March 2011

Volume 100, Issue 10

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

The Builder

Living Within Your Means For Meaningful Living
11 AM – 2 PM on Saturday, March 5th, 2011

The economic good times of recent years led to consumption patterns and to charitable decisions that may not be appropriate to today's leaner times. This two and a half hour workshop is designed to help mid-career adults and parents of young children to reorient their giving and spending habits in light of the economic realities of life "after the boom". Sound interesting?

Using Biblical texts that directly challenge old assumptions, Rev. Barkhauer has helped many to revisit personal and family priorities. As a parent of three children and as one who has worked both in church and in the private sector, Bruce has struggled like all of us to practice what he preaches. He comes out as a positive advocate for disciplined living and meaningful giving.

A free will donation to cover the cost of lunch and child care would be most welcome.

Workshop leader and guest preacher Bruce A. Barkhauer began serving as the first Director of the Center for Faith and Giving of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. This ministry has as its primary task the creation of a culture of generosity across the life of the whole church. This is his first opportunity to speak to Disciples in Arizona.

Reverend Barkhauer earned his Master of Divinity Degree (magna cum laude) from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN with an emphasis on seeking ways for mainline churches to more fully utilize modern media. Reverend Barkhauer also focused on Stewardship in his Doctor of Ministry studies at Ashland Theological Seminary (Ashland, OH). He supervised field work at Lexington Theological Seminary and also Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

As pastor of First Christian Church, Medina, OH, Rev. Barkhauer co-founded three relief agencies: Project: MUNCH (a hunger program, with the church hosting 7 days of meals each month); Project: HOMES (a ministry to the homeless with multiple churches serving as host to the homeless on a rotating basis); and Operation: MORE-AID (a disaster relief ministry focused on floods in the Midwest in 1993). Hear more about these during church school after worship Mar 6.

In the fourteen years that Rev. Barkhauer was Senior Pastor at First Christian Church, Jeffersonville, IN, the congregation grew both in size and generosity, increasing their partnership with local ministries and serving the poor. Their commitment to the wider mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was marked by ongoing support of Disciples Mission Fund.

Reverend Barkhauer was recognized with Jeffersonville's United in Progress award in Religion, becoming a member of the Council of Sagamours of the Wabash (Indiana's highest civilian award) by then Governor Frank O' Bannon. In 2007 he was named Humanitarian of the Year by the Clark County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

He is married to Laura Jean Barkhauer and has three adult children, Dan, Alan, and Rebekah.

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Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

Jan 30	90	Attendance & Gifts	$ 1,248.63
Feb 6	99	Attendance & Gifts	$ 3,359.00
Feb 13	103	Attendance & Gifts	$ 1,643.95
Feb 20	83	Attendance & Gifts	$ 3,634.00

2011 Average Monthly Expense: $12,226.33

1 Maurica Thompson
1 Marissa Wilson
1 Bob Ahlers
12 Liz Litts
13 Delores Warnecke
17 Diane Clark
18 Kay Ann Green
18 John Marlatt
18 Michele Roberts
28 Joshua Reinhold
29 Craig Campbell

If you do not see your birthday in our monthly celebrations list, please let the Church Office know. We don't wish to miss any parties!

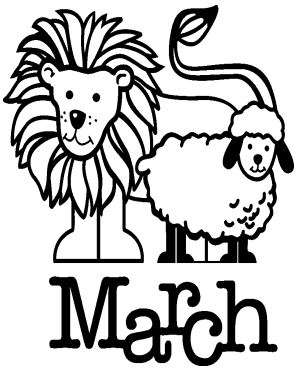
Elder 9 AM Service Schedule

March 6th Ron Wright

March 13th Chiyo Beasley

March 20th Bonnie Bezon

March 27th Michele Walker



***Regina Brett**, columnist for The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio, once wrote "45 lessons life taught me". It is the most requested Plain Dealer column ever written. When her odometer rolled over to 90 last year, they printed it again:*

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. God can take it.
9. Save for retirement, starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.

