

The Bell Tower

News from the Church
at Litchfield Park
November 2011

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Forward by Faith...

By now, most of you have heard, seen, and even sung about our desire and commitment to moving forward in our faith as we pledge to give of our time, energy, and our resources to carry on the work of the Lord in 2012.

"Forward by Faith" is our theme and our hearts' desire knowing that God has done great things in our past, is working in and through us right now, and has promised to go ahead of us in our future.

For information about how you can participate, pick up a brochure and "Forward by Faith" ruler/prayer guide at church on any Sunday. You may see the Stewardship Committee members after worship services in the breezeway and of course, plan to return your pledge card at the dedication service scheduled for November 20.

Make your pledge to give financially on a weekly, monthly or annual basis for the next year as we give "Forward by Faith." Your pledge is kept strictly confidential. It may be adjusted up or down based on your personal circumstances; however, it enables the church leadership to make wise and educated plans for our church campus, our missions' efforts and contributions to our community.

"We are trusting in the Lord to light our way, and in our hearts we will believe and we'll move forward by faith." ~*John Jones*

May the Lord bless you as you seek Him regarding your giving commitment.

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SENIOR PASTOR'S CORNER

Doing the Math

Rev. Dale L. Hopely, Jr.

Ask anyone who knows me very well and they will tell you that numbers are not my strong suit. If I give you a date or a time, unless I am referring to something written in front of me, you should check up on me. If I quote you a price on something I purchased or saw in a store, you'd do well to confirm it.

Numbers, however, are an important part of ministry in the church. Attendance, for example, is a good indicator of how things are going. Membership numbers are also important for gauging the commitment people have to the church. Fortunately, we have good people who keep track of these numbers.

Finances are also numbers that we pay attention to in the church. Our giving is an important part of ensuring that we have the necessary resources to engage our mission as a community church. Like the other number areas, we have good people who watch these things and ensure that we are not only staying within our means but also raising the necessary funds to do what we are called to do.

This month, we are beginning our 2012 stewardship campaign. This is the time of year the church asks us to pledge our giving for

the coming year. Pledging is a dollar commitment made by members and friends of the church which go toward the general budget. Pledging is an important part of the finances because it allows us to set a budget. Pledging also allows us to set our giving to mission organizations that we support locally, nationally, and internationally.

I am proud and honored to say that our church commits ten percent of all pledges to mission work. Mission tithing ("tithe" means ten percent) has been a long-standing tradition of our church. It is one of the most powerful ways we demonstrate as a church our commitment to our community and the world.

Percentage giving is also a way for individuals and families to demonstrate their commitment to God's work. Our family has engaged in this practice since Kimmy and I were first married. It helps us to plan our own budget as well as gauge our commitment, regardless of how much we make.

I hope you will consider joining me, not only in pledging this year but also in beginning the practice of percentage giving. If you have not ever engaged in percentage giving, my suggestion is to start small and then

challenge yourself each year to increase your percentage. When we give in this way, it demonstrates to God our commitment to the church relative to God's financial blessings in our lives.

For those of you who do numbers, I have done a little number crunching and come up with a way of seeing what it takes to support our church. In doing the math, a budget of roughly \$700,000 for our church (which is actually quite modest in comparison to most churches our size) means that for each household, we need approximately \$1,533 a year, \$133 per month, or \$33 per week to meet our budget. This is based on a membership of 900, divided in half to establish the average family unit, divided into the needed budget total for the year. For some of us, this is a very small percentage of our income, while for others, it is a substantial commitment.

With each of us committing to participate financially in the work of our church, it will ensure that we will be able to continue serving the membership and our community as well as maintaining our beautiful campus. But don't take my word for it - do the math!

God bless you all,
Pastor Dale



EXECUTIVE PASTOR'S SPOT

The Art of Service

Rev. James Butler



"Falling in Love: An afternoon of Romantic Opera," the musical program read. It continued, "For its third and final concert of the 2007-08 season, the Maryland Concert Opera presents the husband-and-wife singing duo, mezzo soprano Deidra Gorton and tenor William Gorton, with Noel Lester at the piano, in an afternoon of romantic opera arias and duets."

