

April
2011

Volume 100,
Issue 11

The Builder



**"THERE'S A NEW
KID IN TOWN!"**

**APRIL 17 WORSHIP AT FIRST
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
INVOLVES ALL CHILDREN IN A
PALM PROCESSION AT 9 AM**

Maundy Thursday April 21

**"I Saw Him" Sanctuary Drama
and Communion Service at 7 PM**



Good Friday Prayer Service

April 22 at 6:00 pm



JESUS IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!
April 24 Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt for kids
begins immediately following our 6:30 am Sunrise Service
or the 9 AM EASTER SON-RISE CELEBRATION

Family Fun Day

**Activities for ALL
Ages**

Saturday, APRIL 16TH, 2011

11:00 am til 3:00 pm



Bake Sale Fun and Games Craft Vendors

Celebrate the Artist in You and Others

**Plywood, Ceramics, Yarn Creations, Jewelry,
Watercolor drawings, Origami Paper Art**

SPONSORED BY FCC EVANGELISM TEAM

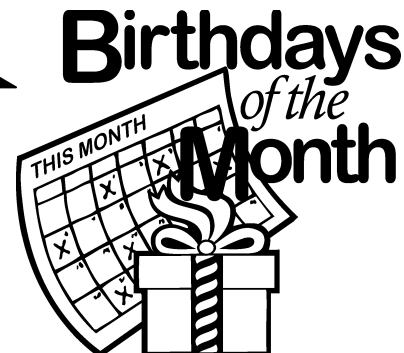
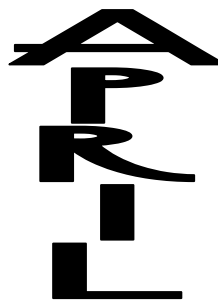
**If you can help on that day, or are willing to spread the word, set up
or clean up, contact LaVerne Thorpe at 313-407-4951**

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Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

Feb 27	83	Attendance & Gifts	\$2,342.25
Mar 6	91	Attendance & Gifts	\$7,243.32
Mar 13	92	Attendance & Gifts	\$1,410.37
Mar 20	91	Attendance & Gifts	\$1,225.50
Mar 27	73	Attendance & Gifts	\$2,617.77
2011 Average Monthly Expense:			\$12,226.33



March 22 - 24 Prayer Vigil
 A simple prayer service on Good Friday at 6pm precedes a 35-hour prayer vigil.
 Sign up and pray with us.

- Birthdays of the Month**
- 8 Bonnie Bezon
 - 8 Mabel Sanders
 - 11 Valerie Sundermann
 - 16 Ann North
 - 16 Susan Walton
 - 18 Bev Sayre
 - 18 Juanita Campbell
 - 20 Becky Ewy
 - 24 Rachael Way

Elder 9 AM

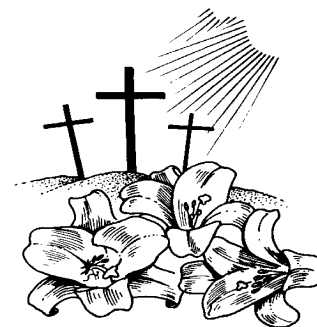
Service Schedule

- April 3rd - Michele Chambliss*
- April 10th - Mary Jacobs*
- April 17th - Ronda Hensley*
- April 21st - Ann North*
- April 24th - Danny Thompson*

Worship Leaders

9 AM Service Schedule

- April 3rd - Michele Fairfax*
- April 10th - Mary Jacobs*
- April 17th - John Marlatt*
- April 24th - Ronda Hensley*



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:

11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.

Continued next month....

I had the rare opportunity to listen to FOUR wonderful speakers at Chapman University Founders' Day two weeks ago – Rev. Alvin Jackson of Park Avenue Christian Church (DoC) in New York, John Shelby Spong, who served for four decades as a pastor and eventually a bishop in the Episcopal Church of America, Dr. Newell Williams, currently President of Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas, and finally popular author Anne Lamott.

Isn't it wonderful to realize that so many good things come from so many and diverse sources in the life of the church. These four leaders were as different in style and in emphasis as four speakers could possibly be, each speaking FROM their own experience and TO fellow travelers on the road to faithful witness. It was a great weekend.

Anne Lamott in particular confessed that for more than 25 years her life was marked by a stubborn selfishness that included self-destructive behaviors and deep resentments. She came late to "church", and I liked how she described her "toolbox moment", as I like to call it. Here is a long passage from her book *Traveling Mercies* (Anchor Books, 1999):

"It's funny: I always imagined when I was a kid that adults had some kind of inner toolbox, full of shiny tools: the saw of discernment, the hammer of wisdom, the sandpaper of patience. But then when I grew up I found that life handed you these rusty bent old tools—friendships, prayer, conscience, honesty—and said, Do the best you can with these, they will have to do. And mostly, against all odds, they're enough."

