

Santa Cruz Valley United Methodist Church **CRUZ NEWZ**

February 2012



Santa Cruz Valley United Methodist Church

PO Box 1549, Sahuarita Arizona 85629

Phone: 520-282-4085

See us at: www.scvumc.org or [facebook.com/scvumc](https://www.facebook.com/scvumc)

Meeting at 70 E. Sahuarita Road

Worship at 9:00 a.m. Sunday

WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR! Performing Friday evening, February 3, 7 p.m. at our church!
This great group of children from Uganda will share a multimedia presentation, songs and testimonies. A love offering will be taken, and there will be a chance to sponsor a child. T-shirts, CDs, DVDs and African crafts will also be for sale. This is a Missions project of our church family, and we encourage you to bring friends and family to this outstanding event.

MARK'S MUSINGS

Years ago I received the diagnoses that I have general food allergies. This diagnoses alone is not very helpful. On a regular basis I break out in spots (like mosquito bites) and rashes, but I have never been able to figure out what food is the culprit.

I've talked to a doctor about doing allergy testing. He said that this could be done, though my insurance wouldn't cover it. I decided to wait a bit longer. My big break-through, though, came when my daughter told me that she thought we had a bug problem. She hadn't seen any bugs, but was having a lot of bites. She was surprised when I suggested that she has food allergies—just like me! Immediately she went into detective mode, and came back with the theory that we are allergic to annatto. I had never heard of it! After some experimentation, I think that she is right.

Annatto, sometimes known as roucou or achiote, is used as a natural coloring to make foods more yellow or orange. Since it is a natural ingredient, foods using it can be labeled as "all natural" or "no artificial colors". It also doesn't have to be listed by name in the ingredients (it's food additive number is E160b)! Are you wondering yet what foods might use annatto? The list includes: yellow cheeses; margarine; butter; rice; custard powder; ice-cream; smoked fish; confectionaries; and preserved meats. Wouldn't you know that instead of being allergic to one food I'm allergic to an ingredient that is used in a lot of foods!

Over the last several months I have been trying to figure out what foods are OK for me to eat. I've decided that I don't like being allergic to annatto! My diet is further complicated by my problem with kidney stones, and the resulting food restrictions. I hate to even mention my high cholesterol! The ironic part is that since I started avoiding foods that contain annatto my allergic reactions are far worse when I slip up and eat something that I shouldn't—like a piece of cheese. Life was so much easier when I didn't know what foods were bad for me, and I could just eat what I liked (and in some cases, loved)!

I think that sometimes we have this same reaction towards Christianity. Christianity helps us to have a stronger, healthier, life. As a part of this, it teaches us choices that are good for us, and instructs us on other choices that we should avoid. The problem is that often we prefer the things that are bad for us. Once we learn our lessons, we can't just un-learn them. We now have to make a conscious choice to be faithful to our commitment to Christ and the teachings that we have accepted, or to choose to follow our desires wherever they take us.

I'm trying hard to make good choices, and to live a healthy life-style. It's not always easy. For me, though, it's the path that I want to follow. Why choose to live a weaker, unhealthier, lifestyle when so much more is being offered to us? Each of us gets to make our own choices. I've decided on my choice. ---*Your brother in Christ, Mark*

SERMON SCHEDULE

February 5: Isaiah 40:21-31, "Wings Like Eagles"

February 12: 2 Kings 5:1-14, "Let Him Come To Me"

February 19: Mark 9:2-9, "Listen to Him!"

February 26: 2 Kings 2:1-12, "I Will Not Leave You"

This year Ash Wednesday is on February 22 (quiz: what day of the week is this?). We will be having two services, at 6:30 a.m. and noon. Each service will last about 30 minutes and will include the placement of an ash cross on our foreheads. The ash crosses serve as a sign of mortality and repentance. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, which is the season that prepares us for Easter.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Children's Ministry will continue working with our new curriculum this month. The theme has been the "Miracles of Jesus." January 8th we had an introduction to these materials and all the volunteers went through the stations. It was fun! Anyone who would like to be a part of this is welcome and the plan is there for you!

