

September
2011

Volume 101,
Issue 4

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

The Builder



Be a Part of the FCC
Learning Community

Jesus moved from city to village to countryside as a “rabbi”, teacher. He taught soul deep possibilities about God’s realm by using ordinary things -- a field of flowers, a sewer, a woman who lost a coin, a son who made unwise decisions, a flock of birds, a tiny seed...

Being a Christian, living the Jesus’ way, is a day by day learning and transforming experience. We come upon it in our daily study, prayer and acting; and we come upon it in joining other learners as we search and discover God’s desires for us and this world. We relearn forgotten things and discover in well worn scriptures new ideas and ways of being God’s people.

Sunday, September 11, marks the beginning of Sunday classes following worship and weekday classes, women’s groups, youth groups, retreats and more. Mark your calendar and prayerfully consider:

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*For what
nourishment is
my spirit
longing?
Where do I
want to meet
God in the
learning
community?*



2011-2012 Kick-off Events

CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship, 9th-12th grades) New Connections Retreat *Sunday, September 4 meet at 12:30pm at FCC, Mesa* following worship for all East Valley Congregations and travel north to Riverdance. *Return Monday, September 5 in the afternoon.*

Chi Rho (6th-8th grades) Dive-In Movie Overnight

Sunday, September 4th, 4:30 PM meet at Jacobs’ home, 1821 E. Carver Road, Tempe – **Monday, September 5th, 11 AM.**

CCF ★CHRISTIAN CHILDREN’S FELLOWSHIP★ 3RD★5TH GRADES★ CELEBRATE★

Saturday, September 3, 2PM meet at Donaldson’s home, 672 W. Mesquite St., go on Dobson south past Elliot to Mesquite and turn left; they are across from Hoopes Park in Chandler. We will go to the Desert Oasis pool for swimming and water sliding good time. We will return to Donaldson's around 4PM for food and more fun. We will finish at 6PM.

Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

July 31	64	Attendance & Gifts	\$2,008.00
Aug 7	84	Attendance & Gifts	\$6,756.13
Aug 14	63	Attendance & Gifts	\$1,702.50
Aug 21	66	Attendance & Gifts	\$938.27
Aug 28	72	Attendance & Gifts	\$2,346.00
2011 Average Monthly Expense:			\$14,104.67

TOPICS



- 5 Ron Wright
- 8 Della Hill
- 10 Bill Way
- 21 Darold Mollohan
- 22 Porsha Marlatt
- 24 Dewayne Thompson
- 26 Addalade Campbell
- 26 Alaysha Kaufman
- 28 Bud Finley

Elder 9 AM Service Schedule

September 4th - Michele Walker

September 11th - Ann North

September 18th - Ron Wright

September 25th - Chiyo Beasley

Time

Take time to pray....it helps to bring God near and washes the dust of earth from your eyes.

Take time for friends.... it is the source of happiness.

Take time for work....it is the price of success.

Take time to think...it is the source of power.

Take time to read.... it is the foundation of knowledge.

Take time to laugh... it is the singing that helps with life's loads.

Take time to love...it is the one sacrament of life.

Take time to dream.... it hitches the soul to the stars.

Take time to play...it is the secret of youth.

Take time to worship.... it is the highway to reverence.

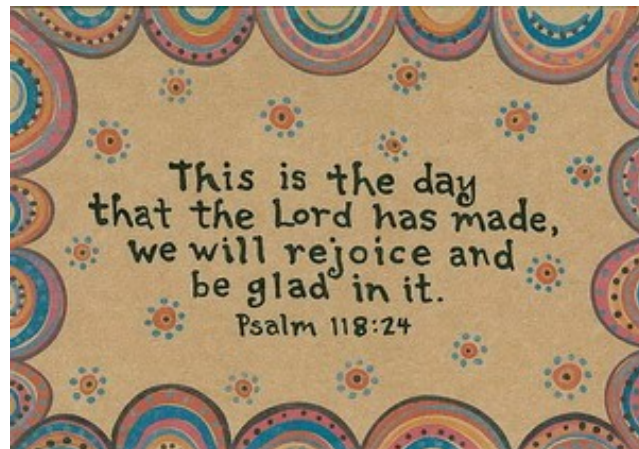
9 AM Worship Leaders

September 4th - Ellen Hoff

September 11th - Michele Fairfax

September 18th - tbd

September 25th - tbd



Dear Church Family,

What a delight it has been to be your Sabbatical Pastor! I enjoyed getting to know each one of you better. The laughs we shared warmed my heart and the sorrows we shared anchored my heart deeper in my belief that God loves each one of us. Because God cares, He walks with us through the good and the bad - telling each one that His love has no boundaries.