It is similar to a quote I ran across from another book on my shelf, *Centering* by M. C. Richards, who wishes she were more centered in her spiritual life, but recognizes that is not likely to be any time soon:

"I envied people who were 'single-minded,' who had one powerful talent and who knew when they got up in the morning what it was they had to do.

Whereas I, where I turned, felt the enchantment: to the window for the sweetness of the air; to the door for the passing figures; to the teapot, the typewriter, the knitting needles, the pets, the pottery, the newspaper, the telephone. Wherever I looked, I could have lived.

It took me half my life to come to believe I was OK even if I did love experience in a loose and indiscriminating way and did not know for sure the difference between good and bad. My struggles to accept my nature were the very opposite of 'centering'.

One is supposed to concentrate and not to spread oneself thin, as the jargon goes. And this is a jargon spoken by a cultural leadership from which it takes time to win one's freedom, if one is not lucky enough to have been born free.

Finally, I hit upon an image: a seed-sower. Not to worry about which seeds sprout. But to give them as my gift in good faith."

What these two authors share on paper are a deep-seated belief that you don't need to be perfect, or single-minded, to be of use to God and others.

FCC's LET YOUR LIFE SPEAK retreat on April 9th is another powerful way for us to encourage **seed-sowing** by all of us in our particular ways.

Saints and laser-guided technicians need not apply—but the rest of us are seeking work in God's kingdom, using all the tools God has bestowed on us.

Bill Jacobs



Minister's
Moments



Family Fun Day: Celebrate the Artist In You and In Others

SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH, 2011 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

If you can help with setup or cleanup on that day, or if you know someone willing to distribute flyers to friends or neighbors contact LaVerne Thorpe at 313-407-4951

Disciples 2011 General Assembly in Nashville, TN

From July 9 to 13, 2011, Disciples will have the opportunity to “Tell it!”:

to hear and to share stories of God’s work among us as Disciples.

We’ll be reminded of God’s faithfulness to all generations – including OUR generation.

For five days of fellowship, worship, deliberation, mission and learning, we’ll share those life-giving stories with each other – and with the Nashville community.

In the months leading up to General Assembly, please share YOUR story. How is your congregation responding in this time of unprecedented change? How are you and your Disciples brothers and sisters finding new life in mission as you focus on what God is calling you to do and be in your time and place?

Has the Gospel changed your life? TELL that story!

Take the time to share the stories from your ministry that tell the world, “We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world!” And be sure to read some of the stories on the General Assembly Blog at www.disciplesdotell.org.



Then the LORD answered me and said: **Write the vision;**
make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.

-Habakkuk 2:2 (NRSV)

TWO EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR RELATED TO 2011 SABBATICAL

OUR MAY 1 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL INCLUDE A POTLUCK MEAL AFTER WORSHIP, AND A CHANCE TO OFFER SABBATICAL BLESSINGS TO PASTOR BILL BEFORE HE LEAVES TO BEGIN HIS SABBATH EXPLORATIONS OF “DRY LANDSCAPES, DEEP WELLS”

BILL RETURNS THE WEEK AFTER LABOR DAY, BUT OUR FALL “WELCOME HOME” PARTY WILL BE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2ND.

EACH OF THESE EVENTS WILL INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT BILL HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH DURING THIS SABBATH TIME, AND HOW WE CAN MAKE OUR OWN SABBATH JOURNEYS AS WELL.

BYKOTA Summer Schedule— Be Ye Kind One To Another
Join us on Monday, April 8th at noon for our annual spring picnic at Fitch Park on 8th Street and Center in Mesa. May 9 meeting is in Eaton Friendship Center, and June, July and August will take us to local restaurants. If your weekdays are free, please join us.

Didn't I hear something about a sabbatical leave?

The word “sabbatical” is derived from the word “Sabbath” and refers to a “stop and listen” moment that is common among teachers and church leaders after every six to ten years of employment. Bill's comes in 2011.

It can be a time of travel and spiritual refocusing, refreshment and renewal, and it is intended to help the professor, the pastor or the employee identify his or her growing edge in professional work. Bill's summer travels begin in May with a trip to Minnesota to attend a Preaching Conference for a full week.

