

January
2011

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mesa
805 N. Country Club Dr. Mesa, AZ 85201-4105

Volume 100,
Issue 8

The Builder



INVITE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR TO CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 5 PM OR 11 PM

**CANDLELIGHT, CAROLS AND COMMUNION
WILL BE A PART OF BOTH SERVICES**

"NATIONS WILL COME TO YOUR LIGHT"

**CHRISTMAS IS MORE THAN A DAY.
IT'S A SEASON!**

Plan to hear the Good news in a family oriented worship on
Sunday, December 26 at 9 AM and then join in the practice of
encouraging one another as we enter the Epiphany season January 2nd and 9th.
Classes that usually meet after worship will not meet December 26 or January 2.



THANK YOU! AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL WHO READ
THIS NEWSLETTER! We just want to thank you all for so
many kindnesses shown us this past year.

- Pastor Bill, Michele Roberts, Ken, Bonnie, Jerri and Sophia

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Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 2nd at 10:15 AM

Moderator Jerry Shepherd will report on the status of Blessed to Be a Blessing construction, and he will present for your vote several minor changes to our church constitution that streamline the nominating process by setting all terms of office as two years instead of one. You will also be able to vote on a revised Trust Fund Policy that follows Christian Church Foundation recommendations for drawing down funds in a prudent fashion. The proposed changes, and a proposed budget for 2011, are on display in the narthex. **You can also hear first hand about a \$50,000 grant** we received that includes \$35,000 in clergy renewal activities for our pastor in 2011. There are funds available also to hire a sabbatical interim pastor during Bill's absence May 8—Sept 7. Hear what it will mean for us as a congregation, and what we hope to accomplish as well.

Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

Nov 21	142	Attendance & Gifts	\$1,859.00
Nov 28	77	Attendance & Gifts	\$2,848.96
Dec 5	89	Attendance & Gifts	\$2,709.50
Dec 12	96	Attendance & Gifts	\$1,096.00



- Birthdays of the Month**
- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 4 Trisha Junkin | 18 Mary Jacobs |
| 9 Caleb Donaldson | 24 Phyllis Aikmus |
| 12 Alyson Bell | 27 David James Jr. |
| 13 Shirley Hughes | 30 Chiyo Beasley |
| 13 Lindsey Jacobs | 30 Jerry Shepherd |
| 16 Doris Bridge | 31 Kristen Way |
| 17 Angela Thorpe | |

2011 Average Monthly Expense: \$12,226.33

January

Elder 9 AM Service Schedule

January 2nd - Ron Wright

January 9th - Chiyo Beasley

January 16th - Bonnie Bezon

January 23rd - Michele Walker

January 30th - Ann North

Holiday Recycling Comeback Cards

You can give your old holiday greeting cards a future life by donating them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, an organization for abused, abandoned, and neglected children.

The children earn money by removing the fronts of donated cards to make new ones sold in packets of 10. This year's cards will be accepted through February 28, 2011.

You can mail your donations to:

St. Jude's Ranch for Children
 Recycled Card Program
 100 St. Jude's Street
 Boulder City, NV 89005

- submitted by Kay Ann Green



Sunday January 2nd

*All are welcome to a holiday
 Open House at the home of
 Bill & Mary Jacobs
 1831 E Carver, Tempe*

**Drop in any time
 between 3 and 7 pm.**

Thank you to all who once again helped out with the purchase of Christmas gifts for Mesa families who have experienced a difficult year of household transition and financial hardship these past months. You made Christmas happen for two Save the Family households, and contributed a total of \$ 600 from your household pocketbooks for others less fortunate.

You would think that after 25 years in Arizona I'd have taken one of those raft trips down the Colorado River by now.

Not really, not planning on it either. It's not hard to imagine what goes on during such a trip, however. You start out slow ... *"This will be fun, this is beautiful"* ... Then excitement ... *"That was a thrill"*

Then challenge ... *"Hey, this isn't going to be all picnics and prayer meetings, is it?"* ... then rest ... *"We'll need it, you say?"* Up ahead, they say, are rough places that will leave you saying: *"I can't believe we survived that one!"* ...

