

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

November
2011

Volume 101,
Issue 07

The Builder



East Valley CROP Walk

Sunday, November 13, 1:30 PM

at El Dorado Park in Scottsdale

Support the FCC youth as they walk and/or sign-up to walk.

ADVENT EVENT

Sun., Nov. 27, 4:00 - 6:30 PM

In Eaton Friendship Center

Potluck Supper & Activities for All

Hands on Preparations for Christmas season

Alternative Christmas Giving options include

Giving Tree for Foster Kids and **Global Ministries** projects

Fair Trade Items of chocolate and coffee to support

Disciples Week of Compassion offerings for relief and development aid.

Gift Area for Children and Youth Each child and youth will receive ten First Christian “**star**” **bucks** that they can use to shop in a gift area to purchase an item or materials to make a gift for someone else.

Inside this issue:

<i>Prayers, Presence, Service</i>	2
<i>Elders' Schedule</i>	2
<i>Worship Leader Schedule</i>	2
<i>Chapman University Note</i>	2
<i>BYKOTA meets Nov 14</i>	2
<i>Minister's Moments</i>	3
<i>Church World Service</i>	4
<i>Working alongside KALA</i>	5
<i>Grateful or Alienated ??</i>	6
<i>Twenty-Five Key Documents</i>	6
<i>Kids Need Routine</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7

Re-Giftable Items Sought by November 20th

You can support the Advent Event by looking around your homes to identify **re-giftable items** that you no longer use or want that could become gifts for another, please **bring them to the church by the morning of November 20st**, so we can get them ready for the event on the 27th.

Would YOU Believe ...A Stable?

A Short Christmas Drama By Linda Thomas

Come audition on **Sunday, November 6th** following the Sunday Pastry Party around 11:00 AM in the worship space. Children, youth and adults are invited to audition for different roles.

Prayers, Presence, and Service

Attendance	Sep 25	74
Attendance	Oct 2	89
Attendance	Oct 9	65
Attendance	Oct 16	88
Attendance	Oct 23	84





NOTE!
ADDRESS CHANGE
 Barbara White
 P.O. Box 1238
 Lake Ozole, MO 65049-1238

November Birthdays



Elder 9 AM Service Schedule
November 6th - Michele Walker
November 13th - Ann North
November 20th - Ron Wright
November 27th - Chiyo Beasley

9 AM Worship Leaders

November 6th - Ellen Hoff
November 13th - Bonnie Bezon
November 20th - John Marlatt
November 27th - JBD

- 5 Kobra Able
- 11 Bill Sayre
- 14 Andy Shepherd
- 16 Danny Thompson
- 18 Cody Hanson
- 20 Phillip North
- 23 Lexus Marlatt
- 23 Ginny Vermande
- 24 LaVerne Thorpe
- 25 Jesse James
- 26 Alex Valdo



Dear Members and Friends at First Christian Church,

Hello! My name is Ashley Nakagawa and I am a student from **Chapman University**.



THANK YOU

I'm a sophomore Health Science major originally from the San Francisco area. I am a part of Disciples on Campus or DOC.

DOC has really been a family to me because I am living away from home.

Thank you so much for your support and donations.

It means so much to me and the other DOC students.

God Bless! Sincerely, Ashley Nakagawa



BYKOTA meets Nov.14th at 12 noon. This group of seniors meets the 2nd Monday of the month. Please bring a dish to share.. and your own table service. November is THANKSGIVING month.

Do you have anything special about a family Thanksgiving that you would like to tell us? Perhaps a favorite recipe...or one that failed...or meal disasters...or a special trip for Thanksgiving..or unusual (non-traditional) food..Please tell us about it.

And if it is something funny, that is OK...It is good to laugh!!

Hope to see you on Nov. 14th.



THANKSGIVING

In two weeks I fly off to visit mission partners in Kitale, Kapenguria, Mwingi, Naguru and Nairobi, Kenya. I was briefed on details of our trip last Saturday. Our in-country hosts all receive support from Church World Service, the group that sponsors CROP walks across the nation. Several of you are planning to help CWS out either by walking or by sponsoring East Valley walkers on Sunday afternoon, November 13th.

