



The Parish Caller

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FCCUCC Young Adults Help Change the World

On February 6, Hannah Lusk (with the help of her sister Rachael) gave a short presentation about her upcoming work in an orphanage in Africa. She displayed some photographs taken by Rachael, and described what she will be doing on her trip. Below is a sample of the presentation. At the end, they both were able to answer questions...donations of cash and/or "onesies" for the babies in the orphanage are being collected this month.



This picture shows a child very much like the children Hannah Lusk will be working with in Africa. She gave a presentation the first Sunday in February in Perkins Hall.

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Not only do the volunteers work in the health field, they also help the people do sustainable farming.



People wait for hours to be serviced at a health clinic much like the one Hannah will work in during her time in Africa.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

From the Pastor's Desk by Pastor Jane Cheek



Bylaws, schmylaws – who cares?

Dear Family of FCCUCC,

Yes, there is a very large article from our friend and leader John Dorhauer in my space of our Caller. I've elected to share my space with him for two reasons: 1) I was on the team which helped craft the changes that are going to be made to our Southwest Conference Bylaws (and I'm proud to have been able to help!) and 2) our own church Cabinet will be attempting to rebuild our bylaws in the near future, and we, too, will be looking at being more realistic and practical about who we are as a church and what we hope to accomplish as a People of God. So, I hope you will take time to read and think about what John is sharing here – our church is moving forward!

God's Peace to us all...

By-Laws: Yippee!
By-Laws: "yuchh!"
By-Laws: "Who cares?"
By-Laws: "What are those?"



These are typical reactions that are expressed when I bring up the subject.

Not too many people care about a set of By-Laws, understand what their true functions are, can speak with any authority or clarity about their content, or invest too much of their energy in examining how effectively they serve the missional needs of the organization. If you have attended any of the workshops I do about churches re-writing their By-Laws, it won't surprise you to learn that I think differently. When I am invited to discern a church's vitality, one

of the first things I ask for is a set of their By-Laws. They tell me a lot about the organization and its ability to function in ways that do not compromise their mission, their vitality, or their long term goals.

And you can bet that was one of the first things I did here in the Southwest Conference. It was time for the Conference to think about living into another way of structuring its covenantal life, both to catch up with the ways in which we were already functioning for the sake of our mission and to anticipate some of the paradigmatic shifts that are coming our way.

If you were at last year's Annual Meeting, you will recall we, in effect, suspended the By-Laws for this year and set a goal for presenting a new set of By-Laws to the delegates at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

A Task Force was formed immediately. They met through the summer to articulate goals, key principles and core concepts, put together a timeline, formulate an outline, and assign the task of writing various segments to each member of the task force. All deadlines were met, and the Executive Committee saw and reviewed the first draft at their Jan. 15th meeting. A second draft has been written following that for presentation to the Board of Directors at their March 5th meeting. That draft will be posted on our website later this week. After the Board meets, a third draft will be written taking into account their recommendations. That draft will both go through a thorough stylized editing and will be reviewed by legal counsel. On April 1st, a final draft will be mailed to every church, every pastor, and every registered delegate to our Annual Meeting. It will be presented by the Board

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Moderator's Message by Gordon Bergthold, Moderator

Wow, February is gone and March is upon us like the wind. We've had some interesting winter weather thus far and it's far from over if the past years are any indication. We've cancelled church twice in the past two months and although many of you could have made it safely we felt for the safety of others who aren't as mobile as some of our members, it was the right call. On February 20th last Sunday, John McCurdy was at the church campus clearing snow at 6am with his tractor and shovel. I spoke with him at 7am and he said although he'd cleaned the walkways the walks were still icy due to the continuing falling snow and low temps. I talked with Pastor Jane and we decided for the safety of all concerned we'd cancel once more.

We don't like cancelling church at any time but nature seems to have her way when it comes to snow and ice and we won't compromise the safety of our members and guests with poor judgment on things we can control. We'll do our best to keep you informed of these last minute changes and if we miss someone please accept our apologies. The telephone callers do their very best and we thank Silvia Staats, Julie McCurdy and other volunteers for their time in notifying people on these occasions.

