

December  
2011

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

Volume 101,  
Issue 8

# The Builder



Follow the Bright Angel Trail this Christmas!

**Invite a friend or  
neighbor to church  
On Christmas Eve  
Saturday, Dec 24  
at 5 PM or 11 PM**

Then come back Sunday, December 25  
at 9 AM to sing and celebrate the coming of  
the Christ-Child to be Light to the World.

Look  
for the  
Giving Tree  
as you enter the  
sanctuary. This year  
our gifts go to foster children  
in our local area. With budget cuts,  
foster parents do not receive money for  
gifts for their foster children at  
Christmas. By choosing a name from  
the tree, you support these vital  
foster families and help the children feel  
valued and recognized.

Please take an ornament off the narthex  
tree and  
bring it  
back with  
a gift for  
a foster child  
by Sun Dec 18th.

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## **POINSETTIA PLANT SALE**

**BRING OUR  
SANCTUARY  
ALIVE WITH  
COLOR!**

Purchase a poinsettia  
plant to adorn our  
worship space - \$10  
each.

An order sheet is  
available this week at  
the back of the  
sanctuary

Plants you purchase  
can be taken home on  
Christmas Eve  
after the 5 PM  
or the 11 PM Service

*Ellen Hoff*

# Prayers, Presence, and Service

Attendance	Oct 30	86
Attendance	Nov 6	79
Attendance	Nov 13	72
Attendance	Nov 20	87
Attendance	Nov 27	87

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



4 Rudy Anderson  
 4 Katrina Miller  
 5 Erin Jacobs  
 9 Taylor Hensley  
 10 Mark North  
 11 Mark Line

Jacobs Open House  
 On Sunday, Jan 1st  
 from 3-7 PM  
 Drop in for games and  
 goodies of all sorts,  
 for fun and friendship.  
 1821 E Carver Road  
 in Tempe  
 Come as you are!  
 Leave when you must.

## December

### Elder 9 AM Service Schedule

- December 4th - Bonnie Bezon
- December 11th - Eileen Anderson
- December 18th - Mark Line
- December 24th 5 pm - JBD
- December 24th 11pm - JBD
- December 25th - LaVerne Thorpe

BYKOTA (Be Ye Kind To One Another) Fellowship meets Dec. 12th at noon in Eaton Friendship Center

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE...  
Please bring an item you not longer use (wrapped)

CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE  
Bring some...Take some home...Eat a few for dessert.  
If you do not bake, supermarket cookies are fine..

POTLUCK  
Bring a dish to share (no dessert--we will eat cookies!!)  
Bring your own table service..

Sounds like fun! Be sure to join us for CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP and FOOD!!!

Questions? Call Bev 834-9492 or Mary Jean 835-1043

With the love of Jesus wrapped around me the warmth of prayers, the cards, the many calls and visits of friends and the many meals shared with healing love it has been a time for thankfulness to everyone for your concern and continue being my church family.

God Bless all of you for your caring.

*Thank You* Always, Ann

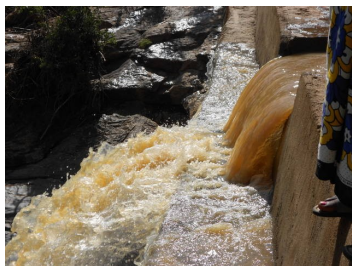
# THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Stewardship campaign results indicate a good year ahead for First Christian Church. Come and hear about budget and program priorities, and celebrate the New Year at the **Congregational Meeting in Eaton Friendship Center on Sunday, January 8th after worship.**

**MUNGU NI MWEMA**

**God is good.**

After a three hour drive we walked up the mountainside to look at a concrete holding pool that feeds by gravity two cisterns below used for agriculture, washing and cooking. Before this cachement was in place, they relied on a 300 foot deep well with a solar powered pump to serve more than 5000 people in this high desert region east of Nairobi. The vegetation looked very familiar—agave, prickly pear, century plant.



We were welcomed with a marvelous party under a tree, complete with chocolates provided by one from our group. At the bore hole well we met with a very large community singing and dancing and making speeches. We went in the late afternoon to a large sand dam that was 33 feet deep at the concrete base, and full to the brim with



rainwater. Again, singing and speeches gave us the clear impression that these folks are grateful for their new life, with liberal water supply where before there was so little.

As one elder put it: “This year during dry season none of our goats or donkeys died.” There

you go! What more can I say than that.