Certainly William and Deidra have perfected and continue to perfect the "art of their craft." As William joined our staff as Chancel Choir Director and Deidra followed him as she continues to teach voice lessons, we give thanks for their gifts. The spiritual gifts of music and artisanship are as old as the Ark of the Covenant, in which God called artisans to work first in the tabernacle and later in the Temple in Jerusalem.

As William and Deidra stored much of their furniture to downsize to doctoral housing near Arizona State University, this precious antique nightstand was shattered in the move.

Alberto and I delivered the table in pieces to Wayne Lutz and asked him to do what he could. The restoration took over a week of tedious repair. The piece is made of cherry, with the top being a 3/4 inch solid cherry. Wayne said of the piece, "This is the real thing. It could be a Duncan Phyfe – over 100 years old." Wayne, the master craftsman, recognized the caliber of its handiwork.

The picture is of the restored piece, once again standing on its own legs – maybe for another 100 years. This restoration was Wayne and Betty's gift to thank William and Deidra for their service.

The Apostle Paul reminds us, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10).

If you teach Sunday School, sing in the Chancel Choir, serve on the Finance Committee or work on the church grounds, take a moment and consider how you could elevate your service from "something you dabble in" to that of "your craft." You would find yourself "falling in love" with Jesus Christ all over again as you discover the gifts that lay hidden along your path of service. And what you are building cannot be measured by mere 100 year increments.

Restored in Him,
Pastor Jim

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship: 8:00 and 9:15 a.m.
Contemporary Worship: 10:30 a.m.

- November 6: Communion Sunday
Rev. Dale L. Hopely, Jr.
- November 13: Rev. James Butler
- November 20: Rev. Dale L. Hopely, Jr.
- November 27: Rev. Dale L. Hopely, Jr.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

Date	8:00	9:15	10:30	Total
9/04/11	92	170	123	385
9/11/11	90	182	101	383
9/18/11	121	205	101	427
9/25/11	104	173	89	366

Wednesday Nights at CLP

5:00-7:45 CLP Cafe open - Souers Hall

Free Wi-Fi and Coffee!

6:00-7:45 Child Care in Nursery

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 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)

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

November 2

Chicken Spaghetti, Salad, Rolls, Cookies

November 9

Sloppy Joes, Chips, Brownies, Ice Cream

November 16

Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Dressing, Beans,
Cranberries, Pumpkin Cake

November 23

No regular Wednesday Night Programs

Thanksgiving Service at 6:30 p.m.

November 30

Beef Tips on Rice, Peas, Salad, Rolls,
Lemon Bars

Holiday Worship Services for Thanksgiving, Advent

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Seasons, we want to remind you of some key events and upcoming services. The season commences with our traditional Thanksgiving Eve service in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23. (Note that Wednesday night activities will not be held on that day.)

November 27 is the first Sunday of Advent and that evening at 6:30 p.m. will be a wonderful "Hanging of the Greens" service, which is being planned by Joyce Story and Mona McCash. It promises to be a special service to bring us into the celebration of Christmas with legendary and traditional music and readings. Joann Forstner and the Kitchen Angels will serve refreshments and wassail in Souers Hall after the service.

Our world-class choir will perform a Cantata on Sunday, December 11 at 9:15 and 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Contemporary service will be held in Souers Hall at 8:00 a.m. that day only. There will be four Christmas Eve Services in the Sanctuary, at 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Day is on Sunday this year, and there are three morning services planned at the normal times. Please join us and participate in as many of these services as possible.

Merry Christmas from your Worship Committees!!

Lou Tronzo, Chair

Traditional Worship Committee

(623) 547-7400

ltronzo@cox.net

NOW OPEN!



Wednesday Nights 5:00-7:45 p.m.

