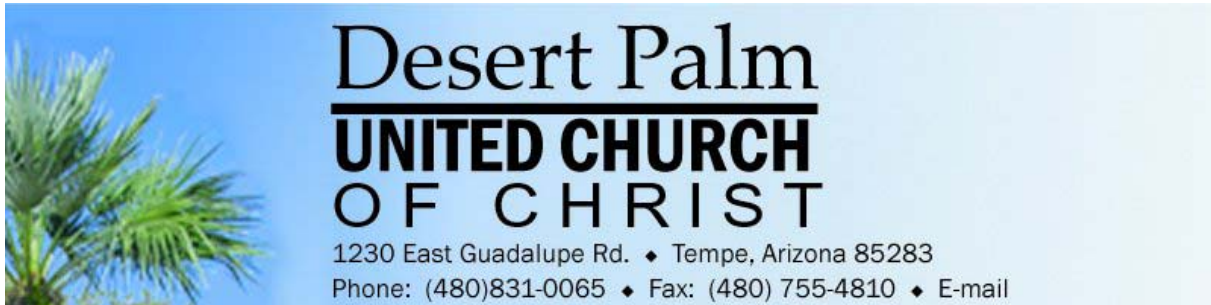


# THE BREEZE

November 2011



**Volume 32- Number 11 Published Monthly**  
**Desert Palm United Church of Christ**  
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**Website:** <http://desertpalmucc.org/>

#### **CHURCH LEADERS:**

Moderator: Bill Albert

Clerk: Mark Williams

Financial Secretary: Marlene Schanz

Treasurer: Randy Bulriss

Christian Education: Marie Parsey

Church Development: Pat Lantrip

Community World: Beverly Crawford

Financial Affairs: Kent Utter

Fellowship: Larry Seubert

Facilities Management: Bob Carver

Spiritual Life and Worship: Linda Stewart

Youth Member-at-Large: Michelle Bulriss

#### **STAFF:**

Pastor: John Herman

Associate Pastor: Michael-Ann Veziroglu

Pastor Emeritus: Don Arey

Administrative Assistant: Shelley Daley

Office Volunteer: Cyndi Carver

Nursery: Kristin Wetzel

#### **MUSIC DEPARTMENT:**

Minister of Music: Jon Sywassink

Pianist: Eric Carlson

## *Is it Really Worth It?*

*Dear Friends,*

A dozen years or so ago one of our lay members preached an incredibly thought-provoking sermon that actually got passed along to the UCC's General Minister and President at the time- Paul Sherry.

Our lay preacher recounted the number of church buildings he passed each Sunday as he drove to Desert Palm. Considering how far away the family lives, it must have been more than a dozen churches. Many were newer than Desert Palm, bigger, fancier, I suppose. Probably louder, too! But the family undertook the long drive each week because something important drew them to this particular congregation. It wasn't even the United Church of Christ "brand," because this family came from another denomination. Yet this became their church home.

We are a progressive congregation in a progressive denomination, which makes us a distinct minority. If there are now 313 million Americans, and 59% number themselves as Christians, that would be 185 million. Subtract 68 million Roman Catholics and that leaves 117 million Protestants. The UCC has 1.1 million members. **So we represent almost exactly 1% of American Protestants or 4 tenths of one percent of all Americans.** We're not very big. If we placed handbills on the front doors of 400 homes, only one of them would likely house a UCC family. Here in Arizona, part of the "Un- Bibled Belt" of the American West, we might have to visit twice that many homes. We have a very unique constituency in the broad spectrum of American religious people. We may comfort the afflicted, but we also have a tendency to afflict the comfortable.

So, what would have happened if Desert Palm had not been planted here 33 years ago? What would things have been like for people like us? What difference would we have made here? These are specific questions we are asking each other to ask each other to address in this year's annual celebration of our Stewardship as a congregation.

- -What has happened here that has caused good things to happen in the wider community?
- -What things have brought a clearer sense of God's presence to our gathered community?
- -How have we lived out our commitment to love God and also each other?
- -Is Desert Palm worth our investment of time, energy, money, and talent? Is this community of worship and service a setting where I feel good about giving my resources, my time, my energy, my love? Is this where I feel comfortable about making a firm commitment in 2012?

