



The Oasis

October 2022

Cross in the Desert UMC

Where God's Love Transforms Lives, building a just and joyful community.

FALL FUN FEST

Saturday October 29 from 5-6:30 p.m.

Costume Parade! Scavenger Hunt! Trunk or Treat! Pumpkin Patch!



We need volunteers!

Check on Sunday mornings to see how you can help!

In This Issue.....

Pastor's Corner.....	2
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	3
General News.....	3,4,10
Finance.....	5

Prayer Corner.....	6
UWF.....	7
Children's Ministry.....	8
Missions.....	9
Conference.....	11

Pastor's Corner

I am in the habit of checking the temperature outside when I get up. I have dogs to walk and prefer it cooler. Over the summer I quit checking on the 10 day forecast because it was so very consistently incorrect. But this morning I looked and there wasn't a high over 99 in the entire forecast! Is fall actually here?



I have been walking my dogs with temperatures mostly in the 70's in September. We pass kids headed towards the various high schools in our area. This morning after drum line practice the band was working on the national anthem. Definitely signs of autumn. But proof, here in the desert?

The dogs and I had just gotten past the yard of our neighbor to the east when we heard a strange sound. As you can tell, living next to the football field for Northwest Christian High School, we often have strange noises in our neighborhood. But our cattle dog went on alert. Then, we heard the noise again, and our shepherd/lab mix went on alert, and so did I. The sound was coming from the south, not the west. Then, as the three of us watched, two Canadian geese flew low over the house to the south, over us, and over the house to the north, honking every couple of seconds. Watching the dogs out of my peripheral vision, I knew we must have been a sight: a human and two dogs turning their heads in unison. But what a glorious sight and sound!

After Greenway Parkway was built, the northwest corner of 7th Avenue and Greenway Parkway was a graded but empty lot. Winter rains had turned it into a lake, surrounded by grass and weeds. But it also contained 100-200 Canadian geese. That was the year Canadian geese became for me the sign of the desert winter. If you go to any of our riparian areas in the valley, such as the Phoenix Zoo or the Gilbert Riparian Preserve, you can find many feathered winter visitors and glory in the wonderful weather. So, yes, when I saw the geese, I knew fall was here.

If you look through this newsletter you will find evidence of fall events coming up. While we take God, the Bible, and our faith seriously, we never want to be dull and rigid. So come play with us and pray with us this autumn as we celebrate with a Fall Fun Fest, our Scouts host a pumpkin patch, and we enjoy other activities outdoors. We promise no snow to shovel.

