

## *The Desert Disciple: e-Letter September 15, 2011*

### **Message from The Interim:**

*In Essentials, Unity; in Non-essentials, Liberty; and in All Things, Charity*

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter I am waiting to leave for the Disciples Women's Ministry Retreat in Prescott. FCC has 10 women attending this year, and other churches will join us for the "Seasons of the Soul: Sisters Together", Friday-Sunday Retreat. When I worked as a CGBM missionary in Chiapas, my main function was to accompany the diocesan women's group, CODIMUJ. I dreamed of the day when I might participate in the same kind of gathering in my church in the U/S. I am pleased that my dream has come to fruition, and am proud to be serving a church that recognizes the importance of such gatherings.

The Disciple's Women's Ministry is one of the few such ministries in Mainline Protestant churches that continues to thrive. Women's ministry not only nourishes, sustains and encourages women in their personal lives, it also strengthens our faith and commitment to be "church" together. I am proud and happy to be attending and glad that Claudia Ellquist agreed to preach in my place this Sunday. I wish I could be in two places at once! As the two groups celebrate worship on Sunday, we enrich and enliven what it means to be church together.

Meanwhile, September marks the beginning of a very busy season in the church year. In addition to regular activities of church, FCC is gearing up to begin the search process for a permanent settled pastor. On September 25 at the Congregational Meeting after church, regular church reports will be given as well as an update on interim activities, including the nominations for the Search Committee. I urge you to attend and to participate as much as possible in all the wonderful opportunities to live into the Fall months in meaningful and faith-filled ways.

With all the activities of the final months of 2011, we are bound to bump into to each other, step on each other's toes, or otherwise unintentionally annoy or hurt each other. I hope we can follow the wise counsel that is in italics above, that has been so central to the life of the Disciples of Christ: *In Essentials, Unity; in Non-essentials, Liberty, and in All Things, Charity*. Sometimes, of course, what seems "essential" to one does not seem so to another. Remember that no one of us has the whole truth. Each of us has a piece of the truth, and together we have a greater understanding of the larger truth. If you are a bumper or a bumpee, take a moment to breathe before you talk to the offended or offending party. Please always feel free to come to talk to me. You might be surprised by God's generosity and come away with a new appreciation of the covenant we hold together as church.

Blessings,

Pastor Delle

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY:  
REV. McCORMICK CAN BE REACHED AT (520) 204-6295**

## Upcoming Meetings!



Please mark the following dates in your calendar:

**September 19<sup>th</sup> – Worship Leader Training:** All who are or would like to be a Worship Leader at FCC ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! Participants will receive basic directions for worship leadership, and will share tips for writing or finding prayers for the various parts of the service. A generous and lively conversation and gentle guidance are the goal of this gathering. 6:30-8:00PM, Parlor. Rev. McCormick will be facilitating.

**September 20<sup>th</sup> – Elder’s Meeting – 6:30pm in the Parlor**

**September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Listening to the Spirit – 3:00pm in the Parlor:** Pastor Delle leads a group spiritual accompaniment experience open to FCC members and friends. The group will explore how Spirit is working in and through their lives through reflection on different theme and practicing a variety of spiritual exercises.

**September 25<sup>th</sup> – Congregational Meeting – After Worship**

**September 26<sup>th</sup> – Diaconate Meeting – 6:30pm in the Parlor:** Pastor Delle wishes to meet with the members of the diaconate to discuss the role of deacons, and provide a venue to talk about issues that concern us. This is an important opportunity, so please mark your calendars and try to join us. If you will be unable to attend, be sure to let me know. Thanks, Yours in His service, Rudy //Rudy Troike

**September 27<sup>th</sup> – Education Committee Meeting – 6:30pm in the Parlor**

## Welcome To Our New Staff Members!



### *Caroline Wilson – Childcare Coordinator*

Caroline is a freshman at the University of Arizona majoring in Business and French. She was raised in Flagstaff, Arizona where she attended the United Church of Christ (Congregational) Church. In that church she worked as a Nursery attendant and also developed bible lessons for the pre-school and kindergarten children. She assisted her father, also a teacher and Sunday School teacher for several years with “One room” school house summer church school. She is familiar with the curriculum that we use “Seasons of the Spirit” for Sunday Church School and she received glowing recommendations from her references.



### *Riley Johnson – Childcare Attendant*

Riley is a junior at Tucson High Magnet School. She has experience babysitting and has completed the babysitting certification offered through the Red Cross. She has also been a volunteer at Reid Park Zoo and other organizations. She is a neighbor of our Interim Minister, Reverend Delle McCormick, and has done babysitting for her daughter Cedar. Riley received wonderful recommendations from her references and also helped out at our church several weeks ago when there was a gap in childcare coverage.



