

# ***THE BREEZE***

**September 2011**



**Volume 32- Number 9 Published Monthly**  
**Desert Palm United Church of Christ**  
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#### **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: Phillip Scott  
Spiritual Life and Worship: Linda Stewart  
Youth Member-at-Large: Michelle Bulriss

#### **STAFF:**

Pastors: John Herman  
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  
Chancel Choir Accompanist: Eric Carlson

## From our Ministry Staff

### TO APPLAUD OR NOT TO APPLAUD? A COMPROMISE

Jon Sywassink, Minister of Music

At our first choir rehearsal this year, there was a concern expressed by choir members about the applause for the choir anthems during worship. We are singing to God and not “performers” for the congregation to applaud was the concern. Pastor John addressed this issue before the service the next Sunday. Following that service there was a discussion held regarding the difficulty of resolving this issue. After much thought and contemplation about both sides, I feel it is important to have an understanding of the opposing views and to offer a compromise that may make the worship experience more satisfying for everyone.

On one side we have the hundreds of years of church tradition. In the Middle Ages we know that the choir sang music to God on behalf of the people. The people had very little involvement in the service. The Reformation saw the beginnings of congregational song and more active involvement of the assembled people. The choirs were still singing to God on behalf of the people and were not applauded. To applaud after the choir sang would be as if the congregation were applauding themselves after singing a hymn of praise to God. This tradition continues today in many churches and denominations. This is what many of us grew up with.

On the other side I see 2 different reasons for applause that are recent to church history. The first one, which may have developed from the American advent of the televised church, is what I will call the polite concert going audience response. This is where music performed by anyone other than the congregation is politely applauded as if it were a concert. The area of concern here is that it can become a conditioned response with little meaning, thought, or feeling behind it. It’s the “you perform the music and we’ll clap for you” response. I don’t think this is where our church is at. If it were, I think if we explained the difference between worship and concert going experiences, people would understand.

The other reason for applauding is what I will call the Spirit-led response to a Spirit-filled experience. This is where the music is so spiritually moving that the people feel a need to respond. I know it happens every Palm Sunday when the bells play *The Holy City*. Instead of “And let the people say Amen”, it’s “let the people applaud”. We have tried here in past years to think of other ways to respond, but applause seems pretty natural.

Here’s where the problems come in. I believe that most of the choir anthems fit into 3 categories:

- 1. Songs of Praise to God**
- 2. Songs of Contemplation, Lament, or Prayer**
- 3. Songs based on Scripture**

When the choir sings songs of praise there seems to be more acceptance of applause for this category. The Spirit-led response matches the spirit of the music. The second category – songs of contemplation, lament, or prayer – is problematic. What would a Spirit-led response to this be? Could it be a deep breath, some tears, or maybe a silent sigh? Would a hearty applause be appropriate for a quiet prayer? The third category could actually fit into either of the first 2 categories. Scripture readings are not usually applauded when read, but if they are sung it feels different. If it’s a joyful song of Scripture, it may lead to one response and if it’s just telling a story maybe another response.

In addition to anthems there are other parts of the service where the choir sings such as the Introit and during Communion. I think people know that applause is not needed there.

Finally, my compromise for both sides is to suggest that we be willing to accept applause at times when appropriate and that the Spirit-led response to the music be respectfully appropriate for the context of the music. Anthems that are prayers will be noted in the bulletin. My hope is that we continue to be sensitive to our diverse needs and show that people in our world can make compromises that are desperately needed.

