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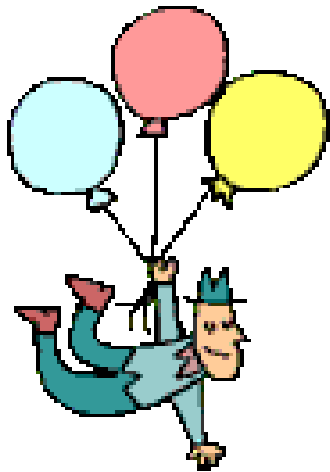
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mesa
805 N. Country Club Dr. Mesa, AZ 85201-4105

The Builder



Care and Share Breakfast on Sunday October 16th

Care and Share has been a regular feature at FCC each fall as we enjoy a breakfast together hosted by the elders of First Christian Church. Your elders want to get to know you and respond to your joys and needs. Elders want to be available to offer care when you seek it in times of special need. **Newcomers are especially welcome to join us.**



2011 Fall Youth Retreats in Tucson

October 29th - 30th

Registration Deadline is 10/25/11

Chi Rho at Desert Dove and CYF at Saguaro

November 5-6 CCF at Capilla del Sol

[Chi Rho Retreat Registration Form \[11\].pdf](#) online at www.arizonadisciples.com

[CYF Retreat Registration Form \[11\].pdf](#) online at www.arizonadisciples.com

[CCF Retreat Registration Form \[11\].pdf](#) online at www.arizonadisciples.com

Forms must be processed through your church office and signed by your pastor.

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Are You a Deacon? Let's Find Out

Deacons came to be because Peter and the other apostles were apparently unwilling to give up preaching the word of God in order to serve tables. They wanted helpers, working off of a commonly used Greek word diakonia which meant "service". These servers were then called "deacons".

The churches began to select deacons as "men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom". The role of deacon has grown to include women and men of all ages responsible for a very particular servant function in the church.

The first century deacons would attend to the needs of widows and orphans, collect food for the hungry and clothing for the needy. Today in our church deacons of all ages minister and represent the church primarily by serving in worship as those who receive the offering and distribute the communion elements to worshippers, preparing communion, ushering, greeting, acolyte, organizing baptismal and funeral celebrations and scheduling the display of flowers in the sanctuary. They do this to represent other ministries of service in the wider community. Service inside and out is every Christian's calling, so perhaps you are a "deacon" already. (continued on p. 4)

Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

Sep 4	71	Attendance & Gifts	\$2,880.00
Sep 11	91	Attendance & Gifts	\$2,013.12
Sep 18	69	Attendance & Gifts	\$666.92
2011 Average Monthly Expense:			\$14,104.67



- 12 Zada Toohey
- 16 David James, Sr.
- 20 Sara Donaldson
- 27 Stacy Putter
- 28 Michelle Marlatt

Elder 9 AM Service Schedule

- October 2 - Bonnie Bezon
- October 9 - Eileen Anderson
- October 16 - Mark Line
- October 23 - LaVerne Thorpe
- October 30 - Renae Hackman

- 9 AM Worship Leaders*
- October 2 - Ronesha Canales
 - October 9 - Ronda Hensley
 - October 16 - LaVerne Thorpe
 - October 23 - John Marlatt
 - October 30 - Eileen Anderson

October is Domestic Abuse Awareness Month

Does your partner do any of the following regularly:

- Embarrass you with bad names & put-downs?*
- Control what you do, who you see or where you go?*
- Take your money or refuse to give you money?*
- Tell you that you are a bad parent?*
- Destroy property or threaten you?*
- Push, slap or hit you?*
- Threaten to commit suicide?*
- Act like the abuse is no big deal, or your fault?*

County Shelter Hotline 1-800-799-7739

Sojourner Center 602-244-0089



Thanks to everyone that sent cards, phoned, and helped with driving, since my accident.



And a special thanks to Ron who has been so wonderful with all his help and concern.

I am very grateful for my church family.