I hope, as I served you, that I met your needs as a Minister, Pastor, Counselor, and as a Friend. My passion for God and His people continue to be a blessing to me as I minister here at, First Christian Church of Mesa. I hope that the community in

which we worship continue to be fed. Nourishment with food and with God's Word was provided for the physical body and for the soul. To God is the glory.

I would also like to thank you for the assistance that was given to me, as well as, the kind words of encouragement during my time here serving you as your Sabbatical Pastor. It is a testament to God and Bill how when I was hospitalized that you continued the work of our church without missing a beat and kept things going until I returned. Thank you.

I also would like to thank God for

this opportunity. With God in the forefront He added to His Church this summer through, church transfers and baptisms. Isn't that what it's all about? Letting people know of the love that God has for each one of them – His children. And, introducing them or reintroducing them to, Jesus, the one who *paid* it all for us.

So again, Thank you, for letting me do what I so love – serving the Lord.

Blessings and Yours in Christ,

Michele Saufax



News of the hour on ESPN this week:

Tiger Woods, after three months away from the game, returns to tournament play on a golf course where he has had some success in the past. He expects to see a lot of old friends, and now returns to tournament play in a game where every shot counts for something.

He has been training all along, but admits he is still not 100%. He has made some adjustments, and might have to make a few more. Here is the gist of his ESPN interview, in a nutshell:

ESPN: Has the game changed since you last played?

Woods: I haven't been out there, but I see a lot of new players getting wins.

I look forward to returning and playing alongside them again.

ESPN: Do you suppose they missed you while you were away?

Woods: I don't know. Did they?

ESPN: What was the best thing you did for yourself while you were out?

Woods: I spent a lot of time with my kids.

I do not pretend that all the parallels are there. I have not broken any course records in my past, and on the other hand I have crashed no cars, suffered no divorces, nor dare I pretend to be the Tiger Woods of ministry in Mesa. I do, however, know how he feels, poised to play again.

You have to choose your moment to return, ease back into the game, make some easy shots before you

try to burn up the course with long distance drives and perfect approaches to every green. You can still expect to land in the rough once in a while, just as you often did before.

But it's nice to think that three months or more can make a difference in the life of growing children, even if others on the circuit had wished you had stayed on the course the whole time.

I also spent "a lot of time with my kids" this summer, and made some key decisions about how to live a balanced life in ministry, and now I hope to rejoin my church family in a few weeks.

See you after Labor Day.

Meanwhile, send a few drives down the fairway for me, will you? Tee it up and play a round or two before I get there. I know you've been practicing.

See you soon, **Pastor Bill**

Come Join in the Sabbatical Celebration

Our Sabbatical Celebration will be a brunch potluck after worship on October 2. We will celebrate and learn about Pastor Bill's journeys and our own experience here at home. Please come whether or not you can bring a dish to share. If you can bring a dish to share, please bring brunch foods such as deviled eggs, ham slices, bagels, pastry, fruit, veggie trays, quiche, tortilla roll-ups, casseroles, etc.

Ellen Harris Hoff



Disciples Women's Gatherings

**Circle of Peace, Monday,
September 26 at 11 AM, *Confessing
the Beatitudes* Study and favorite salad
potluck, in the Friendship Center**

**Wednesday Group, Wednesday,
September 28 at 5:30 PM,
Confessing the Beatitudes Study and
dinner at Mary Jacobs' home, 1821 E.
Carver Road.**

**Friday Connections, a group for
younger women in the church, Friday,
September 9, 5:30PM, Wine and
Cheese Tasting hosted by Bonnie Bezon at
1821 E. Carver Rd., Tempe.**

It's a NEW LAW...For those who serve at Paz on a regular basis, you will need to get a **volunteer's food handler card**. You may access the food service worker study guide at <http://www.maricopa.gov/envsvc/envhealth/specprog/foodworker/StudyGuides.aspx>

There is also a copy on hand in the church office.

But, everyone (who helps out more than 4 times a year) will need to get one. Age requirement to volunteer at Paz de Cristo is over 10 yrs old.

3rd Annual Golf Tournament at Gold Canyon Golf Resort Saturday, September 24, 2011

Get those golf clubs out and sign-up to participate in this tournament. This is open to **ALL GOLFERS** – Recruit a TEAM (**T**ogether **E**ach **A**chieves **M**ore). If you know any golfers please invite them to participate. The monies raised at this tournament help to provide financial support for Mesa Homeless Ministries, Youth Summer Camps, and Global Outreach Ministries. Leave a message at the Church Office 480-833-7312 or call Maurica Thompson 623-261-8107 if you have any questions.

ALL Golfers will have an opportunity to win **\$1,000** if you make "The Hole-in-One".
SEE YOU THERE!



