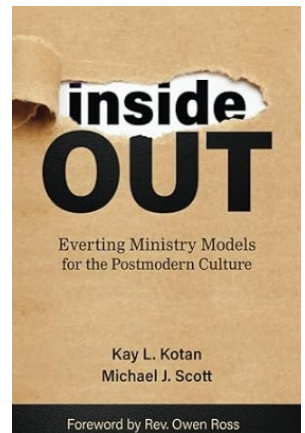


TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV-AIDS Network) – TIHAN’s major fundraising event, “Treasures for TIHAN,” will be held on Saturday afternoon, June 8th at Casino del Sol. Contact TIHAN for more information. Also, Catalina has been re-scheduled to help with TIHAN’s July “Poz” Café instead of August, as had been done in previous years. At the Poz Café, we assist with food and fellowship for those CarePartners living and coping with HIV. Several volunteers will be needed for the July event. More information will follow.

INSIDE OUT, CHAPTER 3 SUMMARY by Dawn Agar

Chapter Three of the book *Inside Out*, titled *Moving Away from Pastor-Centric*, is a discussion on the fast rising and short-lived laity movement that was a significant part of the Methodist movement in its beginning. The laity movement deteriorated because of increased requirements for education and professionalism in the clergy whom, over time, replaced “amateur clergy” i.e., laity. The clergy were given authority over their congregations, changing the roles of laypersons and clergy.

John Wesley was not concerned if preachers were clergy or laity. He thought that as long as we fear nothing and desire only God, each of us can help build God’s Kingdom here on earth. However, the authors suggest, it seems many churches have become “pastor or clergy centric.” This means that the responsibility of all facets of church sustainability falls to the one or few individuals who make up staff and clergy. The church, its staff and its clergy can easily lose touch with the congregation and community due to demands of administration, committee attendance, and service preparation that don’t foster laity participation. There is a ripple effect deployed from the impact a clergy-centric church could have on a disengaged congregation that over time devolves into a culture of complacency or entitlement and promotes and perpetuates acquiescence to the ministry of the one or the few. (continued on page 5)



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

“The Table” tried to reach a group of people that the established congregation was struggling to reach by using different methods than the established congregation was used to.

Author Bob Smietana writes, “Life at the Table is built around a series of small group meetings, known as ‘kitchen tables,’ where people meet for an hour and a half every week to talk about their faith and how they are living it out, using questions from John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who started meetings out by asking, “How is it with your soul?” In addition, the church runs an urban micro farm and a bakery.

By doing this, they were able to reach a younger demographic of people who “...often have felt out of place at other churches, in part because of their more liberal social values...or they have grown up outside the church and were looking for some kind of spiritual connection.”

Whereas we will likely not be using the same method as The Table, in bringing on Pastor Kelli we are trying to embody the same spirit—trying something different to reach a different group of people. As you may know, Pastor Kelli has served multiple churches but also has done work in community organizing. Community organizing is a piece of the overall recommendations from Paul Nixon and a skill set that will help us in our efforts to do something different. The Annual Conference did a nation-wide search to help us find a person like Pastor Kelli who could come and help us in this effort. I really appreciate the support of our Bishop, our District Superintendent, Matt Ashley, and our Conference Director of New and Vital Faith. They listened to our desire for a particular kind of pastor and helped us find one.

What that means is that with Pastor Kelli coming on staff, we are asking her to help us to do something different. As our Associate Pastor, her top priority will be to help us imagine a way to reach a group of people we are struggling to connect with. Although Pastor Kelli will be involved in the usual things like attending committee meetings, praying with church members in the hospital, providing staff oversight of children’s and youth ministries, leading a new worshipping community, etc., we will need to make space for her to do the primary thing we hope for—reaching new people. Doing that will be a top time commitment for her when she joins the staff. (continued on page 6)

Some might think it's ok to be dependent on the one or the few clergy. However, church growth and expansion doesn't come from showing up on Sunday, throwing a buck into the plate and calling it a wrap. Neither is it effective to hire out the footwork of growing the church.

According to the authors, the main focus of clergy, staff and ministry leaders is to identify, recruit and outfit disciples for ministry (laity), equipping them today just as Jesus did (i.e. not in theory as much as in practice). Jesus's disciples walked and worked alongside Him as He traveled and ministered to the many, learning how to do ministry from their experience with him. When the time came to spread the Word upon Jesus's instruction, the disciples were prepared and equipped to engage with others on their own—not needing Jesus by their side to continue the work he started.

As a leader in the community generally, clergy who are depended upon don't have time to interact with other community leaders and groups in order to gather information and resources to be effective in the community they serve. To get there in a pastor-centric environment involves recruiting laity back to the Methodist movement's roots and empower them to share the Gospel and minister beyond the walls of the church—even with those they already share their table with. There is some emphasis added not to place limits or restrictions on who the laity can approach but instead to prepare the laity to minister widely just as Jesus prepared his disciples to minister as well. The authors share a quotation from Joshua Cooper Ramo from his book *The Age of the Unthinkable*:

The moment you hand power over to other people, you get an explosion of curiosity, innovation and effort.

The moment you hand power over to other people, you get an explosion of curiosity, innovation and effort.

We often say, "it takes a village to raise a child." Similarly, it takes every member of the congregation moving from a pastor-centric church to build a laity ministry movement with every one of its member's unique gifts employed to reach every member of the community. The authors present a pretty good case supporting the concept that clergy are responsible for finding and properly preparing individuals to perpetuate the ministry and then those individuals are responsible for tipping the dominoes and on and on it goes. As Christians, we are gifted by God with several roles used for ministry: 1) the Shepherd, 2) the Teacher, 3) the Apostle, 4) the Prophet and 5) the Evangelist. Each role comes with a unique set of strengths and challenges. God gifts a variety of people with a variety of roles because the church needs all of them to present the church in its fullest capabilities.

