

The Bell Tower

News from The Church
at Litchfield Park
August 2010



INSIDE

Pastor Jim

The Passion
Driven Church

...

New Members & Baptisms

Four new members and two children are welcomed to the church community

...

Help Us with Our History

See if you can solve any mysteries of CALP

...

Chancel Choir resumes soon

Choir welcomes new members to join the group

Rev. Hopely Says ICCCC Gives Us Connections, Credibility

Each year in July, the International Council of Community Churches has its annual conference; this year the conference is being held in Indianapolis. At the writing of this article, I am preparing for the trip, and by the time you read this, the conference will have already taken place.

This year's meeting is a crucial one, as our Executive Director for the past 10 years, Michael Livingston, will be leaving. When his resignation was announced at our winter board meeting in February, a sub-committee of the board was formed



Rev. Michael Livingston, outgoing
ICCC Executive Director

to determine what our best course of action would be. As of now, the committee has recommended hiring

an interim E.D. so that a search can be done for the right person to fill the position permanently. We will be discussing this recommendation in the coming week as we meet together.

When Michael Livingston was hired, the conference was beginning to decline. Michael came on the scene as a man with an international reputation in ecumenical circles. Michael was the President of the National Council of Churches (NCC) which one person once described to

See "ICCC" on Page 2

The Church at Litchfield Park • 300 N. Old Litchfield Rd • Litchfield Park AZ 85340

Phone 623-935-3411 • Fax 623-935-0560

Email: info@churchatlitchfieldpark.org • Web: www.churchatlitchfieldpark.org

Chris Martin, Editor 623-979-8503 chrismartinaz@cox.net

Jennifer Knox, Designer 309-838-4523 jafrenchy@gmail.com



SENIOR PASTOR'S CORNER:

ICCC Gives Us Connections and Credibility

Rev. Dale L. Hopely Jr., Senior Pastor

Continued from Page 1

me as the closest position Protestants have to the Pope! Michael brought the ICCC into the conversation internationally through the NCC and the World Council of Churches. A great deal of Michael's time and energy was spent in this arena.

Michael's work of bringing the ICCC to the table of the international Christian community cannot be overestimated. He brought us from an obscure collection of predominantly small congregations around the country to an organization that people recognize and respect internationally. Not only was his work important to our reputation, I believe it can be the key to our purpose and growth for the future.

You may be asking yourself what this has to do with our church and our ministry to the West Valley. Believe me, I have contemplated these questions and the value of our support and involvement in the ICCC long and hard. In the process, however, I have become convinced that our involvement benefits us in a number of ways.

As an independent church with no affiliation or accountability to a denomination, it is vital that we have a connecting point with other churches around the country. The ICCC gives us the freedom to remain an independent body while at the same time being a place to belong with other like-minded churches.

Our affiliation with the ICCC gives us credibility. Although there is a plethora of nondenominational church-



es which surround us, being an interdenominational church (look up the meaning on Wikipedia) is somewhat of an anomaly. Because of this, credibility is vitally important. Our ICCC affiliation, complete with its national and international memberships as well as endorsed hospital and military chaplains, provides us with immense value.

Our ICCC affiliation allows your ministers a place of belonging and vital benefit opportunities that we otherwise would not be privy to. Clergy isolation is a common problem among ministers, even those who are part of denominations. The day-to-day activities of a pastor can encourage "ministry myopia," where pastors only focus on their church and their ministry. Having the opportunity to engage national and international issues with other Christian leaders is important to maintaining balance for a pastor. The ICCC board, annual conference and yearly pastor's school offer these opportunities to clergy of member

churches. Additionally, health and retirement benefits are available to all ICCC clergy.

A final benefit that I will mention is the opportunity for members of ICCC churches to attend annual conferences for fellowship, worship, and celebration of our Christian faith. Next year, the ICCC Annual Conference will be held right in our own back yard, in Las Vegas. I have been asked to chair the Annual Conference Committee for Las Vegas. The conference being held so close will give members of our church who have not yet attended an ICCC conference an excellent opportunity to do so.

I hope some of you will consider joining me in Las Vegas next July. It promises to be a week that will encourage you in your faith and connect you with some of the greatest people from around the country. Just as the building of relationships in our church is one of the greatest benefits to each of us, having the opportunity to form new friendships and fellowship with people from churches like ours around the country is the greatest benefit to being part of an ICCC church.

**God bless you all,
Pastor Dale**

Editor's Note: Rev. Hopely currently serves on the ICCC Board of Trustees, Class of 2012. Rev. Jud Souers, Rev. Jim Butler and church member Louis Joy also attended the ICCC Annual Conference in Indianapolis.



