

LARKSPUR CHRISTIAN
CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF
CHRIST)

AT YOUR SERVICE

REV. JOB J. COBOS
PASTOR

MARGE DAY
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

MARIA CERVANTES
CUSTODIAN

ROBERTA PESNELL
NURSERY ATTENDANT

KARL MCBRIDE
BOARD MODERATOR

OFFICE: 602-866-7161

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Minister's
Moments 2

CWF 3

Advent
Schedule 3

Lectionary
Texts/Sermons 4

Financial
Birthdays 5

Food for
Thought 6

Calendar
Mail Box 7

Larkspur Connection

Our Mission: Larkspur Christian Church exists to spread God's love
through serving and making a difference in the community.

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2009

Christmas Banquet and Program



Our Annual Christmas Banquet and Program will be held on Sunday, December 20th at 5:00 p.m. The Christian Education Department will be presenting a Contemporary Worship Service. The title of the program is a Biblical Character Interview—A Visit to Bethlehem. The youth will be doing a modern version of the birth of Jesus, whom we call the Christ.

The Membership Committee has planned the potluck menu that will include, baked ham, scalloped potatoes, sweet potatoes, vegetables, salads, dessert and rolls. We are extending an invitation to our nesting church, Iglesia Cristiano El Buen Samaritano, to join us. If they prefer, they are welcome to bring their traditional Christmas meal to share, too.

To conclude the evening, we will have a visit from Santa Claus. We are introducing our new Santa Claus this year. His name is Scott Seago. Scott is a professional Santa and a member of our church. We are delighted that he approached us to be Santa this year.

To help make this part of our program a success, we are asking for donations of candy and fruit to fill the goody bags for Santa to hand out. Thank you for your help.

Christmas Offering

Your gift to the Christmas Special Offering supports the ministry of our Arizona Region—December 13th and 20th, 2009.

The theme this year for the 2009 Christmas Offering is, "O Come All You Faithful".
"Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves

what God has revealed to us."
(Luke 2:15b The Message)

Please give generously!

God has made each of us a steward.



"In that house there is not a single dull moment."

"The purpose of life is not to be happy—but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you lived at all."

"But I found a place which called me to 'Live, Laugh, Love.'"

Live, Laugh, Love

Last Sunday I visited one of our church members' home, and as I walked into their living room, I noticed a sign high above the window that stated "Live, Laugh, Love." As I read these three words I wanted to make sense of what I was reading. First of all most of us do not have writing on our walls or windows, but they did. Then I started to think about these words and to apply theological meaning and understanding to them. I compared the words to the Trinity: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Or to the scripture in Deuteronomy 6:4-9,

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

Then the more I looked at them, I started to look at the people who inhabited that particular house. They really practice what the sign said. They have a wonderful life together. They travel. They play and they do so many things that if you get a chance to talk to them in private you will come to the conclusion that in that house nothing is dead. In that house there is not a single dull moment. There is always laughter and joy. It feels like it is Christmas year around. The love I got to feel in that particular home had meaning, purpose and it was adventurous. Something funny happened, I wanted to stay there. I was the last one to leave the gathering. I felt something different, something transforming, something divine.

As I go through some grief (the death of my grandfather), as my work as Regional Hispanic Pastor goes through much change, and as I face sickness myself (I have to have some surgery in February), I am faced with my own humanity. I am confronted with my own doubts and fears. But I found a place which called me to "Live, Laugh, Love". Through that I was reminded what Christianity is all about; to live, to laugh and to love. As a church that is our motto, that is our gospel, that is our hope. As we begin the Advent season, the waiting, let's remind ourselves to live, laugh, love even if we have to write it on our walls and windows. As we celebrate Christmas let's remind ourselves that God calls us to live abundantly, laugh until everyone can hear us and love until there is no more death, war, sickness and pain in the world. As Leo Rosten wrote;

The purpose of life is not to be happy –
but to matter, to be productive, to be useful,
to have it make some difference that you lived at all."

As we live, laugh and love we change ourselves for the greater good and inspire others to find the best within themselves. Put these three words somewhere in your house -- what about on your Christmas tree?

Your pastor
Job J Cobos



Please Join Us!

The next CWF meeting will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2009, at the home of Gwen Largent, located at 3432 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ 85017. Gwen can be reached at 602-841-3883. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.



This is the annual Christmas party/potluck and \$10.00 gift exchange. All Larkspur women are welcome to attend.

Please Join Us!

At the November meeting new officers were elected for 2010. Congratulations!
President—Donna Manor
Vice President—Betty Barber
Secretary—Marion Jones
Treasurer— Phyllis Murdock
Study— Gwen Largent
Calling—Gwen Largent



CWF supports the church recycling efforts by bringing in newspapers, magazines, catalogs and aluminum cans to church.