***Jon Sywassink***

### *Church Council Summary- Monday, August 15*

- Approved the proposed contract and salary for our new **staff accompanist, Eric Carlson**
- Discussed progress on “growing” our monthly **hospitality teams**. Holly Herman has offered to take over hosting tasks for **New Member Orientation** gatherings.
- Because of the significance of the Tenth Anniversary of **9-11** occurring on our normal post-Labor Day program year kickoff, **Fiesta Sunday this year will be on September 18.**
- A special moment for mission and “coffee hour” will be hosted by the **Caregivers Ministry** on September 25.
- Two other new ministry opportunities we will be presenting at Fiesta Sunday this year involve 1.) and **Audio-Video Tech Group** and 2.) teams who will be trained to plan and create **visual worship media** for use as we explore ways best to use the projection technology we now have available.
- **Gloria Turner-Fox** has kindly offered to investigate replacing the **West Wing awnings** which have finally surrendered to 14 years of Arizona sunshine and begun to disassemble themselves.
- As the end of our mortgage draws nearer we would still like to recruit members who might be interested in forming a **Capital Expenses Planning Committee** to function within our Financial Affairs Ministry.
- Design for the **new sign** for the front of the property is presently in the hands of the City of Tempe.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT OF 2011 PLEDGED RECEIPTS AS OF 7/31/11 – Marlene Schanz**

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

\$111,275 – Actual 2011 pledged receipts as of 7/31/11.

((\$110,675 paid during 2011 and \$600 paid in 2010 for 2011)

\$113,727 -- Pledged amount due as of 7/31/11 (7 months/58% of year)

25% of accounts have paid less than the total pledged to date. Resulting in a ‘shortage’ of **\$8,478.** (Last year 32% had paid less as of July 31<sup>st</sup>.)

There are still 5 accounts that have paid zero for this year.

56% are right on target. (Last year 48% were current.)

19% of accounts have paid more than amount due, resulting in advance payments of \$5,538, which will be applied to future months. (Last year 20% 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](mailto:mmschanz118@cox.net)

## Thank You Notes

Many, many thanks for the e-mails, phone calls, cards, prayers and soup. And, a big thanks to **John Herman, Michael-Ann, and Leslie Schefski** for their hospital visits and meaningful prayers. I hope to get the results of the tests on Tuesday the 23rd. Am sure it will be positive due to all the wonderful kindnesses. / **Barbara Nearing**

Thanks to Moderator **Bill Albert** for facilitating a thought- and vision-producing Saturday morning orientation/ retreat for new and returning Council members. (Thanks also, Bill, for volunteering to assume total responsibility for anything that happens in the next two years of your term that anybody disagrees with. Harry Truman would be proud!)

Thanks to all who served on the special AV task force last year- **Carmella Ramirez, Rebecca Kennell, Bill Kaszeta, Randy Bulriss, and Jon Sywassink**. Thanks also to all our August worshipping community who put up with the dust and ongoing equipment adjustments that needed to happen.

Our Construction Crew was headed up by **Bill Kaszeta** with power systems, **Marc Klein** with a fine "brick and mortar" control room, and designer-consultant-installer **Pat Hoffman**.

Unsung in the process were our **church staff**, particularly **Gary Heath**, who made special trips each Saturday to make certain that the sanctuary was reset each Sunday morning during the construction phase.

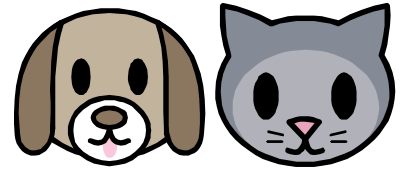
Thank you to all the various **church elves** who so faithfully bring their home-baked cookies and other baked goods for our time of refreshment and community following worship each week.

### Look what is coming to Desert Palm Church of Christ !

On Sunday, October 9, 2011 at 4:00 pm, Pastors John and Michael-Ann will officiate at our very first



**BLESSING OF  
THE ANIMALS**



The custom of Blessing of the Animals was first begun in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi (the founder of the Franciscan monastic order), who was inspired to call all living creatures his brothers and sisters. I hope we can make this an annual tradition to request a special blessing for our companion animals. So bring your doggies, kitties, hamsters, horses, pigs, turtles, snakes, lizards, fish, and birds to Desert Palm's labyrinth area, and Pastor John will welcome each animal with a special prayer.

