

# THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 67 Issue 8

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

August 1, 2016

## August Sermon Series: THE JESUS REVOLUTION

August 7: Henry Brewer-Calvert, Global Mission Intern, preaching

August 14: Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19, Luke 12:49-56

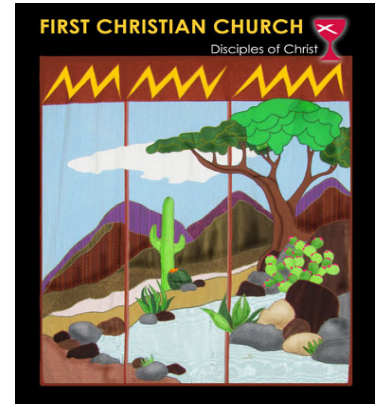
August 21: Rudy Byrd preaching

August 28: Jeremiah 2:4-13, Luke 14:1, 7-14

## Henry Brewer-Calvert preaching August 7



We are proud to welcome Henry Brewer-Calvert, who has just returned from serving two years with Global Ministries' partner in the Dominican Republic. Henry will preach during and give a presentation following the service. He has been in Tucson this summer working with Humane Borders and speaking in Arizona churches. He will attend Brite Divinity School in the Fall.



## Sunday Worship

10:30am

## Church School

9:00am

## Church Office

(520) 624-8695

## Pastor

Rev. Ailsa Guardiola González

fccailsa@gmail.com

## Moderator

Ann Nichols

## Office Manager

Jenna Hosler

TucsonFCC@gmail.com



## August 7

As the school year begins, we congratulate our students who have reached milestones this year:

**Piper Green** will enter 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Sahuarita Primary School.

**R.C. Troike** will enter 6<sup>th</sup> grade at The Gregory School

**Austin Troike** will enter 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Orange Grove Middle School.

**Colin Thompsen** will begin his high school career at Flowing Wells.

These along with our other students and teachers will be recognized on Sunday, August 7.

## Children Worship & Wonder August Break



We are blessed to have incredible storytellers who lead our children in worship each Sunday morning. For the last year (September 2015 to the present), Lori Bryant, Sarah Bates-Scott (former XPLOR resident), Lori Gale, and Riley Johnson have faithfully met with our children four-years-old through second grade to share God's stories, pray, and sing during children's church. We thank you for your commitment!

During the month of August, storytellers will take a month to rest and reorganize the Children's Worship Center. Children have the option of remaining in worship or staying with our childcare workers.

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## Pastor's Note

Revolution. This word stood out to me as I heard clips on the news from the opening night of the Democratic National Convention. As Sen. Bernie Sanders spoke, he told his supporters the revolution that began during his campaign is not over and will continue. People cheered.

Revolution. It is a strong word. Depending on the context, it could put fear into your heart. How many political revolutions could we point to in world history full of unrest, protests, conflict, and violence, even if for an ideal of something better? And yet, how many people have benefited from revolutions that change the way people live, work, and experience life for the better? Revolutions are not new to human beings, and they point to the fact that change is sometimes a necessary thing for us.

When we look at the New Testament and the stories of Jesus life, we see that he was a revolutionary. His words and actions and his teachings about God, if taken seriously, guided changes for society and for the way people think and act. The stories of his life and ministry challenge structures of oppression and injustice we still see at work in our world today. They challenge our inclinations toward greed and narcissism and suggest outrageous things in their place: seek God's Reign above everything else; love God and structure your whole life on this love; the first shall be last; pray for your enemies; those who lose their life will find it; if you want to be great you must serve.

A question we should always be asking is how are we to respond to the revolutionary words and actions of Jesus? Are these just stories to prompt deep thoughts? Can we leave it at that? What do they demand of our life? How does what we know about Jesus and how we experience God move us to live and be the body of Christ in the world? What does this mean for the mission of our church? During worship in August we'll take a look at some of these stories and ask these questions...and more...

It is the beginning of a conversation that will move beyond our Sunday worship as the board has asked the Ministry Formation Team to use our core values to discern our mission and calling today and to lead us in an assessment of what physical (people and facility) and economic resources we need to fulfill this mission. It is an exciting time to be the church as changes continue all around us—exciting to see how God's gifts lead us to a faithful response to the needs among those changes. As you see in the article on Mission First! we are not alone in this exploration and discernment of mission.

See You Sunday,  
Ailsa

## **A Message from the General and Regional Church: Mission First! Gatherings—Sunday, August 14**

MISSION FIRST GATHERINGS IN AUGUST TO HELP SHAPE OUR  
DENOMINATION'S PRIORITIES AND MISSION

This is an exciting time for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as we embark on a process to identify the next mission priorities God has for us as we approach the year 2020 and beyond.

Since the 2015 General Assembly, members in churches from across the U.S. and Canada have committed to pray for this process. Now leaders from every Arizona Congregation are invited to participate in one of two Mission Gatherings on August 14 from 2-4 pm. The Tucson gathering will meet at First Christian, Tucson. At the Gathering you will have the opportunity to share with each other how you experience God at work in the world through your church. Through this sharing you will begin to help the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) name where God is calling Disciples to be in mission together now.