CWF Auction & Bake Sale

Thank you everyone for supporting the CWF Auctions that contributed \$458.50 to our budget. We are very grateful for your support.



The fundraising committee raised \$100 from their bake sale. Proceeds went to the general fund. Thank you for the baked goods and contributions.

Season of Advent Schedule

November 29—Hanging of the Greens—10:00 a.m.
December 6—Second Sunday of Advent—worship at 10:00 a.m.
December 13—Third Sunday of Advent—worship

at 10:00 a.m.
December 20—Christmas Sunday—worship at 10:00 a.m.
December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service at 7:00 p.m.

December 27—First Sunday after Christmas.

Please invite your family and friends to join us in worship during the Advent Season.

Blessings!



Financial Report

General Fund Income—October 2009

\$ 5,443.00

Other Income:

\$ 82.35

Total Operating:

\$ 5,525.35

General Fund Expenses:

\$ 7,508.94

Average Weekly Giving—4 weeks

\$1,360.75

†††



Mr. Cornelius Dora wishes to thank Larkspur Christian Church for the gift of \$260.00. The money goes towards the care and share program at the VA hospital and for baby food.

Again, thank you for your very generous donation.

Cornelius Dora
Treasurer

December Birthdays

13 Bobby Farrell
13 Mary Tipton
16 Jesse Kessler
23 Phyllis Murdock
29 Monica McCommas



December Anniversaries

28 Dutch & Eva Van Ess

Congratulations!



If anyone was missed or your date is wrong, please let Marge Day know. It is not our intention to leave anyone out.

Thanks for your help!

†††

Bible Verse for December

Faith

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who he has given us.”

Romans 5:1-5 (NIV)

You are Invited

Jesse Kessler is turning 50 on December 16. A birthday reception will be held in his honor on Sunday December 13th following worship service.

Jesse’s bowling buddies and his friend Kim, have been extended an invitation to help him celebrate. They have also been invited to attend worship service.

Jesse’s cousin, Peggy, and Vern and MaryAnne Glossup, have made arrangements to provide cake and punch for the reception.

A basket will be on the table for Jesse to receive birthday cards.

We hope that everyone will stay after worship service to wish Jesse a very happy birthday.

†††

Christmas for the Rijal’s Our Refugee Family

Larkspur would like to bring some extra joy to the lives our refugee family this holiday season.

Kega Leffard is taking up donations to help this family.

In order to receive matching funds from the government, the Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest requested that we make copies of our receipts, document our miles, and volunteer hours spent and money spent on their behalf. Please contact Kega Leffard for the form.

Thank you for your help.

Sunday Sermons and
Lectionary Texts

Sunday, December 6, 2009
Second Sunday of Advent—Peace
Sunday

**Sermon Title: "Sending Great
Joy"**

Scripture Text: Malachi 3:1-4

Scriptures:

Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 13, 2009
Third Sunday of Advent

**Sermon Title: "How to make
the best out of Christmas"**

Scripture Text: Luke 3:7-18

Scriptures:

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7

Sunday, December 20, 2009
Fourth Sunday of Advent—
Christmas Sunday

**Sermon Title: "The Power of
our voices"**

Scripture Text: Luke 1:39-45, (46-
55)

Scriptures:

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10

**Christmas Eve, December 24,
2009**

**Sermon Title: "Nativity of the
Lord"**

Scriptures:

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

**First Sunday After Christmas
Day, December 27, 2009**

Pulpit Guest

Scriptures:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

*Please take the time to read the
scriptures before the Sundays sermons
to give you a better understanding of
the morning message.*

Sun City Christian Church
9745 W. Palmeras Drive
Sun City, AZ 85373-2253
623-972-6179

Elder Workshop
"A Day with Gary Straub"
**Author of: Your Calling as an
Elder and Your Calling As a
Leader**

February 6, 2010
**Saturday Morning and
Afternoon**

**Continental Breakfast and
Lunch provided**

Gary will be leading seminars/
workshops in the morning and
afternoon, leaving time for your
Elders to gather in small groups to
discuss and plan a clear vision for
the coming new year.

Packets with all the details will be
sent to all the churches in early
January. Registration forms will be
included. The workshops are free,
but we need to know how many to
expect for lunch.

†††

One of the Biblical Duties of an
Elder is to be an example to the
flock. 1 Peter 5:3

"...not lording it over those
entrusted to you, but being
examples to the flock."

Note to Elders: Please refer to
your book, *Your Calling as an Elder,*
by Gary Straub to review your
fourteen responsibilities that are
specifically mentioned as duties of
the office.