Drop in to Souers Hall

Wednesday nights to:

- Unwind and visit
- Use the free Wi-Fi network
- Do your homework
- Play cards
- Use your laptop
- Get acquainted with new friends
- Have a cup of coffee on the house!

New Life Center's "Brighter Day Luncheon"

This event will be held from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Friday, November 18, at the Renaissance Hotel and Resort in Westgate City Center, Glendale. WCSF is sponsoring a table for women of the church, and invites you to attend. While this is an informal fundraiser, it is also an opportunity to learn more about the Center's mission and its future goals. Contributions are a matter of individual choice. Sign up in the breezeway or contact Meredith Stucky at (623) 935-1117.



On a Mission

The mission project called **Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child** has begun. So many of you, including our Sunday School classes, had such fun filling shoe boxes with gifts last year. Barbara Herwick is in the breezeway each Sunday with information about this wonderful project. The "Power of a Simple Gift" is amazing, for these boxes go to children all over the world. We hope that you will join us in having fun preparing a shoe box for a special child. It is important that the guidelines for packing the boxes are carefully followed. Also, all boxes need to be in the office by Monday, November 14.

Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank has served a growing number of people in need, reaching 46,297 needy people in 2010. With the holidays near, those families in need will grow in number due to the economic challenges they are facing during 2011. Agua Fria offers a number of programs to help those who come to them for assistance.

These programs include:

Baby Care - supplies special items for infants;

Emergency Food and Clothing Program - Avondale and Tonopah;

Value Club - supplies food boxes which may be purchased for a small fee for those who are able to pay;

Clothing Program - serves both children and adults;

Food Plus - provides free food boxes for those who qualify;

Showers for Homeless - provides free showers and personal hygiene items;

School Uniforms - an annual program which has provided uniforms for over 400 children;

Thanksgiving/Christmas - supplies holiday food boxes and gifts for children.

All programs accept donations. CLP has been a dedicated supporter of AFFCB, not only generously helping in donation food and dollars, but a number of people from our congregation are volunteers. Food staple items continue to be a challenge for the food bank. The need has been greater than the supply. This need will remain for some time and all donations are welcomed. A special "Thank You" to all who assist with this need. Jesus said, "*Who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.*" Luke 22-27 (NRSV)

Jan Rowe

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



Good Times Fellowship will be "Packing for the Troops" on **Friday, November 18 at 5:30 p.m.** This will be our third year and let's plan on packing more boxes than we did last year. Mike Harris will be baking his famous pizza with all the trimmings for us to enjoy. Sign up in the breezeway on Sundays, where you will find lists of items needed and boxes for donations. Thank you for all of your support!

Save the date! We're planning a dinner/show at the Arizona Broadway Theatre, **Friday, February 10.** The musical is "**Singing in the Rain.**" Tickets are \$59.50 each and include show, dinner, tea/coffee, tax and gratuity. Sign-up will begin in December. Please indicate if you wish to sit with someone when signing up for the event. Payment is due by January 6. Please make checks payable to "**The Church at Litchfield Park**" and note on the memo line of your check "Dinner/Show." This would make a wonderful Christmas or special occasion gift. We have 50 reserved seats, so don't miss out on a very special evening of good food, music and marvelous fellowship.

Mary Meese

(623) 935-2136
gotasing@cox.net

Church Archives



It's Our History: Rev. Robert C. Sells, Our First Pastor

November, 1939 is when the cornerstone for The Church at Litchfield Park was laid, but the Church actually began in 1917. John Padgett, civil engineer for Southwest Cotton, and his wife Mabel (Litchfield Elementary School's first teacher), came to the area in 1917 at the request of Mr. Paul Litchfield.

At the time it was a long way to Phoenix for church and as Methodists, they saw a need for Sunday school for the local children. They held classes in the elementary school for years. The United Methodist Church historical documents show the earliest records for Litchfield in 1921 and the entry for clergy is listed as "to be supplied."

It was the Arizona Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church that "supplied" the clergy. Robert C. Sells had already been a pastor for the Padgetts in 1926 and 1927. By 1936 Litchfield is no longer listed.

