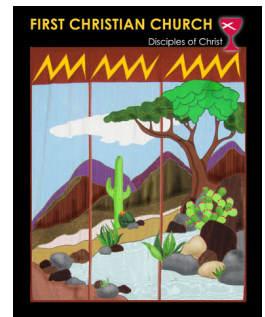


The Desert Disciple: e-Letter

February 15, 2012



From your Interim Minister:

Dear Friends,

I am glad that the light is gradually returning, as are warmer temperatures, because we have had many pastoral needs these past few weeks. It is challenging to see our loved ones suffer, especially when their suffering is protracted. These are days that stretch us as we live into illness and sometimes, death.

These are times when we learn more about love than we had known before. Under the best of circumstances during illness and loss, families draw closer and friends have an opportunity to practice the ministry of accompaniment. It is by the bedside that I have learned the most about God and God's love. It is by the bedside that I have witnessed tremendous courage and faith. Unfortunately, systems and people don't always work together for the good of the patient. It is these times when we most need to embody the Advocate that Jesus told his disciples God would send in his absence.

The work of the church goes on, through good and trying times. Ministry Teams meet, dream and plan, making clear goals for 2012 that will lead us closer to sustainable and sustaining ministry. The Outreach Ministry Team identified areas of focus for the next year, as well as organizations that are already working in these areas of concern. By partnering with faith communities and nonprofits, offering FCC space for "closely related" groups and sending representatives from our church, our efforts become even more effective. Membership and Evangelism have plans to increase average attendance at worship to 100 by the end of the year, and are working to raise awareness and funds to expand our ministry with children to include youth and young adults. The Worship Ministry Team has plans for a meaningful Lenten Season and Holy Week. Education is working on a new program for children 8 years and older.

The Board of Elders gather to ensure that members who are ill or troubled know God's presence through visits, phone call, and cards. The Church Board weaves it altogether into a tapestry of love and service. We go on, day by day, celebrating the gifts of community and living into God's call for us.

When you write your check to the church this week or month, I hope that you will see how we are multiplying the ministry of our church. While we can do a lot with little, we need your support to live into a future in which this church is a vital and vibrant force for the good. This is a wonderful, loving, active church. Let's keep it going and, definitely, pass it on!

In Christ,

Delle

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY:

REV. McCORMICK CAN BE REACHED AT (520) 204-6295

Important Upcoming Dates!

Please mark the following dates in your calendar:



Listening to the Spirit has been CANCELLED for Friday, Feb. 24th. We look forward to see you all for the March 9th session.

- Personnel Committee Meeting is Mon., Feb. 21st at 6:30pm in the Parlor
- Tucson Peace Fair is Saturday, Feb. 25th at Reid Park
- Elders Supper Meeting is Monday, Feb. 27th in Fellowship Hall
- World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 2nd in the FCC Sanctuary
- Perm. Pastoral Search Committee is hosting "Table Talk" on Sunday, March 4th following Worship Service in Fellowship Hall.

Joint Fellowship with St. Michael's Ecumenical Catholic Church:



We have been sharing space with St. Michael's Ecumenical Catholic Church for years. Now, we are sharing fellowship with them at 8:30am in the Narthex on the third Sunday of each month.

All are invited for this special Joint Fellowship. ☺

Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday, Feb. 22nd @ 6:30pm:



Rev. Larry Kimberlin will lead us through the Annual Ash Wednesday Service. This service will be in the Chapel on Wednesday, February 22nd @ 6:30pm.

Pastoral Search Committee's "Table Talk" – Sunday, March, 4th:



Dear FCC Church Members,

The Permanent Pastoral Search Committee is moving forward in its effort to identify a new permanent pastor for the congregation of First Christian Church. An extremely important part of this process is to solicit input from congregational members. Your input will help us get a clear picture of how we see ourselves and the ministry goals and expectations we have for our future together. It will also help define the ministerial leadership the committee will seek to bring to us.