Continued next month….

Worship Leaders
9 AM Service Schedule

March 6th - Jerry Shepherd

March 13th - _____

March 20th - John Marlatt

March 27th - _____

I have found that most youth like to be honored, welcomed, accommodated and served as much as the rest of us. You did that well last weekend as hosts to the Regional Chi Rho Retreat.

You can never go wrong by complimenting a young person, by catching them doing something right, and commenting on it. But sometimes, too, they respond well when they are given a serious challenge.

That is why it felt so right as we hosted these young people and their sponsors from across the region last weekend that one of the lectionary texts of the day was Deuteronomy 30: 15 – 20. **That passage offers a call to decision which is especially important to young people who face so many critical life decisions during their middle school and high school years.**

Here is what it says:

"I have set before you Life and Good, Death and Evil. Therefore, choose life…"

It's hard to communicate that "choosing life" does not guarantee widespread popularity, ease or plenty, even if the scriptures seem at times to promise that. Sometimes quite the opposite is true. J. K. Rowling, who wrote the Harry Potter books, admits that she endured a string of failures before publishing her first book.

Speaking to Harvard University's graduating class of 2008 Rowling said: **"Failure means a stripping away of the inessential, and when I stopped pretending to myself that I was anything other than what I was, then I began to direct all my energies toward the only work that truly mattered to me."** She was saying what the text was saying, I believe: Forget about failure or success by the world's standards and focus on the REAL YOU. That's what it means to "choose life".

Life and prosperity, promised by many, comes when you embrace that which shimmers beneath the surface of life – the deeper things come to the surface occasionally, shining like gold. What endures after everything else falls away is simply whether you have a living relationship to the God whose only lasting attribute is love.

Choosing God is all that the Bible really asks of you, in the end. It is all that your parents could ever hope from you, all your church demands of you.

You don't have to do everything your pastor says, hard as it is to admit that, nor must you stop in your tracks every time an adult speaks to you.

Minister's Moments

What you have to do, that no one else can do for you, is choose God, keep the God of love in your sights as you press forward, and put yesterday in your rear view mirror where it belongs. Nothing matters as much as God.

J. R. R. Tolkien was the J.K Rowling of my growing up years. I go back to his books from time to time and look for the rare snippets of poetry which I always, whenever I saw them, tried to commit to memory. Here is one that stands out in my mind from, I believe, the last book of the Lord of the Rings trilogy, *Return of the King*:

All that is gold
does not glitter,
not all those who
wander are lost.
The old that is strong
does not wither,
deep roots are not
reached by the frost.

What that meant to me then and still means now is this: If we sink our roots deep into God, we will live where frost cannot hurt us.

I want to share with you what I often share with young campers. I invite you, whoever you are, whatever your age or life circumstance at the present moment, to choose life, so that you, and those who come after you, may truly live.

Bill Jacobs

AZ DWM WOMEN'S FAIR, 2011

"World Religions: Women of Faith"

9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Saturday March 26th

At First Christian Church, Scottsdale

Registration fee: $25 due by March 7th

9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Saturday March 26th at 7405 E. McDonald Drive, Scottsdale, AZ

- **Continental Breakfast & Registration**
- **Meet speakers from other religions**
- **IDWM Theme presentation: Human Trafficking**
- **New AZ DWM Officers will be announced**
- **HAGAR presentation & Blessing boxes for all**
- **Inspirational Worship and Special Music**
- **Interesting & Wondrous Workshops**

Send registration form and $25 fee to FCC or directly to
Jan Kragness, 1456 E Park Avenue, Chandler, AZ 85225 Jan's email: jkragness@aol.com

Sabbatical Interim Pastor Introduced in Worship Feb 20th

"My biggest passion is for God's Church, God's people, and preaching God's Word." - Michele Fairfax

We are pleased to announce that preaching, teaching and pastoral care responsibilities during the summer sabbatical months of May, June, July and August will be undertaken by Rev. Michele Fairfax, formerly of Winston-Salem, North Carolina and serving before that in congregations in Michigan, Indiana and Washington, D. C. Michele is a member of FCC Mesa.

