

August  
2011

Volume 101,  
Issue 4

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

# The Builder



## *Snippets from General Assembly*



## Blessing of Backpacks

### Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

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In worship on Sunday, August 7, bring your backpack, school bag, work bag, briefcase or..., and come be blessed for a new year of learning wherever that takes place.

Come and discover what it means to be a part of a year focused on A.R.K. and how YOU can be the difference in God's world!!!!

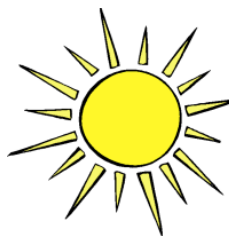
# Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

July 3	48	Attendance & Gifts	\$1,871.50
July 10	56	Attendance & Gifts	\$1,794.03
July 17	64	Attendance & Gifts	\$2,575.00
July 24	73	Attendance & Gifts	\$910.29
2011 Average Monthly Expense:			\$14,104.67



## AUGUST

- 2 Keith Walton
- 3 Betty Way
- 3 Lois Ritz
- 6 Patty Carpenter
- 10 Mariam Able
- 11 Rusty Shepherd
- 12 Robert Garcia
- 15 Tyra Thompson
- 19 Lisa Fuller



### Choir Kick-Off Party



The Choir Kick-Off Party will be Sunday August 7th at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Bonnie & Jeff Bezon: 1036 N. 93rd Street, Mesa 85207 - 1 block east of Ellsworth off of

Brown Rd. right behind the Bashas'. If you are currently in choir, or are simply interested in knowing more about choir, come join us! All are welcome!

*9 AM Elder Service Schedule*  
 August 7 - Eileen Anderson  
 August 14 - Mark Line  
 August 21 - LaVerne Thorpe  
 August 28 - Renae Hackman



Encourage one another and build up each other...

I Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

*9 AM Worship Leaders*  
 August 7 - Ronda Hensley  
 August 14 - To Be Determined  
 August 21 - John Marlatt  
 August 28 - To Be Determined

### BYKOTA Senior Fellowship

meets at Charleston's  
 1623 S. Stapley Dr.  
 Mesa, AZ 85204-6609  
 480-635-9500

Monday, **August 8th**  
 at noon  
 on the east side of Stapley  
 south of the freeway

## *Tell It, FCC of Mesa!*

As you know the 2011 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly was held this past week in Nashville TN, with over 6,000 persons in attendance. There were personal and some not so personal stories of life changing events to church ministries transformations told throughout the assembly – stories from our General Manager and President, Sharron Watkins to our own Fred Craddock was shared.

Stories were told from the perspective of:

- 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!



*“We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world!”*

Please go to the General Assembly Blog at [www.disciplesdotell.org](http://www.disciplesdotell.org) to find more exciting stories about what the Disciples are doing in the their life of mission.

*Blessings,*

*Michele Jansax*

## *Dry Landscapes Deep Wells Note from Rev. Bill Jacobs*

All day our car drove uphill while the Logan River raced downhill astride us, until we reached Geneva Summit. The Colorado and its tributaries, the Logan and the Cedar rivers are all running high as a result of late spring snowmelt that will soon take the Great Salt Lake to record depths before summer’s end.

Rain fell on our windshield with clouds overhead as we entered Grand Teton National Park, and by nightfall thunder and lightning shook the cabins around us. Clearly we have transitioned now from “dry landscapes” to “deep wells” far more dramatically than I ever could have imagined.

The same weather conditions that lead to some of Arizona’s worst wildfires can cause rivers to overflow a few hundred miles further north. And tomorrow, when we stand alongside Old Faithful, what does it say that this symbol of faithfulness sends water from earth to sky, reversing nature’s customary ways?

There is a cycle at work here, a circle of life that has a rhythm to it. I stand ready to learn its lessons.

*Bill Jacobs, pastor*

## *LaVerne Thorpe's Trip to Ghana*

June 1, 2011 I was blessed with the opportunity to visit Ghana West Africa. During my trip I visited with two of our global mission partners. The first visit was to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Headquarters in Ho. Ho is a city of just under 70,000 people in the Volta region of Ghana.

The EP Church has grown from humble beginnings as a Mission Post started by German Missionaries in 1836 to a vibrant church operating in 147 districts with 857 congregations in West Africa and 7 overseas congregations. The EP Church's commitment to education is evident in the over 700 primary, junior, senior high schools and 3 universities the church has started and operates. In addition to the educational efforts, the church developmental projects include 12 hospitals and clinics, 6 agricultural stations, 23 self help projects, 1 pharmacy, 1 supermarket and 2 vocational schools.

On the first day the leadership team took the time out of their busy schedule to meet with me and welcome me to Ho. They were all glad I was there and gave me information on the mission and work of the church.