Starting the second week of June, he and Mary and Erin and Lindsey will be on a road trip visiting National Parks in New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. July takes them to General Assembly together. August is the beginning of a Shalem Institute Clergy Deepening program that will engage Bill in discernment meetings with colleagues that will last another year or so.

Bill returns to the pulpit on the Sunday after Labor Day, but there is more to the grant than just the four month absence described above. Bill has set aside two weeks in November to tour water projects in Kenya, including the sand dam in Chepkechir, Kenya where Centennial funds helped to bring reliable water supplies to villagers and built an education centre for young girls there.

All of this and more was made possible by a Clergy Renewal grant given by the Lilly Foundation to FCC Mesa. The grant will support the work of Michele Fairfax, sabbatical pastor, and other guest speakers in worship.

Don't you wish you had a sabbatical grant to fall back on? You DO. Your grant will fund renewal activities, seminars and celebrations such as the Let Your Life Speak all-day retreat in Eaton Friendship Center on April 9th.

Don't miss it. It will help everyday Christians find their calling and their “niche” in the life of our church and community. Where is God calling YOU?

8 Important Reasons to Have a Will

1. Without a will, your state's laws—not you— determine how, when and to whom your property is distributed. This is the most basic reason to execute a legal will.
2. You can reduce (perhaps even eliminate) estate tax and reduce taxes for surviving family.
3. You (not the courts) can name your own executor to manage and settle your estate.
4. You can designate beneficiaries for heirlooms, art objects, jewelry or real estate.
5. With a will, you can designate the guardian you wish for those under your care.
6. You may wish to create trusts to provide for your spouse, children and others.
7. Through a pour-over will, you can transfer leftover assets to your living trust.
This is an important, often-overlooked strategy that might help bypass probate.
8. You can be a blessing to First Christian Church of Mesa through bequests which are simple, flexible and tax-deductible. Undesignated bequests go into FCC's Permanent Trust that annually supports mission work and program ministries. Music Funds now support music ministries to the tune of almost \$1,000 a year.

A will should always be drawn up by a qualified attorney familiar with your financial circumstances, family situation and your wishes for your estate. Advice from an attorney and other professional advisors should be sought when considering charitable giving.

Ever wonder what in the world your mission dollars are accomplishing as Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ missionaries serve overseas in Africa and Europe, in Asia and the Pacific, in Latin America and the Caribbean. What are we doing in Haiti, El Salvador and Mexico? Do we have people in Japan? **What is going on out there?**

Global Mission Summit on Saturday, May 7th, 2011

9:00 AM—3:00 PM at Holiday Inn, Casa Grande

Bob Shebeck Disciples of Christ Executive for Mission Interpretation

and **Felix Ortiz-Cotto** Area Executive for Latin America / Caribbean

The first four registrants have their lunch and materials paid for by our \$25 per congregation registration fee.

Additional registrants will be asked to pay \$10 for lunch and materials.

Call the church office at 480-833-7312 to get in on this rare global mission opportunity.

John 13:34-35






I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.'

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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****Note:** BYKOTA annual outdoor picnic lunch is at Fitch Park on 8th Street east of Center this year.

Worship Schedule

					1	2	10:00 am CCF Retreat at FCC of Scottsdale
	3	4 4:30 pm	5	6	7	8	9
	1 pm Chi Rho & CYF	Evang. Team Mtg.		1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study			9 am - 4 pm Let Your Life Speak
• April 3rd: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School	Bowling	6:00 pm Sabbatical	6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal				
	4:30 pm Board Mtg	Oversight Team					
		7:15 pm Chalice Choir					
	10	11 ** Noon	12	13	14 Camp	15	16
• April 10th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School	1 pm CYF	BYKOTA		1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study	Registration forms available online		11 am - 3 pm Family Fun Day
		7:15 pm Chalice Choir	6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal				
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
• April 17th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School	 4pm serving at Paz de Cristo	7:15 pm Chalice Choir	6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	 1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study	 7 pm Maundy Thursday @ FCC of Mesa	 6 pm Good Friday @ FCC of Mesa	Prayer Vigil
	24 Easter	25 6:00 pm WE/ME	26	27 9am Fellowship of the Fold	28	29	30 Early bird deadline for summer camp registrations
• April 24th: Easter 6:30 AM and 9 AM		7:15 pm Chalice Choir	6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study			



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

Stamp

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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)

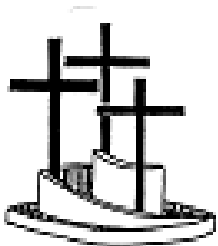
9:00 am Chalice Worship

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.