

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 68 Issue 1

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

January 1, 2017

New Year's Day Worship: January 1

We give thanks for the start of a New Year and celebrate the joys of 2016. Hear stories of joy from scripture and our own Lori Bryant, Dr. Rudy Byrd & Colin Green.

January Sermon Series: **BURSTS OF LIFE**



"Where are you from?" is a common question asked when meeting someone for the first time. Knowing a person's origin tells us a little about them. Where we are from, where we have been, life experiences, and the people that accompany us on our journey all influence and shape us. This January, we will take a

look at Jesus' beginnings and decisive moments of influence on his life and ministry. These moments of influence are like bursts of new life and possibilities. How do they speak to us as we seek to follow him? **Join us as we kick off this new series on January 8th.**

XPLOR Potluck Dinner: January 15



The Tucson-Marana XPLOR team invites you to a potluck dinner with residents, Cody Bailey, Lauren Frato, and Matt Sipos, on Sunday, January 15 at 5:30pm at Community Christian Church in Marana. The potluck offers us a time to gather with the residents and members of all five churches sponsoring XPLOR in our area. It is the first of several gatherings that will take place in 2017. We hope you will come to get to know the residents and other Disciples with whom we are working in this ministry. We are blessed to be part of a wonderful community of Tucson Disciples partnering to touch lives and **Serve the World!**

Dinner Groups Start Again



Breaking bread together is one of the signs of true Christian community and one of the ways we learn to **Love Like Jesus**. At tables we come together, share life together, and are strengthened by one another. This January, we resume our monthly dinner groups with a meal at **Ann Nichol's house on Friday, January 13 at 6:30pm**. Everyone is invited, though space is limited.

Please sign up at the greeter stand starting January 1, if you would like to attend this evening of good food and fellowship. Families are welcome.

Seek



Love

Serve

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Church School

9:00am

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Pastor's Note

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

We begin a new year witnessing to the truth of these words from Lamentations. In all we have experienced, endured, and rejoiced, God has been present and will always be present. Each day God presents us with a new opportunity within the divine movement of love, grace, peace, and justice.

As we lifted up at our last congregational meeting of 2016, we have many things to celebrate. We rejoice in the monthly fellowship opportunities for our youth and children, senior play days, and dinner groups that bring us together. We rejoice in uplifting worship services where our musicians and worship leaders engage our spirit and senses. We rejoice in the start of the Mind Wholeness Ministries spiritual support group that provides support to individuals and families facing mental health challenges. Weekly Sunday school classes, the new Thursday Bible study, and the book club continually offer avenues for spiritual growth, and for this we give thanks, too. We rejoice in the baptisms we celebrated, our ongoing connection to St. Michael's Ecumenical Catholic Church in our yearly Pentecost service, and special guests who shared experiences with Global Ministries' partners in places like Cuba and India.

We rejoice that people find healing within the walls of our building through the work of Al-Anon, Narcotics Anonymous, and Owl & Panther. What a joy that young adults in the XPLOR program who seek deeper spiritual connection and to engage their faith with the work of God's justice get to do so, in part, because they can live here. And we cannot forget the ministry of our Elders and others who faithfully pray for and accompany those who are sick or experience challenges in life.

We celebrate the generosity of our congregation lived out through donations to the Community Food Bank; participation in the CROP Walk; over-and-above giving to Week of Compassion, Global Ministries, and other ministries of our wider church. This generosity has connected us to and impacted our community as we engaged with Sister Jose Women's shelter and other community groups through our 5th Sunday Service Days; offered a spiritual connection to our community through Ashes to Go and the weekly prayer in the chapel; and extended hospitality and joy through the Epic Fun Fest. This generosity also led us to reaffirm our commitment to Sanctuary with the adoption of the Sanctuary pledge in the December congregational meeting.

It has been quite a year—a year filled with the steadfast love and mercies of God that never end! Now we look forward to a new year in the confidence that this steadfast God will continue guiding and showing us the way to engage our relationships and our world within the movement of love, grace, peace, and justice.

See you Sunday, Ailsa

Mind Wholeness Ministries – Spiritual Support Group



Seeking wholeness in our fragmented world, First Christian continues our mental health ministry in the new year. Mind Wholeness Ministries support group for individuals and families facing mental health challenges meets the **1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor.** Please share this opportunity with family and friends. Please also continue praying for the group facilitator, Mary Alice Do, as she leads us in this ministry to **Serve the World.**

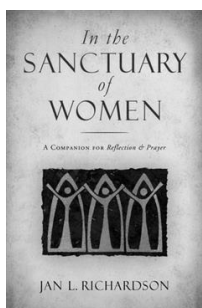
Disciples Women's Ministries



DWM will have a brief Bible study Tuesday, January 10, as well as a time to look at our future directions. Join us for lunch at 11:30 and the program at noon.

Thursday Small Group Bible Study

The Thursday small group study will begin January 12 and meets every Thursday at 11:00am in the parlor.



Sunday Evening Book Study

The book group resumes study of *In the Sanctuary of Women* on January 8 at 4pm in the parlor and will continue through the end of the month.

Children/Youth Activity

On January 22, youth are invited to the González's home for lunch, a service project, and a movie. Please bring fruit, vegetables, or desserts to share.

BorderLinks Group from Boston College

In 2017, First Christian is partnering with BorderLinks as an overflow location for groups they are hosting. The first of these groups, a group from Boston College, will arrive Friday, January 6 and depart Monday, January 9.



