

The Bell Tower

News from the Church
at Litchfield Park
February 2012



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Construction

Annual Congregational and Corporate Meetings scheduled for February 19

The church's upcoming annual meetings are scheduled for Sunday, February 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, immediately following the contemporary worship service. While anyone interested in the business of the church is invited to attend, only church members may vote. A member quorum is required to conduct official business of the church, so please make a special effort to participate. Dianna Morrow, outgoing Chairman of the Board, will preside over the meetings.

Our Constitution and By-Laws state that the Annual Congregational Meeting is to be held to elect members of the Council of Ministries and to review and approve minutes of the previous year's meeting. Senior Pastor Rev. Dale L. Hopely, Jr. serves as the moderator of the Council on Ministries.

The Corporate (business) Meeting is held in conjunction with the church's Annual Congregational Meeting. Its purpose is to elect members of the Board of Directors, approve the minutes of the previous year's Annual Corporate Meeting, and approve the proposed annual budget for the coming year. Board members have been working on budget plans for several months, closely monitoring pledge receipts and thoughtfully considering anticipated expenses for the coming year. *(continued on page 4)*



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

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

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SENIOR PASTOR'S CORNER

Showing Your Love Through Actions

Rev. Dale L. Hopely, Jr.

“Love” in the Bible is an action word. In most cases where love is ascribed in the Bible it pertains to God or a human agent in action. Most notably, John 3:16 tells us that, “God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son.” God’s love toward humanity is demonstrated by that act of giving.

I remember while growing up that my pastor defined the word “love” as the “continuous giving, regardless of response.” He suggested that true love was not a matter of receiving something; additionally, it was not contingent on someone’s response.

Even as a young adolescent, this definition had a profound impression on me and the way I viewed my responsibility to those I love. It taught me that my love for others needed to be evidenced by my actions, that my loving action should not change because of someone’s response.

This necessity is most clear when we think of our relationship to our children. Whether children are “good” or not does not change the fact that we love them by taking care of them, feeding them, providing shelter for them, and performing other actions that provide for their needs. Further, whether they appreciate our actions or not should not preclude us from doing the very best for them.

Perhaps hearing “love” described this way is not new to you. Perhaps you have not defined “love” in this way but when you hear it described this way, you realize it is the way you have always thought and acted.

Perhaps, however, you have never imagined God’s love in this way. Perhaps you have always imagined God’s love as being something you needed to perform for to get or something that you could change by either being “good” or “bad.”

I encourage you this Valentine’s Day to think of the word “love” as the Bible describes it, as something demonstrated by action rather than merely by

words. I encourage you to imagine and then absorb the love that God has for you in this way: a love that came to us long before we ever thought of loving God and a love not gained by acting in a certain way.

Perhaps by thinking of “love” in these terms, we will be able to escape the so-called “love” of score-keeping and the so-called “love” of “because of.” When we begin to love others by “continuously giving, regardless of response,” we can love our way toward the Kingdom of God.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

Love,



EXECUTIVE PASTOR'S SPOT



Our Journey of Faith

An Invitation to Confirmation Class 2012 Grades 8-12

Rev. James Butler

Whenever I visit my dentist, Dr. Erin Maruska at Glowing Smile Dentistry, my mind goes back to a confirmation class at the Community Church of Buckeye. Erin was in junior high school then and attended my class, along with other youth. Now the years have passed and Erin married, had two children and launched a successful dental practice. But more than that, her faith in Jesus Christ, which she confessed through her confirmation, carried her through all the challenges and joys of her life journey.

Confirmation refers to the decision personally to respond to God's grace with intentional commitment. If the confirmands have not been baptized we will give him or her the opportunity to be baptized on Confirmation Sunday, Palm Sunday, April 1. Through confirmation class, youth become members of The Church at Litchfield Park. Because this class is open to the community, it is optional for a youth to become a member of the church.

Confirmation is open to youths grades 8-12; parents and students will meet together Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Zieske Hall, but WILL NOT MEET on Thursday, March 15. Some highlights of the class include:

- A biblical study of God, the Bible and what it means to be a Christian.

- How does one personally respond to God's grace?
- What does it mean to be a member of the church?
- A study of the meaning of baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the traditions of the church.
- An opportunity to be baptized and to become a member of The Church at Litchfield Park.

In order to better understand church tradition and history, the confirmation class will take field trips to attend a Jewish Sabbath service and worship services at a Catholic cathedral and a modern mega-church. The class will also tour our church campus and have dinner at Pastor Dale Hopely's house.