EXECUTIVE PASTOR'S SPOT:

The Passion Driven Church

Rev. James Butler, Executive Pastor

Books from “the church growth movement” teach pastors how to attract the right color of people, driving the right size mini-van or SUVs, who can create the perfect instant church. Even Starbuck’s has now created an instant coffee. Rev. E. Carver McGriff, Pastor Emeritus of St. Luke’s Church, does not fit the mold of a “church growth movement” pastor. Yet he is one of my heroes, his church and life ministry introduced to me by Bruce and Susan Sherwood. The Bible teaches us that our faith is a “pilgrimage” faith and that it is not enough to simply surf our spiritual experience off the Web. So I determined to make a personal pilgrimage to St. Luke’s Church while I attended the International Council of Community Churches in Indianapolis, with church member Louis Joy, Pastor Jud and Pastor Dale. (Louis, by the way, has attended the last 30 Annual Conferences of our affiliated Council)

As I stepped out of the cab at St. Luke’s Church, I was impressed by the Youth Lodge, which was constructed by raising \$1 million in one month, and the Sanctuary, which grew from 300 in attendance in 1967 to over 4,000 when Rev. McGriff retired. I felt small in the presence of God as I stood in the silence of the Sanctuary. The church now also has satellite campuses that hold three services in a dinner theatre, along with another site that meets in a wedding hall. I was tempted to think that it was slick marketing or highly leveraged financing which built this church. What I found should not have surprised me, but it did humble



Top left: The sanctuary at St. Luke’s Church. Top right: From the lobby of St. Luke’s “Christ Bearing His Cross.” Bottom left: The Youth Lodge at St. Luke’s Church. Bottom Right: Inside the Youth Lodge.

me — from Rev. McGriff’s own words about his life and the church:

“We grow most when we suffer.” Peter said, “Christ suffered for you, leaving an example you should follow.” I learned that during Rev. McGriff’s service as pastor, his own brother took his life. Carver’s dear wife, Ruth, died in a car crash. His dad died in his sleep. His only child, who hated the cold, moved away to California. Carver sought companionship in marriage — only to find incompatibility and divorce. I personally know the pain of his statement, “Ministers aren’t supposed to get divorced — according to conventional wisdom.” Carver later married an “angel” — Marianne. He now has two beautiful stepdaughters.

Carver said of his church, “You allowed me this love and allowed me to remain as pastor.” Isn’t that what the church is about?

“Passion builds the church.” The passion of Jesus Christ strengthened him to endure the shame, even that of the cross. Our hope and our future is found in the power of the resurrection. A passion driven church embraces the cross and welcomes all to journey with Christ — “divorced people, homosexuals, retired thieves, drug addicts, Presbyterians, Methodists, struggling alcoholics.” Let us resolve to embrace the cross and seek our future together in Christ.

**Pilgrim in Progress,
Pastor Jim**

Church welcomes new members



Dennis Bowling and Kathy Jo Dennison became members of our church on June 27th. Kathy is a Clinical Psychologist and Psychiatric Nurse. She has her own private practice. Dennis is retired from the field of automotive air conditioning. He also owns his own business. Together, Dennis and Kathy Jo enjoy working with clay pottery and camping.



Scharlie Stephens (above right) was baptized and received as a new member on July 11th. Scharlie has lived in Buckeye and Litchfield Park for 35 years. She is a former President of the Arizona Women's Club and a lifetime member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She was married for 63 years and has four children, 12 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Linda Purnell (above left) joined our church family on July 11th, along with her along with her mother, Scharlie Stephens. She is a retired third grade teacher, and enjoys reading. Linda has three children and three grandchildren. Linda also resides in Litchfield Park.

Sacrament of Baptism

The Church at Litchfield Park is pleased to announce the recent baptism of the following children in our church family:

Lucas Gullett was born March 31, 2009 and baptized on June 20th. His parents are Josh and Denise Gullett; grandparents are Johnny and Gina Gullett, and Wayne and Alice Fox. Godparents are Jordan Gullett and Brooke Fox

Evan Joshua Kredit was born July 10, 2009 and baptized on July 11th. His parents are Josh and Katie Kredit; grandparents are Dave and Kathy Kredit, Steven Eich, and Valerie Robertson. Godparents are Arie and Shayla VanHofwegen

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit..." John 3:5 (NIV)

Pam Justice
Clerk of the Council

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship: 8:00 and 9:15 a.m.

Contemporary Worship: 10:30 a.m.

August 1: Communion Sunday

Rev. Dale L. Hopely Jr.

August 8: Rev. Jim Butler

August 15: Rev. Dale L. Hopely Jr.

August 22: Rev. Dale L. Hopely Jr.