Michele's 2005 ordination was a grand occasion, taking place at United Christian Church, (DoC) her home church in Detroit, MI where Rev. Rufus Lewis, Jr. was her supervising pastor.

Michele had been involved in the production of pilot vehicles for Daimler Chrysler in the years leading up to her call into ministry. She attended Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas and Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis before starting work in North Carolina as *Minister of Older Adults* at First Christian Church (Disciple of Christ) of Winston-Salem, NC from 2007 until she arrived in Arizona in 2010. She starts work on Monday, May 9.

SUMMER CAMP DATES SET— SUNDAY PM TO FRIDAY AM

JUNE 26 - JULY 1 at CAMP PINEROCK, PRESCOTT

Turn in registration to FCC office by April 24th !!!

Although scholarships are available, total AZ camp fees are $300 for those who meet the early deadline.

Harvesting Growth in Permanent Funds 2010

In these uncertain times, there is one prediction we can confidently make: the world will always need the witness of the church! The Good News we are delivering today will be in even greater demand in the future. **Because the world will always need our witness, we have two permanent funds to produce steady streams of income for mission and ministry that grow over time.**

Because of the $944.31 income from our Music Fund, in 2010 we were able to purchase new music for our chalice choir. As this fund grows, we hope to extend our CCLI subscription to pay for sheet music for the band.

The $1,693.78 income from our Permanent Trust Fund supported new church ministries of the region and also wider ministries enabled by our support of Disciples Mission Fund. Some of the income was also applied to the cost of office operations here at FCC.

We are not done growing these funds! You can make a difference now and in the future by your special contributions to these funds. Last year the Music Fund received $600 in contributions and grew in value from $19,292 at the beginning of the year to $21,454 at the end of the year. From January 1 to December 31, 2010 the Trust Fund grew in value from $35,213 to $38,174 even after distributions were made.

We are grateful to all the patient investors who plant and nourish these funds by their good stewardship, estate planning and memorial gifts in honor of loved ones.

Ellen Hoff, Permanent Funds Trustee

Chapman Founders Day March 2011

Chapman University is turning 150 years old this year and a central campus celebration will be held at our 28th Annual Founders Day, **March 18 & 19, 2011**. The **two day** event held on the Orange, CA campus has many strong options for participants to enjoy under the theme, **ReNew**

ReThink: **Bishop John Shelby Spong**, leading theologian and spokesperson for progressive Christianity, will offer three lectures during the day on Friday, March 18.

ReFlect: **Dr. Newell Williams**, President of Brite Divinity School and leading Disciples historian will present a lecture.

ReCognize: Dr. Dennis Short will be honored as Church Leader of the Year during worship on Saturday morning.

ReUnite: **Dr. Alvin Jackson**, noted preacher and pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City and Chapman alumnus, will preach during worship on Saturday morning.

ReJoice – **Anne Lamott**, gifted essayist and novelist dealing with themes of faith, grace, sobriety and community with humor and heart, will present readings from some of her work on Saturday afternoon.

ReKindle our church relatedness as we celebrate our Disciples heritage and honor our new official relationship as a United Church of Christ university. The Chapman University Choir will also perform. Other hi-lights include events for prospective students and parents, campus tours, a luncheon, and a Saturday evening Young DOC Alumni event.

Detailed information and online registration is available.
Child care is available upon early request.
Questions? Please call the Office of Church Relations at 714.997.6760.

ASK ME ANYTHING" Class March 13 – April 17

A five-week inquirers' class for those who are curious about what our church has stood for over the years takes an interesting twist this spring. The title of a new Sunday morning study is: **"Ask Me Anything About the Disciples of Christ."** Since this is a class where questions are as important as answers, first timers are especially welcome. Some have called this the New and Curious Class, though many would say that the teacher is the most curious of them all. Pastor Jacobs will lead the class for five weeks.

