

Conversations @ the Well

A publication of the activities and ministries of Historic First Presbyterian Church · May 2011



**Loving and Sharing Christ from
the Heart of Downtown Phoenix**

Taking The Bible Seriously

From the Pastor:



Pastor Nathan and his wife Beth Beall

We often hear that one constant in life is change. As believers, we are well equipped to deal with change because in the midst of change we cling to and trust our One Great Constant—the Lord, our God.

As change continues in virtually every area of life, we find that institutions and organizations are not exempt. For example, after the tragic event of 9-11, the US Army switched emphasis from divisions to smaller, more flexible, brigades. These smaller, more flexible, and independently operating brigades provide formations better suited to meet the demands of an increasingly dynamic world.

Churches too continue to change. Just as other institutions and organizations adjust toward more flat and flexible structures, more and more churches talk about reducing hierarchy and placing more focus on grass roots, ground-up kinds of approaches. New models for doing church, being the church, emerge everyday. In our changing world today people seek authenticity and mission regardless of the model used.

Conversations about the future of HFPC include PhoenixONE and RENEW. PhoenixONE brought about 200 people in their 20s and 30s to the church every Tuesday night in April. RENEW, meeting on first Fridays, is up to 50 college-aged folks.

Conversations about the future also include a building that is too large for our 100 or so people in weekly worship. These same conversations include the question, what will HFPC do with its last half million dollars?

The May 22 Town Hall meeting will be an opportunity to discuss these kinds of topics. It is important that we discern, through prayer and patience, what HFPC will look like in the future and how it will shape itself for continued ministry.

Regardless of what change might come both inside and outside HFPC's walls, the most important piece, in the midst of change, is our ongoing relationship, through Scripture, Sacrament, and fellowship, with the Lord our God, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our one constant is change. Our one God is faithful.

Taking The Bible Seriously (CONT)

From the Christian Education Innovator:

The month of May is here and summer is fast upon us. Very soon so much of our time will be consumed with trying to stay cool and out of the heat. Whether it is taking a dip in a swimming pool or adamantly protesting leaving the comfort of air conditioning, we each find our ways to stay comfortable during these summers in the desert.

I hope that Historic First continues to be a source of comfort for you. We have a wonderful community where we can worship and learn about the Lord together. Summer is a time when Faith Education takes a bit of a break. Be assured, however, that your Faith Education Team is busy working on and planning exciting classes for the fall. Our Faith Education Elder is Dr. Mary Long and the other members of the team are Corrie Miller, Jennifer Vazquez and Kristin Wingate.

Our last day for faith education classes is May 15. All classes will begin again in September. During our worship service on May 22 we will take a moment to show appreciation to all our volunteer teachers. Without these dedicated people sharing their gifts with us there would

not be a faith education program. We are so grateful to them.

The Kid Praise class will continue at 9:45 every Sunday through the month of May. During June, July and August the Kid Praise class will only be offered a few Sundays per month. A detailed calendar will be available very soon. I will be sure to personally contact all families who have children who are Kid Praise participants.

No matter where this summer may take you, remember you are always welcome home with open arms at Historic First.

With love and blessings,
Kimberly Bravo



Easter hunt egg pictures from last Resurrection Sunday



Preaching New Life In Jesus Christ

2011 SENIOR SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to **Joe Williamson** for selection by the session for the 2011 Senior Service Award. Each Presbyterian Church in the Valley picks one person to receive the award each year.

From 1975 to 1985, Joe lived in an apartment at HFPC and served as security guard. He took care of the office front door activities, especially on special event days. He is an ordained deacon and visited homebound members with his wife Marilyn. He has been a featured soloist and continues to sing with the praise team, playing the “bones” to accompany the musicians. Joe served his country in the Air Force during the Korean conflict and sang for three years with the Orpheus Male Chorus.



NEW HFPC MEMBERS

Please welcome HFPC's newest member: **Kelsey Smith and Karla Witte** as they continue to walk with the Lord. We hope they will discover a ministry that nourishes them. Congratulations!!!



Preaching New Life In Jesus Christ (CONT)

PHOENIX ONE

If you weren't there...you missed out. Again, the sanctuary was packed with young adults.