### *Woan Ching Lim – Accompanist*

Woan Ching is a native of Malaysia and is new to Tucson. She is a graduate student majoring in collaborative piano. She has an undergraduate degree from NAU in Flagstaff. Woan Ching has been an accompanist for many organizations such as the NAU Curry Summer Music Camp and the Women/Men Chorale. Some of her major performances include: Die Zauberflöte – Mozart, Three Penny Opera – Weill, Edgar Stone Vocal Scholarship, and the Tuba Faculty Recital all up in Flagstaff. Please join the choir in welcoming Woan Ching to our church family.

## Good Samaritan Fund... going to good use!

Dear F.C.C,

*Thank you so much for your donation towards my electric bill. I really appreciate the church and its members helping me out in my time of need. I can't even express how thankful my daughter and I are for the church's gratuity. Thank you again for the generous donation. God Bless!*


*Love,*

*Jennie & Olivia Moon*

## Pastor McCormick will be preaching at this event along with Gabby Gifford's Rabbi, Stephanie Aaron.

3rd Annual Multifaith Pride Service

JUST BE




Emerging Out of the Wilderness

Tuesday, October 11, 7pm  
First United Methodist Church, 915 E. 4th St.

Doors open at 6:30 pm. Service begins at 7pm.  
Arrive early for free parking in adjacent Tyndall Ave. Garage.  
Parking coupons available at the service.

SHOWER OF STOLES EXHIBIT  
Open to the Public Wednesday, October 12 - Saturday, October 15  
10am - 2pm Daily

DSIGN: [www.JoshNetzer.com](http://www.JoshNetzer.com)



## Fall Youth Retreats are just around the corner...

Retreat	Retreat Dates	Location	Fee
Chi Rho (6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> grades)	October 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	Desert Dove CC – Tucson	\$25
CYF (9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> grades)	October 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	Saguaro CC – Tucson	\$25
CCF (3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> grades)	November 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Capilla del Sol CC – Tucson	\$25

**Registration forms and fees are due in the Regional Office by Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Sponsors are required to fill out a registration form; however there is no charge for youth sponsors attending the retreat. The Registration Forms are available in the Church Office or online at [www.arizonadisciples.com](http://www.arizonadisciples.com)

## Quick Look into The Future... (upcoming events)



- **October 2** at 5pm - Blessing of the Animals followed by potluck (open to FCC members, friends and local community)
- **October 2** - World Communion Sunday with Children's participation in worship
- **October 9** – DWM's H.A.G.A.R Sunday – Luncheon & Raffle
- **October 16** - World Food Sunday: Hunger Banquet immediately after church 12:15-1:30. "Taste and See" Supper: 5-7:30 - Sample foods of the world, special guest speaker, live music and showing of "Food Inc" documentary
- **October 23** - National Observance of Children's Sabbath. Children's Sabbath picnic at 12:30pm at Catalina Park, 900 N 4th Ave. (.4 miles from church)
- **November 30- December 21st:** Wednesday evenings- 6-8pm: *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!



We need volunteers to help out in planning and working on several events planned for **October 16**, when FCC will sponsor a "**World Hunger**" Sunday. The day begins with focus on world hunger in worship, a "**Hunger Banquet**" immediately after church, and a "**Taste and See**" **World Foods** event Sunday evening. Punch Woods, the founder of the Tucson Food Bank and Diaper Bank, has agreed to speak about Food Security. We hope to get a popular musician to perform justice songs. The evening will close with a screening of "Food Inc.," an important and hopeful documentary on food production. We will publicize these events and hope to attract a large group of folks from outside our congregation. If you are interested in helping, please call or write Rev. McCormick.

## **4 Bedroom House for Rent!**

If you know anyone looking for a new place, please refer them to the property management company, Casa Vista Properties (742-1477). The house 1036 N. 1<sup>st</sup> 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 \$1,400/month. ☺

## **Joys & Concerns:**

- ♥ Welcome New Members, Debbie Hammond and Laurele Lyle. ☺
- ♥ Paula Cowing, a young mother of two children and daughter of Broadway Christian Church member Kathy Hamilton, is in end stage cancer care in a hospice in Las Vegas.
- ♥ Shirley Gale underwent knee surgery on Monday and is now home recovering well.

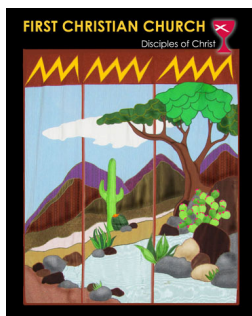
## **Ann Nichols' Blog**



You can read Ann's blog at [www.annwnicholsinzambia.blogspot.com](http://www.annwnicholsinzambia.blogspot.com)

Ann updates it weekly and it provides a window into the life of church and community in Zambia.

## **CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: [www.firstchristianchurchtucson.org](http://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!!