In February we will focus on "Jesus, Our Friend," which even ties in with Valentine's Day. We will be supporting the Food Bank by collecting canned food in our children's service. We'll be memorizing scripture that we can store in our minds and our hearts. Parents - be watching for the "little Bibles". ---*Elaine Kloetzly, Children's Ministry Director*

ACTS NEWS

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - Our ACTS teens will be at the doors on Sunday, February 5 to collect donations of money and canned goods for the Sahuarita Green Valley Food Bank. Please give generously to this cause, which benefits local charities across the country.

ACTS SUMMER MISSION TRIP team is looking for teens and adults interested in serving the Navajo Reservation June 21-29. This trip will be filled with both social and work oriented jobs led by Youthworks.

A fundraiser for the above-mentioned mission trip is **PARENTS NIGHT OUT** on Saturday, February 11. Let ACTS teens and adult volunteers entertain your kids while you enjoy an evening out! Cost is \$20 for the first child and \$5 for each additional. Contact Sheri at slhicks@cox.net or 247-0861 to reserve your spot!

Another fundraising event will be the annual **SPAGHETTI DINNER** on Sunday, February 17. For \$7 each person gets a delicious plate of spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, beverage and dessert. Get your tickets early!

The Youth are also selling **Little Caesar Pizza Kits** and still may have access to boxes of **tomatoes**, which they are selling to raise funds for their mission trip. A 10- pound box is \$10 – great for eating, freezing and sharing! See me if interested. --- *Sheri Hicks, Youth Director*

Youth Sunday in January at Green Valley Community Church and Santa Cruz Valley



OPPORTUNITIES

COME SUPPORT THE "RELAY FOR LIFE" EVENT

On March 30th & 31st, the American Cancer Society is holding its annual "Relay for Life" event. This year it will be held at Anamax Park in Sahuarita. This is an overnight event starting at 5:30 p.m. and closing at 11:00 a.m. The event's purpose is to raise funds to fight cancer and create cancer awareness. Cost to register is \$20.00, which includes a t-shirt. The deadline for a t-shirt is February 7th. Register now – our team needs your help to fight cancer.

"ACTS" represents the youth and any other teenager who wants to register may contact Sheri at slhicks@cox.net or Gina Klinberg at gklingberg@me.com for more information. "Cruzin' for a Cure" has a team and needs more members. You can contact Linda Diaz at diazlinda@cox.net.

"Relay for Life" needs your help. Please support us. Remember, "Cancer Never Sleeps".

SOUND BOOTH TRAINING - a training session on how to operate equipment in the sound booth will be held on Saturday, February 18 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. If you would like to learn more about this ministry, we invite you to attend this session. --- *Wayne Craig*

The Sahuarita-Green Valley **FOOD BANK** was the recipient of 40# of food and \$60 for our January contribution from Santa Cruz Valley UMC. Thanks to one and all. I will be in the church parking lot with my blue van with the back open about 8:30 on the 3rd Sunday of every month, to accept money and non-perishable food items.

We are already starting to wrap gifts for the **AMADO CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS 2012**. Our next wrapping session will be Thursday morning, February 23 at the Amado Food Bank. Let me know (648-6414) if you will be able to help. All we need you to bring is scotch tape and scissors. We have donated wrapping paper. Thanks.
---Sue Henning

HAPPENINGS

NEW – A Meeting for People with Chronic Illnesses

For those of you who suffer with chronic illnesses and feel alone, well...you are not alone! Come meet with others who have felt the same way. See how we can help each other and even help ourselves. With God's help we can get through everything together!!! We will meet at Santa Cruz Valley United Methodist Church, 70 E. Sahuarita Road, Sahuarita
Dates: Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. February 8 and 22
Any questions may be directed to Victoria Wiedle at 520-393-9408

WITTY STITCHERS will meet February 1 and 15 at the church – talk to Sharon Craig or Judy Freeman for more info about this lively and helpful group. Minimal or no knitting or crocheting skills are needed! New projects are starting – this is a great time to get involved.