Now for some news regarding our various groups using the church; a group that meets on

Monday evenings had 30+ attendees in the library downstairs on February 21st and our Progressive Christianity group had ten meeting in the Scout room at the northeast end of the basement. The reason for juggling the meeting places was because Pastor Jane had a meeting in the church office where the PC group normally meets. A problem you say, I say not so because we still have Perkins Hall for the larger group and then PC can move into the library where we started over five years ago. These challenges are great to address because it means that non-Sunday activities are growing and we are utilizing the church campus as God intended... benefitting the church body and the community.

I'm so proud of our activities in the community and amongst our congregation. We are moving into the community with vigor and that's a very good sign.

A culture of accountability, opportunity and activity makes a good organization great and a great organization unstoppable.

We're a church on the move and we certainly have an active congregation with many people pitching in to make things happen. Let's continue to grow in the community and make our presence known to all of Prescott and the surrounding area.

From the Library at FCCUCC - The Sandwich Shop

by Ruth Auchenbach, Christian Education Committee

Ruth Auchenbach, member of the Christian Education Committee, has been re-organizing our library. She will be introducing us to new books available for checkout for children and adults!

The Sandwich Shop by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah is one of the new children's books in our church library. It is about Lily and Salma who are best friends and like to do the same things - jumping rope, drawing pictures, playing on swings, and they always eat lunch together. They don't each eat the same lunch. Lily eats peanut butter and Salma eats hummus - but what's that between friends? It turns out, a lot. And before they know it, there's a food fight.

Theme: Tolerance and acceptance. We learn that friendship is far more powerful than

difference.

Queen Rania, the author, states: "It's easy to jump to conclusions when we come across something new or foreign or strange. But if we take time to get to know each other, stand in each other's shoes and listen to a different point of view, we learn something wonderful about someone else and about ourselves."

Adults might want to savor this book too. It's one way of become ambassadors of hope. We can help bring people of all cultures and backgrounds closer together. Authors of children's books are well aware of our nation's difficulties with immigration and civility discussions.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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“Pastor’s Desk” Continued from page 2 (John Dorhauer’s Message)

to the delegates for vote at our Annual Meeting.

In anticipation of that, I want to share with all of you what I think are the big shifts - the foundational elements of a new structure that will emerge if these By-Laws are enacted and the reasons why we are asking you to employ them.

There will be three key pieces to the structure, each with separate and distinct mandates, each fully autonomous and at the same time fully responsible in real, practical ways to the other parts of the structure (that should sound familiar). Let me say that the names of these three structural pieces are less than satisfying at this point, but are currently being used until a more appropriate name can be discerned.

The Board of Directors

The Board will be comprised of one delegate from every church with standing in the Southwest Conference, as well as the officers of the church and anyone from the Conference serving on one of our National Boards.

The Board will have two primary functions.

The first will be to discern the mission of the Conference.

The second will be to discern the extent to which the resources of the Conference are being stewarded and utilized to fulfill that mission.

In the parlance of Anthony Robinson, who wrote the landmark work *Transforming Congregational Culture*, this is the group that sits in the balcony and oversees the movement of the whole.

Having a representative from every congregation honors two of our key principles and core concepts: it gives full ownership of the mission of the Conference back to the local church; it provides us a means by which to communicate more directly to the local churches what is going on with, in, and through the Conference of which they are a part and to which they have a covenantal bond.

Local churches will elect their own representative to the Board, and are responsible for expenses incurred by those delegates. For that reason, every Board meeting will be held in a different part of the Conference - and many meetings will make use of video-conferencing equipment, the use of which will minimize costs and maximize productivity.

The Executive Committee

The EC will serve as the manager of the corporation, making all of the necessary and important decisions about the inner workings of the Conference, the maintenance of the budget, the oversight of its ministries, and the distribution of its assets. All of the standing committees, functioning Ministry Teams, and representatives to our National Boards will report directly to the EC.

The EC will be composed of the four officers of the Conference, and five at large members. We will work hard to meet diversity needs - including, but not limited to, geographies, gender, race, and skills/abilities.

