



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Parish Caller

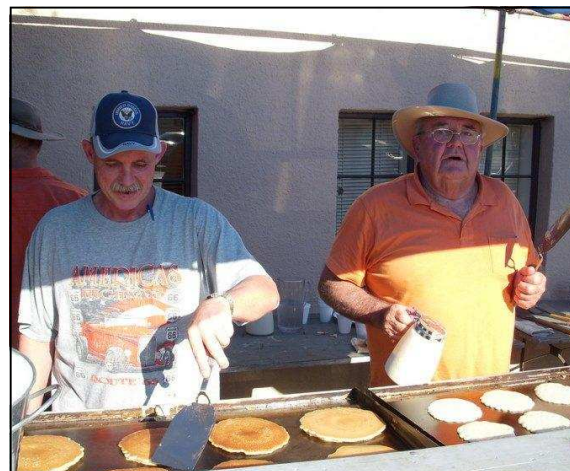
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pancakes!!

The 55th Annual Pancake Breakfast served up hot flapjacks to many and ended with \$1,670 to donate to the Prescott Community Cupboard Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who helped make it such a success.



"Just 4 Mama" entertained pancake eaters.



Don Welty and Paul Sandstrom cooking up pancakes.



Boy Scout Troop #1

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From the Pastor's Desk by Pastor Jane Cheek



I'm sitting on the deck of the beachside room Don and I have rented for the little vacation we're on in San Diego...the clouds are out this morning, and while it looks pretty dismal right now, I know the sun will come out this afternoon and the beach will shine with sparkly sand and well-oiled bodies.

Isn't that just like the flow of our lives? We go through some darker times, and sooner or later, the sun comes out and things look and feel a whole lot better.

I can't help but think about how much this resembles the patterns of the weather in our church life, too. As a body, we've experienced gray days, but we trusted our God, waited patiently and now we're basking in the sunlight. It's good to feel the warmth of God's love gathering us in; we are quietly growing, and sending out healthy roots to ensure our survival.

So what's next? The cabinet will be asking that question as it gathers to prepare for another year of church

programming. In order to continue to serve God and remain healthy as a faith community, we need to prayerfully consider who we are and what we see as our mission as a member of the United Church of Christ in God's world **now**.

I believe this step will be a natural one for us. Our love and support for one another and our stability as a family is solid, and we have been called as God's Children to stand against things like hunger, homelessness and injustice for all humans. We have a new mission statement, and now we need to live it; soon you'll be invited to help us dream God-dreams and make plans to bring all we've found in God to a world that desperately needs to experience that same love and hope. Isn't it exciting to be on the giving side?

As you can tell, a few days at the beach have revitalized my spirit! I hope your sunny summer days have done the same for you.



God's Peace to us all...

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

AGAPE

Monthly Soup/Bread Meal & Fellowship

Second Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
Join us for the next Agape on August 10
in Perkins Hall.



Moderator's Message by Gordon Bergthold, Moderator

Can you believe that over 58% of 2011 is gone! It seems as though we just finished the annual meeting and now we're nearly into fall. Life moves at a very rapid pace after you hit age 40, and I think it's because we have filled our plates with so much to do when we should be slowing down and enjoying life.

Our church is still reaching out and the Pancake Breakfast was a great example of community service. People I don't even know talk about it unsolicited. When I tell them that I belong to First Congregational Church they rave about the gathering on the Independence Day weekend and say how often their celebration starts with the pancake breakfast. Our volunteers and others from the community should be proud of the contribution they make towards others joy on this special weekend.

I'm very proud of our community service and mission to help others in the Prescott

area and you should be too. If you haven't done so thank someone who participated in this event and ask what you can do to help in next year's breakfast....in fact, ask if there's something you can do now in one of our many Mission projects.

The Taizé service is a wonderful way to wind down a couple of times each month and the meditation and music is so relaxing and soothing to the soul. Bring a friend and be still and listen; meditation will do wonders for the everyday stresses and challenges we're dealt on a daily basis. I get so much from "Walk the Talk" messages daily and the following is appropriate for slowing down and enjoying life.