And there is the sense that the journey will never end... ***"Should we rest here, or press on?"*** ... Finally, you come to understand that you do have a destination, and are reaching it, and you say quietly: ***"So, God, this is where you've taken me."***

And in between, **lots and lots of beautiful moments.** That was the year we had here, too. We started out slow, but soon dove into a year of adventures and accomplishments, a centennial year that brought surprises and challenges, a year that now is taking us to new destinations.

What we experienced this fall in our new fellowship hall was **a kind of a cast party** – a chance to look at the various actors and crew we do not often see at work in our place – Tongan musicians, Hispanic church school teachers, passionate pastors and elders, smiling volunteers showing that they too want to pitch in and help.

My sense of FCC right now is that it is becoming aware of the seeds sprouting within its fertile soil, that the new faces in our sanctuary signal a year or two of programmatic surprises ahead.

I have seen leaders move into new places of service – moving from church school teacher to elder and from there to active service on the church Board. Some have moved from evangelism to mission and back again. We move from worship to education to mission to evangelism and back to worship again. Whew!

Some of our members have gone from underemployed to overly busy, from anxious to able, to anxious again, some knee-deep in new ministry initiatives, others plowing familiar ground.

What comes next for us is a five-hour day of discernment in January that is entitled: Let Your Life Speak. It is a day of personal self-study and corporate discovery of the gifts we each bring to ministry, and a blessing of those gifts.

I for one can't wait to see what such a process will tell me about me. And about each of you, so I can better serve you as your pastor. Please join me on that day in the Eaton Friendship Center. We've asked Rev. Erin Wathen to be one of our guest facilitators, and child care will be available for those who request it.

See you there,




MAKING CONNECTIONS JANUARY 8, 11 AM

Who: All WOMEN including teens

What: Generational Connections and Discoveries - Brunch and Conversation

When: Saturday, January 8, 11 AM

Where: Eaton Friendship Center

Make your reservation today by calling 480-833-7312, church office, or emailing: mesafirst@yahoo.com.

**COMPANIONS IN CHRIST STUDY
Tues., Jan. 4th, 11 AM,
in Café Christian**

Wanting to start a new spiritual practice in the New Year? Join in us in a five week small group study
Exploring Spiritual Guidance.

Two additional adult study groups meet Sundays after worship:

Disciples Mission study meets at 10:20am in the sanctuary,
and the Book of Genesis Bible Study meets in the North Corner Room.

WHAT NEWS FROM THE "GOOD NEWS" PEOPLE AT FCC ?

About once a month a group of dedicated volunteers work up a short list of things that might help our church to grow and reach persons whose lives are without a meaningful relationship with God and with church.

The current members of the Evangelism team are Chiyo Beasley, Eileen Anderson, Michelle Marlatt, Zada Toohy and LaVerne Thorpe as team leader. After October and November meetings, the following suggestions were promptly put into action by church staff:

- Reserve a couple of parking spaces for first time visitors immediately across from our front entrance, and mark them as such.
- Add the name and phone number of an Elder to the bulletin in addition to the invitation to speak with a pastor, thinking that this would open another avenue for a visitor or newcomer who wanted to speak to someone or wanted prayer.
- Include a better explanation of our method of communion in the bulletin in bold print so that first time folks are not confused.
- Bring the coffee cart in the entryway closer to the front door so people would not feel they were intruding on the people who have fellowship at the table in the foyer. It took installing a new outlet to make this change possible. Thank you, Craig Campbell

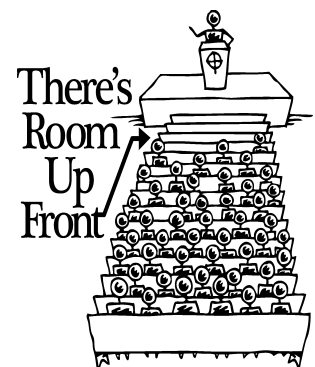
We also set aside two Sunday evenings where we invite friends and neighbors for social time.

We will have a Soup and Game Night at 3pm on January 9th and a Movie Night at 3pm on February 20th. We are hoping we will be able to get the youth to pass out flyers for these events.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH?

Of course you have. More than a few of you are "regular" visitors to FCC, and would be welcomed as members of FCC but you just wonder what that means. Pastor's Class is coming soon. Membership deepens our relationship, helps us all share the joys and costs of discipleship in this time and place, and makes possible a mutuality and accountability to each other before God.