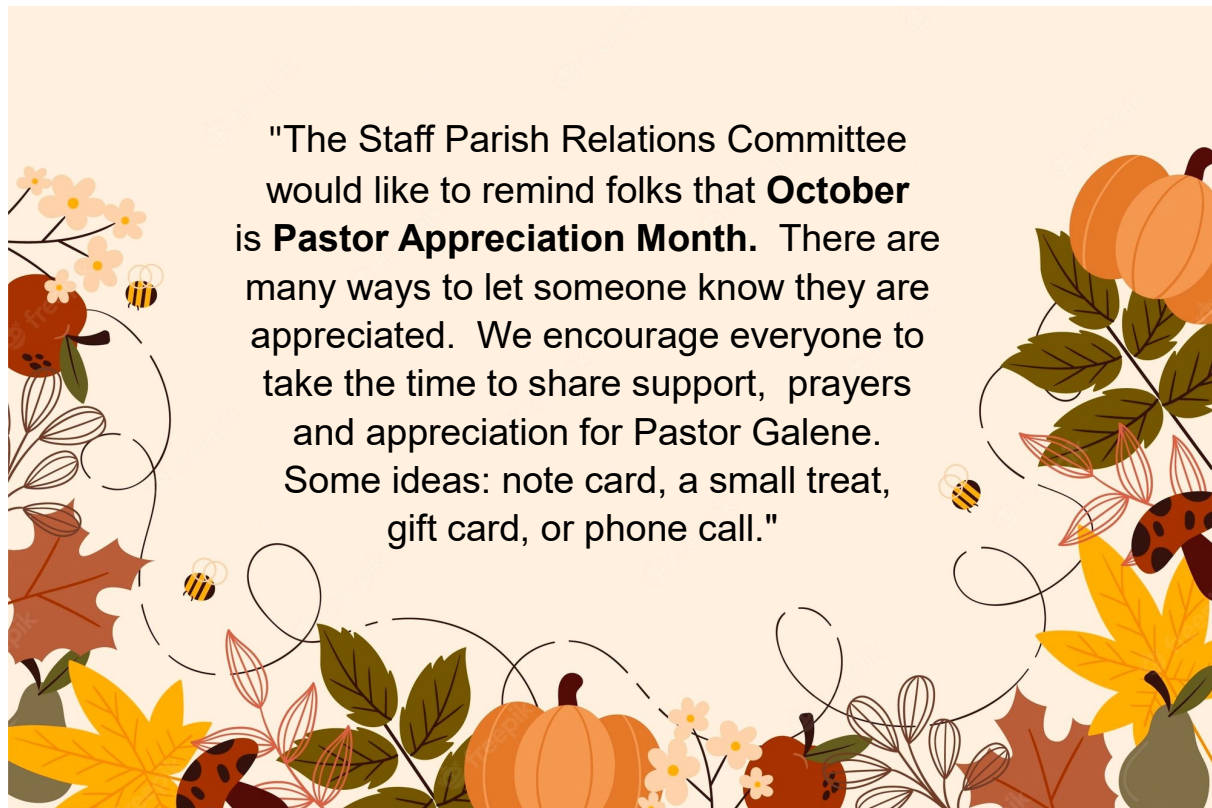




Jerry Hobbs	October 2
Jen Foster	October 5
Bob Keel	October 6
Jeannine Diller	October 11
Carol Monsma	October 14
Nadia Lattin	October 15
Bill Moyer	October 19
Jameson Arends	October 20
Tess Menendez	October 20
Mary Botts	October 23
Martha Sherrick	October 27
Aaron Gavini	October 29
Jan Wickliffe	October 29
Bell Bruhn	October 30

Tim & Jen Foster	October 1
Steve & Debbie Ellis	October 8
Buck & Bev Ashcraft	October 11
Tom & Rhonda Falknor	October 21
Stephen & Karen Cahill	October 23

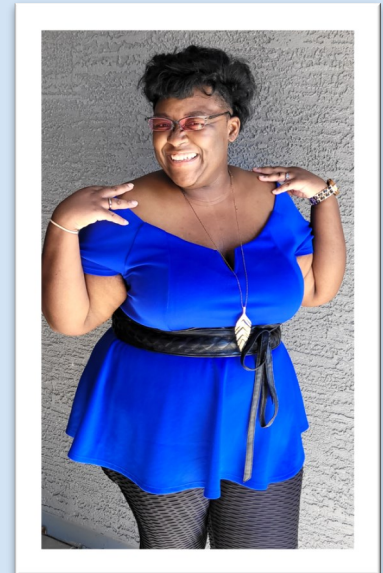
We apologize if we have missed your special day. It means that the office does not have the information. Please notify the office if we need to update your information.



Getting to know Coco!

On August 31st, CITD welcomed Nicosia Garrison as our new director of music. She shares this about herself!

"Nicosia Garrison, affectionately known as, CoCo, has been singing and worshipping her entire life. At the tender age of 4 years old, God spoke to her and told her she needed to be baptized, which she told her mother who, after her own "eventful" conversation with God, had CoCo baptized. CoCo was raised in a faithful home with plenty of Gospel music. She started playing the violin when she was 8 years old and the flute at 11. She was in marching band and choir all through high school and took drama her senior year. She attributes much of her musical success to her high school choir director Amy Vanwinkle, who always encouraged CoCo to do her best and keep trying even when her confidence was shaken. While in high school, CoCo participated in the regional honor choir her Junior and Senior years. After graduating from Prescott High School in 2003, she attended Grand Canyon University for 2 years as a Vocal performance major, with minors in theatre and psychology. After leaving GCU, CoCo went back home, where she attended Yavapai College, performing in nearly every choir in the campus. With the encouragement of her Yavapai College choir director, Nicosia applied to the School of Music at NAU. While there, she performed with the international touring choir, Shrine of the Ages. They completed a choral tour in South Africa where CoCo was privileged to sing solos in multiple venues. In addition to singing in South Africa, CoCo has had the opportunity to sing the deck of the USS Missouri in Hawaii, for the troops on the 4th of July, as well as in New York City in Carnegie Hall. She has held numerous positions as a soloist, worship leader, and music director. She knows that music is a defining part of her life and loves to share her passion for music with anyone and everyone."



Sustainable alert

Submitted by Rev. Sharon MacVean

CITD Women's Bible Study read A Hopeful Earth and one lesson was about the role of science and technology and religion. People of faith historically were the ones who began to develop the field of science. It has been hard for modern minds to understand the role Christianity played in developing the field of science. Science and technology are compatible with faith. The temptation is to think science and technology will save us and that they have replaced faith. Tina Carter, a United Methodist clergywoman who also holds a PhD in chemistry writes about this. "We have created an idol of science. We need to get back to worshipping God. As a scientist I can't help but think that we need to slow down—slow down our consumption, our demands, and our desire for instant results. We can't just trust science and technology to save us and to rebuild the earth. We must stop thinking the laws of science and technology will save us from our pride, greed, selfishness and failure to remember who we are as followers of Jesus. No matter we need to remember who we are and who we believe in and who we can trust with our lives and our earth." Science and technology can a good part of our lives but they do not replace faith.