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“Pastor’s Desk” Continued from page 4 (John Dorhauer’s Message)

The EC honors, in its proposed configuration, the key principle and core concept of flexibility. It can meet far more frequently and with less expense to the Conference than the current Board.

Ministry Teams

The BoD bears the responsibility, having identified our shared mission, to call for Ministry Teams to be built to undertake that mission. These teams will form based on affinity and passion, and no one who feels called to participate in the mission of any of these teams, and who honors the commitments and responsibilities for which the team is formed, will be denied access to the Team. They will not form as a result of nominations and votes at an Annual Meeting, but will emerge when the need for them is articulated and a requisite number of qualified and passionate people emerge and organize for the sake of completing the mission.

There are currently two such teams operating in and on behalf of the Southwest Conference, and there is every reason to believe that they will continue to operate in the new Structure: The Church Growth and Development Ministry Team and the Justice and Witness Ministry Team.

I realize that this short article does not answer all of your questions about the new By-Laws. That is not the intent. I want to raise awareness about the draft that will soon be posted on the website, and about the critical changes that will take place should these By-Laws be enacted.

This is, in my estimation, a very important decision we are facing. Keeping all of you informed and active in the deliberations is essential as we approach the Annual Meeting. Churches should be prepared, if these By-Laws do pass, to have a representative elected to serve on their behalf at the first Board meeting of the Conference following the Annual Meeting.

A final word about that last sentence: these By-Laws, and in particular the elected representative from the local churches, present what I am referring to as the 'Pot-Luck Dilemma.' Every church has pot-luck dinners at some time, and just trusts that not everyone will show up with desserts. Well, we want and need a Board that has clergy and lay, male and female, gay and straight, black and white and brown, etc. But we have no way of guaranteeing the diversity we covet when each autonomous and independent church votes to send its own representative to the Board.

Therefore, we are working on a proposal that models exactly what the National Boards do to honor their commitments to diversity. We will work up a rotation that we will recommend to churches - with which they can do as they see fit. It will look something like this: your church will be asked to elect a lay male, clergy female, lay female, and clergy male while the next church will do the same rotation but elect the clergy female first. You see how this will play out. It is as yet an imperfect system and will not fit every situation (do all churches have active male and female clergy?) and will not satisfy every need for full diversity (it does not specify race or sexual orientation, for example). But it helps us start the conversation about how to meet our commitments to diverse representation.
Enough.

Thanks for your attention to this matter. Look for a new draft to emerge after Mar. 5th, and for a final draft to be in your hands no later than April 1.

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, Southwest Conference Minister

What's Happening...

DIACONATE:

Greeting cards were again shared with the parishioners who attended on Sunday February 13. These pre-addressed cards go to many of our **homebound and out-of-town members**.

Lent begins March 9. First Congregational Church will host an **ecumenical Ash Wednesday service**. Beginning the next Wednesday, March 16, there will be a **soup supper** each Wednesday night of Lent.

The **Easter Lilies project** is underway. Kris Chatfield has agreed to oversee the purchasing and assembly of silk Easter Lilies to be displayed in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. These silk potted plants will be non-allergenic, for the comfort of our sensitive parishioners, and they will be re-useable for many years. Kris can expect assistance from Joanne Storer, Marilyn Eby, Pastor Jane, and Julie McCurdy in assembling the arrangements. **(If you would also like to help, please contact Julie.)** Funding for the purchase of about 12 pots of lilies will be provided partly by a memorial gift in honor of Ellen Payne and supplemented by the diaconate budget.

In addition to displaying the silk Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday, we will encourage donations for **colorful, fresh flowers**--for delivery and for dressing the chancel area. We will invite people to promise to deliver the flowers they donate.

TRUSTEE:

A. Old Business:

1. Sanctuary Bell Tower: R. Brown to add retractable ladder, replace trap door, leak seems fixed

2. Open item remains Office bldg porch repair using trex?
3. Doors Sanctuary/Perkins Hall complex & lower rear door basement broken, repair/replace R. Brown?
4. Status: Sound system move and installation of enclosure, still need to fix 1. remote view of Sanctuary services in Perkins hall. Stain new roll top desk, last coat near perfect some staining left to do. Modification in process in mounting mixer mounting by John Huff.