Mission Gatherings like this one in Arizona are taking place across the United States and Canada throughout 2016, as part of Mission First! Through the sharing we do at our Mission Gatherings we will be a part of naming a common mission focus for all Disciples. We will be a part of Disciples making a difference! More information about registration will be coming.



## Looking Ahead 2016-2017 XPLOR Meet New Residents and Remember Upcoming Workday—August 6!

The local XPLOR coordinating team looks forward to a new year with four new residents and all five Tucson area Disciples churches working together to support the program. To get ready, **we need you at the workday on Saturday, August 6, 7:30am-Noon.** We will join forces with volunteers from the other four Tucson Disciples churches partnering in this ministry to clean and reorganize the kitchen and to move furniture from the XPLOR living space (to prepare for carpet cleaning). **Please sign up at the greeter stand!**

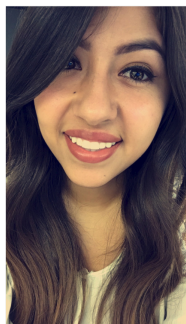
**The new residents that are coming to Tucson in August will be:**

**Cody Bailey** from Orlando, Florida will work with Primavera



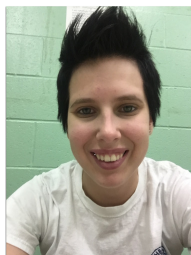
Cody is an active member and youth leader at Pershing Avenue CC, Orlando, FL and has counseled many summer camps. She is a student at Valencia College pursuing a major in marine biology and a minor in psychology. She has worked with the FL PTA speaking out against unfair budget cuts, bullying and other current issues. She volunteers in feeding the homeless and making dinner for families with loved ones in the hospital. She loves to make people laugh; is skilled in photography, writing and drawing; and is a huge movie buff. She also has a secret talent of making balloon animals.

**Belen De La Trinidad** from Norwalk, California will work with Reunion House (associated with Our Family Services)



Belen is a leader and deacon at East Whittier CC (Hispanic) where she is very involved on the worship team as singer, bass player and multimedia and also serves on the Executive Board. She has participated in many church dramas and special programs and is currently helping to start a community garden. She is bilingual. She has worked in fast food, an optometry office and currently is an administrative clerk for the LA Office of Parks and Recreation. She has great interest in addressing domestic violence, homelessness and suicide prevention. She loves reading and writing and cooking, mostly Mexican food and vegetarian dishes. She knows God is calling her out of comfort zone and is excited to discover her growing edge.

**Lauren Frato** from St. Louis, Missouri will work with Marana Community Food Bank



Lauren is a second year XPLOR Resident having spent last year living in the St. Louis House and working with Neighborhood Houses, a program for children in low income communities. Year one of XPLOR gave her a marvelous time to discover more about herself; in year two, she hopes to discern her vocational call and whether college is right for her. In St. Louis at Union Avenue CC, Lauren has had the opportunity to teach Sunday School for elementary children; serve on the worship committee and assist in leading worship in about every role possible. Being in St. Louis, her eyes have really been opened to racism and "white privilege." Most of her life, she has been working with kids, so she hopes to broaden her skills in a new internship area. She believes that she might like her life's work to be in the non-profit field. She has a passion for music, traveling and interpersonal communication.

**Mathew Sipos** from Chesterland, Ohio will work with Interfaith Community Services



Matt is originally from Chesterland, OH; his home church being Good Shepherd CC, and will graduate this spring from Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia with a religious studies major. On campus he has worked for three years at the IT help desk and serves as Chaplain for his Greek House. His career goal is chaplaincy-military, hospital or prison. He has worked with community gardens and has been on a Disciples Home Missions home building event. He loves all genres of music and really enjoys finding simple recipes online and cooking them. Working with technology is a definite hobby and he built his own gaming computer.

## New Tile for Welcome Area—Update



Thanks to the generosity of many members, friends, the Brady Outreach Grant Committee of Saguaro Christian Church who awarded us a grant, and volunteer hours from designer Stephanie DeFer, we have been able to identify a contractor and select the new tile for the Welcome Area. We look forward to setting dates for work to begin very soon.

## Thursday Small Group Bible Study



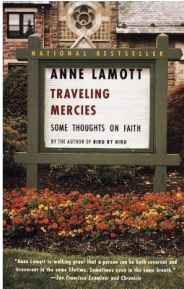
This summer, join the conversation on 7 big topics of faith every Thursday at 11:00am in the Parlor. We'll use the Animate Faith series to talk about God, Religion, Jesus, Salvation, Cross, Bible, and Church. Come when you can. Invite a friend. All are welcome. Contact Pastor Ailsa with any questions.

## Children/Youth Activity



Back to school pool party at the González home on Saturday, August 20, 4-6pm.  
Come join the fun!