"I learned that we can do anything, but we can't do everything ... at least not at the same time. So think of your priorities not in terms of what activities you do, but when you do them. Timing is everything."

Prescott Community Cupboard Food Bank - A Service Record- First Half 2011 by Al Beeson, PCC Chair

The local mission of our church has long been the Prescott Community Cupboard (PCC) and this tradition continues. At the July board meeting of the Cupboard, with First Congregational Church (FCC) member Al Beeson serving as Chair and Julie McCurdy as the Treasurer it was announced that food given out locally in 2011 surpassed and broke all past service records.

FCC Packer teams [since Jan 2011] have helped greatly in the effort to put up 2,554 food orders for 2,166 local families in need. This effort served 9,199 people that were issued over 60,000 lbs. of food. We recorded that 180 of our clients were part of our homeless population.

First Congregational friends and

members continued to bring food to the church, make monetary donations and serve on the FCC packer teams. Our very successful FCC Pancake breakfast on July 2 raised \$1,670 for PCC (after expenses) to help in this effort. Also our wonderful dinner groups held in private homes in July to celebrate this FCC mission which will provide additional and very needed support.

FCC friends and members can be very proud of our Church Mission that provides continued support of the Prescott Community Cupboard and our neighbors in need. Anyone interested in serving as a FCC Packer Team member please contact Al Beeson 717-9915.

From the Library at FCCUCC - New Books Ready to be Checked Out

by Ruth Auchenbach, Christian Education Committee

New books in our library ready to be checked out: Christianity for the Rest of Us, How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith, by Diana Butler Bass.

The author is a popular speaker at retreats and workshops across our country. Previous books include Strength for the Journey and The Practicing Congregation.

In this current writing the author introduces us to people and churches who are “willing to explore the new terrain around them.” Christians are forming different “villages” in congregations. “Not spiritual gated communities or protected rural villages. Rather their new kind of village is a pilgrim community embarked on a journey of rediscovering Christianity, where people can forge new faith ties in a frightening and fragmented world.” These “villages” embody, courage, creativity, imagination and risk.

The Authentic Letters of Paul, A New Reading of Paul's Rhetoric and Meaning by Arthur J. Dewey, Roy W. Hoover, Lane C. McGaughey and Daryl D. Schmidt.

The authors place the Pauline letters in their chronological order I Thessalonians, Galatians, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Philemon, Philippians and Romans.

The result is a complete reversal of the canonical order which had Romans first and I Thessalonians last. They disentangle the composite letters, II Corinthians and Philippians so that readers can see how their elements looked as separate pieces of correspondence. The result in a brand new, fresh perspective on Paul and his message. This book provides a whole course of study on authentic Paul.

The third new book in The Gospel of Matthew by Robert T. Fortna. What kind of books is the Gospel of Matthew when and where was the Gospel written, and by whom? Who was its audience? The author addresses these questions and engages the reader in the issues that arise when one turns an ancient language into Vernacular American English.



Three Things That Re-affirmed or Re-shaped My Understanding of the United Church of Christ

by Julie McCurdy

1. **"Autonomous" does not equal "Independent."** The relationship encompassing the local church, conference and wider church denomination is one of covenant, through which we mutually support the practices and missions of all expressions of the United Church of Christ. This covenant is entirely voluntary. Covenant is freedom.

2. **"That they may all be one."** This is the fervent prayer of the UCC. As stated in the preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, "The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession." In sharing Jesus' message of God's love for everyone, and of God's desire for everyone to know God and to build a relationship with God, the UCC recognizes that any path (or denomination) is valid which leads to knowing God.

3. **Multiple paths to authorized ministry.**

The UCC recognizes that not every minister is called to follow the path which includes four years of college, three years of seminary, and then ordination. The call may lead to Commissioned Ministry (which may authorize service for a specific church-related ministry) or to Licensed Ministry (which may authorize service to a designated Local Church and for a designated time). These are not to be seen as "alternate" paths from ordination, but equally valid paths leading to ministerial practice recognized and authorized by the UCC. Also, the requirements and qualifications may vary from person to person, depending on their life experiences, level of education, and personal needs.