Next Sunday Desert Palm will distribute to each part of our church family a letter assembled from the thoughts of a half-dozen people in our circle who have quite personally addressed this question: what would it be like for you if Desert Palm United Church of Christ had never been born. We ask everyone to address the identical question in some manner.

What difference does it make? For me—all the difference in the world!

Grace, Peace and Love,

*John*

## **-Notes from our Church Council Meeting of October 17:**

Each Ministry either reported on its activity during the past month or highlighted its written reports. **Phill Scott** tendered his resignation as **Facilities** Manager due to the demands of his new job. Council moved to accept this with regrets, and also moved to ask **Bob Carver** to assume the reigns pending ratification at our next Congregational Meeting. Three members have now volunteered to be part of the **Capital Improvements** Task Force.

**Spiritual Life and Worship** described the progress of developing our control room teams and our visual content people. The tech group continues to adjust the quality of sound amplification and also to address technical difficulties of the projector system vis-à-vis glare from the windows above the chancel.

**Fellowship Ministry** announced plans to offer a mini-Christmas concert on December 17 for our I-HELP guests that evening.

**Community & World Ministries** reported that our new **Justice and Witness team** would have its inaugural meeting on October 30, following worship.

Staff updated council on the progress of determining exactly where our **irrigation system** is leaking so profusely and expensively.

The **Moderator** advised us that an anonymous donor has offered to pay to increase the number of **motion-sensor lights** along the fascia of the parking lot side of our building.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT OF 2011 PLEDGED RECEIPTS AS OF 9/30/11**

\$196,081 – Total 2011 pledges by 93 accounts

\$138,955 – Actual 2011 pledged receipts as of 9/30/11.

(\$138,355 was paid during 2011 and \$600 was paid in 2010 for 2011)

\$147,061 -- Pledged amount due as of 9/30/11 (9 months/75% of year)

- 30% of accounts have paid less than the total estimated to date. Resulting in a 'shortage' of **\$12,478**. (Last year 32% had paid less as of Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>.)
- There are still 4 accounts that have paid zero for this year.
- **48% are right on target**. (Last year 42% were current.)
- **22% of accounts have paid more** than amount due, resulting in advance payments of \$4,281, which will be applied to future months. (Last year 26% had paid in advance.)

PLEASE NOTE—If your pledged amount needs adjusting, please contact the Financial Secretary. Thank you.

Marlene Schanz,  
Financial Secretary 480-634-7716  
[mmschanz118@cox.net](mailto:mmschanz118@cox.net)

## **2011 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please note that Christmas Day is the last Sunday in this year, 2011. Therefore, **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2011 MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 25, 2011.**

Any monies received after December 25, 2011, will be credited to next year (2012).

Desert Palm UCC

Financial books will close December 25, 2011. Thank you.

**Marlene Schanz, Financial Secretary**

## Grace Notes and Thank You Notes

- To **Phill Scott** who has served for more than three years as our Facilities Management Chair on Council. Phill recently found it advisable to resign the position after a very productive and effective hard work, most of it behind the scenes, or in the trees. Or the dirt. Or the lavatories.
- To all who came running following the recent discovery of immense volumes of **water leaking** on the property somewhere- **Marc Klein, Bill Albert, Jim Durham** and the usual suspects.
- To **Pat Smith, Ray Littleford and Kari Young** who organized and handled all the arrangements for our First Annual **Blessing of the Animals** on October 9. And to all the folks who brought along their critters. I didn't hear if anyone was able to get a formal count of Chihuahuas and other beasties, but there seemed to be more than two dozen dogs, a horse-and-mule proxy blessing, one Guinea pig and a cockroach named Fiona. Pastors **Michael-Ann and John** shared some stories, a song, and a memorial thank you for all the animals in people's lives. **Gena Wilson** even baked up some home-made puppy biscuits and cupcakes for all the four-legged visitors (and perhaps the single 6-legged one).
- To all the good Desert Palm folks who signed up on Fiesta Sunday to participate in our various mission projects.
- To **Barb Hofflander** for above-and-beyond efforts to obtain the new Communion Table oil Candles.
- To the unnamed and unnumbered **bakers** of Desert Palm who provided more than 110 cakes, plates of cupcakes or plates of cookies for the Arizona Adoption and Foster Care / East Valley Child Crisis Center **Halloween party**.
- To **Bob Carver**, who has agreed to accept an appointment to the now vacant Facilities Management position on Council. This appointment will be proposed to the Congregation for ratification in January.

