

THE BREEZE
May 2010



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Desert Palm United Church of Christ
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CHURCH LEADERS:

Moderator: Richard Nearing
Moderator Elect: Bill Albert
Clerk: Mark Williams
Financial Secretary: Marlene Schanz
Treasurer: Randy Bulriss
Christian Education: Kathryn Andrews
Church Development: Bill Young
Community/World: Bev Crawford
Fellowship: Larry Seubert
Facilities Management: Phillip Scott
Financial Affairs: Rebecca Kennell
Spiritual Life and Worship: Linda Stewart
Youth Member-at-Large: Christopher Heath

STAFF:

Pastor: John Herman
Pastor Emeritus: Don Arey
Associate Pastor: Michael-Ann Veziroglu
Admin. Assistant: Shelley Daley

MUSIC DEPARTMENT:

Minister of Music: Jon Sywassink
Chancel Choir Accompanist: Kathy Skinner
Nursery: Kristin Wetzel

DEAR FRIENDS,

One of the nice things about the design of our relatively new entrance area is how well-suited it is for an Easter Sunrise Service. Things like convenient power hook-ups for sound amplification, the ease of rolling a piano from Mission Hall, distance from the road, and the fact that we can easily place chairs without the former inconvenience of the ants and other small nibbling critters we always encountered in the lawn by the West Patio, make this ideal. But, of course, the main advantage is that we can actually experience the sunrise! We can feel its warmth, and we can watch as it moves the shadows of neighboring buildings down the entry columns of the church building, and as it makes our worship team squint because they are facing east.

Easter should probably make us all squint just a little—our entire perspective on life itself should probably brighten and broaden on this day. Because of Easter, death itself no longer has the final word; God does. We can't deny death, of course, and there are many, many reasons why we may fear death, but we can stop fearing it in quite the same way.

As members of our Confirmation and Youth Groups were delivering their reflections of various characters who had interacted with Jesus during his lifetime, my thoughts were carried in two directions: First, what could I say personally about my own experience with Jesus in my own lifetime? Second, what do you suppose others will have to say about their experiences of me during *their* lifetimes?

Death always leaves the survivors with loneliness, sorrow about a “permanently altered” future, and the inevitable sense that things have been left unsaid, unsolved, or unresolved between people.

When we consider our own death, it may prompt us to confess the unconfessed, to reconcile the unreconciled, to repay our indebtedness. We may become more intentional about offering our thanks, reminding others of our love for them, or our forgiveness, or our regrets.

As friends naturally drift out of our lives and we feel their loss, do we continue to try to create new friendships? Or do we decide that some kinds of sadness are so painful that we don't ever want to place ourselves in such vulnerable situations again?

As we reflect on our family and friends, do we go out of our way to prevent them from being saddled with our indebtedness, or with being forced to confront decisions we could have easily made ourselves beforehand? Do we try to remove from our lives and our accumulated clutter the evidence of anything whose discovery might hurt them, or provide evidence that we may not have been the persons they thought we were? It is far easier to work on such tasks now, rather than kidding ourselves that we've still got a world of time.

Our experience with Jesus is that our ever-evolving faith says that God loves us in spite of ourselves. But part of our experience with Easter is that although Love itself never ends, time, as we know it, does.

Grace, Peace, and Love,

JOHN HERMAN

CONFIRMATION 2011



DESERT PALM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IS PROUD TO WELCOME TO FULL ADULT MEMBERSHIP OUR
CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2011
DUNCAN MALONEY, CAROLINE LULL, CARLY PEMBERTON, MICHAEL BULRISS, MICHELLE BULRISS AND KATHERINE HEATH.
-PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL KASZETA

BREEZE THANK YOU LIST- MAY

- Thanks to **Steve Klein** and **Marc Klein** for repairing the gravel-stop flashing and for replacing and painting the rotted section of cornice work over the west patio.
- Thanks to our **Pastors John and Michael-Ann** for managing this year's Confirmation experience, and for Mentors **Lorraine Diehl** (Carly Pemberton), **Megan Fox** (Katherine Heath), **Phill Scott** (Michael Bulriss), **Marlene Schanz** (Michelle Bulriss), **Pat Smith** (Caroline Lull) and **Mark Williams** (Duncan Maloney).
- Thanks to **Marc** and **Steve Klein**, and **Bill Kaszeta** for their work on our pesky sprinkler controls.
- Thanks to **Lois Arey, Kathy Berry, Leonora Stephanoff** and **Linda Stewart** for procuring and arranging the Easter Flowers this year.