I am grateful to First Congregational Church for encouraging my participation in the seminars presented by the Southwest Conference Lay Academy. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to grow in my relationship with God, through greater understanding of the Bible, the teachings of Jesus, and his church.

Recipe Box

Broccoli-Bacon Salad

Ingredients

- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup low-fat mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup reduced-fat sour cream
- 2 teaspoons cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 4 cups finely chopped broccoli crowns, (see Tip)
- 1 8-ounce can sliced water chestnuts, rinsed and chopped
- 3 slices cooked bacon, crumbled
- 3 tablespoons dried cranberries
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste

Directions

Whisk garlic, mayonnaise, sour cream, vinegar and sugar in a large bowl. Add broccoli, water chestnuts, bacon, cranberries and pepper; stir to coat with the dressing.

What's Happening...

DIACONATE:

By Julie McCurdy

No meeting in July

TRUSTEE:

By Al Beeson

A. Old Business:

1. Doors Sanctuary/Perkins Hall complex Lower rear door basement broken, Review next steps exterior doors repair/replace. R. Brown?
2. Sanctuary Bell Tower: R..Brown to add retractable ladder, replace trap door.
3. Status: Sound system. This item complete we need revised manual. AL to work on.

B: New Business:

1. Sanctuary Cooling project: Study: either 1). increase efficiency of Evap Air, 2). A/C installation or 3). combination of both. Discussed no bid Low E windows south side Sanctuary. Discussed blocked vent in chancel area, [from winter] and perhaps need for a deflector. Failed water pump [found Jul 3rd] for south Sanctuary evap system was done by John McCurdy.
2. Discussed no report on YC Student design & installation of wood railing[s] from chancel to Sanctuary floor.
3. Office Bldg: The replacement of some of stem wall wood is on temp hold
4. Light fixtures in basement classroom making noise, some not even working. Work Party?

5. Discuss project to reset paver's. Confirmed this item on hold.
6. Discuss what is needed to adequately heat the choir room. Al to work with AZ heating on low cost vent solution. Suggestion was made of mtg with interested parties.
7. We agreed to put on hold any upgrade to basement wiring at this time [see below].
8. The Trustees would like to see a Cabinet/Congregation approved long term church driven written plan for the entire basement area. Included in that is the need for a basic clean up, discard unused items left over from the preschool and the need to build/buy install some storage racks and bins as needed. Some items from the Pancake Bkfst are now to be stored in the basement and need be considered.
9. Not reported or discussed was the failure of the fire alarm system panel in Perkins Hall, discovered on Monday night by the guard patrol but not discovered by the Chair until Wednesday am. B&W Security has found the need to replace the main panel of our alarm system!!!! This Trustee wants to know why the failure?
10. Not discussed was the Friday failure of the Office Bldg A/C and repairs were made [by Moyer] today. They reportedly replaced a failed condinate pump.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

by Barbara McClure

No meeting in July

Operation Christmas Child is Coming

It is that time again to start shopping for school supplies for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Many things that we need are on sale right now. Items to look for are small pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, colored markers, small notebooks, erasers, fun stickers, crayons, small scissors, colored paper etc. We would like to send at least 40 boxes this year. This is a fun project that we all can add to. We will be packing the boxes in the late fall. Look for a container to put your items in Perkins Hall.



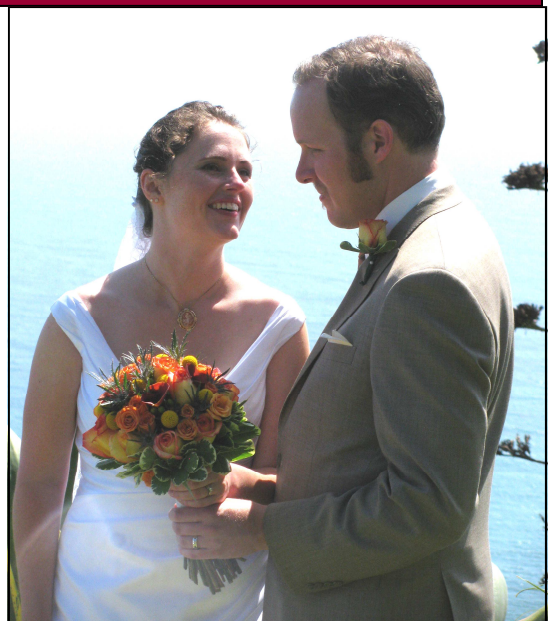
Updated Directory

An updated directory is now available in Perkins Hall.
Pick yours up after Sunday worship.



