

Conversations @ the Well

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



2010 Fall Festival

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

Living a Life Inspired by Christ to Serve Others, Empowered by Scripture, and Directed by Prayer

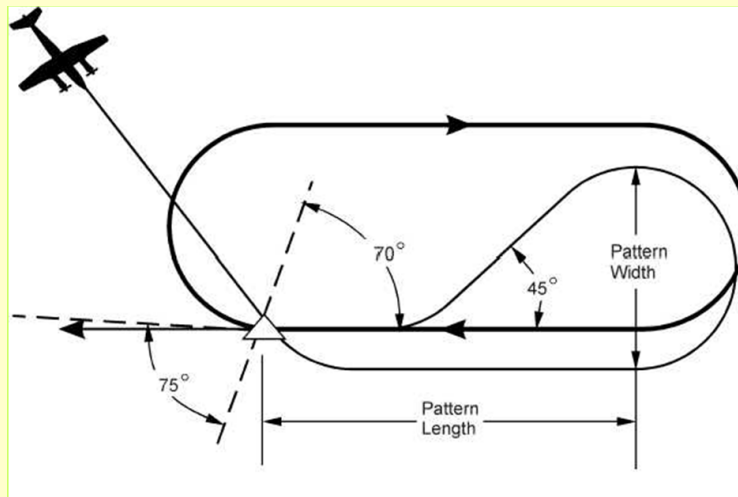
From the Pastor:



Pastor Nathan and his wife Beth Beall

Historic First Presbyterian Church is not in a holding pattern. In the midst of all sorts of different conversations about the future, HFPC looks forward.

I do a lot of traveling and typically fly. I visited different countries, attend to military responsibilities, and visit family members back East. When approaching the destination airport the plane sometimes goes into a holding pattern. Airplanes delay their landing for things such as a congested landing strip and enter a holding pattern. The holding pattern allows the plane to stay in one general area.



The Church of Jesus Christ knows no such thing. The Church of Jesus Christ continues to move forward regardless of how challenging or intimidating the future might be. The people of Israel complained when told not to look back but go forward into the wilderness. God provides. They learn to trust. In Philippians 3 Paul writes that he focuses on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, pressing on to reach the end of the race and receiving the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, calls us. Biblically and historically, the church avoids holding patterns. Even in a downturn economy the hope is that you are not stuck in a holding pattern.

Living a Life Inspired by Christ to Serve Others, Empowered by Scripture, and Directed by Prayer (Cont.)

From the Christian Education Innovator:

All the Faith Education classes have begun. Things are going very well with the classes we have offered so far. I hope you have taken the time to explore one of the many opportunities we are offering at HFPC to grow in your faith.

The Traditional Adult Bible Study (which we often refer to a TABS) has started by studying the books of Colossians and Philipians. Jim Thurston is leading this class and many people are enjoying this in depth Bible study.

The DsTny service continues to fulfill the spiritual lives of many people in our HFPC family. If you have never attended, you will find that it is a casual atmosphere of discussion, worshipful singing and prayer. It is a very contemporary way for people to explore their faith.

Our first book study is on the book called, **Church Morph**. This book offers insightful information about how churches have changed over time. The only thing that is constant is change, and that is true for the church as well. This class is lead by Brett Wingate and takes place the third Sunday of every month. The next book study will take place on Oct. 17.

By the time you read this the special October series will be underway. This **End of Life Class** is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about the spiritual and practical issues that surround the end of our lives. We each are designed by God to live and to die. We as Christians believe in eternal life through our faith in Jesus Christ. This is a spectacular and wonderful thing and yet as a society we tend to avoid discussing the issues that accompany the end times of our lives. With guest speakers from hospice care in both the spiritual and medical fields you will have the chance to learn some amazing and helpful pieces of practical and faithful information. Class leaders are Al Bravo, Deana Wingate and Cathy Witte.