To gather your input and ideas for this important process, the Search Committee is sponsoring a luncheon at which your attendance is highly encouraged. The luncheon, which will follow the worship service, has been scheduled for **March 4, 2012**, in the fellowship hall. During the luncheon you will have the opportunity to discuss and complete a Congregational Survey that has been developed by the Search Committee.

As already mentioned, you are encouraged to participate in this important luncheon. If you do plan to attend, please bring a salad or dessert to complement the main course, which will be provided. Also, it is important that we know how many plan to be in attendance, so if you do plan to attend please notify the church office

by phone at 624-8695 or by email at tucsonfcc@gmail.com. Your participation in this process is greatly appreciated and is an essential part of this important process.

In Christ's love,
Paul DeArman, Chair

Letters of Love:

Dear Rev. McCormick & FCC,

Cleve and I are members of Our Father's House Fellowship. We pause to thank you and your Board of Directors for your kindness and Christian Spirit; you all are truly Disciples of Christ.

You and the Congregation at FCC welcomed us with open arms and an ocean of love. Thank You. You opened the door for us when we had no place to worship. We praise God for you.

Members of OFFH say they have never felt such love as you all have shown to us. I felt compelled to let you know how thankful I am for being connected to FCC.

*In Love, In Service to Our Lord,
Ruth Holifield*

Dear the FCC Congregation,

I wanted to thank you all for the warm, heartfelt offering for use of the Chapel to hold mom's (Mary Jane Franitti) service in. It was so beautiful, just perfect and I know how touched she would be to see all the people that were there that she has had come into her life over the years.

Even though mom was no longer a member of FCC, she held many memories. It was a big part of her life as well as my own growing up. We both were baptized here, my marriage to Raymond Kimberlin in 1990 (who also came as a boy), memories of singing in the Choir, the camp bible retreats with Dr. Tolman, and the family night get-togethers on Thursdays with pot luck, choir practice and activities. (I loved making Sand Candles!-- Our daughters, Ashley and KC also have memories of bible camps and attending here with their grandma when they were younger.

Please thank Jenna Black for her kindness and hospitality and Sam, who was very helpful, both before and after the service.

Once again, THANK YOU for a very special day and making it all come to be.

*Sincerely,
Loretta Kimberlin*

PS: And of course, Uncle Larry (the best) delivered a wonderful sermon. The service was perfect (as always).

Dear Friends, The many expressions of caring concern – praying, cards, visits, and condolences during these past months have been a source of strength to me and my family. A special thanks to Delle for her numerous hospital visits, which O.T. looked forward to and always raised his spirits; and to Jody, who kept in touch with me constantly to be sure I was okay. Words, of course, cannot adequately express my feeling of thankfulness for such a supporting and loving Church Family.

Lily.

"Thank you to my wonderful church family for your prayers and wishes for healing. A special thanks to Jean, Willis and Rudy for their caring and help. Special love to each of you."

Minnie Williams

Pastor Delle's Call Story was published in a Book!!

Ched Myers and Matthew Colwell



**Our God Is
UNDOCUMENTED**
Biblical Faith and Immigrant Justice

"Our God Is Undocumented: Biblical Faith and Immigrant Justice" written by Ched Myers and Matthew Colwell features Rev. Delle McCormick in chapter two.

Books are available for purchase in the Church Office.

Regular Retail Price: ~~\$24.00~~ // **F.C.C. Price: \$15.00**

Contact the Church Office (624-8695 / tucsonfcc@gmail.com) to reserve your copy today! Limited number of books available.

Please make checks payable to FCC.

The Evangelism/Membership Ministry Team Update:



Evangelism/Membership Ministry Team had a very exciting meeting on Mon, Jan 30th. First we identified what our FCC Evangelism/Membership ministry teams should look like. Secondly we identified FCC's SWOT – **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, & **T**hreats. From that list we put together a list of goals we want to attain this year at FCC.