Happy News...

Judy and Bret Ely are happy to announce the marriage of their son Matt to Katie Lykins of Paradise Valley. Matt and Katie met while studying and earning their degrees from the University of Arizona. While participating in a summer study abroad in Italy, the two fell in love. The wedding was held on June 25th, 2011 overlooking the ocean in Big Sur, California. A trip to Italy is planned in the near future. They are both employed in Los Angeles, CA where they currently reside.



Mission Matters

by Betty Berghold, Mission Chair

Our denomination talks a lot about Extravagant Hospitality. This month's report is chock full of examples of extravagant hospitality in action! Let's start with Al's report on the Community Cupboard:

Prescott Community Cupboard -A Service Record First Half 2011

At the July board meeting of the Cupboard, with FCC member Al Beeson serving as Chair and Julie McCurdy as the Treasurer, it was announced that food given out locally in 2011 surpassed and broke all past service records. FCC Packer teams [since Jan 2011] have helped greatly in the effort to put up 2,554 food orders for 2,166 local families in need. This effort served 9,199 people that were issued over 60,000 pounds of food. We recorded that 180 people were part of our homeless population.

First Congregational friends and members continued to bring food to the church, make monetary donations and serve on the FCC packer teams. Our very successful FCC Pancake breakfast on July 2, will, when all costs are accounted for, be forwarding funds to help in this effort. Also our wonderful dinner groups held in private homes in

July to celebrate this local mission will provide additional and very needed support. FCC friends and members can be very proud of our Church Mission that provides continued support of the Prescott Community Cupboard and our neighbors in need. Anyone interested in serving as a FCC Packer Team member please contact Al Beeson 717-9915

Six families opened up their homes during July as a fund raiser for the Community Cupboard. The appreciative guests brought food items or cash for the C.C.

At this writing the project is not yet completed. Watch for a final tally in your next Parish Caller.

Another random act of kindness was that special friend of FCC-UCC who donated \$400.00 to the Free Wheelchair Ministry. Lifting 7 disabled people off the ground is just about as hospitable as one can be!

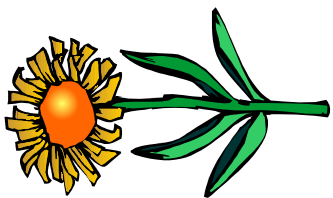
Have you been noticing the back to school sales lately? That always reminds me that the time has come to start picking up items for Operation Christmas Child. We will have a list of suggested items in the September Caller.

Wanted

Gentlemen!

Here's an opportunity to serve the Southwest Conference:

Our church needs a *male*, lay representative to the newly formed Mission Planning Board (MBP) of the Southwest Conference. This person should be willing to attend two meetings in Phoenix (One is October 8 and the other is March 10, 2012), and serve a two-year term. Not only would you be our voice and liaison as our church representative, you will actively help the Executive Board create and implement the mission, vision and dreams of our conference. Each church is being asked to contribute a member to the MPB – and we need **you!** If you are interested at all, have questions, and/or would like to be considered for this position, please see Gordon Berghold or Pastor Jane as soon as possible.