- Thanks to **everyone** who provided and prepared food, set-up, hosted tables and helped clean up during our Maundy Thursday worship experience.
- Thanks to **Marion Durham** for her service as a Hospitality Team Leader for the “Palms” Team. Marion has selflessly served for years scheduling their friendly faces you see each week as greeters, ushers, and worship leaders. She was also frequently available, along with Jim, to help fill in for the other tree teams. Our remaining teams, led by **Ray Littleford, Paula Teichman,** and **Bill Young,** will each pick up one moth from Marion’s schedule and re-allocate volunteers from her team roster to the other three groups. Thank you, Marion, for a job very well done.
- Thanks to Pastor **Don Arey** for leading our **Lenten Adult Study**, based on ***The Last Week*** by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.
- Thanks to **Jon Sywassink** and **Holly Herman** for so much hard work on this year’s Children’s Musical.
- Thanks to **Steve K.** who solved the problem of non-interchangeability of parts for our coffee urns by replacing two of them.
- Thanks to our **Confirmation Class** and **Senior High Youth** for leading our Easter Sunrise Service, to **Stephanie Maloney** and the other youth parents for the wonderful breakfast buffet, and to Pastor **Michael-Ann** for her sensitive counsel and planning skills as it all came together.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF 2011 PLEDGED RECEIPTS AS OF 3/31/11

\$198,031 – Adjusted Total 2011 pledges by 92 accounts

\$50,074 – Actual 2011 pledged receipts as of 3/31/11.

(\$49,474 paid during 2011 and \$600 paid in 2010 for 2011)

\$49,508 -- Pledged amount due as of 3/31/11 (25% of year)

28% of accounts have paid less than the total pledged to date. Resulting in a ‘shortage’ of \$3,856.

(Last year 26% had paid less as of March 31st.)

54% are right on target. (Last year 53% were current.)

18% of accounts have paid more than amount due, resulting in advance payments of \$4,491, which will be applied to future months. (Last year 21% had paid in advance.)

Thank you to all for your continued support. Questions or changes in pledged amounts should be directed to Marlene Schanz, Financial Secretary 480-634-7716 or mmschanz118@cox.net

With Gratitude-

Dave and I want to thank all of our Desert Palm friends and family who sent cards to my mom during her illness and for her birthday and Christmas. Many of you knew her from her years of wintering here and the memories you shared with her were a blessing for Mom as well as for my sisters and me. Those of you who didn't know her and still took time to let her know you were thinking of her and praying for her created an additional blessing. My sisters told me of times she would be down and they would point to her card-covered wall and remind her of all the people who cared about her. Thank you also for holding our family in prayer during the last few months. Though I still feel a bit like life continues being lived with one foot in Pennsylvania and one in Arizona, things are settling down and the support from Desert Palm during this process has definitely been appreciated.

Rene Wright

FIRST QUARTER GROCERY REBATE EARNINGS-WAY TO GO DPUCC!!

Totals for the first quarter earnings from grocery card rebates is in! The total amount was \$816.56 with the breakdown as follows: Fry's -\$664.30, Albertson's-\$32.61, Basha's-\$69.60 and Safeway-\$50.05. Thanks to all the shoppers who have taken advantage of grocery store rebates! And thank you to Jim and Marion Durham for coordinating this effort.

O.G.H.S. ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

The OGHS Offering with the theme "**Sharing Brings Joy: To Us, To Others, To God**" was received on Palm Sunday, April 17th. As of April 25th, **\$2,029.35** has been contributed. Thank you Desert Palm for this financial act of sharing.

In addition, we have received **Emergency Relief funds for Japan** in the amount of **\$750.00**.

In Gratitude, *Jo Vredenburg*

JUSTICE AND WITNESS COMMITTEE

As a committee we are attempting to provide educational and advocacy opportunities for Desert Palm.

On Tuesday, May 10th, we will be providing the opportunity to carpool to the State Capitol to sign in one time to access the Arizona Legislative Information System. Once signed on, you will be able to access the website at any point from any computer and weigh in on any bill that is being considered (as long as you remember your username and password, and select whether you are interested in the House of Representative or the Senate).

