



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

The Parish Caller

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2011 Annual Meeting

It's about Mission



FCC Delegates:

L to R: Al Beeson, Pete Norum, & Betty Bergthold

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Pastor Jane and three of our delegates, Al Beeson, Betty Bergthold and Pete Norum, attended the 2011 Southwest Conference Annual Meeting held in Albuquerque, NM last month. The theme was "It's About Mission". Our delegates will share their experience in an up coming town hall meeting.

From the Pastor's Desk by Pastor Jane Cheek



Happy Spring!

Finally, the weather feels like its warming up! The flowers are in bloom, the trees are producing new-green

leaves and we are heading into days of new growth. How fitting that some of us from our growing church family were able to attend the Annual Meeting in Albuquerque to spend time with fellow members of the United Church of Christ in the Southwest Conference. Al Beeson, Betty Bergthold, and Pete Norum joined me in two days of meaningful worship, interesting discussions and presentations, and fellowship...all surrounding the theme of "Mission."

You will hear more from Al, Betty and Pete at our upcoming Town Hall meeting, but I would like to share with you my specific involvement at this Annual Meeting.

First of all, during this past year, I served the Southwest Conference as the Chair of the Restructuring Committee that re-tooled the Bylaws that guide our conference's actions. The old bylaws had become archaic and cumbersome; many departments and committees specified within them just weren't allowing for our Conference Pastor's vision for the future of the SWC, especially in terms of decision-making bodies. (Some groups weren't to meet more than a couple times a year and the SWC just couldn't get anything done!). Perhaps one of the greatest changes brought about with the new bylaws is the formation of the Mission Planning Board – each church in the conference will elect a member of this Board to participate in SWC workings. What this means is, each church will now

have a voice in what happens within our Conference! This is a first, and we are excited that the delegates of the Annual Meeting voted to accept our new bylaws. It was a vote of confidence and support for many month's work, and these changes will help our churches be more active participants in the SWC's work overall. This is good!

Then, something amazing happened.

I was accepted to serve as Moderator-elect for the Southwest Conference – and this means that this year, I'll be more involved in wider church work, training to become the Moderator in 2013, for a total of two years' service in the SWC. In many ways, this is much like our own version of service – only on a larger scale. I'll be working closely with Rev. Lee Milligan (from Tucson) who is now Moderator, and John Dorhauer, our Conference Pastor, moving the SWC into a new time of spiritual and physical growth. With new bylaws to guide us, we'll be able to take action on some new ideas and plans to help strengthen the UCC in our conference, and bring us into the 21st century. "Church" may look and feel a little different in the future...and some of the new church starts are reflecting this.

You may wonder, "Will this affect Pastor Jane's service for us in Prescott?" The answer is, (are you ready?) I may be even **more** energized because I'm very excited about where we can take the UCC in the SWC, **and**, for these two years, I will suspend my graduate school courses and work with a mentor, who will serve be my "teacher" while I learn from, and serve, the wider church. These two

Continued on page 3

Moderator's Message by Gordon Berghold, Moderator

As we move into spring the weather changes to a more moderate temperature, the predictable winds blow, pollen is disbursed causing allergy suffers to stock up on various remedies, and we often wish for another season to move into place. It seems like we're never really satisfied with what Mother Nature hands down to us on a seasonal basis.

One of the major reasons we moved to Prescott was for the four seasons and moderate weather. We haven't been disappointed, even with the 40+ inches of snow received the past few months. If you think Prescott has bad weather, just take a look at the devastation in Japan, Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri and other locations throughout the world that has occurred in the past few weeks. Moral of this story, enjoy what we have here in Prescott and pray for those who have suffered losses of life, property and

belongings elsewhere.

