

The Desert Disciple

Volume 63 Issue 2 First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

February 1, 2012

A Letter From Your Interim Minister

Dear Friends,

A couple of weeks ago, we held a church leadership retreat and planning day. The idea was to all get on the same page about *what* we are doing as “church” and *when* so we don’t bump into each other and create hard or hurt feelings, and to help ensure the success of each activity through cooperation and collaboration. Instead of forging ahead with events and projects, we paused for a moment to reflect on the dream to which we are called. It was a wonderful and rich exercise and some of you heard a litany of our answers to the question: *Given no limit on human or financial resources, what would First Christian Church look like in ten years?* I won’t repeat them here, but it was exciting to hear the depth and breadth of vision that came together. Within the next two months, we will have an all-church opportunity to come together and add more voices to the mix of who and how and what FCC is called to be in the future.

Meanwhile, the results are in for the Pastoral Search Readiness Inventory. Sadly only 24 people returned their survey. I know, some of you are feeling guilty now that you didn’t get yours in on time. But I think these 24 show general trends in the congregation. It is good news that 24 people are on board and invested in the interim and search-and-call process! Tabulating the results, it is clear that between 30 and 40% of respondents felt the need for more work around the perception and reality in the following issues: being open to change; identifying future vision and mission (strategic planning); readiness to work together/volunteers coming forward; conflict management; and commitment to support the denomination.

This is also good news! We know what next steps need to happen in order to transition to a permanent, “settled” pastor. That will be the focus of our work together in the next year. We have completed three out of five tasks of the Intentional Interim Process. We are on track in moving toward a successful and healthy transition.

While we do the work of healthy transition from your former to future pastor, many also have expressed the desire to “grow” the ministry of FCC in order to sustain the church for the long haul. We have grown to an average of 65 in worship and new leaders have come forward to head up ministry teams. Still, Pledges for this year do not reflect this increase in numbers. Growth then, doesn’t just mean getting more people in our doors. Growing our ministry requires more effort than simply increasing our numbers.

Are people attracted to our church and the Way that Jesus calls us to travel, because our faith practice is relevant and meaningful to today’s pilgrims? Does our ministry together reflect what all three of the synoptic Gospels assert is the “greatest commandment of them all,” that is, *to love God, and love your neighbor as yourself?* Do our activities always support the three-in-one call to move forward to healing through relationship with God, neighbor and self? How are we living this call within and outside the church? Are we poster-people for discipleship? Does Christ shine through more than our words? Do our lives reflect the Way of Jesus in a communal, local, and global context?

Evangelism, although it is mentioned more than eighty times in the New Testament, has gotten a bad rap today, especially among liberal and progressive Christians. We think it equivalent to proselytizing, which is repellant to many of us. Yet evangelism, or the Good News of Jesus, is about life – full and dignified and whole life – for all of God’s people. Why then, does it appear that death – war, violence, hateful rhetoric, greed, exploitation, etc – are gaining momentum while love, justice, peace, compassion, and sharing an open table are losing ground? Are we willing to step out and be more bold about engaging the community beyond our doors in order to co-create with God the vision we hold for FCC?

Here are some ways you can be an evangelist, inviting others into the Good News of what is happening at FCC:

- * Come to the organizing meeting of the Evangelism/membership ministry team on January 30 at 6PM.
- * Pick up some business cards from Jenna and share them when you speak about the church or anyone asks.
- * Help us to get the DD out to the surrounding neighborhood. Volunteer to go out in twos and deliver 50 copies to people’s doors. (No, you do not have to knock!)
- * Ask your friends and colleagues if they’d like to be put on our mailing list to get information about the exciting activities at FCC.
- * Share the FCC website (www.firstchristianchurchtucson.org) on your Facebook page.

These are just a few ways you can get involved in growing our ministry together. In order to envision a sustainable future, we must stretch beyond our comfort zones, to “walk the walk” of discipleship. In doing so, we will be the “transforming and transformed” church we envision. We will attract the diverse and engaged population we need to move forward. Can you imagine?