To achieve our goals, we NEED YOUR HELP! As you read, please notice where your heart strings are tugged. Then let us know what project YOU want to help with.

What does an Evangelism Ministry Team look like?

- Spreading the Good News –
 - * inside & outside the church
 - * non-creedal
 - * open & affirming
 - * web site
 - * peace & justice church
- No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
- Biblically Based – Spiritually Growing – Socially Active
- Ecumenism & interfaith dialogue
- Planting seeds (business cards)

What does a Membership Ministry Team look like?

- Welcoming at the door
- Nurturing existing members (small groups & events)
- Maintains & gives info for new members
- Inform & inspire current members about FCC activities
- Membership roster – updates as needed
- Attendance roster
- New member dinner
- Make sure people sign guest book & friendship register
- Name tags
- Educate congregation about what membership does

Evangelism Goals

- Increase average attendance to 100 by 12/12
- 1 visible outdoor activity by 12/12
- Twice a year distribution of DD in surrounding area
- 1 activity with university students this year
- Hire youth & young adult minister by end of the year

Membership Goals

- Fellowship – 1 event per quarter
- Membership info – New member packet by 9/1 or sooner
New member dinner in August
- Name tags – decision by 9/1 or sooner
- Welcoming – Disciple of the Day “Shout Out” & training by 4/30
New membership roster by 5/30
Restyle friendship pads & attendance roster by 9/1

If you saw any of goals that you would like to be part of, come to our next meeting or contact Pam Spears or Pat White. Our next scheduled meeting is Mon, March 26 @ 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

Mental Health First Aid

In January, Pastor Delle, Jean Bronson, and Pam Spears took a 12-hour course offered by CODAC, Mental Health First Aid. The course was offered as a result of the Jan 8th shooting here in Tucson to train lay people to identify problems before they escalate to another tragedy. We learned how to provide initial help to people experiencing mental health problems. Topics covered included depression, anxiety disorders, psychosis, and substance abuse disorders. We learned the mental health first aid action plan: **ALGEE**.

A = Assess for risk of suicide or harm.

L = Listen non-judgmentally.

G = Give reassurance and information.

E = Encourage appropriate professional help.

E = Encourage self-help and other support strategies.



All three of us are now certified for 3 years to offer Mental Health First Aid if needed.

Outreach Ministry Team Update:

The Outreach Ministry Team met on Monday, Feb 6, 2012. Following is information regarding our purpose, responsibilities and goals for 2012. This list is not meant to be all inclusive of our ministry this year. This is the minimum we hope to accomplish.

What are the function and responsibilities of the Outreach Ministry Team (OMT)? The purpose of the Outreach Ministry Team is to be a critical and liberating presence, within the congregation and in the local to global communities, to advance the mission of FCC, DOC and "church." The OMT:

- A. Assists members and friends of the church in discerning their gifts and calling to ministry, and promoting local to global opportunities for their involvement.
- B. Supports Outreach opportunities for the church to support with time, money and talents.
- C. Interprets local to global mission to the congregation, bringing in voices of missionaries and others who serve in local and global non-profits, ministries, and mission.
- D. Collaborates with the pastor, education and worship ministry teams concerning prophetic witness and action on issues of peace and social justice. Issues specifically names include racism, sexism, heterosexism, homophobia, and ageism)
- E. Promotes the six weeks of special giving for the DOC.

Issues of Concern:

- Massive unemployment
- Anti union activity
- Death penalty
- Negative politics (violent rhetoric)
- Racism (includes immigration)
- Sexism and homophobia (all "isms.")
- War economy
- Lack of religious tolerance
- No safety nets for the poor
- Massive global immigration, family disintegration, exploitation
- Global militarization
- Health care system broken
- Decreased funding for education
- Increased conservative and fundamentalist activity

What is the Good News Today?