Truth be told, CWS figures each well costs \$7500, with one third for materials, roughly one third for professional services such as concrete transportation and pouring, plumbing etc and one third local labor, given by the community. An outside investment of \$5,000 can do so much for so many.

The average time needed to install a sand dam is around three months, although some committees organize local labor that gets the job done much sooner. In our case, we also made possible in Chepkechir a concrete latrine that they chose to install before starting on the schoolhouse.

The Kamba people near Mwingi recently planted a community garden with onions and maize and other vegetables for cooking on government land next to their new dam. They are beginning to practice "roundtable" lending, with eventual access to electronic banking by mobile phone as is common in rural areas to allow some savings to tide people over during difficult times.

CWS has now sponsored thirty-five sand dams in all, fifteen in Mwingi region, thirteen in the East and West Pokot regions (including Chepkechir and Boringo) and

seven more in Tankara up north.

This is an incredible uplift from poverty for many of these women and men, some of whom have real hope for a brighter future thanks to Church World Service and the local well management committee consisting of tribal elders, women and young men from several villages close by each other.

They see it as a miracle to be able to bathe and to wash their clothing and their children and to cook with locally drawn water.

The people have come together to better their lives and we've been part of that through our gifts.

I spoke last Sunday about CWS work with “youth caregivers” whose responsibilities have grown as the adults in the village suffer from AIDS. These kids are very resourceful, but they need encouragement from their adult mentors and sponsors.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to see first-hand where CROP walk funds and other relief and development gifts end up. God multiplies our gifts in every place by giving us dedicated Christian partners to work with, and amazing grace to see us through leaner times.

May God continue to bless the givers and the gifts that bring water to the desert in rural Kenya.



*Bill Jacobs*

**Christmas Offering**

Special Offering envelopes in this newsletter and in the pews give us an opportunity to help support regional programming that includes youth ministries, pastoral search assistance and leader development for local churches from Globe to Glendale and from South Tucson to North Scottsdale. Give as you are able.

Regional staff meet with Finance teams, mission focus teams, a new church ministries team and an Anti-Racism team as well as search committees and youth and children’s ministry teams, and more. They also give support and direction to pastors and congregational leaders at critical times in a church’s life.

**Regional Youth Retreats  
March 3–4, 2012**

**Chi Rho Retreat -  
Foothills Christian  
Church, Phoenix**

**CYF Retreat -  
Coolwater Christian  
Church, Scottsdale**

**Summer  
Camp 2012  
7/1/12 - 7/6/12**

*Water is Life*

The following comes from director of Yanga’t, a program in Kenya that Church World Service supports.

Yanga’t helps communities gain access to clean water, education and primary health care. It was created to address problems faced by uneducated girl children and their families and continues to do so under the able direction of a woman Bill met in Kapenguria by the name of Deborah Katina. Deborah wrote this holiday letter :



“Through CWS, Yanga’t has managed to reach and touch thousands of people indirectly and directly. We can’t thank you and CWS enough for choosing Yanga’t as a partner, and we trust God that, as we usher in the new year, this partnership

shall continue.

This Christmas was different for the communities we have assisted with the dams because for the first time in their lives, they had water near to their homes, indeed they had a reason to celebrate!

As a result of the good work done, many community groups have gone ahead and collected materials and deposited the same on the site awaiting to hear from us.



This clearly shows how these projects help many... May God bless you... [with] a happy and prosperous New Year! Deborah Katina For Yanga’t in Kenya



*Chi Rho Lock-In in Chandler*

*December 9–10 6:00 pm*

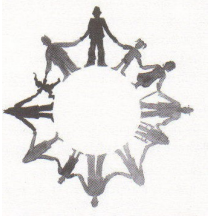
*CYF Lock-In will begin*

*(place TBD)*

*on Saturday night December 17th.*

### *Global Mission Congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*

Rev., Julia Brown-Karimu is now Co-Executive of Common Global Ministries. She loves to talk about *critical presence* which she defines as “the act of accompanying our partners who are ministering to and with people who are in life threatening situations.”



**“The prophetic vision of a just and peaceful world order is reflected in the area of economics, human rights, interfaith relations and conflict resolution,”** she writes. **“I want to invite Disciples to become more deeply involved in God’s mission.”** (JBK interview with Disciples News, May 2011).