Anyone interested in signing up and carpooling, please contact John Linda or Jo Vredenburg. We will meet at Desert Palm at 1 PM on the 10th and carpool from there to the Capitol.

John Linda & Jo Vredenburg

Sow the Seed

One of our callings in the church is to help others grow in their faith journeys. To plant and to sow in ways that will help offer experiences to children and youth on their faith journeys is of vital importance. The Sow the Seed fund allows this to happen.

Think about when you were a child and wanted to go to some fun summer event or on a great trip with your youth group. Some event where you met up with old friends, made new ones and had the time of your life. That is how many of our Southwest Conference youth see their experience at camp and the events throughout the year. Some have gone to summer camp every year since second grade and some might be trying it for the first time in high school. Some have traveled on the Sneak Trip every year of their high school career and some try a week of service for the first time as a Senior. And some might not be able to attend any of these without the ***Sow the Seed*** fund.

What is the ***Sow the Seed*** fund you ask? The ***Sow the Seed*** fund helps children and youth go to camp and Conference events by providing scholarships for those who wish to go to but cannot afford the full cost. It is a yearly, conference wide campaign that is supported by many churches throughout Arizona, New Mexico and El Paso, TX.

Ask anyone who has been to church camp, done a week long service project, traveled on the Sneak Trip, gone to Jr. high Retreat or the Youth Rally about these events and you will invariably get a positive – even glowing – response. For some children and youth, it has been a life changing experience. Some of you heard stories when the Youth Council visited us in March. With your gift to the ***Sow the Seed*** fund you become a part of that transformational time.

We have had many youth and children attend Conference events over the years. Last summer three of our children went to camp and you helped them get there. Two of our youth have been part of a community service weekend. Your support whether it be emotional, spiritual or financial is an important part of bringing our children and youth new and eye-opening experiences.

Here at Desert Palm part of our regular contribution to Our Church's Wider Mission is used to support the camping program but, as you might expect, each person who wishes to attend camp must pay a fee. For some children and youth in our Conference, this fee is still out of reach for them and their families. This is where the ***Sow the Seed*** fund takes over.

It's difficult to think of a more important ministry than providing a transformational experience for our children and youth. If you would like to help this ministry, you are invited to make a special offering for the ***Sow the Seed*** fund that will be received during worship on May 15th. Our children and youth need us now to help with their growth, and to let them share in the ministry of this conference through all they offer. Please consider giving generously on the 15th to this special offering for our children and youth. (Please indicate "***Sow the Seed***" on your check.)

Thank you for considering this important offering.

Michael-Ann

Arizona Interfaith Honors Desert Palm's Dr. Leland Fairbanks



At this year's Golden Rule Banquet the **Arizona Interfaith Alliance** honored a handful of worthy recipients with the **Golden Rule** Honor. "Persons, businesses or organizations who are selected to receive the Golden Rule awards are people who we feel have demonstrated 'living out' the Golden Rule objectives in their daily interaction with people and institutions in the community. We've recognized that their values, practices and life in the community reflect their understanding, respect and support for the dignity of all people, and a dedicated resolve to bring about justice, equality, peace and sustainable life for all people."

Our own Dr. **Leland L. Fairbanks, M.D., MPH** was presented the specific Award in the field of Health. "Dr. Leland Fairbanks lives the Golden Rule as illustrated by his life works, exemplifying an unconditional love for our universal family, making the world a healthier, smoke-free, and better place in which to live."

Part of the video citation for our favorite "Country Doctor" dealt with his international work with the **Peace Corps** in **Liberia**, his time with the **U.S. Public Health Service** in Arizona- particularly with the **Diné people (Navajo Nation.)** Leland is perhaps best known locally for his crusade to remove smoking from the workplace in Arizona.

Dr. Fairbanks was joined by wife Eunice plus children and grandchildren, co-workers from **Arizonans Concerned about Smoking**, an almost full table of fellow Peace Corps colleagues from decades ago.



Bill Kaszeta

NEW ADDRESS:

Kathleen Van Tyne: 683 Little Wekiva Road, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

Kudos!!!! Bravo!!!! Way to Go!!!!

It's said that if you do something 21 times it becomes a habit.

