

February
2011

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

Volume 100,
Issue 9

The Builder



Happy Valentine's Day, Everyone

Love is unseen. It is a bond between hearts, a friendship that never parts.

Love puts sparkle in the eyes and softness in the voice.

Love feels another's woe and goes out of its way to soothe it.

It is a warm feeling toward a neighbor, and a genuine joy in their success.

It is the encouraging smile of a friend.

Love is doing without in order to make the other happy.

*It is walking hand in hand, sharing life together
and enjoying each other's company in perfect contentment.*

Love is not selfish; Love is giving and forgiving.

*Astronomers may search the sky and not find anything
plainly visible or measurable that could be called love, but it is there.*

A naturalist cannot discover what we call love in nature, but it is there.

A surgeon cannot find love in the human body, but it is there too.

Like the wind, love is unseen, but the results prove its presence. God is love.

- Maxine Clark

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Let Your Life Speak moved to Saturday, April 9th

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All this and more are part of a day-long retreat now scheduled for the second weekend in April. Mark your calendars and plan to join us on that day.

Global Ministries

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Calendar

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Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

Dec 19	80	Attendance & Gifts	\$3,365.51
Dec 24	131	Attendance & Gifts	\$236.91
Dec 26	61	Attendance & Gifts	\$7,016.77
Jan 2	67	Attendance & Gifts	\$1,592.00
Jan 9	86	Attendance & Gifts	\$2,175.93
Jan 16	93	Attendance & Gifts	\$1,546.00
Jan 23	76	Attendance & Gifts	\$2,006.31

2011 Average Monthly Expense: \$12,226.33

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- 1 Pal DeJarnatt
- 11 Michele Walker
- 20 Brandon Junkin
- 22 John Taylor

Elder 9 AM Service Schedule
February 6th - Mary Jacobs
February 13th - Ronda Hensley
February 20th - Michele Chambless
February 27th - Danny Thompson

What Is Love?

It is silence when your words would hurt;
It is patience when your neighbor is curt;
It is deafness when the scandal flows;
It is thoughtfulness for another's woes;
It is promptness when stern duty calls;
It is courage when misfortune falls.

Update Your Church Directories

Chiyo Beasley new telephone: 480 962 9709



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 Mesa, AZ 85201-3452

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 Mesa, AZ 85201-6102



**First Christian Church
 New Members:**

- Rudy & Eileen Anderson**
- Eiz Litts**
- Michele Fairfax**

“Who knew there were so many angels hanging around at the corner grocery store? It makes me proud to think that every day people capable of such **bravery, love and compassion** shop and park in that same strip mall on the corner of Ina and Oracle in Tucson where I used to share coffee with friends from time to time.

In the immediate aftermath of the Tucson tragedy we were all in shock. But now, along with the sadness of so many terrible losses comes a flood of stories of people willing to place themselves between innocence and evil when called upon to do so - people who stand their ground or put their best foot forward to make a difference facing enormous challenges as others’ lives are threatened.

I am talking about spouses, parents and grandparents shielding their loved ones from harm, neighbors and staffers offering help as needed, keeping alert to the first sign of danger. There were public safety officers, paramedics, doctors and nurses doing their job on a Saturday, and what a difference it



makes that they are there when we need them.

We saw local and state officials, and people serving at all levels in government, doing their level best to make things better for Tucson and for Arizona, and indeed for the nation as a whole. Are they perfect, these “angels”? No. Are they reason enough to give thanks in this time of grieving? Yes.

How many, do you suppose, have been praying for the sick and wounded, offering aid and comfort to friends and relatives of the fallen? How many doctors are unafraid to say that what they are seeing in Gabby’s recovery is nothing short of a miracle? Perhaps that is what it is.

If you want to say you don’t believe in miracles, then go right ahead. You are not alone. Plenty of folks do not believe in miracles. But then you must find another way to explain the incredible

goodness of life that breaks through time and again at moments when despair might have seemed the only option available to us. I choose to call it a miracle, and thank

“We are reminded that... what matters is NOT wealth, or status, or power or fame... but rather how well we have loved... and what small part we have played at making the lives of other people BETTER” - President Barack Obama, Jan 12, 2011

God for it. That is reason alone to continue to surround yourself with people like those at First Christian Church and at so many other churches who DO believe in miracles, and who gladly sign up to share in the ministries of love and compassion undertaken every day here in the name of Christ.

It is often at the lowest points in one’s life that the angel whispers in your ear, saying: “You are not alone. I will see you through.” If we are wise, we will start paying attention to that voice BEFORE we need it so badly, and take to heart its gospel message, starting right now.

I am glad to be able to serve as your pastor in times like

Bill Jacobs

Just for today

I will try to live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all my problems at once. I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just for today I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

Just for today I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can and accept those I cannot.

Just for today I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

Just for today I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I will try to improve my appearance, speak softly and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

Just for today I will refrain from improving anybody but myself.

Just for today I will do something positive to improve my health. I will eat healthfully, if only just for today. And not only that, I will get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

Just for today I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

- Shared at BYKOTA meeting Jan 10, as adapted from the original credo of Al-Anon fellowship

MISSION REPORT

In the final week of December 2010 we sent along the first of several monetary gifts to Church World Service for the construction of a concrete well and concrete foundation for a classroom for women in Chepkechir, Kenya. **These gifts include proceeds from 2010 Centennial fundraisers and the mission tithe from our ongoing Blessed to be a Blessing capital campaign.**

We also supported mission partners in Congo and in Haiti in 2010, and locally we supported Paz de Cristo, Save the Family and new church ministries in Arizona. **Special Day Offerings and Disciples Mission Fund giving made up 12% of overall expenditures in 2010, and total mission giving made up a whopping 19% of total tithes & offerings.**

We collected gifts on Jan 16 to help Joel Leon and family in Haiti, to be sent to him via CONASPEH. We met our goal of \$96 that day. If others want to add to that, please do so before the end of January.