Bill’s visit to Kenya represents just such a presence for us as a Global Mission Church. Bill will report to us about how Church World Service is tasked with bringing financial resources of our churches to bear on the most critical issues for the most marginalized and oppressed of God’s people around the world. Much of what we do together through Week of Compassion, Global Ministries and Church World Service involves offering these things:

- Ministries of lay men and women prayerful, present and professionally involved with people facing social, economic, or political realities that sometimes lead to violence.
- Pastoral ministries addressing the fear and fragility of people desperate for meaning whose present circumstances do not offer much reason to hope.
- Interfaith dialogue and conflict resolution wherever prejudice and hatred prevail.

As a Global Mission Congregation FCC looks outward in our preaching and teaching ministries, VBS and children’s programs, study and fellowship efforts and hosts educational events, book study groups, speakers, fundraisers and direct participation. It is all a part of our missionary vision as a Global Mission Church that sits on the corner of 8th and Country Club yet serves **“from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.”**

And THAT is a very “Disciples of Christ” way of doing things. **It’s who we are.**

Like many other congregations, we cooperate with others in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and in ecumenical and interfaith community organizations. This is always a challenge, as our human and financial resources are limited.

As Rev. Delle McCormick, pastor of another Global Mission Congregation, First Christian Church in Tucson, wrote recently in that church newsletter: **“We begin with small steps and hope you will join us in our dreaming into a better world.”**



Water drawn out of rock cachement in Kamba village — Mwingi, Kenya. A sand dam 5 km away irrigates the village demonstration garden and also provides safe water for donkeys, cattle and goats nearby. Villagers express their thanks for “a new life.”



### *Simple Ways to Give*

One of the simplest ways to leave a gift to First Christian Church is to use the beneficiary designation on savings and retirement accounts, as well as life insurance policies. These can be done with no cost, and typically only require us to sign a new beneficiary designation form. Retirement assets and similar accounts are called Income in Respect of a Decedent (IRD) assets. This is taxable income that's earned during life but not received before death, so it is never included in an income tax return. This may be assets in Individual Retirement Accounts or 403(b) plans, accrued interest on Certificates of Deposit and savings bonds, nonqualified stock options, deferred payments of capital gains, or other income that is earned but not acquired. Naming the church as the beneficiary of these gives the estate and heirs the best tax benefits, since it avoids both income and estate taxes.

Life insurance that is no longer needed also can be an excellent gift, too. Naming the church as a primary or contingent beneficiary of an existing or new life insurance policy will result in a federal estate tax deduction for the full amount of the proceeds payable to the church regardless of policy size.

Because individual situations vary, be sure to consult your financial and tax advisors, as well as the Christian Church Foundation, the general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) designed to help church members create a lasting legacy through planned gifts. Our Southwestern Region planned giving representative, Marilyn Fiddmont, can be reached at (713) 524-0964.



# December 2011

**Worship Schedule**

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 4th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School</li> </ul>	<p>4 5:00 PM <b>CYF &amp; CHI RHO @ COMMUNITY</b></p>	<p>5 7:15 pm Choir</p>	<p>6 5:30 pm Praise Band practice</p>	<p>7 1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 <b>CHI RHO LOCK IN</b></p>	<p>10</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 11th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School</li> </ul>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Noon BYKOTA 5:30 pm Board Mtg 7:15 pm Choir</p>	<p>13 5:30 pm Praise Band practice</p>	<p>14  1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 <b>CYF LOCK IN</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 18th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School</li> </ul>	<p>18 <b>CYF LOCK IN</b></p>	<p>19 7:15 pm Choir</p>	<p>20 5:30 pm Praise Band practice</p>	<p>21 9 am Fellowship of the Fold 1 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 </p>	<p>24 5pm and 11pm <b>Carols and Candles</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 25th: 9:00 am Stories &amp; Songs of the Season</li> </ul>	<p>25 Merry Christmas 9 AM worship No classes and no Youth group</p> 	<p>26 Office Closed <b>Joy to the World!</b> No choir tonight</p>	<p>27 Office Closed</p>	<p>28 Office Closed</p>	<p>29 Office Closed</p>	<p>30 Office Closed</p>	





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Mesa, AZ 85201-4105

**Stamp**

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

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*E-mail: mesafirst@yahoo.com*

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

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

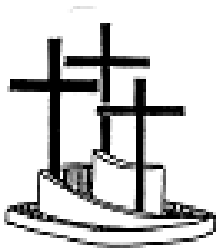
9:00 am Chalice Worship

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.