FOOD BANK items will be collected on Sunday, February 19.

MEN'S GROUP will be gathering February 11 and 25, 7:30 a.m. at the church. There will be devotion and fellowship time, coffee and treats. Please join us! Questions may be directed to Dick Snow at 648-5737.

CARING HANDS ministry is always looking for things to do, and for people to help! We provide meals, rides to appointments and other assistance to folks in our church family who have new family additions, are ill, have surgery or need help for other reasons. To activate Caring Hands for yourself or refer someone, contact Lynda Ashcraft at 609-5977.

FRESH FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR are always in season. Speak with Judy Freeman or Sharon Farnbach if you would like to provide a bouquet or arrangement some Sunday.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS open meeting takes place at the church on Thursday evenings at 7; the first meeting of each month is a speaker meeting and a deaf interpreter is provided.

THE LIBERTY VOICES – America's premier a cappella stylists and vocal ambassadors to the world.

This group will perform at Desert Skies United Methodist Church in Tucson on Sunday, February 19. They will be in worship at the 9:30 a.m. service, and in concert at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome. A free will offering will be taken.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

North SIFT Ladies meet at the church on Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

South SIFT Ladies meet Fridays at 1 p.m.

SNOW Bible Study meets at Bitkers' Green Valley home Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

RICE Bible Study meets at the church twice a month, Sundays at 5 p.m. February 12 and 26.

Ladies' Once-A-Month Group meets in participant homes on the first Monday each month. February 6.

Thursday LIFT meets at the Wilke home in Rancho Sahuarita at 7 p.m.

SNOWBIRD Group meets Sunday evenings at 6:30 at the home of Bob and Betty Cripe in Green Valley.

Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Table for more information about the groups and the appropriate contact person. You will be blessed through the fellowship, study and growth that come from being involved in a small group. New group leaders and topics are welcome. Speak to Pastor Mark if you have an idea!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CORNER

WOMEN'S CONNECTION - The February 15th luncheon will feature "The Wardrobe That Works – Spending Less and Looking Terrific" by our speaker, Joanne Wallace. Reservations are a must by calling Ruby 393-1478 or e-mail to jlevi2@cox.net no later than Feb. 10th. Menu will include pork chop, roasted red potatoes, steamed rice, Waldorf salad, and pastry with fresh strawberries. Cost is \$14.

LADIES' DAY 2012 at the Youth Haven Arizona Ranch takes place February 17 and 18 (identical programs each day) from 9 to 3:30. \$20 registration includes lunch. Check out youthhaven.org for more information.

The ladies' Bible Study groups are presenting **LADIES' SPRING LUNCHEON AND RENEWAL** on Saturday, March 17. Speaker Ruth Rehm will present a morning session called "Step Out of the Box & Begin a New Venture," and an afternoon session, "Sitting at the Feet of Jesus." Luncheon will be served between, and it will include gluten-free options. The event will begin at 10 a.m. and finish around 3 p.m. If you are unable to attend the entire day, please come for whatever parts you can! Ladies of all ages, and guests, are invited to be part of this. There will be music and a great time of fellowship and learning. Prayer Pals may be selected, if you want to participate in this. Babysitting will be provided if needed. Reservations are being taken on Sundays prior to and after church, and there is a cost of \$5. Please join us in this 2nd annual spring ladies' day for church family and friends. For more information speak to Lynda Ashcraft, Barb Best or Barbara Lauber.