Food for Thought

Below is a wonderful poem Audrey Hepburn wrote when asked to share her "beauty tips."

It was read at her funeral years later . . .

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.

For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms.

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.

If you share this with others, something good will happen. You will boost their self esteem, and they will know that you care about them.

†††



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Dennis Barger
Rhonda Barr
Thelma Beach
Billy Blackburn
Austin Blankenship
Zachary Day
Divan Family
Eric Dudley
Glossup Family
Mary Jane Hart
Hicks Family
Tim Johnson

Marion Jones
Michelle Lawler
Les Lowrey
Bob Manor
Karl McBride
Matthew Mills
Nancy Moses
Pat Noble
Candy Paulovich
Jack Pesnell
Mary Wells
Madeline Williamson-

Bashas' Shop & Give Fundraising Program—runs from now to April 30, 2010

When you link your Bashas' Thank You Card to Larkspur Christian Church ID number **23174**, Bashas' will donate 1% of your grocery purchases to Larkspur Christian Church.

- As always, there is **no cost** to participate in this program.
- Larkspur can **earn up to \$5,000**, more than any other local supermarket fundraising program!
- We now have **one extra month** to raise additional funds. Bashas' extended Shop & Give by a month to help Larkspur earn even more.
- Larkspur can now receive a **quarterly check** for the funds we earn, provided that we earn at least \$25 during each quarter. That means no more waiting for a check at the end of the program for the amount we earned!
- **Supporters who participated in last year's Shop & Give program must re-link their Thank You Card at the start of this year's program.**
- Individuals only have to link their Thank You Card to Larkspur's group number once. The link remains active until April 30, 2010.
- Larkspur's Group ID: **23174**

Remember—Shop Bashas' Thank you!

†††



The staff wishes each and every one of you a very blessed Christmas and New Year. Blessings to you all. Pastor Cobos, Marge Day, Roberta Pesnell and Maria Cervantes.



Larkspur Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

3302 W. Larkspur Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85029-2241

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Phone: 602 866-7161

Fax: 602 866-9695

E-mail: larkspurcc@qwestoffice.net

Webpage: www.larkspurchurch.org

"At Larkspur..... It's the love"

December 2009 Calendar of Events

- 06 Birthday Sunday, Elders Luncheon
- 13 Board Meeting—Celebration of Jesse Kessler's 50th birthday
- 19 CWF Christmas Party—10:00 a.m. at the home of Gwen Largent
- 20 Christmas Banquet and Program Visit from Santa Claus
- 22 Newsletter Deadline
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service—10:00 a.m.



Note: The Regional Women's Hispanic Church will have a Prayer Vigil on Friday, December 11 at 9:00 p.m. to Saturday at 6:00 a.m. at Larkspur Christian Church.



Mail Box



Hey Larkspur!

This is Elizabeth Grasham-Reeves (you knew me as Elizabeth Grasham) and I just wanted to say hello and tell you my happy news. First of all, I was ordained to Christian ministry by the Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on May 16th, the day I graduated with my Masters Degree! I then accepted a call to Lakewood Christian Church in Waco, TX as the Associate Minister of Children, Youth & Families and began on June 1st. It has been fun and exciting to do God's work here in Waco and I am so thankful for the family at Larkspur and how they helped me grow into my call while I was at college there!

Also exciting, my husband Cliff and I are now expecting our first child! We are almost 17 weeks pregnant as of this very moment and our due date is April 30th. We are thrilled for this new chapter in our life and wanted to share the good news with all of you.

There is a possibility that I will be in Phoenix in the beginning of March and I am hopeful that I will be able to visit with you all then. I hope that God is blessing you and your ministry in Phoenix!

Blessings, (Signed Rev. Elizabeth Grasham-Reeves, Associate Minister of Children, Youth & Families Lakewood Christian Church (Disciples of Christ))

Serving in December 2009

Elders: Vern Glossup and Jack Pesnell

Diaconates: Ed Pearlman, Faye Pearlman, Ben Pearlman, Tyler Pearlman

Worship Leaders: 06 Donna Manor
 13 Brenda Wharton
 20 Christy Comer
 24 Kega Leffard
 27 Ann Comer



Door Greeters: 06 Jack Pesnell
 13 Jesse Kessler
 20 Jerrie French
 27 Phyllis Murdock

Open/Close Building: 06 Vern Glossup
 13 Phyllis Murdock
 20 Donna Manor
 27 Kega Leffard

Larkspur Christian Church
3302 W. Larkspur Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85029-2241

(602) 866-7161
www.larkspurchurch.org
larkspurcc@qwestoffice.net

FIRST CLASS MAIL

