

June  
2011

Volume 101,  
Issue 2

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

# The Builder



## “Sabbath Craze” - VBS 2011

Sun., June 12 - Thurs., June 16, 5:30 - 8 PM

Nursery - Adults

Dinner...learning...crafts...games...singing

Join in the fun and friendship and faith journey of “Sabbath Craze” VBS week where we will explore the meaning and practice of Sabbath in our lives that draws us closer to God and each other.

Even if you are unable to join us for the week, you can provide support through:

- ◆ Bringing magazines for pictures for children
- ◆ Signing up to provide one of the following desserts to be brought Sunday, June 12:

### Inside this issue:

<i>Prayers, Presence, Gifts</i>	2
<i>Elders and Worship</i>	
<i>Leader Schedule</i>	2
<i>45 Lessons con't</i>	2
<i>BYKOTA</i>	2
<i>Directory Update</i>	2
<i>Pastoral Letter</i>	3
<i>Graduates</i>	4
<i>Summer Book Club</i>	4
<i>Golf Tournament</i>	4
<i>Hygiene Kits</i>	5
<i>Youth Sunday Congrats</i>	5
<i>Flowers for Sanctuary</i>	5
<i>Going Deeper</i>	5
<i>In Remembrance</i>	6
<i>Elder' Retreat</i>	6
<i>New Arrival</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7

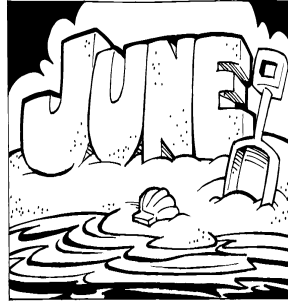
- ◆ Cupcakes
- ◆ Cookies
- ◆ Ice cream sandwiches
- ◆ Popsicles
- ◆ Bag of trail mix with nuts and M&M's from Costco
- ◆ Or signing up to provide one of the following:
- ◆ Bottle of spaghetti sauce
- ◆ Bag of macaroni
- ◆ Bag of spaghetti
- ◆ Baked beans
- ◆ Garlic bread
- ◆ Hot dog buns
- ◆ Fruit

- ◆ Or by sharing in the creation of Church World Service *hygiene bags* for victims of the recent flooding in Mississippi and Tennessee and the tornadoes in various parts of the United States: (we will be bringing items during the week of VBS to create these bags) See page 5.
- ◆ Registration forms are now available. Bring a friend.



# Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

May 1	88	Attendance & Gifts	\$ 4,119.98
May 8	81	Attendance & Gifts	\$ 4,356.25
May 15	70	Attendance & Gifts	\$ 791.00
May 22	75	Attendance & Gifts	\$1,069.00
2010 Average Monthly Expense:			\$14,104.67



*Elder 9 AM Service Schedule*

*June 5th - Michele Chambless*

*June 12th - Bonnie Bezon*

*June 19th - Michele Walker*

*June 26th - Bonnie Bezon*

*9 AM Worship Leaders*

*June 5th - Ronda Hensley*

*June 12th - Mark Line*

*June 19th - John Marlatt*

*June 26th - Mary Jacobs*

- 1 Stephen Hook
- 2 Jeffrey Chambless
- 8 Tara Hook
- 13 Jeff Bezon
- 15 Barbara White
- 17 Ronda Hensley
- 19 Judy Pendleton
- 22 Melissa Chambless
- 24 Finny Marlatt
- 24 Judy Ahlers
- 27 Mercedes Marlatt

### BYKOTA Senior Fellowship

meets at June 13th ...Olive Garden on Southern, west of Alma School

Thanks, Mary Jean



### Directory Update:

**Michele Fairfax's phone number is (480) 433-6084**

*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:*

- 31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
- 32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
- 33. Believe in miracles.
- 34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
- 35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
- 36. Growing old beats the alternative --- dying young.
- 37. Your children get only one childhood.
- 38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
- 39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
- 40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.

Continued next month....

*Sabbatical Quote: A father of two sons in elementary school says, "Life is not about getting it all done. Life is not about filling every moment. Life is about gift, embracing and receiving God's gifts. God may want us to be inefficient sometimes in order for us to receive his gifts more fully."*

What a wonderful thing to be in the ministry for God! Today, I am moved to tears that God allowed me and First Christian Church to bless



someone that was hungry with food that you bring to worship here on Sunday's and other times. Today, as I was entering the building a man on his bicycle stopped by asking for food. As soon as I closed the door I heard the opening sound of the lid of the soup can outside, tears began to fall because I know this is what it is all about - helping God's children.

First Christian Church sits in the middle of Mesa with a large population of people who have been

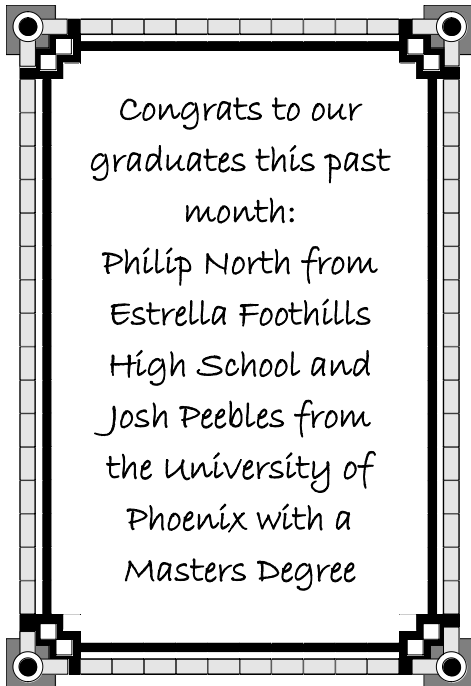
devastated by today's economy. Therefore, we serve many of Mesa's homeless families. In the month of April alone we provided, with your help and efforts, 47 people with food. There are men, women and children who may have had to spend the night or week hungry but because of your Christian values they did not.