September 11

Partnering For Peace

An Interfaith Worship in Remembrance of 9/11

Sunday, September 11th @ 3 pm

Neeb Hall at ASU

Neeb Hall is directly east of the ASU 10th St Parking Structure, located at 10th Street and Myrtle Avenue, 1 block east of Mill Ave and south of University Dr. Parking is free.

Sponsored by TEAM--Tempe Interfaith & Council of Religious Advisors (CORA) at ASU

For more information call 480-967-5266

Day of Service: Volunteering on 9/11 and Beyond

- Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011 9am-noon
- McQueen Park Activity Center, 510 N. Horne Street

Join several nonprofit organizations offering a variety of volunteer opportunities to pay tribute to those lost in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, and to volunteer year-round. Many tables will be available offering volunteer opportunities at the event itself, including to write letters to members of the military, make scrapbook pages for children in the welfare system, or prepare an emergency preparedness kit. There will also be art tables, including a table where you can help create a link for the Chain of Hope, which will be on display for the Sept. 11 ceremony. Images of the 3,000 lost will play on TV screens, and a video team will be taking 30 second messages of tribute from the public.



9/11 Remembrance: Military Support Day

- **Monday, Sept. 5 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 9/11 Memorial, Town Hall, 50 E. Civic Center Drive**
- Join local veteran groups for a lunch of corn beef and cabbage and to learn about military organizations, as well as help donate supplies to be sent overseas. This day is an excellent opportunity to thank the troops who stepped forward to protect us following the attacks. This day of tribute is in honor of all Veterans who have protected our country, before and after the attacks. There will also be information about programs such as Operation Welcome Home, which are designed to appreciate our veterans year-round. Lawn seating available: please bring your chairs and blankets. Tables and chairs will also be available.

Candlelight Vigil. A Tribute to Memories

- **Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011 7:30pm 9/11 Memorial, Town Hall, 50 E. Civic Center Drive**
- Candles will be provided to the public at this solemn vigil that will take place at the 9/11 Memorial, just outside of Town Hall. The 45-minute event will include stories, prayers, songs and the candlelight tribute in memory and honor of those lost. Seating will be under the trees in the grassy area, a limited number of chairs will be available. The Memorial will be veiled during this event, unveiling will be on Sunday, September 11.



FEATURED STORYTELLER



Each year the South Mountain Community College presents a Faculty Storytelling Concert. This year Doug Bland from Community Christian Church will be the featured storyteller. During the first half of the concert other faculty members will tell stories. Doug will tell stories during the second half. This concert is open to the public and starts at 7pm, Wednesday, September 14th, at the South Mountain Community College Performing Arts Center, near 24th St.

LaVerne Thorpe's Trip To Ghana, part II

Rev. Seth Agidi took me to a mid week healing service at one of the agricultural centers. At this location people from the areas near and far come to learn how to plant and grow crops. The students also learn how to raise and care for farm animals. The center

houses students while they learn. The church is not only feeding people but teaching them how to feed themselves and others. In a country where hunger is a problem this is an important ministry. Even though the service was held at noon on a Wednesday afternoon there were about 75



people in attendance. I was honored when I was invited to bring greetings on behalf of the Christian Church (DOC).

Both Rev. Seth and Lydia expressed an interest in being invited to attend our General Assembly. They also want to know us better. Perhaps a pastoral exchange could be explored. They would gladly welcome a volunteer to come to the center to stay at least six months and work with one of the many programs, churches and/or educational facilities.

Unfortunately I was not able to stay for Sunday services. I was informed they have two services each Sunday with approximately 1000 people in attendance at each service. The EP Church striving to meet the needs of the people they serve fulfilling the gospel mandate to "feed my sheep".

Somalia - Week of Compassion

Famine has swept through two areas of Somalia, the United Nations officially declares today, confirming the analysis of ACT agencies working in the country.

While the announcement refers to the Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions of southern Somalia, ACT predicts that the entire south will face famine within the next two months. There is ample evidence that millions of people in Somalia already have little or no access to food, are acutely malnourished and are at risk of starvation within months, says the 78-member Somalia NGO Consortium, in which ACT participates. More than 3.7 million Somalis, or half of the entire population, are in need of humanitarian assistance. In some areas in south central Somalia, more than half of the population is malnourished - of whom more than one in four is severely malnourished.

UN coordinating network OCHA estimates that as many as ten million people are now affected by drought and food shortages across the Horn of Africa. The situation is described as the worst for 60 years. Somalia, where ACT is now hard at work distributing food to over 30,000 people, is one of the



Somalia continued

worst affected.