CITD Financial Corner

We had a very positive response in giving in August which made it the biggest month of the year; but September is back to not looking so good. Our overall giving continues to be a big concern.

We will be having another All-Saints Day luminarias memorial like we had last year. Proceeds will go toward our Apportionment. It will be held on November 6 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Our theme this year will be angels. We learned last year that people did want to sit and talk. We plan to have light refreshments again. We hope you'll come and join us even if you do not sponsor a luminaria. We'll also be looking for some volunteers to help with it. Please watch for further details which will be coming soon.

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me.

In His service,

Eugene O'Bryan, Chairperson
CITD Finance Committee
Home: 602-788-0742
Cell: 602-363-4115
eobryan@cox.net



Did you know? It takes \$6,325.00 per week for CITD to pay all the bills!

The Trustees and the pastor would like to issue a big **THANK YOU!** to everyone who helped with our workday. A lot was accomplished. Many of the items on the insurance company checklist have been addressed. We made a great start!

Kevin Joy has been working with Lily Jernnigan on her Eagle project of changing the sprinkler heads to low water use heads. Her project also included a beautiful new bench which you can find under the tree by the cross and flame next to the south parking lot.

As always, there have many trees and downed branches the trustees have dealt with. As the weather cools, our GA group plans to paint the Outreach building. For more information on Trustees projects, contact Kevin Joy.



Prayer Corner

Dear Christ our Savior and God our Creator, May your name be lifted up in all the nations and people led to know your love and grace and salvation. Our sacred scriptures tell us to love each other as God loves us. In fact, scripture says, "God is love". May we believe in that love and share it with our neighbors as Christ calls us to do. Nowhere in the Bible does it tell us to be divided and hate each other and blame each other for the problems. God thank you for your love. Help us come together in your name and give our problems with being divided to you. Heal us so that we can see each other as precious children of God. We pray for those who are sick and for those who are struggling to feed and provide shelter for their families. We pray for our friends, our families and our leaders. May those who serve our communities and our country think more of the people they serve and less of themselves. We pray for those who do not yet know God as one who loves, provides mercy and forgiveness. Bless our country with peace. Bring on end to the terrible attack of Russia on Ukraine. May the love of God be with each one of you. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Prayer written by Rev. Sharon MacVean



East District Prayer Focus **for October**

Desert Chapel UMC, Apache Junction
Pastor Iain Glithero

Desert Foothills UMC, Phoenix
Rev. Kristin Hansen

Desert Mission UMC, Scottsdale
Rev. Anthony Tang
Pastor Robert Payne

First UMC, Mesa
Rev. Khalif Akil Smith, Sr.



United
Women
in Faith

October Meetings of UWF

October 6	Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Zoom
October 13	Outreach/Mary Martha Combined Circle Meeting	10:30 am	Fellowship Hall
October 18	Devotions and Dinner	6:30 pm	Contact Gretchen M.
October 20	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
Book: <i>Jefferson's Daughters</i> by Catherine Karrison			

It's Baby Layette Time!

The UWF would appreciate your help in collecting items to include in layettes for needy mothers of newborns. Completed layettes are given to Church Women United, who deliver them to hospitals and places of need.

We are collecting (by October 23):

Sleepers with feet—size 3 months (new or gently used)

Onesies—Newborn or 3 months (new or gently used)

Diapers—newborn or size 1 (8-12 pounds)

OR if you are not into shopping, monetary donations are welcome

Contact is Jeannine Diller 480-948-6299



SAVE THIS DATE!

Saturday, November 12th

UWF is planning a Cook-Out and
Dessert Auction

Start looking for your favorite dessert recipes
and planning to make your most tempting
creation for the auction. See if you can create a
recipe that will top the \$100

Pecan Pie!



CHILDRENS' MINISTRY

During childrens' time in September we studied John 15:1-9 with the rest of the congregation. Pastor Galene told us the stories about the vineyard during different seasons of the year. Miss Connie made a story board for us that showed the strong vine (Jesus) and how the smaller branches (us) are attached and fed by the strong vine. We learned that if we as branches stay attached to the vine, we will prosper and bear fruit. The vine on the story board showed the attached branches, and leaves and fruit were added as the seasons progressed. The church's altar showed the change in the seasons too.



We also learned some songs! This one was fun!

**All God's creatures got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
Some just clap their hands, or paws,
or anything they've got now**



MISSIONS

ANNOUNCING A NEW MISSION PARTNER



Arizona
Helping
Hands

Bringing Hope to Children in Foster Care

**ARIZONA HELPING HANDS: HOPE FOR
CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

THE MISSION of Arizona Helping Hands is to provide essential needs for children in foster care through our programs promoting safety, permanency and health.