Please look forward to these other opportunities for ministry this summer: VBS needs your help with volunteers for teacher assistants; kitchen help; craft helpers; and someone to assist with games. Also, this summer there will be an opportunity to minister as we extend a helping hand to those in our congregation

that need minor household repairs such as painting, spruce up a garden, tighten up nuts and bolts, etc. If you have these gifts and others that you would like to share and donate on a Saturday please contact me 480-433-6084 my mobile phone or 480-833-7312 First Christian Church or email me at Michelefairfax@yahoo.com

***Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share with you and God what it means to be a servant of the Most High God.***

*Michele Fairfax*

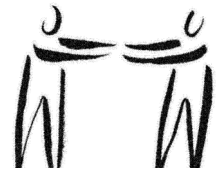


## *Food for the Hungry in Mesa*

Occasionally people come to the church office asking for food assistance.

Lately our pantry of food items has been less well-stocked than we might hope.

Next time you go shopping, perhaps you could pick up an extra food item for our pantry. Non-perishable food items are best - crackers, canned fruit, canned vegetables, peanut butter, raviolis, Ramen noodles, canned meats and/or stews (cans with pop tops), bottled water, inexpensive can openers. Our children will bring them forward during worship.



## *Summer Book Club*

During the Sunday School hour starting in June, we will be holding a Summer Book Club in which we will explore the book "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. Whether you have previously read the book or not, all are welcome to explore this book with us through a Christian lens. If you need a copy of the book, I have a few available for just \$3.00 (1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served). Please sign up with me after church or let me know if you need help locating a book, or if you have a copy that you would be willing to loan our group. Thanks! Bonnie Bezon

**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.

## Hygiene Kits

In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

### To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One **wide-tooth** comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)

Six standard size Band-Aids®

Please **do not** add toothpaste (Church World Service provides) to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Bring items to church the next three Sundays or the week of VBS 6/12-6/16/11.



## YOUTH SUNDAY WAS A BLAST!



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED ORGANIZE AND PARTICIPATED IN MAKING FCC YOUTH SUNDAY SUCH A SUCCESS!



anyone has flowers from their garden that are blooming

during the summer, please feel free to bring an arrangement to church and share with everyone.

*Bev Sayre, Flower Captain for 2011 - 2012*



*"Going Deeper"  
A peer group spiritual direction program for parish pastors*

Shalem Institute's 'Going Deeper' program is one more programmatic element in the Dry Landscapes, Deep Wells sabbatical plan Bill is undertaking this year.

It involves a residency at the New Windsor Retreat Center in Maryland in August, and follow-up sessions with peer groups and in residence for the twelve months that follow. The final Shalem group activity is in July 2012, with written reflections due in September.

## *In Remembrance*

Members of First Christian Church (DOC) of Mesa gather each week around the communion table, reciting the words of Christ and participating in the sacred meal “in remembrance” of Jesus. That gift has been handed down generation to generation.

As we recall the names of those who have died, our minds are filled with precious memories. We are their legacy, and much of what we have – in both material and non-material things – have been handed down to us from them. But what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered? Will we leave more than an empty spot in a pew?

As you plan for the distribution of your assets at your death, consider a charitable bequest to First Christian Church (DOC) of Mesa. This is one way your faith can be transferred to the next generation. This, and other types of planned gifts, can undergird our congregation’s ministry in perpetuity, providing resources that will allow future generations of Disciples to worship, serve others and continue the vital ministries of the church.

Christians also can use their estates to demonstrate one final act of stewardship. Our possessions are gifts from God, and God has intended for us to use them wisely throughout our lifetimes. Through our estate plans, we can provide for our loved ones while also making a faithful distribution back to God to further God’s work. We will be remembered by our giving.

Please remember the church in your will.

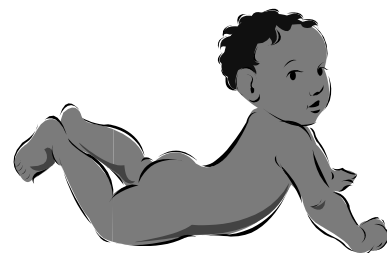
### *Elder’s Retreat - June 17th & 18th*

*New and continuing elders of FCC Mesa usually set aside a full day in the summer for worship, prayer and study together before embarking on the ministry of caring and sharing.*

**FCC elders for 2011-2012 are Eileen Anderson, Chiyo Beasley, Bonnie Bezon, Renae Hackman, Mark Line, Ann North, LaVerne Thorpe, Michele Walker and Ron Wright.**

*Please pray for them as they lead us in prayer all year long.*

FCC welcomes the new arrival of bouncing baby boy, Zerion Bryant, son of longtime visitors Sheimia and Zedrick Bryant. Zerion weighed in at 9lbs even.







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](http://www.mesadisciples.org)

---

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

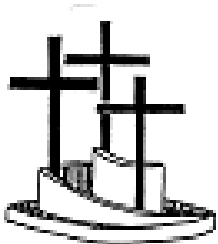
*Fax: 480-833-7312*  
*Rev. Bill Jacobs, Pastor*

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

9:00 am Chalice Worship



## 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.