B: New Business:

1. Discussed use of two [2] now working small wireless speaker sets in pews, need review with Pastor Jane.
2. Painting Office Bldg: Mathus awarded bid job \$9650 status, gutter install \$1670 after paint. Need added Bid on Painting gutter and security door. Update: Will start late Feb early March. Need security door install completion.
3. Heat in old choir room AZ Heating & Cooling Done, new wall Done. Report heating not satisfactory.
4. Sanctuary Cooling project: Study: either 1). increase efficiency of Evap Air, 2). A/C installation or 3). combination of both. Need bid on double pane stained glass window Gurley side Sanctuary and study dual pane windows through out. Discussed increased efficiency of evap cooler and air movement around pulpit.
5. Status report on YC Student design & installation of railing[s] from chancel to Sanctuary floor, this may have

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“What’s Happening” Continued from page 6

some delay.

6. Briefly discussed Snow removal Contract with Scott Snow Removal terminated. Contract signed with Landcraft @\$200.00 for 12” snow removal.
7. Reviewed Lock Up schedule 2011-2012
8. Introduced/welcomed new member Don Stephens: reviewed his background and reviewed duties.
9. Reviewed Office Bldg: dirt on wood stem walls at foundation. Approved a time and material contract with Landcraft to build channel 6” min width around foundation areas where wood now touches earth, to be done before painting.
10. Discussed heat in basement north side. Found 2-3 Sundays ago a approx 88 deg Boy Scout rm and approx 82 deg Library and approx 65 deg hallway where thermostat is located. Runs less than 1 hour? AI to contact AZ Heating for a fix to these problems including possible relocation of thermostat.
11. Discuss building Security [with the many facility users] and approved ongoing efforts to secure reliable bldg closure.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

by Barbara McClure

Last week I was asked why Ruth Auchenbach left the church service early. There were some concerns about her well being. So, that prompts me to explain that we are now having Sunday School during the church service. The children will leave to have their own time immediately after the children's sermon. There are four people who have come forward to teach the class, so each week that there are children in the congregation, one of the following people will leave to teach the class - Betty Bergthold, Ruth Auchenbach, Randy Cook, and Barbara McClure.

The reorganization of the library is progressing. Books no longer relevant to a church reference collection are in boxes found in Perkins hall. They are there so that you can look over them and take whatever you would like to read and pass on. If you have read something recently that you would like to see in the library as a reference for others, please write the book name, author, ISBN number, publishing house, and short summary of the book and give it to someone on the CE committee (Barbara McClure, Gerri Lyons, Pastor Jane and Ruth Auchenbach).

Vacation church school will be in June and our focus will be “God’s Earth”. Please think about teaching or helping during the one week that we concentrate on the children in our neighborhood. It is always fun!



The Season of Lent

- ◆ **Ash Wednesday** - March 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Ecumenical Service, First Congregational Church
- ◆ **Soup Bread Agape** each Wednesday beginning
March 16 at 5:30 p.m.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

Mission Matters by Betty Bergthold, Mission Chair

February 6th presented our congregation with a very special Sunday morning service. **Hannah Lusk**, who is attending school in Flagstaff, was our guest speaker. She is going to Malawi in April to work in a clinic/orphanage. Her twin sister, Rachel, served there last year, so we had a power point presentation as well as a display of photographs. This was followed by a most interesting question and answer period. Our generous congregation has inundated Hannah with onesies for the babies in the orphanage. Plus we have raised \$208 to help with expenses that the clinic incurs. This is our collection for the month of February, so if you have not had an opportunity to support Hannah's trip, and would like to, feel free to do so at your convenience.

Community Cupboard: Al Beeson reports that the schedule for the remainder of the year for FCC-UCC packer teams is as follows:
April 11-15, June 13-17, Aug. 8-12, Oct. 3-7, Nov. 28-Dec. 2

One Great Hour of Sharing:
One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), is one of the four special mission offerings

of the United Church of Christ. Working in more than 80 countries, the offering provides hope to people in these countries. The UCC works with international partners, and together we provide support to health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives.