In March, 1938 the Padgetts and several others held the meeting that formed the constitution and named the Church. In April they hired

Robert C. Sells as the first pastor. The Padgetts must have felt confident that Rev. Sells could pastor a multi-protestant church, which was Mr. Litchfield's directive. The next pastor was hired in 1941.

There are no pictures of Rev. Sells and no other information. If you enjoy genealogy research, please feel free to look around. The only other piece of information we have is that he died in 1967.

Meredeth Stucky
Church Historian
(623) 935-1117
stucky.ma@gmail.com



Women's Fellowship

The WCSF Executive Board is please to post the following nominations for the 2012 WCSF Executive Board:

President:

Position unfilled

Vice President:

Marcy Clement

Treasurer:

Janet Albert

Recording Secretary:

Coral Lewis

Corresponding Secretary:

Chris Martin

Members-at-Large:

Terry Sparks

Dottie Stump



The Thrift Shop, located in the Watt House, has fall and winter items galore ready for savvy and thrifty shoppers.

Work days will be Friday, November 4 and Wednesday, November 17 from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. **Sale days are Saturday, November 5 and Thursday, November 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

You may drop off your donations on work days, or contact Monica Sproull (623) 935-2656 or Millie Ezell (623) 935-3953 to schedule a specific time.

PLEASE do not leave items in the church office or outside the Thrift Shop doors.

Fellowship Store

**Shop Sundays
in the breezeway...**

for CLP logo clothing and many other items! Stadium throws, polo shirts, tees, long-sleeved kids' and adult sweatshirts and crew-neck shirts, golf shirts, many colors and all sizes are available for you to order for a perfect fit!

Women's Sunday Showcases Accomplishments

The many gifts of women through the years at the Church at Litchfield Park were celebrated on Sunday, October 16 during worship services. WCSF Circles also hosted tables during coffee fellowship, as did the Thrift Shop and knitting group, so that worshipers could learn more about the groups and their service projects and activities.

Department 56 Original Christmas Village houses, donated by the Farr family, were for sale at that time, bringing in over \$800 for WCSF.

And if you didn't attend the Retreat Reunion that afternoon, know that you were missed! We had about 30 there...a nice size group to visit and enjoy refreshments of all kinds. Besides an abundance of sweet treats, there were also grapes, pineapple, nuts and deviled eggs. Thanks to Anne Price for making and serving our beverages, to Carolyn Ragsdale for the decorations, and to Jane Way for

giving our blessing.

Sarah Pearson has agreed to be our chair for the next women's retreat, which is on the calendar for **April 13-14** at the Homewood Suites in Avondale, the same site as last year's retreat. So be sure and save that date now on your calendars so you won't miss any of the fun. If you're interested in being part of the planning team for the next retreat, please contact Sarah at (623) 535-4856 or spearson@g.com.

Meredeth Stucky spoke about some of the past WCSF leaders and had a big bulletin board with lots of information about women's accomplishments in the church. Also, she read the announcement that Michaela Chase had sent telling of her upcoming presentations in January, which will be delving further into "God's Gifts" to each of us.

*Dottie Stumpp
Photos by Chris Martin*



Final 3F Club Dinner Event for This Year



Jack and KT Tanner hosted an evening dinner in October as part of the 3F dinners created by Fellowship Chair Rob Gimbl last January. 3F stands for fun, food and fellowship, which have been the highlights of all the dinners held since the program began. Interested couples and singles sign up to participate, and dinner rotations are then planned that offer opportunities to get acquainted with others in our church family. Watch for another round of dinners to start up in January 2012!

Participants shown above are, from left to right: Ron and Lyn Lundeen, Bruce and Terri Otmann, Bill and Mary Trejbal, and hosts Jack and KT Tanner. The Tanners said it was an enjoyable evening, and they look forward to more Food, Fun and Fellowship in 2012.

Wednesday Nights: The G.O. KIDS'



5:00-6:00 and 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Supervised recreation, games and activities
in Classroom 3 for kids in grades K-5!