TO MY MANY FRIENDS AT DESERT PALM AND ESPECIALLY REVEREND JOHN AND REVEREND MICHAEL-ANN. GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME AND HEALED ME ONCE AGAIN. HE HAS LISTENED TO ALL YOUR PRAYERS AND GOOD THOUGHTS FOR ME. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH. YOUR CARDS, CALLS, VISITS, THOUGHTS, PRAYERS AND FLOWERS MEANT THE WORLD TO ME. I DID NOT MAKE MY GRANDSON'S WEDDING, BUT MY FAMILY BROUGHT LOTS OF PICTURES. THIS IS A VERY SLOW RECOVERY. I AM STILL ON A STRONG ANTIBIOTIC HERE AT HOME AND IT TRULY SAPS MY ENERGY. I'LL SEE YOU JUST AS SOON AS I CAN WALK GOOD. GOD BLESS YOU EACH AND EVERY ONE. BEVERLY J. BYINGTON

HOPEFULLY I CAN RESUME MY DUTIES IN NOVEMBER. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR PRAYERS.

BEVERLY BYINGTON

## **VICTORY HOUSE**

**Desert Palm has long supported this residence for Veterans. Your new liaisons, Phill & Jaci Scott, have spoken to staff there about needs. Toiletries are a critical shortage. You are invited to place one each of the following items in a one gallon zip lock bag. Generic okay, any size. NOTE: no toothpaste needed. We hope to have 100 bags for delivery Veteran's Day. Info [jacaz03@yahoo.com](mailto:jacaz03@yahoo.com) or 602.300.1918**

## **SACK A VETERAN**

**In a gallon zip lock bag include 1 each shampoo, bar soap, shave cream, disposable razor, deodorant, socks. DEADLINE IS SUNDAY NOV 6.**



## *Desert Palm UCC Caregivers*

*"Caregiving When You Need it Most"*

**480-235-3922**

**Monday- Friday**

**9 a.m.- 5 p.m.**

The Desert Palm Caregivers have begun providing services to members, their immediate family members and regular attendees of Desert Palm UCC. .

One of the regular services to be provided are Friendly Phoners. Friendly Phoners will make a minimum of two calls per week to those who request the service. Their role is to enhance the quality of life of a designated Friend through regular telephone visits that offer encouragement, friendship, companionship and support.

Several Desert Palm volunteers are ready to begin phone service

If you or if you know of another Desert Palm person who would like having someone call them regularly, please call the Caregivers phone number listed above and the coordinator who answers the phone will match you up with one of our Friendly Phoners.



Dear DPUCC Members:

This year's CROP Hunger Walk will be on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011, we will gather with others in our community to fight hunger both here and around the world. We need Walkers and sponsors for the **East Valley** CROP Hunger Walk at El Dorado Park in Scottsdale.

Please reply to Barney Lynn for more details and to sign up to be a Walker, a sponsor, or both. You may also call **Barney** at **602.757.8568** or **just see me at church**. Last year, **DPUCC** had **3 walkers, one two legged and two four legged** and we'd like to see many more represent this year! Please click on or cut and paste to your browser the following link as it has several examples of why DPUCC should be more involved in CROP.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKGznOER-LI>

Thanks for helping feed the hungry both in our community and throughout the world. Hope to see you out there in November.

Kindest Regards,  
Barney Lynn  
[Blynn8@cox.net](mailto:Blynn8@cox.net)  
602.757.8568

## Arizona Adoption and Foster Care (AAFC)

As always, AAFC is SO grateful for the response of Desert Palm bakers and decorators in support of their foster and adoptive kids. The kids were lined up for the 110+ cakes, cupcakes, and cookies that you all provided for their Halloween Party. And many of the adoptive and foster parents expressed a desire to return to Desert Palm next year for their party because of the warm welcome and loving atmosphere we provide.