We, here in Prescott, will be receiving this offering on April 3. Please mark your envelope or check: OGHS. Thank you for your compassion.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.



Results Are In

Recently we asked you to complete a survey and vote for which mission statement you would like for First Congregational Church.
And our new mission statement is...

“To Serve God with Joy; Listening, Sharing, Acting with Compassion and Fairness for All.”

Thank you everyone for participating in the survey.



March 2011



No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 Boy Scouts	2 6:45 Choir Rehearsal	3 1:00 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Taizé Service	4	5 Cub Scouts Pine-wood Derby
6 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Time	7 6:30 Progressive Christianity	8 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 Trustees	9 6:30 Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service	10 1:00 Bell Rehearsal	11	12
13 1st Sunday in Lent 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Time	14 6:30 Progressive Christianity	15 5:00 "Writing the Sacred" workshop (Supper First) 6:30 Boy Scouts	16 12:00 Women's Fellowship mtg. Brown Bag 5:30 Agape Soup/Bread 6:45 Choir Rehearsal	17 1:00 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Taizé Service	18	19 10:00 "From Jesus to Christ"
20 2nd Sunday in Lent 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Time	21 6:30 Progressive Christianity	22 6:30 Boy Scouts	23 5:30 Agape Soup/Bread 6:45 Choir Rehearsal	24 11:00 Hannah Circle 1:00 Bell Rehearsal 6:30 Cabinet Mtg. 6:30 Cub Scouts	25	26 10:00 "From Jesus to Christ"
27 3rd Sunday in Lent 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Time	28 6:30 Progressive Christianity	29 6:30 Boy Scouts	30 5:30 Agape Soup/Bread 6:45 Choir Rehearsal	31		

March Worship Leaders

Lay Readers

6th: Anne Solt
13th: Randy Cook
20th: Ruth Achenbach
27th: John Huff

Ushers

6th:
13th: Dave & Kris Chatfield
20th: Don & Joanne Storer
27th:

Greeters

6th: The Higginson Family
13th: Christy Dinsman & Darcy Walker
20th: John & Julie McCurdy
27th: Charlie & Doris Hille

Offering Counters

Pete Norum
Sherry Hager
Al Beeson
Ron Solt

Communion Servers

Judy & Brett Ely

Coffee Host *(Signup in Perkins Hall)*

6th: Available
13th: Available
20th: Cindy Fuerriegel
27th: Available



Altar Flowers/Wheelchair

6th: Available
13th: Available
20th: Available
27th: Available

Statistics

	Attendance	Offerings
1/9	65	5,314.75
1/16	73	3,074.00
1/23	75	2,907.00
1/30	61	839.00
Total	Avg. 69	\$12,134.75

Happy Birthday

3/2	Marion Richards
3/2	Barbi Beeson
3/8	Bernice Wallace
3/11	Betty Corn
3/12	Billie Alarie
3/13	Kathy Stephens
3/15	Amy Wilson
3/15	John Fuerriegel
3/22	Charles Jarvi
3/22	James Gilpin
3/26	Ruth Auchenbach
3/26	Bret Ely
3/27	Judy Book
3/27	Martha Clark
3/28	Andree Shrimpton
3/31	Sherry Hager



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

The Parish Caller

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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A message from our wonderful organist, Carole Sue Linson

HARMONY

(a short "sermon" t the Bell Choir)

I've encouraged you to push and raise those chords that resolve. Well here is my belief in HARMONY! Our teacher Jesus Christ asks us to be in Harmony.

To be in Harmony is to be in a conscious and loving relationship with "What is". Harmony means to have a music relationship with the world, to enter into Resonance, to be in tune with all that is. That resonance is heard when you whirl those bells or swing those bells.

To enter into resonance with the world is a long work of attuning that demands a quality of listening... extraordinary attention to being... Concentration!

Our Teacher seems to be telling us that it is indeed our task to enter into resonance with whatever environment we find ourselves in. That Harmony you make will bring good and beauty and inspiration to those who are near you and hear you play.