That very same weekend, I will be shaking hands and taking pictures in Chepkechir where our centennial mission funds dug a well and built a school for girls. I will be able to visit another clean water project in rural Mwingi, which is a day's drive east of Nairobi, and I will learn first-hand what is being done with AIDS orphans in urban slums like Mahari and in rural areas outside Mwingi and Naguru while I am there.

The name of the AIDS orphan project is **Giving Hope**, and it sounds as if that is the key to their success in putting Africa's children back on track to healthy self-sufficiency. **The name of the game in all of these things is first of all hope.** Christians have it in abundance.

On the day before we leave Kenya I will stop in at the CWS refugee intake and interview center in Nairobi through which all African refugees to USA must pass. This was most likely the final stop for Sudanese Lost Boys

who came to our country a decade ago.



If Egyptian, Libyan or Tunisian refugees were to be approved for resettlement, they would come here first. With famine conditions across the upper two thirds of the continent and violent warlords rising in influence again, it is possible that some Somali refugees will again be allowed through in the next few years. Southern African refugees pass through here as well. It all starts here.

Our church has sponsored two refugee families in the past ten years: the Abdi family from Somalia and the Sadiq/Able family from Iraq, and we are certainly capable of doing more if called upon.

Keep in mind that if problems in an African nation can be resolved at home, no one needs emigrate, and that is the best solution for all involved. Sometimes,

however, resettlement is the only humane option. When that is the case, our congregation has been instrumental in offering that option for families who relocate to the Valley of the Sun.

Before I reach home I will stop off in Wisconsin to spend Thanksgiving with Mary, Lindsey and Erin as we watch the Packers-Lions game on TV on Thanksgiving Day at my sister's house. It reminds me how fortunate I have been all my life to enjoy comforts and freedoms that others only dream about, and how good it is to remain connected to my larger family.

Please lift up the work of Church World Service in your prayers whenever you can, and pray for our small group of travelers who will undoubtedly come home tired but hopeful about what God's people have been able to do to share our blessings with others.

How great is our God, and how fortunate I am to be your pastor!

Bill Jacobs



THIS IS MY STORY – Church World Service working alongside KALA

Letter to CWS Delegation from Kenya Adult Learner's Association's President Magdalene Gathoni

As a child, I was not able to join formal school because my parents did not understand the importance of educating a girl-child. During that time, many parents believed a girl will get married and serve the husband's family instead of where she was born!

I came from a family where my father had three wives. Our mothers were married under customary laws where they did not have a say on whom to get married to! My mother is the third wife and was married in 1947. I am first born in my mother's house and, in my whole family, I am the eighth born.

I grew up in a small village in the then Kiambu District (now the village is in Thika District). I do remember some of the problems I underwent as a child because of the status quo.

In 1955, the colonial government introduced a new system of farming and my father was one of the first farmers to adapt and implement it. The method involved growing coffee trees and digging holes of three by three feet. It was very hard for me as a child to dig one hundred holes per month but I did not have a say.

My father would sometimes tell us to help him in his new farm during the day while my mother took us to her farm to help in the evening when the moon was bright, where we tilled the land until ten or so in the evening, before going home to prepare the evening meals. At times we used to sleep hungry because we could not stay too long awake at night because we were very tired.

God is always great because I got a job as a cleaner in one of the medical schools in the city. I was staying in the hostel with nurses who were so kind to me. One of the nurses showed me where the literacy class was because I was asking her to teach me how to read and write.

I joined literacy class in 1970 and dropped out six months later after getting married. My husband was a pastor and a carpenter and had little education. Both of us had good relationship with God but we were very poor.

I was having children every year because using family planning was making me sick and weak all the time. So I decided not to take family planning medicine.

It was very hard for us to get every meal and the children were small and needed good care. I decided to start a small business so that we have enough food. The business did not do well because keeping records was very hard for me.

So I decided to go back to literacy class and by this time my children had joined school too. I had forgotten what I learnt six months earlier and I was to start again as a new learner. This time I could not drop out of literacy class again because I thought only education could change my life as well as my family. I was lucky this time because my family loved Jesus and all of us prayed together all the time. I came to realize that the richness of a human being is to be closer to Almighty God.

In 1996, I did my primary education exams and passed. **I thought a time has come to help other women who do not know about literacy program especially in rural areas.** I always thought the problems these women go through and decided to visit and discuss with them the importance of education.