By coming forward on Sunday during the Hymn of Responding you express publicly that you are available to God in ministry here. The rest of your life decisions follow from that primary "yes". Maybe church membership could be a part of your Christmas giving, and lead you to a New Year joined with all God's people in prayer.



PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE CHURCH CONSTITUTION to be considered Sunday, January 2, 2011
ARTICLE II. THE CHURCH BOARD

Current language:

E. Meetings

Meetings of the Church Board shall be held at least once each calendar quarter. Regular meetings of the Church Board shall be called by vote of the Board. Special meetings of the Church Board, shall be called by the Church Board, or by the Moderator, or upon written request to the Moderator signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the voting members of the Board. Notice of all meetings of the Church Board shall be given by mail by announcement at a Sunday worship services of the Congregation at least one week prior to the meeting. A quorum of at least 51% of the voting members of the Church Board shall be required for the transaction of any business.

Proposed new language:

E. Meetings

Meetings of the Church Board shall be held at least once each calendar quarter. Regular meetings of the Church Board shall be called by *the Moderator*. Special meetings of the Church Board shall be called by the Church Board, or by the Moderator, or upon written request to the Moderator signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the voting members of the Board. Notice of all regular meetings of the Church Board shall be given *at a Sunday worship service* of the Congregation at least one week prior to the meeting. A quorum of at least 51% of the voting members of the Church Board shall be required for the transaction of any business.

ARTICLE III. ELECTED OFFICIALS

Current language:

7. Terms of Office

Officers shall be elected for terms of one year, and all officers shall serve until a successor is elected and assumes office. Officers may serve a total of three successive terms, and after the third term shall not be eligible for re-election to that position for at least one term. Approximately one third (1/3) of the officers elected at any regular election shall be persons new to the position to which they are elected and not officers being re-elected.

Proposed new language:

7. Terms of Office

Officers shall be elected for terms of *two years* and each officer shall serve until a successor is elected and assumes office. *Except for the Treasurer*, officers may serve a total of two successive terms and after the *second* term shall not be eligible for re-election to that position for at least one term.

ARTICLE IV. THE MINISTRY

Current language:

D. Diaconate

6. Officers and Other Members

The chairperson of the Diaconate shall be elected by the Congregation upon nomination by the nominating committee, shall serve a term of one year, and shall be a member of the Church Board by virtue of that office. Captains of the Diaconate shall be elected by the Congregation upon nomination of the nominating committee and shall serve a term of one year. Other officers may be elected by the Diaconate at their discretion. All other member of the Diaconate shall be appointed by the Church Board upon nomination by the officers of the Diaconate.

Proposed new language:

D. Diaconate

6. Officers and Other Members

The chairperson of the Diaconate shall be elected by the Congregation upon nomination by the nominating committee, shall serve a term of *two years*, and shall be a member of the Church Board by virtue of that office. Captains of the Diaconate shall be elected by the Congregation upon nomination of the nominating committee and shall serve a term of *two years*. Other officers may be elected by the Diaconate at their discretion. All other members of the Diaconate shall be appointed by the *chairperson and captains of the Diaconate*. (Continued on p. 6)

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO OUR CHURCH CONSTITUTION, continued from page 5

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Current language:

This Constitution may be amended by the Congregation at any regularly called meeting of the Congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the participating members present and voting on the proposed amendment, provided that a written copy of the proposed amendment was mailed to all participating members of record at least two weeks before a vote was taken, and further provide that notice of the meeting at which the vote was taken was read at a regular Sunday worship of the Congregation at least two weeks before the vote was taken.

Proposed new language:

This Constitution may be amended by the Congregation at any regularly called meeting of the Congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the participating members present and voting on the proposed amendment, provided that a written copy of the proposed amendment was mailed **or emailed** to all participating members of record at least two weeks before a vote was taken, and further provided that **written** notice of the meeting at which the vote was taken was **given** at a regular Sunday worship of the Congregation at least two weeks before the vote was taken.