The junior and senior high youth will continue to participate in our DsTny bible study on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month. On the first and third Sundays the youth will be meeting in their own separate class to participate in a faith class that is all their own.

Our Kid Praise class is for K-6th graders who will be participating in mission projects and exciting explorations of our world that will bring them closer to God. These kids will have a better understanding of Jesus' love for them. This is wonderful chance for kids to plant and grow the seeds of faith and experience fellowship with their peers.

All of the classes I have mentioned so far begin on Sundays at 11:00. There are so many opportunities to choose from. There is quite a bit going on at the same time in order to appeal to as many interests as possible. Feed back is very much appreciated. I am hear for any questions or comments you may have.

But what about the **kids during worship**, you say? Our 9:45 classes are for children K-6th grade. These are two separate classes for the kids on the second, third, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month. The curriculum used is Spark! Activate Faith which is a wonderful engaging learning experience for children.

All of our Faith Education classes are taught by dedicated volunteers. We are a very lucky church family to have such dedicated people among us whom are so willing to help grow your faith as well as their own. Without them there would not be a Faith Education program.

Please take the time to go to one or all of these very exciting classes. Our faith education is so important.

With Blessings,
Kimberly Bravo

Seeking More God and Less Me, Me, Me

Sunday Faith Education Classes @ Historic First Presbyterian Church

- Children's Ministry**
- 9:45 AM { **Spark Bible Study** (K-2 Grade)
Spark Bible School (3-6 Grade)
 - 11:00 AM { **Kid Praise Sunday School** (K-6 Grade) Except first Sunday of the month
- Youth Group @ 11:00AM**
- Youth Group Bible Study** (7-12)
- Traditional Adult Bible Study** - An in depth study on different books of the Bible.
- Sept.—Nov.:* Colossians & Philippians; led by Jim Thurston
 - Jan.—Feb.:* Acts; led by Mary Long & Kathy Oppenhuizen
 - April—May:* Esther; led by Kimberly Bravo
- DsTny** - An interactive faith education experience with music, prayer and discussion.
- End of Life Class:** A look at end of life issues, both practical and spiritual, with guest speakers offering insights on the challenges and blessings that accompany each of us near the end of our lives on earth.
- October*—Led by Al Bravo, Deana Wingate, Cathy Witte with various guest speakers from the field.
- Adult Opportunities @ 11:00 AM**
- First Sunday Faith Lessons** – One day education studies with the focus on better understanding our reformed Christian faith.
 - Most first Sundays of the month*—Class led by Mary Long and others.
 - Book Group** – A faith based and in depth book study.
 - Every third Sunday of the month. (except Dec. 18); “Church Morph;”* Class led by Brett Wingate
 - Fifth Sunday Faith Seekers** – An informal gathering of HFPC friends allowing discussion of the day’s worship message. May meet in a coffee shop near by.
 - All fifth Sundays of the month*—Class led by Al Bravo
 - Advent Study** – We gather together as reformed Christians in order to better understand and prepare for the coming of Christ Jesus.
 - Nov.-Dec.;* Class leader to be announced.
 - Lent Study** – A look at this very important time of preparation for the death and resurrection of our Savior.
 - March-April;* Class leader to be determine

Seeking More God and Less Me, Me, Me (Cont.)

More From the Christian Education Innovator:

Something special I wanted to share:

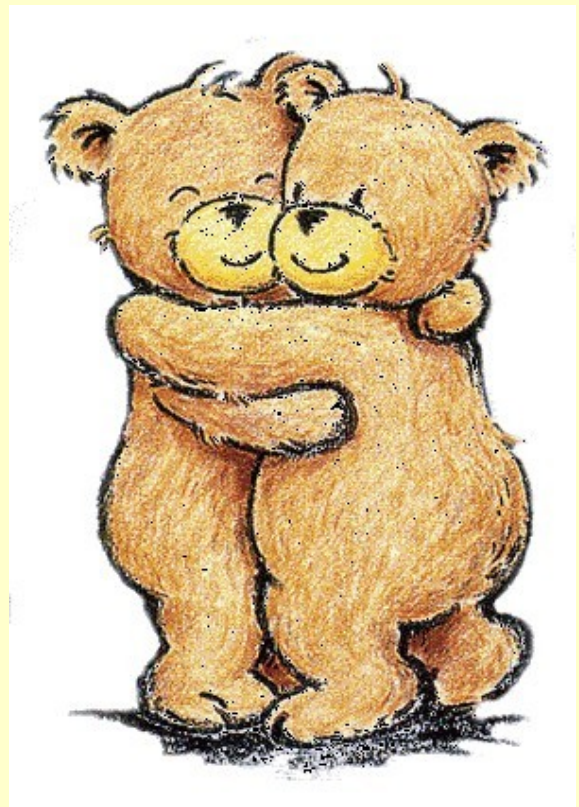
The other day my two oldest children (age 7 and 5) were arguing. The 5 year old hit his brother and was sent to his room, much to his dismay. The tears were flowing as my child sulked on his bed waiting to be released from the prison known as "Timeout." Unknown to me my 7 year old followed me into the bedroom. He stepped around me and without any hesitation he embraced his younger brother in a big hug as he said, "You can cry on me."

This touched my heart in a profound way. Of course, as their mother, it fills me with such joy that my children love each other and take care of each other. But the words my oldest child used when he hugged his brother have stayed with me weeks later and will probably always be with me. "You can cry on me."

I cannot help but imagine Jesus saying the same thing to each of us when we feel broken or wounded. His love embraces us as he says, "You can cry on me." The compassion, understanding and love of those words are amazing. Jesus holds you and accepts you and, when you need to cry, he takes your tears...all of them.

How wonderful that the words of a child can so perfectly remind us of the love of Jesus Christ. Most truly, a child shall lead them.

Kimberly Bravo



REFORMED QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"The salvation of God is for those who do not deserve it and have no preparation for it"(Spurgeon, *All Of Grace* , 13).

**Trusting in the Promises of the Holy Spirit for
Comfort and Hope in Every Area of Life**

2011 NECROLOGY



**This persons named below will be publicly memorialized
during our worship service on November 13, 2011.**

Mary Ann Crompton..... January 17, 2011
Richard Black February 10, 2011
Fernando F. Diaz..... February 11, 2011
Helen Cavness February 12, 2011
Ruth Riley..... February 28, 2011
Joyce Lee Vitkovich June 3, 2011

Thanksgiving for Heroes and Heroines of the Faith

Revelation 14.13 (NLT)
“Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on.
Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed,
for they will rest from their hard work,
for their good deeds follow them

**The 3rd Annual Fall Festival
is coming to town**



Saturday, October 22nd

4:00pm- 8:00pm



FREE Live Music

FREE Children's Fair - Moon Bounce - Games & Activities
Grand Candy Explosion - Police & Fire Safety Demonstration

FREE Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony

FREE Tour of Historic Church

Vendor Fair

Hot Dog or BBQ dinner \$4 - \$6

Bring a can of TUNA, Get a glow necklace

Historic First Presbyterian Church

402 W. Monroe

Phoenix, 85003

(602) 254-6356

www.historicfirst.org/events

FREE Parking in church lot

Street parking meters are enforced until 8:00 p.m.





Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!
HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!
HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!

**The SHOEBOX MINISTRY
(Operation Christmas Child) needs your help.**

- Cash donations as well as items for the boxes are needed, especially **TOOTHPASTE**, **TOOTHBRUSHES** and **BOOKS**.
- We have plenty of girls socks but really would like assistance in purchasing **BOYS SOCKS**.

If you could contribute to this ministry in any way, please see Judy Sivert or Barbara Petersen.



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For Young Children:

<http://www.veggietales.com/index.php>

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Conversations @ the Well

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

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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

11:00 a.m. - Other Faith Education Opportunities

Also Available

(See Bulletin or Website for Details)

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

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.