In the last few words of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gave us what is called the Great Commission :
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

(Continued on page 6)

PREACHING SCHEDULE

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

Contemporary Worship: 10:30 a.m.

February 5: Communion Sunday

Rev. James Butler

February 12: Rev. Dale L. Hopely, Jr.

February 19: Rev. Dale L. Hopely, Jr.

Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m.: Ash Wednesday Service

Rev. Dale L. Hopely, Jr.

February 26: Rev. Dale L. Hopely, Jr.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Date	8:00	9:15	10:30	Total	
12/04/11	121	212	155	488	
12/11/11	151	306	134	577	
12/18/11	155	252	137	544	
12/25/11	65	96	89	155	
Christmas Eve	5:00	7:00	9:00	11:00	Total
12/24/11	441	314	190	155	1,100

Endowment Funds Used for Water Service Capital Improvements

The budget for water service for our church was \$20,000 for 2011. After receiving a high and potentially budget busting water bill in August, the Board of Directors developed and approved a plan to reduce our water service costs by installing a new separate water line and meter for the lawn irrigation portion of our water needs. The water flowing in this new separate line will not incur a sewer charge. The saving is expected to average \$600 per month. As part of this capital improvement project, new backflow preventers were added to all service lines to bring them up to code. This project was completed last November.

To pay for this project, the Board authorized using \$11,470 of Endowment Funds. This was the first ever disbursement from our Endowment Fund. The savings of \$600 per month make this a very cost effective expenditure. Looking forward, based on our Endowment Fund guidelines, \$13,589 will be available in 2012 for other capital improvement projects.

If you would like more information about our Endowment Fund, contact the church office or anyone on the Endowment Fund Committee: Rae McMillan, Suzanne Allen, Bill Lueck, Dianna Morrow, Diane Piehl, or Pastor Jim Butler.

Stu Wilkening
Endowment Fund Chair
(623) 935-5313
stuartwilkening@yahoo.com

(Annual Meetings, continued from page 1)

The Nominating Committee has been at work selecting people to nominate who will, when elected, assume those Council and Board positions which expire.

This is an important time in the life of the church - please mark the date and plan to attend. Printed annual reports will be available for anyone who is interested in a copy. The Annual Report will contain the proposed new budget for 2012, financial statements from 2011, along with reports from the pastors and staff, chairs of committees, ministry and fellowship groups on their ministries and activities during 2011.



In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). It falls on a different date each year because it is dependent on the date of Easter. It can occur as early as February 4 or as late as March 10. This year we celebrate Ash Wednesday on February 22, with a special worship service beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. According to the Gospels, Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry, during which he endured temptation by Satan.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this forty day liturgical period of prayer and fasting. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God.



men's Fellowship

Calling all men to join us for the monthly Men's Fellowship meeting Tuesday February 7! Our special guest speaker will be Les Rainey from Arizona Public Service Company. He will tell us about Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station and the electrical power grid. As always, the grills will be hot at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite food to grill and we

will supply the side dishes and drinks. We look forward to seeing you

6:00 p.m. Sign up Sundays during Coffee Fellowship in the breezeway.



I'd like to thank all at CLP for your thoughts, prayers, cards and flowers during and after my surgery. Recovery is slow, but I'm getting there! Thank you,

Karen Holt



On a Mission

Christmas Giving Update:

Our church provided a very Merry Christmas for many who would not otherwise have had one.

With the help of Men's Fellowship, WCSF, Christmas Angel project, Missions Committee, contributions from the Christmas Tea and Christmas Dinner, and additional donations from many of our CLP members, as a church family we were able

**Tuesday,
February 7 at**

to provide the following: to Homeward Bound, many lovely toys for children and Fry's grocery gift cards for families; to the Homeless Youth Connection, Walmart and IHOP gift cards for homeless youth; to Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank, Christmas turkeys.

When items were delivered to the various missions, excited and sincere expressions of gratitude were expressed, for they never expected such generous giving. For many who were on the receiving end of CLP's Christmas giving, it was a Christmas not expected and one of the happiest Christmases ever!

Thank you for sharing the Spirit and love of the blessed Christmas season, not only in December, but all year round.

March Tour: The Mission committee is planning another tour of Homeward Bound, New Life Center and the Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank. When the date is finalized, it will be published in the Sunday Bulletin. A sign-up sheet will then be posted in the breezeway. If you have not been on this tour, please plan to join us. It is interesting, enjoyable, and you will learn a great deal about these three missions.

Volunteers Needed: The Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank desperately needs help in their clothing area. If you have interest in volunteering or would like to learn more about the clothing side before you decide,

please call Sheila Porter at (623) 536-9008.