Mary Jean Maedche

IT'S TIME AGAIN to give the cashier at Bashas' FCC reward number 28885 just once while using your **THANK YOU** card. Then every time you use your card First Christian's **Be Ye Kind One to Another** (BYKOTA) fellowship gets credit.

Because of your support we received funds from your purchases last year, which helped us give money to help kids go to camp, assemble a Christmas basket, assist with church projects and repairs, etc.

On my first Sunday back at FCC I introduced two long silences into Sunday worship.

Those who go by first impressions might conclude that I am not a fan of “silent prayer” – or silent movies, or silent anything for that matter. I like to talk while I watch TV. I like to sing as I drive. I like to turn the crafted phrase when I can most days of the week.



And if I'm not speaking, I like to listen to the spoken prayers of others, or call to mind a familiar praise chorus or hymn. Silence has hardly ever been my first refuge in prayer.

But, to be honest, **silence is where most of my sermons begin**, and in silence they grow to maturity. Saturdays are more silent than not. **Most of my early morning hours are quiet.**

Much of my counseling ministry has included **times of uninterrupted silence**, as we listen for a hint of where God might be leading us in times of trial. Hospitals are often quiet, as are libraries (or they used to be).

During four months of sabbatical I spent untold hours in silent meditation and prayer.

I will admit that my so-called **“Silent Sabbath”** in August,

consisting of thirty-six hours without hearing another human voice, **wasn't the easiest day and a half I ever spent.** (I'd say I barely survived.)

And I can't say I know how to teach the art of prayerful silence, although **I sat at the feet of those for whom ritual silence is an art form**, and also a blessed gift. They inspired me to make another go of it, to try to introduce several ritual silences into our Sunday services.

One such effort involves a monastic tradition of silence after scripture called **“lectio divina”**. We pause to listen in silence for a word or phrase that speaks to us personally, something that sounds a bit like an **“angel whisper”**.

Take the Twenty-third psalm, for example. You might hold on awhile to the first line: **“The Lord is my shepherd,”** a phrase that Henri Nouwen used as his mantra for almost two years. You might latch onto **“I will fear no evil”** or repeat to yourself: **“My cup runneth over.”**

If you're struggling, as I did, here are a few things to try while you get used to it:

First, **ritual silence is most productive when you are sitting up straight**, when the back of your head is in line with the spine that supports it, eyes open or closed, arms loose, feet on the floor, face relaxed.

Second, **you can always listen to the sound of your own body**, the breath of God moving through you, the Spirit of God following the rhythm of your natural heartbeat. It's the God within you that you hear.

Third, you can **choose a phrase that isn't part of the text** but part of the context: You can think to yourself, as you breathe in and out, “Holy, Holy” or “One in the Spirit” or “God is Love”.

There are no magic pills that make every moment of silence a sacred encounter, but silence can lead us there if we let it. And as scriptures begin to speak to you in holy silence, how much more will they speak to you when you start to describe to someone else what you thought you heard.

I hope when “Silent Sabbath” comes round next summer I will at least have a few more fifty second silences under my belt.

We are One in the Spirit,

Bill Jacobs

Sabbatical Celebration Brunch Sunday October 2nd

Let's celebrate summer's end, and keep the Sabbath Spirit alive all year round. Plan to stay after worship and welcome our pastor back on the first Sunday of October at a *Sabbatical Celebration*.

We will share a potluck brunch and swap stories with Pastor Bill about his and our sabbatical experiences. Please bring a brunch dish to share if you are able. If you cannot bring a dish, please come and share ours. The brunch will be **immediately after worship** and will replace Sunday School.

What is a brunch dish you ask?

Ham slices, bacon, deviled eggs, casseroles, quiche, tortilla roll-ups, pastries, fruit, veggie trays, bagels, cold pizza are good places to start.