Pictured from left to right Rev. Godwin Osiaka Clerk of the General Assembly, Rev. Francis Amenu Moderator of the General Assembly, LaVerne Thorpe IDWM Vice Chair, Rev. Seth Agidi Ecumenical and Social Relations Secretary, Mrs. Lydia Adajawah Presbyter Executive, and Hon Joseph Amenowode Volta Regional Minister

That evening I was invited to join a lecture that Mrs. Lydia Adajawaj gave to a group of 12 students from Ohio State University who were there studying at the church's Agricultural Training center. We learned more about the history of the church and we learned more about the current work of the church. The ministry of the church to the people they serve covers a wide range of needs and as is the case in many churches with limited resources. Lydia's main focus is with women issues. A few of the programs mentioned were craft and skills training and micro-loans to empower women to achieve self sufficiency. One of Lydia's dreams is to open an onsite boutique to sell the products that the women make. They operate an onsite relief agency with human services that includes a youth program and a program that encourage women drop outs to return to school. Lydia informed us the local High School operated by the church has 1500 students. The school does not have a cooking stove and they are preparing meals for 1500 students on an outside wood fire. They have a great need for a commercial cook stove. They are also looking to increase services to the elderly who cannot leave their homes and do not have family support.



Pictured: Three of the twelve Ohio State University students and Mrs. Lydia and myself.





**Mark your calendars now –**

DO NOT miss this fun and worthwhile **FUNDRAISING** Event.

This will be our **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**  
at Gold Canyon Golf Resort, Gold Canyon, AZ

**Saturday, September 24, 2011 -----Watch for more details soon.**

The proceeds from the Golf Tournament help to support our local and global mission as well as provide help for our Youth Campers. Even if you are not a golfer you could sponsor someone who would like to participate. This is not just for FCC Members but is open to friends, family and other golfing buddies. **Get your team together NOW!!!** Please contact Maurica Thompson at 623-261-8107 or email her at [omi.maurica@gmail.com](mailto:omi.maurica@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to help with this event.

### *Layman's 10 Commandments*

Someone has written these beautiful words. Must read and try to understand the deep meaning of it. They are like the ten commandments to follow in life all the time.



- 1] Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
- 2] So a Car's WINDSHIELD is so large & the Rear view Mirror is so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.
- 3] Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
- 4] All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
- 5] Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!
- 6] Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
- 7] When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.
- 8] A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
- 9] When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- 10] WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE. Author unknown

## *What Does the Lord Require?*

Scriptures tell us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). Every day Disciples are praying to discern God's will for their lives. What does the Lord require of us?

One idea to consider is to create a legacy with your family finances that will continue ministry beyond your lifetime. You can establish a permanent fund during lifetime and create signed documents that provide for additions at the time of death.

What ministries do you love? You decide what ministries will receive an annual distribution from your permanent fund each year for all perpetuity.

Once you have considered the ministries that you would like to benefit with a legacy gift, consult your professional advisors and a Christian Church Foundation representative for ideas on how choosing certain assets (especially tax-burdened assets like IRAs or 401(k)s) can increase the overall value of your estate. Changes to your plan can often be accomplished with simple beneficiary designation form changes, without the expense of revising the will or trust documents already in place.

Permanent funds, such as those held in trust by the Christian Church Foundation, support the ministries of the donor's choosing. We hope you would consider a legacy gift that would support First Christian Church in your plans.

To learn more about permanent funds through the Foundation, call (800) 668-8016.

Christian Church Foundation 130 E. Washington St., P. O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986 [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)



CYF & Chi Rho  
Kick Off

August 12th & 13th  
Details forthcoming

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Look out for  
information via  
emails and or in the  
bulletins



## *Lighting of the Worship Candle*

A lit candle during our worship service is a faith based tradition of the Disciples of Christ. This candle is a visual representation, and a reminder to us, of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The acolyte walking down the aisle and lighting the candle, signals to us that the Holy Spirit is present and we are ready to pray and worship together.



# August 2011

## Worship Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6pm Sabbatical Oversight Team	6pm Praise Band Rehearsal				
7 Backpack Sunday	8	9	10	11	12	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>August 7th 9:00 am Chalice Worship</li> </ul>	 12pm BYKOTA 7:15 pm Chalice Choir	6pm Praise Band Rehearsal				6:30 pm Board Mtg
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>August 14th 9:00 am Chalice Worship</li> </ul>	7:15 pm Chalice Choir	6pm Praise Band Rehearsal				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>August 21st 9:00 am Chalice Worship</li> </ul>	4:00 pm Paz de Cristo 5:30 pm WEME 7:15 pm Chalice Choir	6pm Praise Band Rehearsal				
28	29	30	31			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>August 28th 9:00 am Chalice Worship</li> </ul>	7:15 pm Chalice Choir	6pm Praise Band practice	9:00 am Fellowship of the Fold			



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Mesa, AZ 85201-4105

**Stamp**

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We are on the web at  
[www.mesadisciples.org](http://www.mesadisciples.org)

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*Phone: 480-833-7312*  
*E-mail: [mesafirst@yahoo.com](mailto:mesafirst@yahoo.com)*

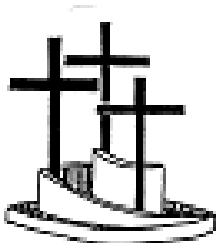
*Fax: 480-833-7312*  
*Rev. Bill Jacobs, Pastor*

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

9:00 am Chalice Worship  
Nursery available



## 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.