The worship band was terrific, filling the sanctuary with high energy praise music! Albert Tait shared a poignant message about the Woman of Samaria (John 4). He urged us to first “bring your husband” – bring the burdens and sins we bare – to the well of living water so we may leave with our thirst satisfied; then we can fully proclaim the good news of Christ to our city. Albert was an fantastic speaker, relating to his audience with jokes and contemporary language.

At closing, director Jeff Gokee, encouraged the audience to group with people from their resident city to join in singing the final worship song. After meeting our “neighbors” about 30 of us drove to Coach and Willies for an informal fellowship time. There we learned how people heard of the event, the distance some traveled to be there on Tuesdays, and what interested attendees about the ministry. Everyone had good things to say about Phoenix One and the location – our church.

The second week of April demonstrated the excellence in ministry Phoenix One has brought to our doorstep. You must come and see for yourself what this movement is all about! Their next gathering will be on June 21, 2011.

David and Aimee Perez



RENEW

A night of worship to glorify Jesus, the only one worthy of our praise. Our greatest life goal is to love God with all our heart, all our soul and all our strength. (Duet. 6:5) Come and spend two hours pouring your heart out to the God that loves you, cares for you, and desperately wants nothing more than for you to know him.

When: First Fridays of every month at 6:00 PM
Where: Historic First Presbyterian Church

*If you are a musician and play an instrument we want to know! Contact Justin Benson at 602.703.2144

Serving As A Church Without Borders (CONT)



THANK YOU!

The fundraising luncheon held last Sunday was great fun!!!! It was attended by HFPC members, family and friends. The luncheon was a fund raiser to alleviate the financial burden on the Ethiopia trip participants. The net amount raised was \$1121. "Thanks to those who made it happen"

CONGRATULATIONS TO BLAIR!!

On Wednesday night, our own deacon, **Blair Coe Schweiger** received the Sandra Day O'connor Award from the Junior League. This is a great honor and recognizes Blair's extensive commitment to volunteering. Blair has a family member that was a charter member of the Junior League. The legacy of service continues.

The Borana People travel miles to worship in isolated brush structures. Using local labor, new rural and small city churches are being built. You can help build a rural church and a city church in Ethiopia.

AllNationsEthiopia.org

Through the **20Church Challenge** your church can donate \$5k/\$10k

to build a church with the AllNations Ethiopia Mission

20Church Challenge

REFORMED QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"(creating) faith is the principle work of the Holy Spirit"
(Institutes, 3, 1, 4).



The following pertains to the
 Three Months Ending March 31, 2011
 CASH BASIS

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
Pledge & Loose			
Plate Offering	\$ 44,625	\$ 47,875	\$ (3,250)
Other Income	10,555	14,335	(3,780)
Transfer from			
Foundation	<u>40,000</u>	<u>51,254</u>	(11,254)
Total Revenue	95,180	113,464	(18,284)
Total Expense	<u>117,041</u>	<u>113,464</u>	(3,577)
Net Revenue Over			
Expense	<u>\$(21,861)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$(21,861)</u>

The pledge and loose plate offerings were \$3,250 less than budgeted through March 31, 2011.

Other income was \$3,780 less than budgeted through March 31, 2011.

Through March 31, 2011, \$40,000 was transferred from the Foundation. Transfers are made from the Foundation as it becomes necessary for cash flow.

Expenses were \$3,577 more than budgeted through March 31, 2011 primarily due to timing differences for payroll and utilities.

At March 31, 2011, the general fund account reflected a deficit of \$21,861.

At March 31, 2011, the balance in the First Presbyterian Foundation was \$460,833.

Please contact Donita Young, Financial Secretary at 602-254-6356, ext. 110 if you have any questions and/or need additional information concerning the church's finances.



Conversations @ the Well

HISTORIC FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA)
402 West Monroe Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-1620

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US POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIX, AZ
PERMIT NO 191

Sunday Activities

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship Service

10:00 a.m. - El Bethel (Ethiopian) Service

11:00 a.m. - DsTny Discipleship Bible Study

Be a part of the church downtown

602-254-6356

Historic First Presbyterian Church

*"Loving and Sharing Christ
from the Heart of Phoenix."*

Email: info@historicfirst.org
Website: www.historicfirst.org

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.