Ellen Harris Hoff

Bill's reading this summer included Wayne Muller's book *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight In Our Busy Lives*:

"At our best, we become Sabbath for one another. We are the emptiness, the day of rest. We become

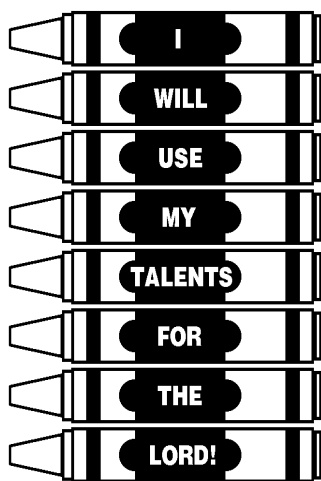


space, that our loved ones, the lost and sorrowful, may find rest in us.

Whenever two or more are gathered, there am I in the midst of you. Not fixing, not harming, not acting.

Quietly empty, we become Sabbath, where the sorrows of the world are safely poured and gently dissolve into the unfathomable immensity of rest, and silence."

Are You A Deacon? (Continued from page one)



For the past several years, John Marlatt has done most of his recruiting just before the service begins, basing that on who is there and willing to do it. Now John is asking us to consider a new way of doing it:

"I'm visualizing a better way that I can address this important role in the church. In the next few weeks I will be asking members of the congregation who are willing and able to be servers on Sundays to agree to do so on scheduled days.

I will then be planning some quick information / training times where everyone involved can feel more comfortable with the duties of serving.

Then I will create a schedule that deacons will agree to be there and serve, eliminating the need to ask on Sundays unless it's to cover someone who may be absent.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you and serving beside you as we serve our church and our God."

Peace, John Marlatt, Server Captain

LaVerne Thorpe's lasting memories of a visit to Ghana, Africa

Let me tell you about my visit with Joyce Larko with the Christian Council of Ghana located in Accra, Ghana. Ms. Larko works with HIV/Aids victims and Child Human Trafficking victims.



LaVerne Thorpe & Joyce Larko

Joyce works with the HIV/Aids victims and told me how in one family, with the help of the support of Global Ministries, they have been able to provide life saving dialysis treatment to a recent mother of twins and medication prior to the birth of the twins so they did not contract the virus during the birth process.

She also explained how they were able to rescue 198 boys who were human trafficking victims. In the village where the boys live the people survive by fishing and selling what they catch. The boys were sold by their parents during times of extreme hardship, when parents were falsely told that the children would be fed and educated. Instead they were taken away from home and forced into a life of hard labor, physical abuse, and more starvation in a larger fishing operation far from home.

Slavers recruit boys from age 3 to 10 from fishing villages up and down the coast of Ghana because the boys can swim and are used to working on boats. The boys are forced to do back breaking work on the fishing boats by the slavers and many times, because they are so young and their bones are underdeveloped, they end up with permanent injury and deformity to the spine. You can see in the photo a few of the rescued boys.



Sometimes the solution to a big problem is small thing but because you don't have that small thing the problem continues with disastrous results that affect people in a negative way for generations. For instance, Joyce informed me if the village had a large smoker to preserve the fish caught during the season of plenty they would have food to eat and fish to sell during the lean season eliminating the temptation to sell their children. My friend Sandy and I have started a fund to provide a smoker for the village. Joyce will let me know what the cost of this smoker will be and I will pass that information along when I get it.

The donated sewing machine at left will empower this young man to make a living for himself instead of facing a life hopeless poverty. Joyce advises a young man and his mother in the photo at right on how to make a living together now that he is home.. Many of these boys have career and educational dreams and want to support themselves. Once the boys were returned home, it was just the beginning of the work needed. Education, job training, counseling, and funding is still needed to help eliminate the threat of starvation that could induce a mother to consider selling her child.

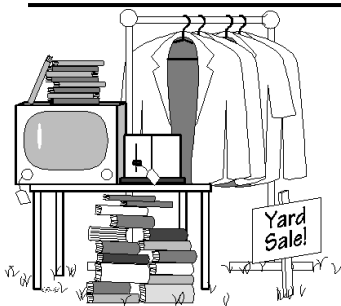


Boy shown with a sewing machine donated by Phyllis Hallman a Disciple woman from Arizona



I was humbled by my experiences and realize how important the work of the church is in the world.