THE VISION of Arizona Helping Hands — Every child in foster care is safe and loved.

Services for foster and kinship families include help with basic needs. These include a safe place to sleep by providing twin beds or cribs and linens. Other needs are clothing, diapers and wipes, educational activities and personal hygiene kits.

They also prepare children for success by providing backpacks and school supplies.

Children are celebrated with self-esteem lifting personalized birthday packages.

So far in 2022 they have served 2,563 children by the distribution of 1,258 beds, 1,279 back to school packs and 1,590 Birthday Dream Gifts.

The Missions Committee has arranged a special tour and group volunteer event just for Cross in the Desert on Saturday, October 22 from 10 a.m. until noon. They are asking us to bring gifts for their Teen Boys' Birthday Boxes, so we will be collecting those items to take with us.

Please plan to join us for this exciting opportunity to reach out into our community! Please sign up at the missions table, or call Julie Wagner at 602-796-5889.

Birthday Gifts for Teen Boys

Earbuds (Bluetooth)

Baseball Hats

Fitness Trackers

Water Bottles

Blue tooth speakers with night light for bedside

Axe gift sets (male grooming products)

UMCOR

Please consider donating to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). UMCOR responds to disasters both home and abroad. There have been many weather events recently, and of course the situation in Ukraine still requires aid. UMCOR is usually the first on the scene, and does not leave until there is resolution.

COMING IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER



October 15th—October 29th

4:00-8:00 p.m.

Help support our Scout Troops! Stop and buy a pumpkin!
(Limited hours on Sunday Mornings)

LIFE LINE SCREENING

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12

Missions is sponsoring Life Line Screening. This is an opportunity to get a series of tests to evaluate your cardiac health at a very reasonable price of \$149. Be sure to pick up a flyer for all the details



EMPTY NESTERS

AN ADULT GROUP FOR ALL AGES

October 15 - potluck and program

November - 19 potluck with Arizona native Kathleen Boos sharing some personal Arizona history

December 17 Christmas program
Meat dish provided, bring sides.

Fun and fellowship as we meet in Fellowship Hall at 6 :00 pm. It's a great way to get to know people and visit with long-time friends.



Luminarias- November 6

5:30—7:00 p.m.

In honor or in memory of our loved ones

Watch the weekly email for
more information



Desert Southwest Conference News

SAVE THE DATE: ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST AT 6 PM

The annual meeting for Cross in the Desert will be held Monday, November 21st at 6 pm, location to be announced later. This will be an All Church Conference, meaning all church members have a vote. It is also the business meeting of the church. We will be approving reports including removal of inactive members. It is also a time to discuss any business that is facing our congregation, such as a new mission statement, a decision to sell property, or any other major change. Nothing like that is planned at the moment, but keep tuned for more information.

MEET OUR NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT!

The District Superintendent always leads our annual meeting. This year we welcome Rev. Melissa Rynders. We need to find a way to give her a special welcome that proclaims who we are as a congregation. Put on your thinking caps, and get back to the pastor if you have questions or ideas.

Chair people and Team Leaders—Be aware of due dates:

Since Pastor Galene will be taking time off in November, reports from the committees will be due **Thursday, November 3rd**.

OPEN HOUSE

The East District will welcome new D.S. Melissa Rynders at an open house Sunday, October 2, 1:00-3:00 p.m. The event will take place at St. Matthew UMC, 2540 W. Baseline Rd, Mesa.

Conference Contacts

Bishop

Grant Hagiya

Bishop's Assistant:

Julie O'Neal joneal@dscumc.org

Conference Lay Leader

Alberta Farnsworth

East District Superintendent

Melissa Rynders

Assistant: Cynthia Holly cholly@dscumc.org

East District Lay Leader

Trinity Donovan

Director of Communications

(Assistance with technology)

Christina Dillabough cdillabough@dscumc.org



Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church
12835 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85032
Phone: 602-992-1960
E-mail: citd@crossinthedesert.org
Website: <https://www.crossinthedesert.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CrossintheDesertUMC>



Cross in the Desert UMC Staff

Pastor

Rev. Galene Boyett
pastor@crossinthedesert.org

Lay Leader—vacant

Coordinator of Children's Ministries
Connie Bruhn

Youth and Technology Coordinator
Kevin Joy

Administrative Assistant—On medical leave
Linda Moore
linda@crossinthedesert.org

Temporary Administrative Assistant
Julie Wagner
citd@crossinthedesert.org

Financial Secretary

Alice Easter
finance@crossinthedesert.org

Communications—Dinah Brooks

Music Department

Music Director — Nicosia Garrison
Bell Choir Director—Julie Wagner
One Flock Choir Accompanist—Mary Tassi

Building and Grounds Concerns

Please contact the office by phone or email so
the Trustees may be notified