

Mission



Rev Ben Larson-Wolbrink

The Faith Church Mission Committee felt moved last year by the call for help from the Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM) at the University of Arizona at Tucson. Through personal contacts, the Committee learned what the PCM was trying to do with young adults at U of A.

The Committee decided they wanted to help make a difference in the lives of these young people. The committee learned that research indicates that 85-90% of young people leave the Presbyterian Church (USA). Also that most leave when they are 16-24 years of age. Research also shows that of those who leave, 20% come back to the Presbyterian Church (USA) while 15% go to other churches and an alarming 65% go NOWHERE to worship.

It is clear that when this age group has the opportunity to be involved with a PCM program that program can make a difference. This ministry encourages and facilitates participation and involvement in PCM varied programs so that they can retain and maintain a key connection to a faith community.

During the Committee's visit to this exciting program last year, the group wanted to support PCM with not only our gift of money but our gift of time and effort and looked at ways to do just that!

Through our connection with Rev Ben Larson-Wolbrink and working with Pastor Dave, the Committee will be sharing with all of our congregation the talent and goodness of these young adult Presbyterians. They are musically talented. They have stories to tell about their ministries to others. They can share experiences in how they bring others to the Christian Center at U of A for fun and group activities. They give their time and energy to local, national and world-wide projects.

The Committee then looked at how we can share with all of the congregation what we discovered about this special program. With Pastor Dave's help, our connection is planned.

On February 28th Rev. Ben and some of the students in PCM will be involved in our worship service and, at brunch after the 10:00 a.m. service, they will tell about their experiences in PCM and entertain us with their music.

Our Mission Outreach Trip this year will be to Tucson again, but this time we will be putting on one of their dinners where we will prepare their weekly dinners and join them in a worship service following dinner. As the trip information is confirmed and details set for April 6th, the Committee will let everyone know how they can be involved.

The Mission Committee thanks the congregation so much for their support and involvement. **Please mark you calendar for February 28th when PCM comes to Faith Church and April 6th when Faith Church members will go to PCM.**

Submitted by: Gerri Kiessel



**“Sheriff Joe? Oh, no.
But a cup of joe? Si.”**

It's a great read, in case you missed the article by E.J. Montini, Arizona Republic columnist, in his article dated 9/13/09. He starts by writing, “I decided to stop yapping about America's illegal-immigration problem and solve it. So I got into my truck, drove from the newspaper's downtown office to the stark, lovely desert foothills of north Phoenix where I ... bought a couple of pounds of Mexican coffee. Done.

After all of our arguing over border fences, law enforcement and civilian patrols, it turns out that the solution to illegal immigration doesn't lie with Sheriff Joe, but with a cup of joe.”

Montini continues by describing his chat with the Rev. Mark Adams and the part that the Presbyterian Church played in helping Just Coffee get started. The success of the venture then led Tommy Bassett III and others to create the Fair Trade Center in Douglas, AZ and to use the first Just Coffee across the Border in Agua Prieta as a model to help farmers in other parts of Mexico form their own cooperatives.

The article ends with the comment that Mark Adams' faith and the Mexican farmers have taught him (Mark) that a great idea, like great coffee, takes time to percolate.

If you would like to read the entire article, stop by the table when Just Coffee is being sold, and we will be glad to give you one. Remember, a pound of Just Coffee makes a wonderful gift and/or a thoughtful hostess gift.

Happy New Year!!

Submitted by: Phyllis Diamond