I thought I had enough education but realized that I still needed to do much. I decided to continue learning while mobilizing other adults to enroll into literacy classes. It took me three months in the field where I met many people who needed education so much. Many of them joined literacy classes which was an impressive move in my work.

In October 1990 I was able to bring together 22 learners from 8 provinces of Kenya to discuss the problems facing adult learners. The learners supported my idea of forming a learners' association.

The Kenya Adult Learners' Association was then formed as a step forward for learners to map strategies for changing their lives. The reason why I work hard is to help those who are like me to change their lives through education because they can be able to be good in their small businesses, good farmers and able help themselves and their families. I have been able to reach thousands of community members in and out of Kenya. Now I am happy that most of those I meet and discuss with have changed their lives.

I ask God to keep me healthy and give courage because this kind of work has a lot of challenges. In 1990s, I had opportunity to be reached by the media and I was able to reach all Kenyan communities. Sometimes when I was invited to other countries than Kenya I would use that opportunity to meet learners in the area and introduce a learner's movement and help start a learner's association.

I managed to bring adult learners together from Africa countries many times and have managed to have a very strong movement of African learners where I am the African president.

When invited I tell my experience to the communities all over Africa that **I have managed to help the formation of a learners' associations in Uganda (ULALA), Tanzania (TALA), Malawi (MALA), Sierra Leone (SALA), South Africa (SANLA), Ghana (GALA), Zimbabwe (ZALA) and Kenya (KALA).**

I have ten children and my older children were able to reach primary levels but now are back to school though married and are doing well in their businesses.

I have travelled all over the world and literacy has changed my life. I am 61 years old now but I feel that I should continue helping the unreached though many challenges face me but with God I will overcome and reach my vision of changing Kenya from poverty and illiteracy to empowerment.

I always learn new things which encourage me. When I was with you in the field I learnt a lot and gained more strength. I will never stop to offer what I have because I know where I came from but many do not understand why I am giving a lot of strength to developing the community.

Between 1990 and 2005, KALA under my leadership has managed to educate 250,000 new learners, mostly women. With the support of CWS, KALA has planned to reach 300,000 new learners from unreached areas like **West Pokot, Narok, Naivasha, Machakos, Kirinyaga, Nairobi slums, Thika, Kiambu districts** in the areas where literacy has not reached the community.

I do offer what I can, blessed by God, to the people because He chosen me, and I think there was a reason for Him to choose me. I do not get any salary but use what God gives me and **I know when I make ten women literate and economically empowered, I have helped a thousand people.**

I am not so materially rich that sometimes I must go to sleep hungry, but I have a house where I don't pay rent, and I feel very happy while helping others because most of the people never think of others but of themselves.

The success of my work is to always involve community in planning and implementation of the projects. **When we work together, at the end of the project, the community will continue sustaining themselves.** That is why we mobilize communities to select their literacy facilitators and local coordinators. We then train them on how to manage the program or projects.

Working with government of the day is also very important because it is easier to get literacy facilitators from the government when I mobilize new learners.

I also face a lot of problems especially in mobility because all the areas I am currently working , there are no proper roads and it takes a lot of days to reach the program because I have to hire vehicles or walk for long to reach learners. **In West Pokot for instance, KALA has five centres and one is in Uganda where there are no primary schools. Unfortunately you were not able to visit that area as it is very far because it far even by a car.**

Every year, I always give my clothes to the poor because I always remember how I used to have only one dress and wash it on Saturday night so that I wear it on Sunday while going to church! And when it was torn, I could not attend church services but used to cry instead!

**Thank you Our Heavenly Father.
May God Bless you!**

Regards, *Magdalene Galtoni*

National Coordinator, Kenya Adult Learners' Association

“You can either feel grateful or alienated, but never both at the same time. Gratefulness drives out alienation; there is not room for both in the same heart. When you are grateful you know that you belong to a network of give-and-take and you say “yes” to that belonging. You need no words to express it; a smile will do to put your “yes” into action. Give someone an unexpected smile today and so contribute your share of peace on earth.” - **David Steindl-Rast, Benedictine**

Time To Get It Together So Your Family Won't Panic — Twenty-five “Before You Go” Documents