August 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----|-----|
| | 1 6:30 Progressive Christianity | 2 | 3 | 4 7:00 pm Taizé Service | 5 | 6 |
| 7 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Time | 8 6:30 Progressive Christianity | 9 7:00 pm Trustees | 10 5:30 pm Agape Soup/ Bread | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Time | 15 6:30 Progressive Christianity | 16 | 17 | 18 4:30 pm Foundation Mtg. 7:00 pm Taizé Service | 19 | 20 |
| 21 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Time | 22 6:30 Progressive Christianity | 23 | 24 | 25 11:00 am Hannah Circle 6:30 pm Cabinet Mtg. | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Time | 29 6:30 Progressive Christianity  | 30 | 31 | | | |

August Worship Leaders

LAY READERS

7th: Available
 14th: Al Beeson
 21st: Randy Cook
 28th: Don Storer

USHERS

7th: Jay & Marilyn Eby
 14th: Jay & Marilyn Eby
 21st: Jay & Marilyn Eby
 28th: Jay & Marilyn Eby

GREETERS

7th: Dave & Kris Chatfield
 14th: Pete Norum & Barbara McClure
 21st: David & Linda Foote
 28th: Bret & Judy Ely, and
 Don & Kathy Stephens

OFFERING COUNTERS

Pete Norum
 Sherry Hager
 Al Beeson
 Ron Solt

COMMUNION SERVERS

Judy & Brett Ely

COFFEE HOST *(Signup in Perkins Hall)*

7th:
 14th:
 21st:
 28th:

ALTAR FLOWERS/WHEELCHAIR

7th: Anonymous
 14th: Anonymous
 21st: Anonymous
 28th: Anonymous

STATISTICS

| | Attendance | Offerings |
|-------|------------|------------|
| 06/05 | 60 | 2,911 |
| 06/12 | 64 | 1,847 |
| 06/19 | 80 | 1,113.17 |
| 06/26 | 53 | 1,557 |
| Total | Avg. 64 | \$7,428.17 |



Happy Birthday

| | |
|------|------------------|
| 8/3 | Al Beeson |
| 8/8 | Murl Preble |
| 8/12 | Jane Lawler |
| 8/16 | Mary Herrick |
| 8/18 | Brent Walker |
| 8/19 | Katie Bradstreet |
| 8/22 | Roland Wood |
| 8/22 | Tarah Jones |
| 8/30 | Craig Pitcher |
| 8/30 | Paul Sandstrom |

Church Leadership Team

Cabinet

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Moderator | Gordon Bergthold |
| Moderator Elect | Don Storer |
| Treasurer | Sylvia Staats |
| Clerk | Sherry Hager |
| Trustee Chair | Al Beeson |
| Deaconate Chair | Julie McCurdy |
| Christian Ed Chair | Barbara McClure |
| Church Missions Chair | Betty Bergthold |
| Pastor Parish Relations | Christy Dinsman |
| Member at Large | John McCurdy |

Christian Education

Barbara McClure, Chair
Gerri Lyons
Jane Cheek
Ruth Auchenbach

Church Vitality

Anne Solt
Kathy Stephens

Diaconate

Julie McCurdy, Chair
Judy Ely

Pastor Parish Relations

Christy Dinsman

Stewardship

Don Storer
Betty Bergthold
Ron Solt

Trustees

Al Beeson, Chair
John McCurdy, Vice Chair
Chuck Jarvi, Bldg & Grounds
Don Stephens
John Huff, Multimedia System

Church Leadership Team

Continued

Church Missions

Betty Bergthold, Chair
Bev Summers
Sherry Hager

Woman's Fellowship

Joanne Storer, Chair
Sherry Hager, Vice Chair
Sylvia Staats, Treasurer
Gerri Lyons, Kitchen

Foundation

Tom Lloyd, President
Dr. Billie Alarie, Vice President
Al Beeson, Trustee Chair
Phil Preble, Treasurer
Jay Eby, Secretary

Church Staff

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Licensed Minister | Pastor Jane Cheek |
| Office Administrator | Holly Houston |
| Director of Music | Jane Lawler |
| Organist | Carole Sue Linson |
| Custodian | Bill Linson |
| Child Care | Josh Taylor |

The Parish Caller

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The Parish Caller is published monthly. Our newsletter is also available online at www.FccUccPrescott.org.

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216 E GURLEY ST
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A good man is not a perfect man; a good man is an honest man,
faithful, and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in his life.

~ John Fischer