Corazon Ministries' WOMEN OF HEART RETREAT is Saturday, April 21, in Tucson, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Retreat theme is "Daughters of the King," with guest speaker Debbie Moon. The cost is \$30; location is the Y.W.C.A. in Tucson. Register online at www.corazonministries.org or speak with Barbara Lauber for more information.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

As time goes on and we get more settled in our church, systems need to be established in order to maintain order in our limited storage spaces throughout the church. Recently, we've established guidelines for storing items in the storage room-and now the limited space that is in the "kitchen" area has required attention. The kitchen cabinets have been organized and shelves will be labeled this weekend so we all will know where to find things-and where to replace them. Through the organizing process we learned that you have been very generous about bringing supplies - and now we are overloaded with paper products, plastic cutlery, etc!! Kathie Bitker and Wanda Butler have volunteered to keep track of kitchen inventory so if you notice a shortage of something there, please contact one of them and they will take care of replenishing. We have a lot of supplies on hand that are now kept in the storage room, so PLEASE do not bring items for the kitchen unless you have previously confirmed that the item is needed. Thanks for your cooperation in keeping the "kitchen" organized. ---**Kathie Bitker & Wanda Butler**

Hi Cruzers - those of you who are active in some of the many other events (besides Sunday morning worship) that take place in our building need to be aware that we use 2 separate calendars to keep track of things. Both are accessible from our web site, by clicking the "Calendar" link on the left side of the home page. You'll now see 2 calendars to choose from: Church Event Calendar and Church Building Use Calendar. The Event calendar is the one most of you are familiar with, and contains most of the meetings and public events that take place each week. For those who wish to plan a new event, please check the Building Use calendar as well. There are cleaning crews and other things that go on, and these may conflict with your plans. ---**Wayne Craig**

THANK YOU NOTES



Pastor Mark,

I think the week got away from me here but I wanted to take a moment and thank you and the Church for the wonderful Potluck for Stephanie on January 22!!! It was the sweetest day ever and I know she felt welcomed and glad to be home. It is blessings like this that make us so grateful to have a church home and to see God's love working in all our lives. Thank you, ---**Vicki and Stephanie Moore**

Great job, Road Crew! My thanks to Barbara & John Lauber, Johnny Ashcraft, Wayne Craig, Vern Butler, Jay & Michelle Fisher and Dawson Wilke for coming out for our Adopt-A-Roadway duties in January. Our next opportunity will be in May. We will probably have a new location by then - I'll keep you posted. ---**Lynda Ashcraft**

Dear SCV Family - Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift of money! That was so thoughtful of you. I bought new running shoes, which I needed! It has helped motivate me to continue working out and taking care of myself. Thank you so much for thinking of me. SCV is a blessing to my family. Hugs and blessings ---**Sheri Hicks**

BLAST FROM THE PAST

February 2005 CRUZ NEWZ announced that Santa Cruz Valley would be officially chartered by the Bishop as a congregation of the United Methodist Church. We began meeting in the gym of Sahuarita High School. \$2,367.50 was donated by our church to UMCOR tsunami victims relief, and 132 pounds of food were given to the Food Bank. Check out the entire newsletter from February 2005 on the church web site.

CHURCH STAFF AND VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- **PASTOR:** Mark Conrad, 907-315-3180, revupracing@yahoo.com
- **YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR:** Sheri Hicks, 207-3693, shicks@cox.net
- **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:** Elaine Kloetzly, 393-7348, elaine22m@CenturyLink.net
- **MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Randy Cochran, 981-1547, randingo1110@aol.com
- **BOOKKEEPING & FINANCIAL RECORDS:** Cheryl Chatterton, 399-2898, Cchat29@aol.com
- **CHURCH BULLETIN:** Diana Conway, 344-7456, diana954@q.com
- **WEB MINISTRY:** Wayne Craig, 625-9067, waynecraig@cox.net
- **NEWSLETTERS:** Lynda Ashcraft, 609-5977, lhashcraft@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, office@santacruzvalleychurch.org