We start March 13 by asking: **Where Do We Live and How Do We Serve?** You get a description of the typical North American Disciples congregation, and then hear about overseas ministries partners important to our ministry. There will be homework, too. We may swap stories of churches we know.

The next week tackles the topic of **What's in the Bible and Why Does it Matter?** If you are worried that your Bible knowledge is weak in places, you are not alone. What is typical about Bible studies we offer at FCC Mesa, and what "won't fly"?

Disciple Bible Study class will return to weekly meetings beginning March 7th in the North Corner Room, led by Rev. Skip Hughes. They are picking up where they left off working through the New Testament. The final class will be Monday, April 18th.

The Spirit Quest class on Sunday mornings continues to meet with teacher LaVerne Thorpe. Next topic is "Expressions of Love."

How Do We Worship and How Are We Governed? Some worship practices that are common among Disciples, especially when it comes to baptism and communion. Most Disciples churches embrace new ways of worship, but some things are consistent across the land. Likewise Disciples as a whole tend to elected lay leaders who help us to keep our eyes on the prize, but the way we transact business varies from place to place. Why do we keep doing things this way? How are we funded? Is there a better way?

Who's Who at FCC? You may have questions about ministry opportunities in our church. Who among us is a student**,** who a missionary, who teaches, prays or sings? And our pastor? What does it take to become the called pastor of a Disciples church? What do we expect of our pastors and elders at FCC?

In the final session, on Palm Sunday, we try to get at the central issue of **Who is Jesus Christ for Us Today?** This is the day when the "Ask Me Anything" format gets turned around.

A decision to join our church by confession of faith or by transfer of membership usually involves an affirmation from those joining that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, Lord and Savior of the world". Anyone is encouraged on this day to share their own thoughts about whether this rings true for them, and what problems such a confession may present for themselves or for others.

Sound interesting? You're among friends here. Keep an open mind and feel free to ask your own faith questions at the Ask Me Anything class that meets in Eaton Friendship Center March 13 – April 17.

We received a letter from the Executive of our Africa Office of Global Ministries last month:

"We received the bookmarks that were sent in December, and I will take them to Congo when I travel there later this year. For them, this is "critical presence" when you share the pain they are enduring everyday given violence and turbulence in their country. The Woman to Woman pilgrimage to both Congos in August will be a wonderful sign of solidarity with the thousands of women who suffer every day. May God continue to bless you and First Christian Church of Mesa in your many ministries. - SANDRA GOURDET

March 2011

Worship Schedule

- *March 6th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School*
- *March 13th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School*
- *March 20th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School*
- *March 27th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 1:00 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study	3	4	5 11am-2 pm Meaningful Living 5:05 Talent Show & Supper
6 1:00 pm Chi Rho & CYF	7 Noon BYKOTA 6:00 Disciple Bible Study 7:15 PM Chalice Choir	8 12:30 pm Companions in Christ	9 1:00 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study 7 pm Ash Wednesday at Chalice CC	10	11	12 8:00 am DMM Breakfast 3 pm Elders
13 1:00 pm CYF	14 6:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:15 pm Chalice Choir	15 12:30 pm Companions in Christ	16 1:00 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study	17	18	19
20 1:00 pm Chi Rho & CYF 4 pm Paz de Cristo	21 6:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:15 pm Chalice Choir	22 12:30 pm Companions in Christ	23 9am Fellowship of the Fold 1:00 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study	24	25 5: 00 pm DMM meet at FCC head to Saguaro Lake	26
27 3:45 pm CCF & CYF	28 6:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:15 pm Chalice Choir	29 12:30 pm Companions in Christ	30 1:00 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study	31		

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

Stamp

We are on the web at
www.mesadisciples.org

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