Yes we can and yes we do make a difference. **LaVerne Thorpe**



Recycle Stuff at the November 5 Yard Sale

Our garage is filling up and sorting will start on Monday, October 31st. If you can help, show up around 9 AM Tuesday or Wednesday of that week.

Any items you wish to contribute can go into the garage on/after October 23rd. Mark Line or Craig Campbell are willing to pick up large items with a truck if you will call Mark at 480-228-6175 or call the office at 480-833-7312.

The yard sale starts at 7 AM that morning, and lasts 'til 1 PM or so. We hope to offer something simple to eat for those who come. Donations and helpers welcome.

CCF Named Funds Undergird Ministry Beyond our Lifetimes

Did you know that an outright gift, or a charitable bequest, of \$1,000 or more can create a named fund at the Christian Church Foundation that will distribute dollars annually to the ministries of your choosing – such as First Christian Church of Mesa, perhaps, and other ministries you may name.

The Foundation is the general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) designed to help church members create a lasting legacy through planned gifts. As the “trust” department of the church, the Foundation manages permanent funds and legacy gifts from donors.

Creating a permanent fund at the Foundation can be easily arranged through **Marilyn Fiddmont**, our area representative. She will keep it simple and flexible, as always:

It is simple, because with a tax-deductible gift of \$1,000 or more is all it takes to establish the fund. Additional gifts can be made during life or at death, simply by naming the Foundation as a charitable beneficiary in your estate.

Flexible, because the donor completes a permanent fund gift agreement that can be amended during life without having to pay attorney fees or other documents. That way you, as the donor, can add or alter charitable beneficiaries of the fund as your needs change. In addition, you can create contingency charitable beneficiaries of the fund in case those ministries change, close or lose their connection with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

To learn more, visit the Foundation website at www.disciples.org/ccf, or call (800) 668-8016.

2012 Regional Youth Events

**March 3 & 4 Chi Rho @ Foothills CC, Phoenix
CYF @ Coolwater CC, Scottsdale**

*Summer camp costs can be a challenge. Looking ahead, you may want to consider setting aside money now by buying one or more “**FCC Camp Coupons**” which are worth \$50 each. If you buy one this fall for each of your children, another in January and a third before May 1st, you qualify for the early bird discount. Three camp coupons from campers or parents, matched by three from sponsors or patrons pays for one FCC camper.*


SUMMER CAMP IN PRESCOTT JULY 1 - 6, 2012

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Worship Schedule

<p>October 2nd: 9:00 am Chalice Worship</p>	<p>2 10 am Sabbatical Celebration Potluck; 5:00 pm Chi Rho and CYF @ Chalice CC</p>	<p>3 6:00 pm Sabbatical Summer Oversight Team 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4 5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>5 1:00pm Mesa Palms Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>•October 9th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship 10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Noon BYKOTA 5:00 pm Trustees 6:00 pm Board Mtg; 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>12 1:00pm Mesa Palms Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>•October 16th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship 10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>16 Care & Share 4:00 pm Paz de Cristo</p>	<p>17 5:30 pm Evangelism 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>19  1:00 pm Mesa Palms Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>•October 23rd: 9:00 am Chalice Worship 10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 5:30 pm WEME 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal Youth Retreat Registration Deadline</p>	<p>26 9:00 am Fellowship of the Fold 1:00 pm Mesa Palms Bible</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Chi Rho & CYF Retreats</p>
<p>•October 30th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship 10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Sort items for Yard Sale 5:30-7:00 pm Trunk or Treat</p>					





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)

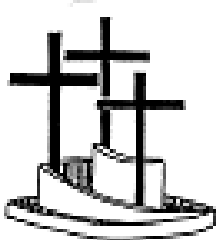
9:00 am Chalice Worship (hymnals with choir)

10:15 am Sunday School for all ages

* Childcare for ages 0-5 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.