Revisions above were approved by the Board on December 12, 2010, as were Trust Fund Policy revisions below:

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING CAMPAIGN STATUS REPORT

DECEMBER 12, 2010

CAMPAIGN COMMITMENTS SPRING 2010:	\$ 91,210.00
RECEIVED 2010 THROUGH 12/1/2010:	\$ 80,087.26
PAID TO CONTRACTOR FOR BASIC WORK	\$ 52,711.00
OUT OF CONTRACT MATERIALS & LABOR	\$ 28,168.68
TOTAL COST OF CONTRACTS/MATERIALS:	\$ 80,879.68
DONATED LABOR AND MATERIALS (approx)	\$20,000
APPROX VALUE OF WORK COMPLETED:	\$100,879.68
TITHE ON TOTAL PLEDGES TO MISSION:	\$9,121.00
PD IN 2010 FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIP ETC	\$2,530.00
REMAINDER TO BE REC'D FROM PLEDGES:	\$ 11,674.74
TO BE REPAID TO FCC SAVINGS RESERVE	\$ 4,582.74
BALANCE TO GO TOWARD MISSION:	\$ 6,591.00

FCC TRUST FUND POLICY REVISIONS

Current Policy on Disbursement Frequency/ Amt:

Beginning in 2004, the amount to be spent annually shall be an annual withdrawal of 5% of the market value of the Trust Fund's investment portfolio, to be spent in accordance with Section IV(B) below.

Proposed changes:

Each year an amount will be spent from the Trust Fund for ministry in accordance with Section IV(B) below. While the Trust Fund is invested at the Christian Church Foundation, the withdrawal amount shall be the recommended income payout for long term investments as established from time to time by the Christian Church Foundation.

Withdrawals may be made annually, semi-annually, or quarterly. If the Trust Fund is invested somewhere other than Christian Church Foundation, then the amount to be withdrawn annually shall be 5% of the market value of the Trust Fund's investment portfolio.

Currently: <Trust Fund Trustees will meet> quarterly on second Monday of Feb, May, Aug & November .

Proposed: <Trust Fund Trustees will> meet annually or more frequently at their option.

SUMMER CAMP 2011 IN PRESCOTT, AZ
SUNDAY, JUNE 26 — THURSDAY, JULY 1
 EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1, 2010.
SPRING TALENT SHOW AND FUNDRAISER IS SAT MAR 5 AT 5:05 PM

January 2011

Worship Schedule

- January 2nd
9:00 am
Chalice
Worship;
- January 9th:
9:00 am
Chalice
Worship;
10:15 am
Sunday School
- January 16th:
9:00 am
Chalice
Worship;
10:15 am
Sunday School
- January 23rd:
9:00 am
Chalice
Worship;
10:15 am
Sunday
School
- January 30th:
9:00 am
Chalice
Worship;
10:15 am
Sunday

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:15 am Congregational Mtg 1:00 pm CYF & CHI RHO 3-7pm Jacobs Open House	3 5 pm Evangel- ism Team 7:15 pm Choir	4 11am Companions in Christ 6pm Praise Band practice	5 1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study	6	7	8 11 am Making Connections 3 pm Elders
9 1:00 pm CYF 3 pm Soup & Games	10 Noon BYKOTA 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 11am Companions in Christ 6pm Praise Band practice	12 1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study	13	14 Youth Snow Trip ➡	15
16	17 Office Closed 7:15 pm Choir	18 11am Companions in Christ 6pm Praise Band practice	19  1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study	20	21	22 9am -2pm "Let Your Life Speak" Retreat
23 1:00 pm CYF	24 1 pm Trustees Mtg 7:15 pm Choir	25 11am Companions in Christ 6pm Praise Band practice	26 9 am Fellowship of the Fold 1 pm Mesa Palms	27	28	29
30	31 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal					



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Mesa, AZ 85201-4105

Stamp

We are on the web at
www.mesadisciples.org

Phone: 480-833-7312
E-mail: mesafirst@yahoo.com

Fax: 480-833-7312
Rev. Bill Jacobs, Pastor

ALL ARE WELCOME AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

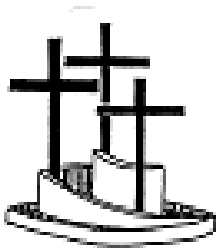
9:00 am Chalice Worship

10:15 am Church school for all ages

* Childcare is provided throughout the morning.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT



In our quest to embody Christian Unity, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we believe God calls us:

OUR VISION: To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.

OUR MISSION: To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.