## Sunday Evening Book Study



In August we will study Anne Lamott's "Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith." See Ann Nichols or Susan Harris if you would like to buy a book or participate in the group. The book study group meets every Sunday at 4:00pm in the parlor.

## Community Food Bank Update



Our congregation set a goal to donate 1800 pounds of canned and boxed food to the Community Food Bank by the end of this year. We are at the end of July, and we have delivered 646 pounds. Time to step up to the task! Let's get that above-the-cupboard dial moving -- it's like counting heads when Jesus fed the multitudes. So buy something extra while you shop, and double that to match the sales. Ask your friends if they would like to help. Put a box on your front steps, inviting neighbors to drop a can in it. Make the miracle happen! --claudia

## Pastor Ailsa at XPLOR Orientation

The week prior to arriving in Tucson, XPLOR residents will participate in an orientation in St. Louis, MO. Pastor Ailsa will attend the orientation on behalf of the Tucson-Marana churches. She will be out of the office August 21-26. Please call Board Chair, Ann Nichols, or Elder, Susan Harris, in case of a pastoral emergency.

## Church Women United Love Thy Neighbor Ministries Forum



**When:** Tuesday, August 16, 2016  
**Where:** St. James United Methodist Church  
 3255 N. Campbell Ave, Tucson, AZ  
**Time:** 9:00AM Check-In  
 9:30-11:00 Forum

Please pre-register with: Pat Hoag  
 phoag@q.com or phone: 520-253-1329

**Guest Speaker:** Steve Kacprzak, Executive Director  
 Love Thy Neighbor Ministries

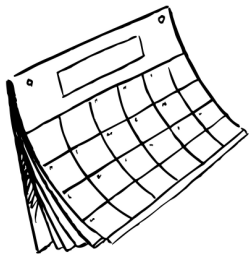
This ministry is a much needed visitation ministry to the elderly. **Didn't get a chance to give to FCC's drive for Love Thy Neighbor Ministries? Here is another chance:**

Mission in Action Project for "Love Thy Neighbor Ministries"

- \* Coats & Clarks Thread
- \* Fabric-1yard pieces-Flannels & Heavier Cotton (duck)
- \* Cotton Kitchen Hand Towels-(Light Weight)

Come & learn about this caring and wonderful ministry. Don't forget to Pre-register with Pat Hoag & invite a friend.

## August: At a Glance



**Elders Meeting** – Thursday, August 4 at 6:30pm

**Primavera Meal** – Friday, August 5 at 6:00pm (Contact Sharon Sorensen if you'd like to help!)

**XPLOR Work Day**—Saturday, August 6, 7:30am—Noon

**Global Ministries Intern**—Sunday, August 7 at 10:30am

**Board Meeting**—Tuesday, August 9 at 6:30pm

**Children's Activity**—Saturday, August 20, 4-6pm

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

**Small Group Bible Study** – Thursdays at 11:00am

**Book Study** – Sundays at 4:00pm

## Personnel Team: Staff Spotlight



Each month we are highlighting one of our excellent staff members by sharing how their work contributes to our mission here at First Christian Church, Tucson. This month we'll be spotlighting our Landscaper.

Ismael Soqui has been our landscape caretaker for the last 5 years. Ismael trims our trees and bushes when needed. He keeps our drip system repaired and functioning and keeps the weeds controlled. He cares for and maintains the patio. The flowers by the front entrance are colorful and add to the appearance of our church, thanks to him.

You may not see Ismael very often as he comes at different times of the week and day. He oversees our church grounds while holding down a full time job. The Property Department is very grateful for his work and care of our church grounds. If you do see him at work be sure to let him know how much we appreciate his dedication to us.

The Property Department



## *"News from the Pews"*

- ♥ **Continued prayers for:** Peggy Brady, Lily Foster, Grace Judson, Bea Kimberlin, Larry Kimberlin and Jack Vanderkolk.
- ♥ **Congratulations to new member, Steve Kruse!** Steve joined the church on 6/26/16 and was baptized on 7/31/16.
- ♥ **Prayers for Mary Alice Do** discerning an opportunity to begin a new mental health ministry and FCC as we discern our calling in this ministry as well!
- ♥ **Prayers for Jody Vanderkolk**, recovering at home after surgery on July 15.
- ♥ **Prayers for people with mental health challenges** and their families.
- ♥ **Pastor Ailsa will be out of the office August 21-26.** Please contact Ann Nichols or Susan Harris in case of an emergency outside church office hours.



# 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 (will resume in Sept)
10:30 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary *
4:00 pm	Book Study—Parlor *

## Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

**August 7:** Jeffrey Mesendiek, Japan

**August 14:** Jayanthi & Jim Wilson, South Africa

**August 21:** Scott Nicholson, Mexico

**August 28:** Kim Free, Mozambique

For more information regarding our missionaries, overseas partners, or how you can make a difference, visit: [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:



[firstchristianchurchtucson.org](http://firstchristianchurchtucson.org)

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the September *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Monday, August 22.**

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