As John Keats stated in *Walking the Talk* recently, "nothing ever becomes real until it is experienced. Even a proverb is no proverb until your life has illustrated it." We have so much to be thankful for here in Prescott, not the least our church and its leadership, the opportunities to enjoy wonderful cultural and artistic events offered in the area and the freedom to express ourselves without fear of intimidation or recrimination. Yes, we are blessed to live in Prescott and we have opportunities to enjoy the climate and environment along with our neighbors which is something that many countries, and even some areas of the United States, cannot offer.

I say, accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, latch on to the affirmative, and don't mess with Mr.in-between. Open your heart and let your mind be your ally.

"Pastor's Desk" Continued on page 2

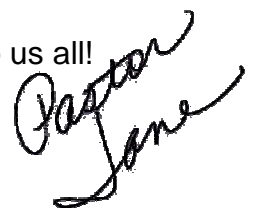
years will essentially count as education toward my "alternate path to ordination"... they will be just as important in my overall training as any college class, in the eyes of the UCC. So, while I may attend a few more meetings in Phoenix or participate in phone conferences off and on all year long, I won't be doing coursework many mornings or taking time to write large papers (except in August, when I'll be taking my last class). Let me tell you, this is a gift! J

I am honored and excited to be given the

chance to represent our church in this capacity, and all that I learn and do will directly benefit our church here in Prescott.

Maybe I love spring this year because I feel like those new leaves – I'm just coming out, but it feels like soon, I'll be in full bloom, ready to do my job. I ask you to keep me in your prayers as I move forward in my career as your pastor, and as a person who just loves you and my work in God's church.

Happy Spring! God's Peace to us all!



Help Wanted

Jay and Marilyn Eby have faithfully served as Ushers for our church for the past two years! While there have been others who have helped fill in on occasion, we need a few members to take a regular, consistent part in this very important ministry of our worship. Please see either Jay or Marilyn if you are interested – and thanks to those who have already signed up.

First Annual Benefit Golf Tournament- May 13, 2011

From the Southwest Conference

There's band camp, and football camp, and science camp, and dance camp, and a host of other camps where our children learn skills and gain self esteem and knowledge. And then there's **church camp** where our children learn to accept themselves and others, where they learn that service to others is fulfilling, where they make friendships with other kids and adults that have a grounding in the UCC, and where they just MIGHT hear a call to ministry.

The Youth and Outdoor Ministry program is at risk of being reduced or lost. There are several ways that you can participate and help save this vital ministry:

1. Register to play in our upcoming golf tournament- the cost is \$250/ player. Put a foursome together from your church friends, neighbors, or coworkers. About \$100 of the fee is tax deductible. Ask your church to fundraise enough to field a team.

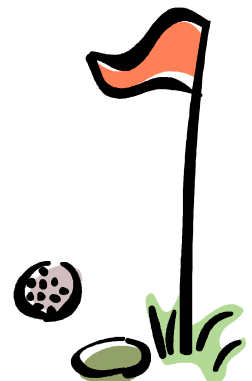
2. Buy a sponsorship- Your church, your company, or your neighbor's company can donate anywhere from \$50 to \$5000 and your name will be listed in our event program and on the conference website.

3. Donate an item for the Silent Auction

4. Bid on an item in the Silent Auction. Items will be listed later next week on the conference website with new items being added after that. Check out the bidding every few days!

5. Pray for this ministry to continue to reach young people in meaningful ways.

Our goal is \$25,000 and every little bit helps- no donation is too small or insignificant. Thank you for all you do. Find details on the website, www.uccswc.org, or call the conference office, 602-468-3830.



Women's Fellowship by Joanne Storer, Women's Fellowship Co-Coordinator

By now you've attended our Spring Luncheon held on Wednesday, May 4 in Perkins Hall and enjoyed our delightful speaker from Chino Valley, Phyllis Mell. I imagine she could put a spin on Father's Day too!

Our next event will be our September 7 meeting, we'll start at 5:30 p.m. with a potluck dinner. This gives people that work during the day a chance to attend too. We need a volunteer to Chair this event to organize a committee and set up a program. There will be a sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall for those interested in helping.