May it be so,
Delle

**The Desert Disciple
(USPS 154-880)
February 1, 2012**

Published semi-monthly by
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
740 E. Speedway
Tucson, AZ 85719
Periodicals Postage Paid
at Tucson, Arizona
POSTMASTER
Send Address Changes To
The Desert Disciple
c/o First Christian Church
740 E. Speedway

Sunday, January 1, 2012	
Attendance: 48	
Pledges	\$3,361.00
Loose Offering	\$30.00
Building Use	\$736.00
Christmas Offering	\$60.00
Total	\$4,187.00

Sunday, January 8, 2012	
Attendance: 57	
Pledges	\$5,260.00
Loose Offering	\$64.20
Parking	\$250.00
Rent (Desert Spring)	\$2,350.00
Christmas Offering	\$25.00
Thompson Fund	319.91
McCabe Fund	265.47
Total	\$8,533.58

Sunday, January 15, 2012	
Attendance: 62	
Pledges	\$2,766.00
Loose Offering	\$29.00
Rent (1040 / 710)	\$2,520.00
Parking	\$1,800.00
Christmas Offering	\$15.00
Good Samaritan Fund	\$50.00
Honoraria (Wabash)	\$100.00
Total	\$6,740.00

Sunday, January 22, 2012	
Attendance: 64	
Pledges	\$2,133.00
Loose Offering	\$41.00
Refunds	\$276.35
Planning Calendar	\$9.00
Total	\$2,459.35

<u>VISITORS</u> <u>1/1/12</u> Suzie Barnasova Marilyn Miller Carleen Kedly Ruth & Cleve Holifield	<u>VISITORS</u> <u>1/15/12</u> Rick Wright Carol Bono Kim Kane Joyce Crawford Brenda Barnes
<u>VISITORS</u> <u>1/8/12</u> Greg & Patty Urbanski Evelyn Frick Jose Atondo Summer Kemp-Schlemmer	<u>VISITORS</u> <u>1/22/12</u> Khristina Strandquist



News From Permanent Pastoral Search Committee!

The Permanent Pastoral Search Committee has begun the Search and Selection process for a new permanent pastor for the First Christian Church. The members of the committee, which were appointed by the church board, are: Paul DeArman (Chair), Larry Kimberlin, Jean Bronson, Willis Jackson, Susan Lain, Janis Sherick, Laureen Stadle, Darline Holt, and Rudy Troike.

Each of these individuals has made a significant commitment in accepting this appointment and will need your support, prayers, and input. The process of finding a new minister will probably take six to nine months or perhaps even longer. During this time, the committee will need you to be patient: to trust the process; to trust them to represent you fairly; to let them work confidently without rumors and probing; and to keep them and the church in your prayers and concerns.

The committee will soon be seeking input from the congregation that will help us to get a clear picture of how we see ourselves and the ministry goals and expectations we have for our future together. This input will help define the ministerial leadership the committee will seek to bring to us. If you know of qualified Disciples of Christ ministers who you would like for the committee to consider, you can provide their names and current locations to any member of the committee. These persons will then be considered confidentially on the same basis as other candidates. Please do not ask about the status of these or other candidates. Confidentiality is critical to the integrity of the committee's work and to the ministry of candidates being considered.

If you have something to communicate to the committee please contact any of its members. Updates on the progress of the committee will appear in future issues of the Desert Disciple.

The Permanent Pastoral Search Committee



Employees and Community Invited to Lease a Plot in New Community Garden



People with green thumbs, black thumbs and all colors in between are invited to try their hands at gardening beginning next month when the student-led group Garden in the Desert opens the UA's second community garden. Students have been in charge of the garden project, but employees and community members are invited to lease plots in the 1,600-square-foot garden near the Highland Garage. A standard plot is 20 feet by 3 feet, and rent will run somewhere around \$10 a month, depending on the length of lease. "I'd really like to put out the word to folks who are interested in gardening: You don't have to have experience," said Chet Phillips, the Associated Students of the University of Arizona's graduate assistant for sustainability and a UA doctoral student in arid lands resource sciences. For more information, visit: <http://lqp.arizona.edu/node/4722>



- ★ Janis Sherick Moderator
- ★ David Stadle Vice Moderator
- ★ Lori Bryant Secretary
- ★ Patti Lemke Treasurer
- ★ Carol Clemmons Clerk
- ★ Mary Workman Historian
- ★ Chair of Elders Larry Kimberlin
- ★ Chair of the Diaconate Rudy Troike
- ★ Chair of Trustees Willis Jackson