***"The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator. It's no wonder that people enjoy the opportunity to take their animal companions to church for a special blessing. Church is the place where the bond of creation is celebrated." Kevin E. Mackin, O.F.M.***

Let's create a Noah's Ark on October 9. Who knows what spiritual benefits may result?

(If you would like to be more involved or assist on Oct. 9, please contact me.) *Pat Smith*

# LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

Our first Lunch Bunch of the season will be Friday, September 2nd. Tell us about your Summer. Did you travel (bring pictures)? Did you move? Become a long distance caregiver? Help with Vacation Bible School? Give us some pointers from your life to make our lives better. See you around 11:30. Please bring a dish to share at Noon.

If you like to plan ahead, a book has been recommended that should be a good fit for us entitled "Same Kind of Different As Me..." by Ron Hall. It deals with homelessness and abundance and life lessons. Let's plan to discuss this book at our November gettogether.

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Seubert.



## Café Justo

**Café Justo**, formerly known as **Just Coffee**, is a “fair trade plus” cooperative. The entire coffee production process, from cultivating the seedlings through roasting and packaging takes place within the coffee growing cooperative. Therefore, unlike most other fair trade coffees, ***all*** the money that comes from a sale of coffee stays within Mexico and benefits the Mexican growers’ cooperative. The money is used to provide cooperative families with a fair wage for their labor and products, create new jobs and invest in the business.

**Café Justo** has Arabica, Robusto, Arabica/Robusto combination, decaf Arabica and premium Marago coffees. The coffee comes either ground or whole bean and either regular or dark roast. Arabica and Robusto coffees are \$9 a pound. Arabica/Robusto combination and decaf coffees are \$10 a pound. Marago is by special order only and is \$14 a pound.

I will start selling coffee again on Sunday, September 11, after the service. I have a variety of coffees available. You can always contact me and place an order to insure that I have your favorites!

***Barbara Hofflander***

# Neighbors in Need 2011

## Imagining Another World Is Possible

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 2nd, is also World Communion Sunday. This offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and

environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, MN. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

In the month of September there will be bulletin inserts providing personal stories of how the NIN offering has made a difference for them. There will also be a Mission Moment on September 18th. I hope that we at Desert Palm will once again open our hearts and minds to give generously to the Neighbors in Need offering to assist those in need to consider "Imagining Another World Is Possible". Checks should be payable to Desert Palm with Memo line marked for NIN. Special Offering envelopes will be available on September 25th and October 2nd.

*Jo Vredenburg*

# Desert Palm Caregivers

## “Caregiving When you Need it Most”

The **Desert Palm Caregivers’ Ministry** will be ready to serve the needs of Desert Palm the first week of October 2011!

We will be participating in Fiesta Sunday on September 18<sup>th</sup> and will be sharing a Moment for Mission on September 25<sup>th</sup>, as well as hosting coffee hour that day.

Training sessions for those interested in this Caregiving Ministry will be offered on:

**Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 9AM at DPUCC**

**Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> approximately 10:30AM at DPUCC**

**Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM at DPUCC**

Those interested will only need to attend one session. We anticipate the training to last approximately one and a half hours.

If you are interested in this important ministry but are unable to serve as a Caregiver, we are accepting donations in order to purchase X-10 Emergency Phone Boxes for our older and/or homebound church loved ones.

*Leslie Shamp-Beaver*

### Our Caregivers’ Mission Statement-

The Caregivers of Desert Palm UCC will provide non-medical support, education and advocacy to DPUCC members and their immediate family members with respect, dignity and compassion while maintaining a balance in the lives of the Caregivers.

### **FOR EMERGENCY ISSUES CALL 911**

The Caregivers Task Force is composed of Leslie Shamp-Beaver, Barbara Hofflander, Sandy Kaszeta, John Linda, Richard Nearing, with Don Arey providing practical and spiritual leadership experience.