December 7 will be our Christmas Tea and Program; Barbara McClure will be the chairperson assisted by Joanne Lussier and they need helpers, you may sign up for this too.

It takes all of us working together to put these events together. I am looking forward to working with all of you. Remember friends and husbands and male church attendees are always welcome to attend these events.
God Bless all of us!

From the Library at FCCUCC - Christopher the Holy Giant

by Ruth Auchenbach, Christian Education Committee

In case you didn't see The Daily Courier article at Christmas time about the Prescott Public Library's program "Paws to Read" at 3:30 p.m. the first Friday of each month, here's the scoop!

Children ages 5-10 are invited to the library at Marina and Goodwin Street on that day and time to read aloud to Toby and Storm, two special therapy dogs (who are card carrying members of the library staff.)

If you can't participate at the library but have a pet at home, try reading to it. You'll be surprised at how reading skills improve and the insights your child finds in the reading. (And us adults too!)

Two important books in our children's library are Christopher the Holy Giant by Tomie dePaola and God Said Amen by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. Christopher is

the story of Saint Christopher the Patron Saint of Travel. Perhaps you carry a St. Christopher medal for safety when you travel. The legend is that he carried the Christ child across a stormy river safely.

God Said Amen is a warm and inspiring tale of two rulers, The Price of the Midnight Kingdom and the Princess of the Desert Kingdom. Each have a big problem. The Midnight Kingdom is overflowing with water, but in desperate need of oil to light its lamps. The Desert Kingdom is blessed with oil, but in dire need of water to grow its gardens.

The royal rulers each ask God for help, but they prove too stubborn and full of pride to ask each other. The two kingdoms learn that they need only reach out to each other to find God's answer to their prayers. A worth while talk-it-over book with children and adults too!

What's Happening...

DIACONATE:

By Julie McCurdy

We are Deacons

Thank you to so many who help make our church a welcoming, happy place to worship. Thank you to the lay readers, ushers, greeters, communion servers, coffee hosts and musicians. Thank you to everyone who helped dress the sanctuary for Lent--including Taizé, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Thank you to those who assembled flowers, purchased flowers, and delivered flowers. Thank you to those who sent birthday cards, get well cards, thinking-of-you cards, and Easter cards. Thank you to all who share their prayers, and to those who gather for agape fellowship. Through our loving actions to each other we embody the teachings of Jesus and the love of God.

I am grateful for the love shown by all our deacons and honorary deacons, including (but not limited to): Ruth, Joanne, Donna, Shelly, Al, Barbi, Betty, Gordon, Dave, Kris, Jane, Randy, Betty, Christy, Jay, Marilyn, Bret, Judy, Cindy, David, Linda, Jim, Kay, Sherry, Bobby, Lydia, Charlie, Doris, Holly, John, Patsy Jo, Marilyn, Jane, Bill, Carole Sue, Tom, Marilyn, Joanne, Gerri, Barbara, Katrine, John, Julie, Pete, Murl, Phil, Dawn, Andree, Anne, Ron, Sylvia, Don, Kathy, Don, Joanne, Char, Josh, Darcy, Pat, Roland, Jean. . .

TRUSTEE:

By Al Beeson

A. Old Business:

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

2. Status Office bldg porch repair using trex?

3. Priority ONE: Status: Doors Sanctuary/Perkins Hall complex Lower rear door basement broken, Review next steps exterior doors repair/replace. R. Brown?

Status: Sound system move and related: remote view of Sanctuary services in Perkins hall done, sound in PH very good. Some small modifications to desk to hold bell computer equip remain, need mounted power strip. Choir speakers remount due to feedback with choir mikes, use only alkaline batteries, Don to pick up 12-15 Batteries at Costco. Trustees to open desk turn on desk equipment [after main power on] need to monitor sound system **at each service**, turn off same after main power off when service done.