2012

- ★ **Standing Committee Chairs:**
- ★ Education Debbie Stadle
- ★ Evangelism & Membership Pam Spears
- ★ Outreach Mary Dillon
- ★ Personnel Debbie Stadle
- ★ Property Willis Jackson
- ★ Stewardship & Finance Ron Lemke and John White

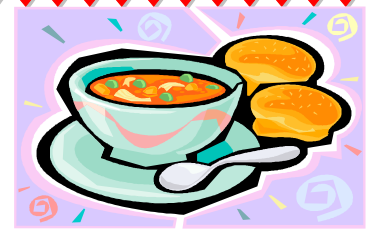
- ★ **Other Committees**
- ★ Permanent Pastoral Search Committee: Paul DeArman
- ★ Disciples Women's Ministries: Jean Jackson & Jody Vanderkolk
- ★ Columbarium Committee: Jack Vanderkolk
- ★ Decorating Committee: Shirley Gale and Bea Kimberlin

- ★ **Trustees (2014)**
- ★ Jean Bronson
- ★ Nancy DeArman
- ★ Reuben Merideth
- ★ **Elders**
- ★ Mary Dillon (2014)
- ★ Bea Kimberlin (Emeritus)
- ★ Jack Vanderkolk (Emeritus)
- ★ Jody Vanderkolk (Emeritus)

- ★ **Diaconate (2014)**
- ★ Grace Judson
- ★ Jennifer Murphy
- ★ Pam Spears
- ★ Tony Spears
- ★ Kelly Strachan
- ★ Muriel Troike
- ★ Rudy Troike
- ★ Pat White



Church Leadership



Save the date!
Sunday evening, Feb 5th, 5-7pm
in the church parlor!!!

You are invited to the opening night of the **Lenten Study** in which we will be reflecting on Robin Meyer's "Saving Jesus From the Church." Books will be handed out for the following week's reading, and we will prepare for our study together by reading aloud together the entire Gospel of Mark, which is the primary Gospel for Year B of the lectionary year. While we will hear much from Mark's Gospel during the upcoming year, it is helpful and inspiring to read the whole story at once to get the bigger picture, to fill in the gaps between lectionary texts, and to see how the whole story points us toward God and good. A light supper of soup and bread will be served. Please RSVP to the church office so we know how much food to provide. You don't have to be participating in the Lenten Study to attend. Call or email Pastor Delle if you have any questions.



Church Women United-Tucson is hosting the CWU Annual Assembly and Leadership Council on Friday & Saturday February 10-11 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (7650 N. Paseo del Norte).



Brochures are in the Narthex for Registration. Scholarships are Available! Contact Susan Lain (390-5648) if a scholarship is needed. Women attending the CWU/Arizona annual meeting, Feb 10-11, are asked to help a local after-school program for refugee children by bringing chalk, glue sticks, dry-erase markers, math flash cards, puzzles, picture dictionaries. Even if you cannot attend, bring the gifts in by Feb 5th, and Susan will take them in for you.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH @ 3:00PM
F.C.C. FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Ciudad Juarez activist Juan Fraire Escobedo, whose mother Marisela Escobedo was killed while protesting the lack of justice for the murder of his sister, speaks about the struggle to end impunity and violence in Juarez and the new Mexican movement for peace with dignity. He is joined by John Lindsay-Poland of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, who addresses gun

trafficking to Mexico, the drug war, and what we in the United States can do. All are invited to come for Free to this awesome presentation.



WOC DINNER

Wednesday, February 15th @ 6:30pm—F.C.C. Fellowship Hall

This yearly tradition starts the Week of Compassion (Feb 19-26). It is our opportunity to support disciples work around the world. This years theme is "Sharing Brings Joy To Us, To Others, To God." We will share a special dinner while a panel of volunteers share the joy they have experienced serving people, while witnessing in several regions of the world.

Informational displays will provide updates about Week of Compassion and refugee work. The focus this year is how sharing blesses, transforms, and brings joy to ourselves and others. Sharing this joy gives back to God.

Please come for a joyful evening of fellowship, sharing, learning, and inspiration. Bring a friend or a neighbor. RSVP to the Church Office (tucsonfcc@gmail.com // 624-8695) by Feb. 13th.