## Adult September Birthdays



9/2	Jessica Roberts	9/17	Mary Beth Moser
9/3	Pat Brandt		Paula Teichman
9/4	Gerry Stewart	9/18	Linda Stewart
9/5	Warren Mills	9/19	Ty Hofflander
	Leslie Shamp-Beaver		Dale Frank
9/6	Pat Grennell	9/21	Linda Macintyre
	Kameron Hott	9/22	Jim Allison
9/8	Steve Megli	9/23	Barbara Pyle-Rodgers
9/10	Chris Lange	9/24	Hope Dillon
9/12	Denise Jurgens	9/25	Debbi Roberts
9/13	Brittney Smith Irvin	9/26	Rebecca Kennell
9/14	Kathy Lange	9/28	Jim Brumley
9/15	Becky Lull		Andrew Fox
			Trevor Smith
		9/30	Lois Kenyon

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/17/96      Michael Bulriss      15 yrs.



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/4/1971	Judy & Chris O'Neill	40 yrs
9/6/2003	Marty & Lori Shepard	8 yrs
9/7/1974	Marjorie & Blair Sellers	37 yrs
9/11/1982	Sandy & Dale Frank	29 yrs
9/12/1981	Frank & Gloria Turner-Fox	30 yrs
9/14/1962	Pam & Jim Brumley	49 yrs
9/20/1952	Joy & Dan Mehalko	59 yrs
9/24/1967	Kathy & Lance Berry	44 yrs
9/27/1986	Pat Smith & Ray Littleford	25 yrs
9/27/1958	Elaine & Del Bohlmeier	53 yrs

# September 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>	<b>2</b> 11:30 am Lunch Bunch	<b>3</b> 6:00 am-8:00 am LPC <b>3:00 pm I-HELP (Young)</b>
<b>4</b> Labor Day Sunday	<b>5</b> Labor Day Holiday  7:00 pm Al-Anon	<b>6</b> <b>9:30 am Banner Group (Library)</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>6:30 pm Bells of Peace</b> <b>7:30 pm Chancel Choir</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 am-8:00 am LPC  <b>1:30 pm Knit Wits (Library)</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Acolyte Commissioning</b>  <b>3:00 pm Tempe Interfaith "9-11" Service- Neeb Hall, ASU</b>	<b>12</b>  7:00 pm Al-Anon	<b>13</b> <b>9:30 am Banner Group (Library)</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>6:30 pm Bells of Peace</b> <b>7:30 pm Chancel Choir</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00 am-8:00 am LPC  <b>3:00 pm I-HELP (Fox)</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Fiesta Sunday</b>	<b>19</b>  7:00 pm Al-Anon <b>7:00 pm Council Mtg</b>	<b>20</b> <b>9:30 am Banner Group (Library)</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>6:30 pm Bells of Peace</b> <b>7:30 pm Chancel Choir</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 am-8:00 am LPC
<b>25</b>  <b>10:05 a.m. Caregiver Kickoff and Coffee Hour</b>	<b>26</b>  7:00 pm Al-Anon	<b>27</b> <b>9:30 am Banner Group (Library)</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>6:30 pm Bells of Peace</b> <b>7:30 pm Chancel Choir</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

## LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

*Sunday, September 4th, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)*

*Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20*

*Sunday, September 11th, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)*

*Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35*

*Sunday, September 18th, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)*

*Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16*

*Sunday, September 25th, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)*

*Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32*



## Partnering For Peace



An Interfaith Worship  
in Remembrance of 9/11

3:00 pm

Neeb Hall

at Arizona State University Tempe Campus

(Neeb Hall is directly east of the ASU 10th St Parking Structure, located at 10th Street and Myrtle Avenue, 1 block east of Mill Ave and south of University Dr. Parking is free.)

Sponsored by TEAM--Tempe Interfaith & Council of  
Religious Advisors (CORA) at ASU