The next local ministry gift opportunity comes as youth greet us after worship on **Souper Bowl Sunday Feb 6th to raise funds for Paz de Cristo**, and then our Week of Compassion offering follows that in late February. You can read more about Week of Compassion online at www.weekofcompassion.com.

Youth Retreats Are Coming !!!

February 12th

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) First Christian Church of Mesa 10:00 am

CYF (grades 9-12) Desert Heritage Church 10:30 am

Registrations due: **Tuesday, February 9th**



CCF (grades 3-5) will have their Snow Day retreat in Payson on Sunday, February 27th

Making Connections

We shared and laughed. We ate. We made connections. Thanks to all who took part in **Women's Intergenerational Café** on Jan 8th.

Watch your worship bulletin for women's group meetings and other activities, and save **Saturday, March 26** for the annual AZ Disciple Women's Ministries **Women's Fair** which will be at First Christian Church of Scottsdale this year. Come and see.

Ever thought about being a youth group sponsor? Join regional leaders at the youth retreat which FCC is hosting Feb 12-13 and see what it's all about.

Also, **Love on Wheels** will take place on Saturday, February 12 this year instead of Sunday to involve youth attending Regional Retreats.

Ask Mary Jacobs, Mark Line or Stacy Putter about this annual youth outreach event and how you can help us out with it this year.

There is no charge for adult registrants.



Register early for the Nashville General Assembly from the website www.disciples.org and join others from FCC in July.

Souper Bowl of Caring comes round again every February. FCC Youth will be receiving donations in soup pots after worship that day. Food staples restock our food pantry at FCC, and the cash you give helps Paz de Cristo feeding ministries in Mesa to continue to offer food and services to struggling families.

Keep in mind, volunteers are needed at Paz every third Sunday.

Sunday, February 6th



Time to Dust off the Will? Or Do You Even Have One ?

It's never too late to draft, revise or append a codicil to your Last Will & Testament... Well, it's ALMOST never too late. During our lifetimes weddings and funerals rearrange our lives in ways we didn't expect, children are born or adopted, grow up or move out on their own.

A change in any of these circumstances often triggers the need to change your estate plan. No household budget is too small for a proper will. If you want your wishes to be followed, it is best to have a will.

Reviewing your will provides new opportunities to make sure the people and charitable causes most important to you are remembered and honored. Have you ever seen a U-Haul attached to the back of a hearse? OK then...

Advice from an attorney and other professional advisors is important, but for a first run-through of ways to make charitable gifts through wills and other instruments, contact the Christian Church Foundation, a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) designed to help church members create a lasting legacy through planned gifts.



Foundation staff are ordained or licensed clergy who understand the local church, financial matters and stewardship. To speak to one, call **(800) 668-8016**

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your gift of \$350.00 made recently to Global Ministries. As you have indicated, \$100.00 will be used in its entirety for rebuilding houses through CONASPEH in Haiti; \$15.00 will be used to provide meals for a participant in the 2011 Arab Group for Christian-Muslim Dialogue Camp in the Middle East; \$40.00 will be used to provide materials for a participant in the 2011 Arab Group for Christian-Muslim Dialogue Camp in the Middle East; \$10.00 will be used to provide students with textbooks in China; \$10.00 will be used to provide Sunday School materials in China; \$12.00 will be used to provide a Biblical commentary for a seminary in China; \$40.00 will be used to purchase metal roofing for a new school in Laos; \$23.00 will be used to provide a bag of concrete for a school in Laos; and \$100.00 will be used to provide computer equipment in Lesotho, all through the Alternative Christmas Program.

Through gifts such as yours, Global Ministries continues the commitment to Critical Presence....meeting God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and/or economically.

Sincerely, Reverend Jane Sullivan-Davis,



Executive for Resource Development, Global Ministries

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Worship Schedule

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 6th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School 	<p>6 Souper Bowl Sunday 1:00 pm Chi Rho & CYF</p>	<p>7 5pm Sabbatical Team 6pm Chimes 7:15 pm Chalice Choir</p>	<p>8 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 Youth Retreat Registrations Due 1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 10 AM Youth Retreats begin Love on Wheels</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 13th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School 	<p>13 3pm Board Meeting</p>	 <p>14 BYKOTA potluck at noon 6 pm Chimes 7:15 pm Chalice Choir</p>	<p>15 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>16  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 20th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School 	<p>20 1:00 pm Chi Rho & CYF 1:30 pm Evangelism mtg 3:00 pm Movie Night</p>	<p>21 4:30 WE/ME 6 pm Chimes 7:15 pm Chalice Choir</p>	<p>22 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 9 am Fellowship of the Fold 1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 DMM @ Saguaro Lake</p>	<p>26</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 27th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School 	<p>27 CCF Snow Outing 1pm CYF</p>	<p>28 6 pm Chimes 7:15 pm Chalice Choir</p>					

CHURCH TALENT NIGHT SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Among our talent offerings this year will be music from the chime choir, which practices Monday evenings at 6 PM before choir. If you are interested in playing with the chime choir, contact Eleanor Simonton at 641-680-1130.



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(Disciples of Christ) of Mesa
805 N. Country Club Dr.
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Stamp

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Rev. Bill Jacobs, Pastor

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

9:00 am Chalice Worship

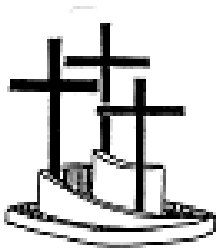
10:15 am Church school for all ages

* 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.