A free-will offering will be accepted.

"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

Bridging Health and Faith: a Two-Day workshop—Thursday and Friday, February 16 and 17, 8:30-4:30 at St. Mary's Hospital

Interested in training for Congregational Health Ministry? Interfaith Community Services is offering a two-day program for anyone who is interested in or already involved in promoting "whole-person health" in our own church or as a volunteer with ICS. The workshop would usually cost much more than the **\$10 fee** for the February training, but a grant allows those in this program to avail themselves of this training almost for free. You don't have to be a nurse to attend. Anyone interested in starting or enriching their congregation's existing health and wellness program is invited to attend. Training will cover such topics as "Faith-Health Connection," "Building Blocks: Getting Started," and "Support for a Health Program Ministry." The program concludes with a commissioning of participants to health ministry/service.

Contact the church office if you are interested. **Registration deadline: Feb 10th**

Sister Helen Prejean Speaking!

Sister Helen Prejean, one of the nation's foremost advocates to abolish the death penalty, will make a rare Tucson appearance Feb. 19, sponsored by the Coalition of Arizonans to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Prejean will speak at **1 p.m. Feb. 19** at the Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St., at an event will include other special guests. Tickets for the event, which is open to the public, cost \$10 and will be available online at azabolitionist.org and at the door. After Sister Helen's talk, a New Orleans-style procession will be held through downtown Tucson to show support for the abolition of the death penalty in Arizona.

A private meet-and-greet with Sister Helen will follow the procession. Tickets are \$100.

Sister Helen is best known for her Pulitzer Prize-nominated book, "Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States," which recounts her prison ministry that led to her introduction to capital punishment through her friendship with death-row inmate Patrick Sonnier. The book became a hit movie starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn. Sister Helen also is the author of "The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions."

For more information, call 520-838-1721 or log on to www.azabolitionist.org.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

DWM's National President, Rev. Mary Jacobs will be a speaker on Human Trafficking on **Sunday, February 26th at 2:00pm** at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (1200 N. Campbell Ave—Activity Building) Human Trafficking is DWM's and CWU's focus this year. The Inter-religious Community of Tucson invites you **FREE OF CHARGE** to this timely and informative meeting. Tucson City Councilman, Steve Kozachik will also be speaking.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Thursday, Feb. 2nd @ 6:30pm: Worship Committee

Saturday, Feb. 4th @ 2:00pm: Memorial Service for Mary Jane Franitti

Sunday, Feb. 5th @ 5:00pm: 1st Lenten Study

Monday, Feb. 6th @ 6:30pm: Outreach Committee

Tuesday, Feb. 7th @ 6:30pm: Perm. Pastoral Search Committee

Thursday, Feb. 9th @ 6:00pm: Elder's Meeting

Friday, Feb. 10th @ 3:00pm: Listening to the Spirit

Saturday, Feb. 11th @ 3:00pm: Heeding God's Call

Sunday, Feb. 12th @ 5:00pm: Lenten Study

Monday, Feb. 13th @ 6:30pm: Board Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 14th @ Noon: DWM Ruth/Rebecca

Wednesday, Feb. 15th @ 6:30pm: Week of Compassion Dinner

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the February 15th *Desert Disciple* eLetter should be received in the office no later than **Friday, February 10th**



Normal Sunday Schedule

9:00 am	Christian Education—Parlor *
9:00 am	St. Michael's ECC - Chapel
10:30 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary *
10:30 am	<i>Our Father's House Fellowship</i> —Chapel

* Denotes a FCC Event

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
firstchristianchurchtucson.org

CALL OUR OFFICE:
(520) 624-8695





PastorDelle@gmail.com
(520) 204-6295
Rev. Delle McCormick, Pastor

TucsonFCC@gmail.com
Jenna Black, Church Office

FCCModerator@gmail.com
(520) 577-8304
Janis Sherick, Moderator

RonLemke@live.com
(520) 908-0934
Patti Lemke, Treasurer

The 1036 N. 1st Ave House is still available for rent!

Please refer all inquiries to Casa Vista Properties (520) 742-1455.

Periodicals
PAID at
Postage
Tucson, AZ

The Desert Disciple
First Christian Church
740 East Speedway
Tucson, AZ 85719