Jan Rowe

Missions Committee Chair
(623) 936-6253
jj14038@cox.net

Sunday School Stories

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving," he said triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence: "I think I'd throw up."

The Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"



Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop still has a great selection of winter items ready for savvy and thrifty shoppers. Located in the Watt House adjacent to our north parking lot, the Thrift Shop plans work days on Friday, February 3

and Wednesday, February 15, from 8:30-11:00 a.m. Sale days are Saturday, February 4 and Thursday, February 16, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

It's Our History: The Colonnade

Built in 1945, the Colonnade was the first major construction following the 1938 Sanctuary. It was a line of classrooms with a kitchen in the north end. The façade was a row of arches with the cowbell lights, exactly as we see it today. There is no written documentation about the construction nor are there any pictures. There are aerial views from the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company blimp.

Zieske Hall was built in 1951 and the history says the project included "more classrooms." Since the classrooms weren't in Zieske Hall, and an aerial view shows the roof on the south end of the Colonnade to be a different color, it's safe to assume the classrooms were added to the Colonnade. At this time the Colonnade from north to south was a kitchen, the Fireside Room and four classrooms with Classroom One on the far end.

In 1981 there were major changes. Classroom One became the home of the new Bell Tower staff with a desk for the editor and a typewriter table. WCSF added a full-length mirror to that room and it was shared with the brides when they dressed for their weddings. WCSF also funded major cleaning, painting and curtains for all of the rooms. They

You may drop off donations on work days, or contact Monica Sproull (623) 935-2656 or Millie Ezell (623) 935-3953 to schedule an appointment. PLEASE do not purchased new carpet for the Fireside Room, Jim Warkowski tiled the floor of the fireplace matching the original fascia and Joe Smith built the cabinets on either side of the fireplace. This was also the year WCSF funded a \$14,000 renovation of the kitchen, creating a 17'X20' dream kitchen. They stocked it with all new dishes – the ones we retired last year.

The Sanctuary expansion happened in 1985 and the very first demolition was the kitchen to make room for the walkway between the Colonnade building and the Sanctuary in preparation for the building of the Sunday school classroom wing and social hall. The kitchen was back to its original size.

The building of the Sunday School wing in 1993 brought more changes. An arched tunnel walkway to the new classrooms was constructed next to Classroom One demolishing Classroom Two of the Colonnade. All that is left of that classroom is a walk-in storage closet in the tunnel. Helen Boone, WCSF President and Chickie Kitchings, Vice President, took advantage of the empty classroom next to the Fireside Room and converted it into the living room for our Church with couches, chairs, tables, paintings and many items in the Southwest theme. They moved in the bride's full-length mirror and the row of hooks for hanging up dresses.

leave items in the church office or outside the Thrift Shop doors.

It's a gathering place for weddings and funerals along with a meeting room. In 2011 WCSF redecorated this room with new furniture along with some of the original pieces.

Meredeth Stucky

Church Historian

(623) 935-1117

stucky.ma@gmail.com



Revisiting Advent

Join us in Zieske Hall after dinner from 6:45 to 8:00 PM on Wednesdays, February 1, 8, and 15. We will revisit and complete the Advent study of the group touring the Holy Land. Follow our travelers as they explore the land and their personal faith journeys. You may find your own faith journey is enriched by the experience. If you were with us during Advent, you know how interesting the video was; if it is new to you, the study will still be fresh and thought-provoking. Come to dinner and stay for some spiritual food. Jane Way facilitates this study. Ash Wednesday is February 22; the Lenten study begins on February 29. Watch the coming worship bulletins and newsletter for more information.

(Pastor Jim, from page 3)

Journey of Faith 2012 is just that... a study and journey into discipleship. Journey of Faith confirmation class 2012 is open to youth of our church and our community in grades 8-12.

There are three ways to register: 1) email the office at info@churchatlitchfieldpark.org; 2) call the church office at (623) 935-3411; or 3) fill out a pew response card. We will

need parent and student names, birth date, contact information.