5th Sunday Service Day – January 29

Mark your calendar for our next 5th Sunday Service Day. Stay tuned for more information regarding our hands-on worship project.

Staff Spotlight: Lilian Le



We have been featuring the work of our excellent staff for several months now in our newsletter. This month we'll be spotlighting our Childcare Substitute, Lilian.

For the past year and a half, Lilian Le has been a valued member of our Childcare Team at First Christian. She has been a great addition due to her experience working at other facilities and her background in education. She is able to step in when one of our other attendants cannot work so that we always have two people caring for our children. She brings a calm, warm and friendly presence to our program and we appreciate her flexibility and willingness to be part of our team.

Lilian also teaches sixth grade in the Flowing Wells School District. We are so pleased to have her with us at First Christian. Please thank her when you see her!

But It's a Dry Heat...

Article by Matt Sipos, 2016-17 NBA XPLOR Resident in Tucson-Marana, AZ—serving at Saguaro Christian Church and Interfaith Community Services



My biggest worry while getting ready to move out to Arizona and begin my journey with NBA XPLOR was always the weather. I wasn't worried about the distance, the drive, or relocation. I was ready for the change up, but I'm from the Midwest, a little town right in the snow belt of Ohio. Just the thought of 100+ degree weather scared me.

Whenever you talk to anyone about Arizona, though, they would say that it's a dry heat. It'll be fine. I thought that this was going to be one of the biggest lies I was ever told. But a couple months in, I haven't melted yet. The dry heat really does make a difference. Without the humidity, the heat becomes a totally different idea; it's not the heat that you can't escape and that causes you to sweat just being outside in the summer.

This dryness brings new life to an old concept. My idea of what "hot" is has completely changed. It took actually living into a new area, with a new climate, to realize how something that I thought would always be one way can change so drastically. How many other things in our lives do we have preconceived notions of how they are? How easily could these ideas be changed through actually experiencing them? It didn't take long to adjust to this heat, and now I have a new idea of what October is while the days were still resting at 90 degrees.

I think there will be many more times during the XPLOR program where ideas will change; I'll develop new ideas and let old ones fade out. It'll be an opportunity to grow through an experience of life, which, after all, is why I joined this program.





Leaders Making a Difference

With gratitude and appreciation, we give thanks for faithful leaders who served in 2016. Their vision, passion, and commitment to the ministries of our congregation have enabled us to experience God among us, challenged us to grow in faith, and encouraged us to continue in this journey of faith.

Moderator:
Ann Nichols

Vice Moderator:
Dr. Rudy Byrd

**Treasurer/
Financial Secretary:**
Debbie Stadle

Secretary:
Susan Harris

Historian:
Claudia Ellquist

Elder Chair:
Larry Kimberlin

Co-Deacon Chairs:
Rudy Troike & Kelly Strachan

Ministry Team Leaders:

Education:

Nancy DeArman

Membership/Evangelism:

Barbara Marshall

Personnel:

Janis Sherick

Property:

Dave Stadle

Outreach:

Susan Harris

Stewardship:

Jean Jackson

Worship:

Lori Gale

Elders (Class of 2018):

Jean Jackson, Larry Kimberlin, and Dave Stadle

Deacons (Class of 2018):

Willis Jackson, Rebecca Orman, and Mark Thornburgh

Trustees (Class of 2018):

Willis Jackson and Dave Stadle



“News from the Pews”

- ♥ Prayers for Matt DeFer, the N.A. Groups that meet in our church, and others struggling with addiction.
- ♥ Prayers for The Mind Wholeness Ministries
- ♥ Prayers for people with mental health challenges and their families.
- ♥ Continued prayers for: Peggy Brady, Lily Foster, Grace Judson, Bea Kimberlin, Ron & Patti Lemke, and Jody Vanderkolk.



January: At a Glance

Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—1st & 3rd Mondays at 6:00pm (1/2 & 1/16)

Elders Meeting – Thursday, January 5 at 6:00pm

Primavera Meal – Friday, January 6 at 6:00pm
(Contact Sharon Sorensen if you’d like to help!)

DWM Lunch & Learning — Tuesday, January 10 at 11:30am (lunch) and 12:00pm (bible study)

Dinner Group—Friday, January 13 at 6:30pm

XPLOR Potluck—Sunday, January 15 at 5:30pm at Community Christian Church of Marana

Installation & Blessing of New Leadership—Sunday, January 22 during worship

Youth/Children’s Activity—Sunday, January 22 after worship

5th Sunday Service Day—Sunday, Jan 29 at 10:30am

Prayer Time in the Chapel – Tuesdays at 11:00am

Small Group Bible Study – Thursdays at 11:00am (12/1, 12/8, 12/15 only for December)

Book Study – Sundays at 4:00pm in the parlor





Sunday Schedule

9:00 am	Adult Education—Parlor*
9:00 am	Children/Youth Education—Room 107 & 110 *
9:00 am	St. Michael's ECC - Chapel
9:45 am	Children's Music *
10:30 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary *
4:00 pm	Book Study *

Praying For Our Missionaries!



Please be in prayer for our missionaries serving through Global Ministries.

During the week of...

- January 1:** Phyllis Byrd, Kenya
- January 8:** Karen Campbell Nelson, Indonesia
- January 15:** Sarah Williams, India
- January 22:** Will O'Brien, Egypt
- January 29:** Erik & Kim Free, Mozambique

For more information regarding our missionaries, overseas partners, or how you can make a difference, visit: www.globalministries.org



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:



firstchristianchurchtucson.org

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the January *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Friday, January 20**

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