The economy has taken its toll on the children of Arizona. Some foster parents have had to give up their licenses because of the reduction in support from DES and their own financial problems, and dollars previously available to the agencies to help recruit new foster families has been cut out completely. The economy has put even more stress on some families and there are more and more children coming into the system- up 12% this year. AAFC is up to 195 children in care with many more younger children and babies than ever before. AAFC has no empty beds available for more children and newly licensed foster families are receiving children within hours. If a child leaves a foster family, that bed is full by the next day.

All of this means that AAFC is extremely grateful for all the love, care, and support that comes from the community to supplement their, and the foster family's, limited resources. And that's YOU.

Desert Palm will supply 100 gifts to these kids for Christmas. Gift tags with a child's age and gender will be available on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> and gifts will be due back to the church by Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. Gifts should be in the \$25 range and returned unwrapped in a gift bag. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund has already received donations that can be passed along to anyone who would like to shop for our kids but may be struggling with the expense of doing so.

Again, thank you, everyone, for your generosity this holiday season. You are appreciated!

*Holly Herman*

### **NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING**

The Special Mission Offering of Neighbors In Need (NIN) was received on Sunday, October 2nd and as of 10/24/11, I am happy to report that \$1,101.00 has been received in contributions. A portion of this offering supports Justice Witness Ministry and the Native American Ministry.

Thank you Desert Palm once again for your generosity in assisting through financial support to provide resources which enable ministry to the many in need.

**Jo Vredenburg**

### **LUNCH BUNCH - FRIDAY, NOV 4th**

Please join us around 11:30 and bring a dish to share. We will eat around Noon and after lunch we will discuss the book *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall. It is a study in contrasts and compassion. It is available at most libraries or through Amazon or Half.com. There are also downloads available as well. See you there! If you have questions please contact Larry Seubert.

## Adult Education Opportunity this Fall/Winter

“Walt Brueggemann is the closest you’ll ever get to an Old Testament prophet”

Those who have been part of the United Church of Christ family for a while will have probably heard the name Walter Brueggemann. Walt is probably our preeminent theologian in the UCC. He taught for many years at our own Eden Seminary in St. Louis and retired from Columbia Seminary in Atlanta. His specialty has been his scholarship with the Hebrew Scriptures and his understanding of God’s continuing message to that ancient nation is powerful, and incredibly pertinent to the state of the world today.

Every UCC person could do worse than add “get familiar with the work of Walt Brueggemann” on their theological “bucket list.” Walt shines a bright light on our most ancient scriptures in such a way as to increase both our faith in God and our passion for holding up our modern society to the scrutiny of AUTHENTIC “Old Testament” justice.

Our friends at the Phoenix-based Living the Questions group created a five session curriculum which is highly pertinent to America’s economic situation today. Like several of their other productions it is DVD-based with some optional written materials, and provides plenty of nourishing food for thought.

## Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today



"It is a journey from slavery to covenant that we keep making over and over again... [because] Pharaoh has immense power always to draw us back into slavery." -  
*Walter Brueggemann*

A study for Progressive Christians. Ideal for Advent and Lent, flexible in format, *Countering Pharaoh* can be conducted over four or five sessions. The program includes over an hour of video on DVD and a CD-Rom with printable written materials.

- Session One: The Way Out
- Session Two: The Decalogue
- Session Three: Countering Caesar
- Session Four: An Act of Imagination
- Session Five: On Not Doing God Any Favors

WARNING: THIS PROGRAM MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR CHURCH, SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE, AND COULD POTENTIALLY HELP RESTORE THE MEANING OF COVENANT.

The Five-Week, DVD-based Class will begin following worship on **Sunday, November 20, 10:30 until 11:30**, resuming for two weeks in December, and concluding in January. At our first meeting we will try to achieve group consensus on an optimum schedule, and we can also schedule some “make up” times for those whose schedules get “crazy” with the coming season.