B: New Business:

1. Painting Office Bldg: Mathis awarded bid job \$9650 status, gutter install \$1670 after paint. Need added Bid on: Painting gutter and security door. Update should start in April.:

2 . Sanctuary Cooling project: Study: either 1). increase efficiency of Evap Air, 2). A/C installation or 3). combination of both. Discussed Low E windows south side Sanctuary as very first step, next dual pane or low-e east Sanctuary windows. This is a very expensive project but with huge benefits re reduction of heat.

3. No Status report on YC Student design & installation of railing[s] from chancel to Sanctuary floor.

4. Review Office Bldg: dirt on wood stem walls at foundation. Channel done. Need replace much wood/check for termites/

Continued on page 7

paint to match. R Brown project.

5. Still need to resolve heat in north side basement air flow problem. [This item not discussed]

6. Discussed Security and hiring of Capital Guard @ \$16hr to check all exterior doors both bldgs walk through Sanctuary/PH Bldg 7 nights a week.

7. Light fixtures in basement making noise. Chuck Jarvi to look into.

8. Welding need chair rack, railing and chairs. **Work party May 7 at 9 pm**

9. Discussed Landcraft bid of \$9262 to relay all paver's on Gurley St and Alarcon St, cut handicap curb access at handicap spot on Alarcon, set level spot for bench in front of Office Bldg. Trustees approved this safety project and next need FCC Cabinet approval.

10. Need to make masonry repairs on the chimney at roof NE corner of Perkin Hall.

Discussed need for Al to get with Rick Brown on starting these items and if not available get someone else.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

by Barbara McClure

Library Project: Ruth has finished sorting

the books. Many of those put out to be taken are gone. To finish: organize remaining books, label shelves.

Subscriptions: New books will be placed on a cart to be kept in Perkins Hall. Jane will look into some type of taller stand on wheels that will be kept on small portion of kitchen for new reading material.

A large number of bibles in the library will be sorted. One large print will be kept of the King James Bible, the rest of the King James will be put out for giving away but will save all commentaries.

Vacation Church School: Pastor Jane reported on her meeting with Marilyn Kerstine that the theme will be Shalom and that the curriculum will be written to include 5 aspects of Shalom. All activities will be relevant to the theme. T-Shirts and resurrection plants will be provided to the children. An announcement will be made on May 1 and an article will be printed in the Caller. Teachers and kitchen help will be recruited.

A list of possible looks and subscriptions to be ordered for the library will be given to Pastor Jane who volunteers to look them up on Amazon. Next meeting is May 17 at 11:15 a.m.

Topic: Vacation Church School

Gather up your unused grocery bags

The Prescott Community Cupboard is in need of paper grocery bags. If you would like to donate your paper bags, please bring them to church and place them in the food bins by the entrance doors.



Mission Matters

by Betty Bergthold, Mission Chair

Hannah Lusk has returned safely from her mission trip to Africa. She reports that the onesies and little dresses were well received. We are glad to have her safely home!

One Great Hour of Sharing was collected in April. Our generous folks contributed \$997 for this important offering! At annual conference this year Cally Rogers-Witte, spoke to us about mission. She is the executive minister, Wider Church Ministries and co-executive, Global Ministries. Her stories were inspirational, as she told us what our mission giving has accomplished. The title of the conference in Albuquerque was "It's About Mission" and we all know that that is the truth!

While at the conference, we received a certificate for being a **5 for 5** church. There were a lot of churches who did not support all 5 of the denomination's sanctioned collections. So thanks to all of you for your generosity throughout the year.

If you would like to make a donation to help the folks who have been affected by

the recent bad weather, mark you envelope **SPRING STORMS** or put that on the memo line of your check. 100% of this money goes directly to help these people in their time of need. None is used for administration, since our giving to Our Church's Wider Mission covers the cost of administering the funds.