August 29: Rev. Dale L. Hopely Jr.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

Date	8:00	9:15	10:30	Total
June 6	111	191	109	411
June 13	91	200	112	403
June 20	85	212	112	409
June 27	79	146	111	336

It's Our History: Help with CLP Archives

I'm getting more organized every day but now I realize how much of our history has not been documented. You can help me in so many ways.

If you have the answers to any of these questions, just call me at 623-935-1117:

- Do you have a picture of Fay Siedel?
- When was the fountain in the front of the church changed from the original Chambers fountain with the fence around it to the one we have now?
- Do you have a picture of the Noah's Ark that was in the nursery play area?
- Do you have a copy of the "Walk Through Lent" script?
- Can you help me document the 1981 kitchen and Fireside Room renovation?

Keep watching, there will always be more questions.

Better yet, I'd love to just sit and talk with you and create an oral history. We could get a small group of your friends together, look at old pictures and talk about the events of the church. There is much to talk about: WCSF, the thrift shop, PAX, men's fellowship, the



1981 kitchen/Fireside Room renovation, Christmas, Easter and the sunrise service, mission work, the music programs, potlucks, potlucks and more potlucks. I could circle the church in just potluck pictures!

This is the big one: would you like to help with this history project? My goal is to create packages that will have a document describing an event, a tradi-

tion, a pastor, etc. that will be archived along with supporting photos, newspaper articles, oral histories and such. There are lots of tasks that go along with this goal. Would you be interested in helping with:

- The genealogy of the pastors and charter members
- Obtaining oral histories from the church members and/or transcribing the history
- Writing short documents describing events, traditions, people, etc.
- Framing the original pictures of the church and creating a display
- Preparing the final package for archiving?

As you can see there is something for everyone. So think long and hard, "How can I help?" Please call me at 623-935-1117.

I'll also take those funny stories for the archives!!!

Meredeth Stucky
Church Historian
mstucky@qwest.net

Youth Updates

While taking our July sabbatical, the youth ministry team has been preparing new studies for both middle school and high school youth groups. We have planned some fun activities as well.

Our next event will be a pool party on Sunday, August 8th, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the home of Tom and Jill Rosztoczy, 4706 N. Litchfield Knoll, Litchfield Park. On Sunday, August 1st, there will be a continental breakfast for both middle school and high school youth groups starting at 10:00 a.m. in the Watt House. This is a kick-off event for fall; along with food and games, we will discuss upcoming youth events.

More information will be mailed soon to youth parents. If you have any questions please e-mail me at eschultz@churchatlitchfieldpark.org.

Thanks.

Eric Schultz
Youth Director

Children's Ministries Update

Dr. Hilary Misner has resigned as our Children's Ministries Director effective July 2010. Hilary has accepted a new position with Arizona State University as Executive Director in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, where she will be leading initiatives to prepare high quality teachers as well as supporting comprehensive school reform projects across the state of Arizona.

Hilary and her son Logan will continue to be involved in the life of our church. "I am looking forward to giving to the church in other ways as I move on to a new professional adventure," she said.

Sarah Besancon is serving as our new Interim Children's Ministry Director. She and her husband Charles joined our church in December 2008.

If you're interested in helping with any of our children's programs, please call the church office and leave your contact information for Sarah.



Choir resumes this month

Chancel Choir will resume weekly rehearsal at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, August 25th in the Choir Room following their summer hiatus. Anyone interested is invited to join the group at any time. The choir sings for both the 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. traditional services.

Member Notes

Maxine Smith informs us that she is no longer receiving her mail at a P.O. Box. If you would like to have her current address please contact the church office.



The Church at Litchfield Park
300 North Old Litchfield Road
Litchfield Park AZ 85340

Coffee Filters...Who Knew!

- Cover bowls or dishes when cooking in the micro wave. Coffee filters make excellent covers.
 - Clean windows, mirrors, and chrome... Coffee filters are lint-free so they'll leave windows sparkling.
 - Protect china by separating your good dishes with a coffee filter between each dish.
 - Filter broken cork pieces from wine. If you break the cork when opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a coffee filter
 - Protect a cast-iron skillet. Place a coffee filter in the skillet to absorb moisture and prevent rust.
 - Recycle frying oil. After frying, strain oil through a sieve lined with a coffee filter.
 - Weigh chopped foods. Place chopped ingredients in a coffee filter on a kitchen scale.
 - Hold tacos. Coffee filters make convenient wrappers for messy foods.
 - Stop the soil from leaking out of a plant pot. Line a plant pot with a coffee filter to prevent the soil from going through the drainage holes.
 - Prevent a Popsicle from dripping. Poke one or two holes as needed in a coffee filter.
- OH YEAH - THEY ARE GREAT TO USE IN YOUR COFFEE MAKERS TOO.**

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
PERMIT NO 2
Litchfield Park
AZ 85340