## November Youth and Children Birthdays



|          |                  |            |
|----------|------------------|------------|
| 11/02/99 | Dalton Wetzel    | 12 yrs old |
| 11/02/99 | Cade Roberts     | 12 yrs old |
| 11/11/04 | Delmy Veziroglu  | 7 yrs old  |
| 11/20/06 | Derya Veziroglu  | 5 yrs old  |
| 11/24/05 | Dallas Casper    | 6 yrs old  |
| 11/26/02 | Quetzal Balcells | 9 yrs old  |

## November Adult Birthdays

|       |                     |
|-------|---------------------|
| 11/02 | Marty Shepard       |
| 11/03 | Rudy Schnabel       |
|       | Dawn Bulriss        |
| 11/05 | Barbara Neumann     |
| 11/09 | Jim Durham          |
|       | George Moakley      |
| 11/12 | Brad Utter          |
|       | Charlie Utter       |
| 11/16 | Pat Smith           |
| 11/20 | Cheri Megli         |
| 11/21 | Samantha Fox Solien |
| 11/27 | Matthew Heath       |
|       | Gloria Turner-Fox   |
| 11/28 | Jaci Meade-Scott    |
| 11/29 | Dan Mehalko         |
|       | Don Beaver          |



## November Anniversaries

|          |                            |        |
|----------|----------------------------|--------|
| 11/02/74 | Dennis and Mary Anne Brown | 37 yrs |
| 11/20/93 | Ron and Linda Thornton     | 17 yrs |

# November 2011

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

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

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                             | Friday                                    | Saturday   |
|--|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
|  |   | <b>1</b><br>9:30 am Banner Group (Library)   | <b>2</b><br>6:30 pm Bells of Peace<br>7:30 pm Chancel Choir                                      | <b>3</b>                             | <b>4</b><br><b>11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch</b> | <b>5</b><br>6:00 am-8:00 am LPC<br><b>8:00 am Christmas Cookie Baking</b><br><b>3:00 pm I-HELP (Young)</b> |
| <b>6</b>                                       | <b>7</b><br>7:00 Council Meeting<br><br>7:00 pm Al-Anon   | <b>8</b><br>9:30 am Banner Group (Library)   | <b>9</b><br>6:30 pm Bells of Peace<br>7:30 pm Chancel Choir                                      | <b>10</b>                            | <b>11</b>                                 | <b>12</b><br>6:00 am-8:00 am LPC<br><b>1:30 pm Knit Wits (Mission Hall)</b>                                |
| <b>13</b><br><br><b>CROP WALK</b>              | <b>14</b><br><i>Clergy Retreat in Tucson</i><br>7:00 pm Al-Anon   | <b>15</b><br><i>Clergy Retreat in Tucson</i><br><br>9:30 am Banner Group (Library) | <b>16</b><br><i>Clergy Retreat In Tucson</i><br>6:30 pm Bells of Peace<br>7:30 pm Chancel Choir  | <b>17</b>                            | <b>18</b>                                 | <b>19</b><br>6:00 am-8:00 am LPC<br><br><b>3:00 pm I-HELP (Fox)</b>  |
| <b>20</b>                                      | <b>21</b><br><b>6:30 pm Bells of Peace</b><br><b>7:30 pm Chancel Choir (Special night)</b><br>7:00 pm Al-Anon | <b>22</b><br>9:30 am Banner Group (Library)  | <b>23</b><br><b>7:00 Inter Faith Thanksgiving Service at Tempe First United Methodist Church</b> | <b>24</b><br><b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> | <b>25</b>                                 | <b>26</b><br>6:00 am-8:00 am LPC   |
| <b>27</b><br><br><b>4:00 pm PAZ (Fox Team)</b> | <b>28</b><br><br>7:00 pm Al-Anon  | <b>29</b><br>9:30 am Banner Group (Library)  | <b>30</b><br>6:30 pm Bells of Peace<br>7:30 pm Chancel Choir                                     |                                      |   |  |

## LECTIONARY FOR November

*Sunday, November 6th-Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost (Green)*

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, Psalm 78:1-7  
 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

*Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>-Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost (Green)*

Judges 4:1-7, Psalm 123  
 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

*Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>-Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost (Green or White)*

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100  
 Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

*Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>-First Sunday of Advent (Violet or Blue)*

Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37