Ten Ways to Love:

1. Listen without interrupting.
(Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing.
(James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing.
(Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing.
(Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing.
(Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending.
(Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaining.
(Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering.
(Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing.
(Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting.
(Proverbs 12:12)

~Shared by Michael Jordan



Wednesday Nights

KID'S CHOIRS AT CLP:

V.I. P. (Voices in Praise)

5:00-6:00 p.m. in Fireside Room

4C Children's Choir - 4th grade up

"The Joyful Noise"

6:30-7:00 p.m. in Fireside Room

4C Children's Choir - K-3rd grade

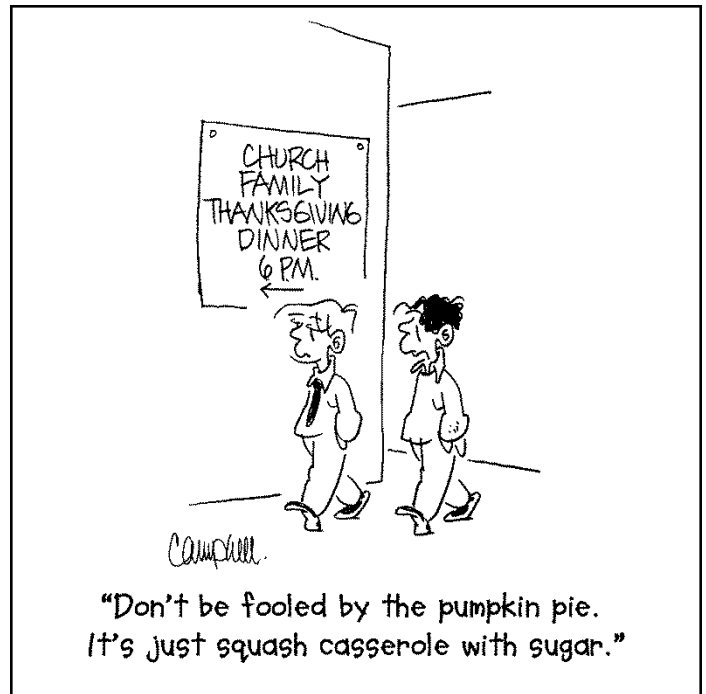
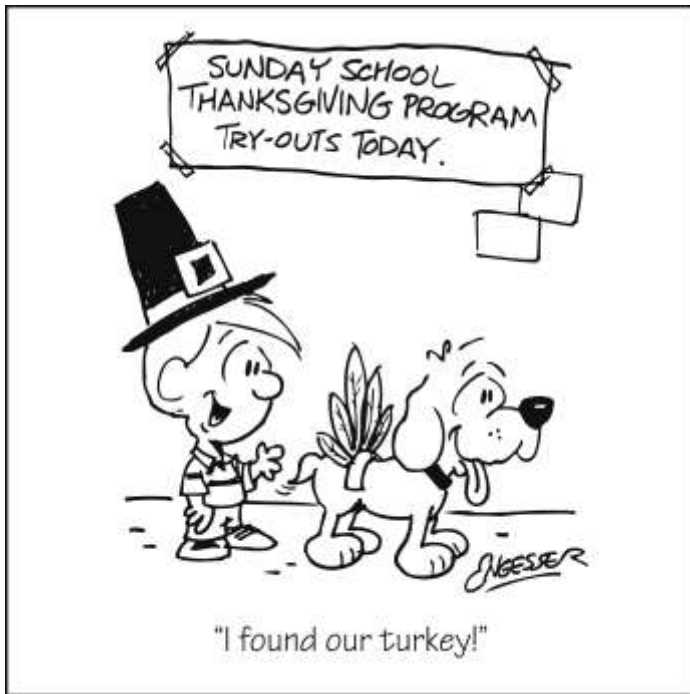
Sue Kujawski

Director, 4C Children's Choirs

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(623) 935-5195

Cartoon Corner



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