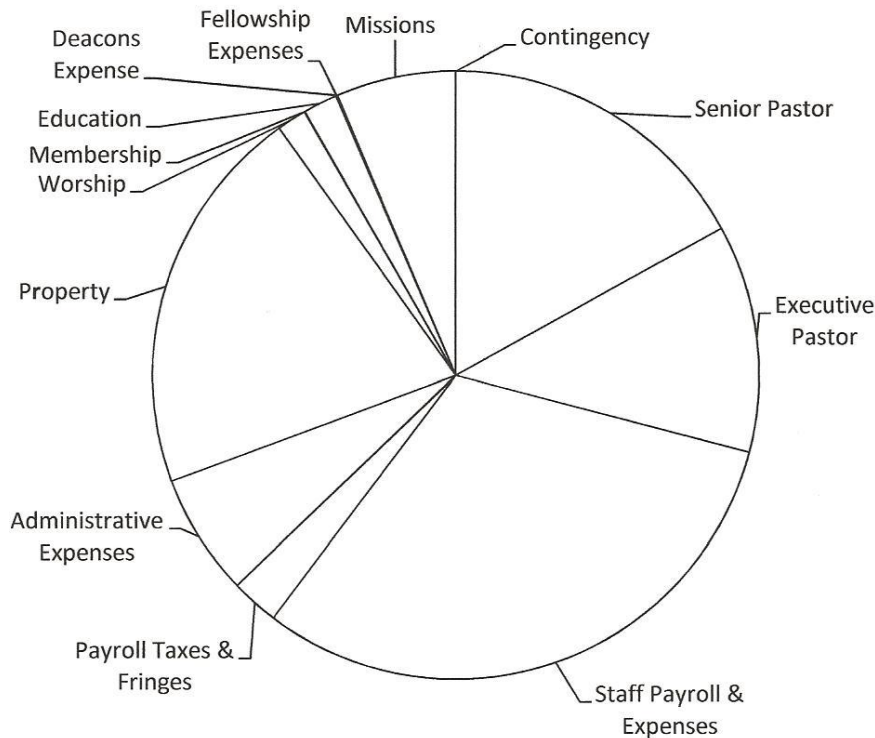
In His Steps,
Pastor Jim

Monthly church budget summary shows total expenditures for 2011

2011 Church Budget through December	Actual Expenses YTD	Budgeted Expenses YTD	Total 12 Month Budget
Senior Pastor	\$ 103,250.00	\$ 110,250.00	\$ 110,250.00
Executive Pastor	73,500.00	73,500.00	73,500.00
Staff Payroll & Expenses	189,903.35	203,090.00	203,090.00
Payroll Taxes & Fringes	15,507.53	17,700.00	17,700.00
Administrative Expenses	39,442.83	43,700.00	43,700.00
Property	126,257.20	126,470.00	126,470.00
Worship	9,557.50	9,550.00	9,550.00
Membership	135.04	1,150.00	1,150.00
Education	11,056.24	19,100.00	19,100.00
Fellowship Expenses	496.16	1,535.00	1,535.00
Deacons Expense	-	100.00	100.00
Missions	38,883.93	40,600.00	40,600.00
Contingency	-	3,255.00	3,255.00
	\$ 607,989.78	\$ 650,000.00	\$ 650,000.00

This is how much we actually spent through December 2011.

This is how much we budgeted to spend through December.



2011

YTD Revenues:
\$654,704.77

YTD Expenses:
607,989.78

Net YTD Revenue over Expenses:
\$46,714.99

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

In order to bring greater transparency and accountability to our church finances, a summary expense chart will be appearing in the monthly Bell Tower with the most recent cumulative year to date information and activity. There will be a summary of the year to date revenues and expenses, with a comparison to the budgeted amount and the yearly budget. The chart shows the actual year to date summary expenses incurred according to the respective expense category in the church budget.



Did You Know?

Prayer requests from our church family are sent by email and telephone to anyone who would like to pray for those individuals in need. If you'd like to be included in this special ministry, please send an email giving your contact information to: info@churchatlitchfieldpark.org, or call the church office: (623) 935-3411.

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Wednesday Nights at CLP

5:00-7:45 CLP Cafe open - Souers Hall
6:00-7:45 Child Care in Nursery

Family Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Souers Hall

February 1

Fish and Chips, Coleslaw, Dessert

February 8

Chicken Spaghetti, Salad, Dessert

February 15

Salad, Spuds and Splits

(February 22 - No Wednesday Night Programs)

February 29

Lasagna, Salad, Rolls Dessert

Activities and Rehearsals

4:45 Heavenly Handbells in Sanctuary
5:00-6:00 4C in Fireside Room (4th grade up)
5:00-6:00 Kids' Rec Room in Room 3 (K-5th)
6:30-7:00 Kids' Rec Room continues
6:30-7:00 4C in Fireside Room (K-3)
6:45 Youth Group in Watt House (6th-12th)
6:45 Adult Bible Study in Zieske Hall
6:45 Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room
7:00 G.O. Kids in Room 6 (K-5th)

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