In May we will be collecting **Strengthen the Church** (STC) offering. This is one of the 5 major collections that our denomination sponsors. Your gift to STC will fund new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. Your gift will help insure a vibrant church for generations to come.

In June we will be collecting supplies for Discovery Gardens Preschool, where Judy Ely and Betty Bergthold both work. The June Parish Caller will have a list of desired items. In this time of budget cuts, teachers are expected to maintain excellent standards with less help and fewer supplies. This is something we can do to show our support of the important work that is done at Discovery Gardens.

Please come to a celebration of Women's Voices...

An Afternoon Concert featuring "Angelorum,"

from Yavapai College, under the direction of Dr. Will Fisher
and

"The McConnell Singers"

from Phoenix College, under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Miller



May 15, 2011 at 2:00 pm
First Congregational Church, UCC
216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott
Free will offering will be taken at the door



May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Time	2 6:30 Progressive Christianity	3 6:30 Boy Scouts	4 12:00 WF Spring Luncheon 6:45 Choir Rehearsal	5 7:00 Taizé Service	6	7
8 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Time Mother's Day	9 6:30 P Progressive Christianity	10 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 Trustees	11 5:30 Agape Soup/Bread 6:45 Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14 10:00 "Peter & Paul" Course
15 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Time 2:00 Angelorum, and McConnell Singers	16 6:30 Progressive Christianity	17 6:30 Boy Scouts	18 6:45 Choir Rehearsal	19 7:00 Taizé Service	20	21
22 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Time	23 6:30 Progressive Christianity	24 6:30 Boy Scouts	25 6:45 Choir Rehearsal	26 11:00 Hannah Circle 6:30 Cabinet	27	28
29 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Time	30 6:30 P Progressive Christianity	31 6:30 Boy Scouts				

March Worship Leaders

Lay Readers

1st: Sherry Hager
 8th: Betty Corn
 15th: Al Beeson
 22nd: Pete Norum
 29th: Barbara McClure

Ushers

1st: Jay & Marilyn Eby
 8th: Jay & Marilyn Eby
 15th: Jay & Marilyn Eby
 22nd: Jay & Marilyn Eby
 29th: Jay & Marilyn Eby

Greeters

1st: Art & Bev Summers
 8th: Ruth Auchenbach & Marilyn Lummel
 15th: Pat Welch, Cindy Welch & Sherry Hager
 22nd: Jim & Kay Gilpin
 29th: Lee Ruether, Randy Cook & Tarah Jones

Offering Counters

Pete Norum
 Sherry Hager
 Al Beeson
 Ron Solt

Communion Servers

Judy & Brett Ely

Coffee Host (Signup in Perkins Hall)

1st: Don & Joanne Storer
 8th: Phil & Murl Preble
 15th: Pat Welch & Sherry Hager
 22nd: Jim & Kay Gilpin & grandchildren
 29th: Randy Cook & Heather Quigley

Altar Flowers/Wheelchair

3rd: Available
 10th: Available
 17th: Available
 24th: Available

Statistics

	Attendance	Offerings
3/6	62	5,611
3/13	61	2,726
3/20	57	1,872
3/27	70	2,370
Total	Avg. 47	\$12,579

Happy Birthday

5/2 Erwin Relth
 5/3 Gerri Lyons
 5/4 Matt Ely
 5/7 Celia Webb
 5/9 Gordon Bergthold
 5/10 Doris Hille
 5/12 Carolyn Daly-Wood
 5/15 Wynne Strom
 5/16 Mark Lyons
 5/18 Anne Solt
 5/19 Lisa Sandberg
 5/22 Kris Chatfield
 5/25 Joanne Lussier
 5/26 Sarah Huff
 5/26 Beth Bradstreet
 5/26 Betty Bergthold

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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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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God's heart is the most sensitive and tender of all.

No act goes unnoticed, no matter how insignificant or small.

~ Richard J. Foster