PASTOR MIKE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

That will take some adjustment on our part. We may have to hire some new part-time staff or identify volunteers to take care of some of the responsibilities Pastor Matt was taking care of. For sure, Pastor Kelli and I will have to discuss how she and I will share the various pastoral duties. But these adjustments that we will have to make are for us to be able to create a new church system that gets different results than we are currently getting *because it will be different*.

My vision of this comes from the story of Central United Methodist Church and the Table. While continuing to minister to and involve the established congregation in the various ministries of the church, they also decided to put their faith in God—by having the faith that God could do something new in their midst. I am sure it was exciting to do so. I am sure that it was frightening to do so. Because faith involves risk. If we were certain about what everything will look five years down the road for us, we wouldn't need faith.

As we get closer to this transition, I ask you to join me in doing two things: pray for both these pastors as they make this transition in both their lives and pray for our church. I know many of you are already doing this. I know that prayers for our church have already helped us in making the first bold step we have already taken—committing to doing something different.

I pray that this will be a moment we look back on and find warmth in our heart and see that our faith helped us move into a new future with God—one we cannot yet see. To me, it's worth the risk to see where God will lead us. —*Pastor Mike*

2024 Desert Southwest Annual Conference

June 13-16, 2024

Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701

To register: <https://dscumc.org/annual-conference/annual-conference-registration/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEEKERS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays at 8:45-9:45am, Room H-230—A desire to enrich your understanding and faith is the only requirement. Join us for a variety of video-based lessons led by volunteer teachers from the class.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Our study is **When You Pray** by Kelly Minter along with five other authors. The study includes video access and is available on Amazon and Christianbook.com. We begin Wednesday, April 10th for a six-week study. We meet in room H230 from 9:30 to 11:30am. Hope you will join us. Contact Brenda Halferty for more information and to register. bjhalferty@gmail.com or 520-481-6993

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: We meet weekly on Wednesday mornings in Room E23 at 6:45 am. For those whose schedules allow, we plan on going to breakfast at 8:00 am following Bible Study.

KOINONIA CLASS FOR ADULTS: A . BEGINNING MAY 12 -- "Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White" (especially important in an election year). Everyone is welcome! Led by Rev. Dr. Kirk Reed. Everyone is welcome!

CATALINA BREAKFAST CLUB: May 4, 9-10am, H-230 Our next breakfast speaker will be Joan Ashcraft speaking on the importance of the arts. Best \$4 breakfast in Tucson!

TOGETHER TUESDAYS: May 7, 5:30-6:30, Fellowship Hall Join us for a child centered worship titled "Jesus Stops the Storm."

Blenman Elementary School Teacher Appreciation Breakfast Catalina UMC would like to thank the teachers for their dedication with a breakfast on May 7th. If you would like to bake breakfast foods, provide fruit or juice, please contact Deborah Williams at rlwdn@cox.net. Thank you in advance!

2020 General Conference...In 2024! The delayed 2020 United Methodist General Conference will be starting at the end of April 2024. If you are interested in information regarding the Conference you can check out the main page for General Conference at: <https://dscumc.org/annual-conference/>

Catalina UMC Foundation Workshop - Everyone Needs an Estate Plan" Saturday, May 11, 10am-noon, Fellowship Hall Sponsored by CUMC Foundation Board, light refreshments will be served as we discuss Wills, Trusts and Medicaid. Please RSVP to Kinghorn Law at 520-529-4000 or at their website www.kinghornlaw.com/law/event/wills-trusts-medicaid-workshop-05-11-2024/

(continued on page 8)

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR...

...for Shirley Wicklund who has been hospitalized
...the health and wellbeing of Pat Newton and Pat Cooper.

...Lorel's health.

...Billy and his family who need prayers for healing.

...Jerry Parker and Holly Craig as they face health issues. Please no calls or visits, cards always welcome.

... health and healing for all suffering illness and recovering from recent surgery.

...our churches: Grace UMC, Douglas; Huachuca UMC; Menlo Park UMC, Tucson.

...an end to war, violence and suffering for all peoples in conflict.

We need all the prayer that we can get...During any time of uncertainty, if you have a prayer need that you would like lifted up to the congregation on this page, please send your request to matt@catalinamethodist.org or just [click here](#).



SPECIAL FUND FOR H1-B VISA FEES

We are seeking assistance in supporting the legal fees incurred for obtaining a Visa for our organist Mariana. The application and fees are approximately \$10,000. We are grateful for all donations which can be made on our website at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z48K/>

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Info Now Available for 2024 Desert SW UMC Annual Conference: This year's Annual Conference will occur on June 13-16, 2024, at the Tucson Convention Center. Some events will be held here at CUMC. Details about the event and hotel registration will be published soon at <https://dscumc.org/blog/2024/02/20/2024-annual-conference-in-person-and-live-streamed/>

We're excited to worship with you! Join us every Sunday at 10:00am for service in the Sanctuary. If you would like to join us via livestream, visit www.catalinamethodist.org

Catalina UMC office is open Mon-Thur, 10am-3pm.

We're here to help in any way we can and it's always nice to have visitors!

To submit articles to the newsletter please contact Susan O'Brien at office@catalinamethodist.org Deadline to submit is the 20th of each month.