Well, we all know Desert Palm members lead by example!!!! And, your collective environmental ways' of living are no exception!

We've recently spotlighted in the Breeze some of the tips offered by the Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast 2011. In reading the daily suggestions online of ways to reduce our carbon footprint, I repeatedly noted to myself, "Hmm, Desert Palm already does this!"

While there's always room in our lives for improvement and continual learning, you, the members of Desert Palm are setting a great example as environmental activists! Keep up the good work of nurturing and being great caretakers of God's Green Earth!!!!

Leslie Shamp-Beaver for the DPUCC Environmental Task Force

Durable Medical Goods Update from the Caregivers. . .

We have a couple of new items in our "closet". A **humidifier** has been donated to the cause. We also have **bed rails** available. We still have **walkers, canes, crutches, wheelchairs, etc** . These items are available to lend to you when the need arises. These items have been donated by members. They are available for the duration of person's need, be it a few days or many months. Call the church office (480-831-0065) or **Barb Hofflander** (480-821-2592) to borrow any of the Durable Medical Goods.

Lunch Bunch May 6

Where in the world...? Please join us for Lunch Bunch on Friday May 6th and bring a picture. We will try to guess where it was taken. Along with your picture and mental GPS system bring a dish to share. We meet around 11:30 and eat around Noon.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/1/1982	Kenneth and Rebecca Bond	29 yrs.
5/9/1987	Kameron and Karyn Hott	24 yrs.
5/10/2008	Phill and Jaci Meade-Scott	3 yr.
5/18/1985	Randy and Dawn Bulriss	26 yrs.
5/29/1976	John and Marie Parsey	35 yrs.
5/29/1976	Randy and Vivian Pemberton	35 yrs.
5/31/1998	Susan and Michael McCall	13 yrs.



ADULT BIRTHDAYS

5/4	Dennis Brown	5/24	John Parsey
	Brittanie Davis		Kathy Skinner
	Bill Stroebel	5/26	Jordan Beaver
5/7	Beverly Crawford	5/27	Marilyn Unger
5/11	Joe Mann	5/28	Sharon Heath
5/13	Alex Stewart		Marissa Mrozinski
5/16	Megan Fox	5/29	George Moakley
5/18	Scott Oltmann		
	Todd Oltmann		
5/23	John Goes		



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS

5/28/07 Cheyenne Frank 4 yrs.



Vacation Bible School

We'll be cooking in the Shake It Up Café and to see what recipes we find for living out God's word. Our time, morning or evening is not yet set, but we will be gathering in the café five times during the week of June 5th through the 10th. So mark your calendars, start digging out your aprons and collecting your cooking utensils for a delicious week of celebration with God.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

9:00 a.m. Worship/Church School
 10:15 a.m. Refreshments in atrium
 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Lighthouse Presbyterian Church (LPC)

MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:15 am Children's Musical Rehearsal 10:30 Orientation for New Members 7:00 pm Dave Earll Master's Tuba Recital and reception-DPUCC	2 7:00 pm Al-Anon	3 9:30 am Banner	4 6:30 pm Bells of Peace 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	5	6 11:30 am Lunch Bunch	7 6:00 am-8:00 am LPC 3:00 pm I-HELP (Young Team)
8 10:15 am Children's Musical Rehearsal	9 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm Bells and Choir at Westchester Villas	10 9:30 am Banner 5:00-8:00 St. Dominic Academy Parent Training	11 6:30 pm Bells of Peace 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	12	13	14 6:00 am-8:00 am LPC 1:30 pm Knit Wits
15 Sow the Seed Offering 10:15 am Children's Musical Rehearsal	16 7:00 pm Al-Anon	17 9:30 am Banner 0 pm Council Mtg.	18	19	20	21 6:00 am-8:00 am LPC Children's Musical Rehearsal 3:00 pm I-HELP (Fox Team)
22 Children's Musical	23 7:00 pm Al-Anon	24 9:30 am Banner	25	26	27	28 Mingus Springs Retreat 6:00 am-8:00 am LPC
29 Mingus Retreat	30 Mingus Retreat 7:00 pm Al-Anon	31 9:30 am Banner				

MAY LECTIONARY

Sunday, May 1st-Second Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

Sunday, May 8th-Third Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4. 12-19. 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, May 15th-Fourth Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

Sunday, May 22nd-Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 29th-Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21