Aid underway

"We are already underway in our efforts to distribute 262 tonnes of flour and 52 tonnes of cooking oil to the hardest-hit areas of Gedo province in Somalia. This first delivery will assist over 30,000 people in four villages for around a month. However, needs are huge. We received over US \$700,000 from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs towards Somalia earlier this year, but we are now applying for more," explains Gaim Kebreab, representing ACT in Somalia and Kenya.

He describes a situation under which people are becoming increasingly desperate now that their crops have dried out and died, and animals are now dying in large numbers.

"Food prices have exploded this last year, and for many, the need for food and water is acute," says Kebreab.

An assessment team was sent last week to the affected areas to evaluate the situation and plan a relief effort. ACT has worked in this region of Africa for decades, and has a strong local network of partner organizations on the ground that can ensure a rapid and effective response.

Towards famine

ACT raised the alarm about the dramatically deteriorating situation across Africa's Horn three months ago, but it has taken time for the international community to respond. Hunger and drought are far from a new phenomenon in this part of Africa, but now that two rains in a row have failed at the same time as food prices have increased, the threat of famine is very real in the worst-affected areas.

"The population of Somalia, and across the region, need all the help they can get right now," says Kebreab.

Surviving the Drought: Preparing for the Next One



As you drive east from Nairobi, the Kenyan countryside becomes progressively drier. Long grass becomes yellow and eventually disappears. Bare, reddish soil is all you can see in the barren fields.

This is the East African drought, a vast disaster stretching across Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and beyond. Two years with scarcely any rain has withered fields and pastures, putting more than 12 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

In Kaikungu, a rural community of about 6,500 people in the Mwingi district, Eastern province, spiky green sisal plants are about the only crop that survives. In normal years, farmers grow plenty of peas, corn, beans and sorghum, but the drought has forced the community to seek food aid.

Nevertheless, local farmers are working hard to become self-sufficient. Since 2007, humanitarian workers from Week of Compassion partner Church World Service and the Anglican Church of Kenya have been helping the community build structures to capture and store water. These include a borehole well, two concrete tanks filled from a hilltop water catchment and six "sand dams," which hold water in seasonal streambeds under a thick layer of sand.

If not for these water points, life in the community would be far more difficult. Local people walk anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour to fetch water, instead of the grueling, daylong treks people make in other drought-affected communities.

Water has made it possible for some families to grow vegetable gardens and to keep a few livestock long into the drought. Jessica Mutinda, 28, told me that without local water points, her family's four cattle, 10 goats, four sheep and two donkeys would already be dead.

Because of water points, relief workers can report that severe malnutrition is still rare in Kaikungu, but the same cannot be said for the rest of Mwingi district.

On August 15, 250 local people gathered in Kaikungu to dig silt out of the community's sand dams, restoring their capacity to hold water. To support their work and meet

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1 2 3

Worship Schedule

2 pm CCF
Kick Off

	4 10 am Thank you to Michele Fairfax	5 Church Office Closed 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	7 Bill Jacobs returns 1:00 pm Bible Study at Mesa Palms	8	9	10
• September 4th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship	Chi Rho Dive-in Movie & Retreat CYF Retreat						
	11 Sunday School begins	12 Noon BYKOTA 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	14 Newsletter DEADLINE 1:00 pm Bible Study at Mesa Palms	15	16	17
• September 11th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship 10:15 am Sunday School resumes	AZ Women's retreat in Prescott						
	18 4:00 pm Paz de Cristo 5-7 pm Chi Rho & CYF @ Chalice	19	20 6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	21 9:00 am Fellowship of the Fold 1:00 pm Bible Study at Mesa Palms	22	23	24
• September 18th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship: 10:15 am Sunday School	Third Annual FCC Golf Tournament						
	25	26 5:30 pm WEME 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	27 6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	28 1:00 pm Bible Study at Mesa Palms	29	30	
• September 25th: 9:00 am Chalice Worship; 10:15 am Sunday School	@ own church						

Continued from page 6

immediate needs, Church World Service and the Anglican Church of Kenya provided packages of corn, beans, salt and cooking oil to each participant. The food will last their families about a week, and weekly distributions are planned for the next five months.

The next rains should come in October, with another six months until crops can be harvested. These seasonal rains cannot come too early for the millions of people in this region who depend on rainwater for subsistence. In Kaikungu, at least, it might not be too late.



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Stamp

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Rev. Bill Jacobs, Pastor

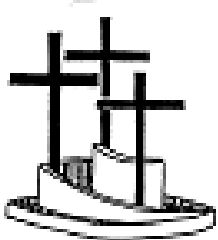
ALL ARE WELCOME AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

9:00 am Chalice Worship (hymnals with choir)
10:15 am Sunday School classes meet beginning
Sept. 11th
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.