- New Beginnings for Women and Children
- Interfaith Community Services
- St. Michaels Ecumenical Catholic Church and Our Father's House (and collaboration with FCC)
- Occupy Movement
- Arab Spring
- Food Bank (both food security and food availability)
- Buy and Grow local movements
- Community Gardens
- Habitat
- Immigration education, advocacy and aid: Humane Borders (Border Action Network, BorderLinks, No More Deaths, Samaritans, Derechos, Restoration Project)
- Literacy Connects
- Solar energy
- Water harvesting
- Primavera (housing, recovery, employment)
- Iskashitaa
- Heeding God's call (Gun Control)
- Women in Black
- Casa de Los Niños

Outreach Ministry Team Areas of Focus and Goals

- Vocation/Discernment
- Participate in New Member Dinner
- One activity a year for group discernment. An example might be a “Occupy the EWord” slumber party at the church for telling our stories and discerning call (inside and outside the church)
- Education:
 - Monthly article in DD about Outreach opportunity in community
 - Six small group “taste and see” experiences/year where we go into the community to visit and learn about their work. (Sort of a MMM but we go to the speaker and mission.)
 - Common Global Missionary I X/yr
- Prophetic witness
 - Four talks/sermons/workshops on discrimination (“Isms”)
 - Participation in and promotion of Interfaith GLBTQ Pride service (October)
 - Participation in and promotion of Interfaith Thanksgiving worship service
 - Communicate with local organizations listed above to let them know we provide space at reduced rates for allies in ministry. (by June 2012)
 - Collaborate with Christ’s Loaf to sponsor one GLBT forum. Workshop or event.
 - Participate with Women in Black one Friday a month
- Promote and support 6 Special Offering
 - Set goals to 10% above ’12 budget for each week. Place inserts in bulletins. MMM for two weeks prior to each Special offering
- Local/Global Mission
 - Primavera 2 X mo.
 - “Souper Bowl”/Food Bank – 1,000lbs of cans and \$500/yr
 - Crop Walk (November) Increase this year’s donation by 20% (\$1,200)
 - One mission trip a year (from one day to one week)
 - Co-sponsor six organizations with programs they are putting on at FCC. Example; Heeding God’s Call for gun control. Two members participating each event.

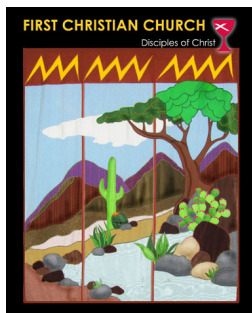
Celebrations & Concerns:

- Rev. O.T. Foster died on February 1st. The memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 3rd at 2:00pm in the First Christian Church Sanctuary.
- Vivian Cox has moved to TMC. Her surgery is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 21st.
- June King is at Devon Gables, awaiting heart surgery scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 21st. After the surgery she will recover at TMC for 5-7 days.
- Life-long member of Broadway Christian Church, Virginia Sansbury, died. The memorial service will be held on Friday, February 24th at 10:30am in the Adair Funeral Homes-Avalon Chapel: 8090 N. Northern Ave.

4 Bedroom House for Rent (Price Reduced!)

If you know anyone looking for a new place, please refer them to the property management company, Casa Vista Properties (742-1455). The house 1036 N. 1st Ave is a 4 bedroom/2 bath. Washer & Dryer hook ups are available. A stove and refrigerator is included in the kitchen and spacious living and dining area, all for only **\$1,300/month**. ☺

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: www.firstchristianchurchtucson.org



This website is becoming a great resource! If you haven't typed the web address into your browser, you need to! Some pages are still being constructed, but I promise you'll love the new site and the progress that has been made!

The church calendar is now available to view from our website. And not only is the time and title of event listed, but also a brief description of the event/meeting/etc.

You can also find AUDIO Recordings of Rev. McCormick's sermons each week.

* Don't forget to check out our Facebook page, too!!