Your Family May Need the Following:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Marriage license | 10. Proof of loans made | 17. 401 (K) accounts |
| 2. Divorce papers | and debts owed | 18. Pension documents |
| 3. Personal and family medical history | 11. Vehicle titles | 19. Annuity contracts |
| 4. Durable health care power of attorney | 12. Stock certificates, savings | 20. List of bank accounts |
| 5. Authorization to release | bonds and brokerage accounts | 21. List of all user names |
| health-care information | 13. Partnership and | and passwords |
| 6. Living will | corporate operating agreements | 22. List of safe-deposit boxes |
| 7. Do-not-resuscitate order (DNR) | 14. Tax returns (3 years) | 23. Will |
| 8. Housing, land and cemetery deeds | 15. Life-insurance policies | 24. Letter of instruction |
| 9. Escrow mortgage accounts | 16. IRA's | 25. Trust documents |

Kids Need Routines: Family Resource Center

How many times have we heard that kids need routines? It's hard to remember all the extras that go along with raising children: making lunches, laundry, running errands, phone calls, and helping with homework.

These extras, on top of major commitments, can become overwhelming, which adds to a family's chaos, and may cause power struggles.

To avoid power struggles try these simple tips:

- ◆ ***Avoid the morning rush by looking over homework, signing permission slips, bathing, and preparing lunches and backpacks the night before.***
- ◆ ***Prevent the clothes wars by allowing children to choose and lay out their clothing prior to bedtime.***
- ◆ ***Help children create a checklist for completing their morning routine. Include such things as brushing teeth, combing hair, etc.***

Having good daily routines not only helps reduce power struggles, but enables us to gain better control of our lives. Good luck!

A reminder from our neighbors at the Family Resource Center
 815 E. Country Club Drive.
 480.834.9424
frc@childcrisis.org

HOURS OF OPERATION

M-Th 8:30am to 7:30 pm
F 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

The Child Crisis Center consists of many different entities and programs.

- Emergency Shelter**
- Arizona Adoption & Foster Care**
- Family Resource Center**
- MyChild'sReady**
- Counseling Services**
- Community Involvement**

November 2011

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4	5 <i>Yard Sale</i> <i>9am Elders</i> <i>CCF Retreat</i>
Worship Schedule			5:30 pm Praise <i>Band rehearsal</i>	1 pm Mesa <i>Palms</i>			
• November 6th	6 Pastry Party <i>Deacon Training</i> <i>Chalice</i> <i>Drama Auditions</i> <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am <i>Budget Cmte Mtg</i> <i>Pastry Party !</i>	7 5:45 WE/ME 7:15 pm <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	8 5:30 pm Praise <i>Band rehearsal</i>	9 <i>No Mesa Palms</i> <i>Study today</i>	10	11 <i>Veteran's</i> <i>Day</i>	12 <i>Bill in</i> <i>Chepkechir,</i> <i>Kenya</i>
• November 13th	13 9:00 am <i>Chalice</i> <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am <i>Sunday School</i>	14 BYKOTA <i>Noon potluck</i> 1:30 PM <i>East Valley</i> <i>CROP Walk</i>	15 5:30 pm Praise <i>Band rehearsal</i>	16 <i>Bill in Mwingi</i> <i>No Mesa Palms</i> <i>Study today</i>	17	18	19 <i>Bill at Lake</i> <i>Naguru in</i> <i>Kenya</i>
• November 20th	20 9:00 am <i>Chalice</i> <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am <i>Sunday School</i>	21 <i>Bill visits</i> <i>CWS refugee</i> <i>intake center</i> 7:15 pm <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	22 5:30 pm Praise <i>Band rehearsal</i>	23 Newsletter <i>Articles Requested</i> <i>No Mesa Palms</i> <i>Study today</i>	24  Happy Thanksgiving <i>Office Closed</i>	25	26 <i>Lights and</i> <i>wreaths</i>
• November 27th	27 9:00 am <i>Chalice</i> <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am <i>Sunday School</i>	28 11:00 am <i>DWM</i> 7:15 pm <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	29 5:30 pm Praise <i>Band rehearsal</i>	30 9am <i>Fellowship of the</i> <i>Fold</i> 1 pm Mesa Palms <i>Study</i> 5:30 pm DWM			



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
E-mail: mesafirst@yahoo.com

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

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

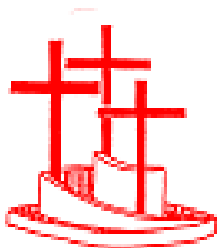
9:00 am Chalice Worship

10:10 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.