



Southwest Conference
United Church of Christ

Embodying God's
unconditional justice and love ...

Building Relationships - Deepening Spirituality - Extending Hospitality

Serving Arizona, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas

In the Loop with the Southwest Conference

Happy New Year Southwest Conference!

Your staff at the SWC office is gearing up for a busy 2011. We encourage all of you to let us know of special events or other items that may be of interest to the wider conference. Peggy Ice, our webmaster, is also eager to post articles and information that would be of interest to the wider community. Please be in touch with us throughout the year.

And, if you want your entire church membership to receive the SWC newsletter automatically, have your church secretary contact Holly in the SWC office to coordinate. ***The members of 3 of our churches now receive this mailing directly and we'd love for all 10,000 SWC members to be on the list.***

Final Date to Submit Funds for 2010

January 11th will be the final date that 2010 funds can be submitted to the Conference office. Funds received after that date will be applied toward 2011 income.

Year End Gift to SWC

There's still time to make an end-of-year gift to the SWC. Between now and January 11th, simply go to the SWC website and follow the **"Donate"** button on the home page. Although the vast majority of our churches were able to meet their 2010 pledges, there were a few churches that had significant shortfalls, resulting in a deficit in the Conference budget. For all of you that did send a gift to us, thank you very much.

We are deeply appreciative of your generosity.

January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11 SWC Books Close	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SWC Lay Academy: Origins of Christian Beliefs

Lay Academy Registration still Open



The second Lay Academy session is being held here in Phoenix on January 14/15. It is not necessary to have attended the September session to be a part of this session. "Origins of Christian Beliefs" is being taught by Rev. Vernon Meyer. Get the details and register via the Lay Academy link on the home page of the SWC website, or by calling the Conference office (602-468-3830). The class is capped at 35 and there are currently about 10 seats available.

Southwest Conference Youth News

2011 Senior High Sneak Trip: February 18 to 20.

Registration is now open for the Senior High Sneak Trip to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

Get all the details on the Youth & Outdoors tab on the SWC website or from your church.

You may reserve your spot and pay via credit card from the SWC website, although all forms must still be submitted by mail to the Conference office by Jan.31st. **Still have questions? Call Katrina at 602-565-5768.**



2010 Winter Youth Service Trip

See photos taken by one a Southwest Conference youth on the Winter Youth Service Trip. Select the link to the photos on the Youth & Outdoors page.

Border Immersion Experience

Two SWC Pastors lead National UCC Border trip this week



UCC Revs. Delle McCormick and Randy Mayer are leading a Border Immersion Experience starting along the San Diego border and ending up in Arizona later in the week.

The Border Immersion Experience has been in the making for about 18 months and will

include 4 UCC Conference Ministers, including John Dorhauer, 3 or 4 National UCC Staff Members, including the Executive Minister of the Justice and Witness Ministries, Rev. Linda Jaramillo, and the President of Chicago Theological School, Dr. Alice Hunt. It should be an interesting and exhausting week.



Watch this new video!

Youth and Young Adult DVD coming to your church!



The SWC will be mailing a DVD to each church this week highlighting the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Program along with a letter from Travis Meyers, chair of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Committee.

Please watch for it and plan to show it during worship (less than 5 minutes), a council meeting, or congregational meeting.

A link to the video is also available from the Youth & Outdoors page on the Southwest Conference website.

People News

Pat Dunn appointed to General Synod committee

Congratulations to Pat Dunn! Pat Dunn, member of St. Paul's UCC in Rio Rancho, NM has been appointed to the Credentials Committee for General Synod. Pat has been very active in the SWC and currently serves as Chairperson of the Personnel Committee.

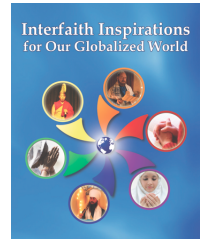


Nancy Elsenheimer's reflection included in new book



Rev. Nancy Elsenheimer, co-pastor of Church of the Beatitudes, along with clergy and lay people from 22 faith traditions contributed to the Arizona Interfaith Movement's new book, ***Interfaith Inspirations***. This just-published book contains daily devotions designed to help us understand and respect the diversity of faith. Pastor Nancy wrote about Hope, Enthusiasm,

Guidance and Joy. Copies may be ordered from the Arizona Interfaith Movement website: <http://www.interfaitharizona.com>



On the SWC website

Support the Interchurch Resource Center



The Interchurch Resource Center is an absolutely wonderful place to find curriculum, videos, books, DVDs, and much more for use in your church's worship or educational program.

Membership is open to all churches for a very small annual cost.

IRC is very short on funding for 2011 and wants to encourage all churches to renew their membership- or join for the first time. Just come down and visit Kate, the Director. She will give you a tour of the library and help you find the perfect material.

Not in the Phoenix area? No problem - items can be mailed to you.

Check out their website: Go to the Resources tab on the SWC website, then select the Interchurch Resource Center link.

This communication is made possible by your contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission.

[Southwest Conference United Church of Christ](http://www.southwestconference.org)

Southwest Conference UCC, 4423 North 24th St, Suite 600, Phoenix, AZ 85016

office@uccswc.org | 602-468-3830 | 800-822-0821 | 602-955-4540 (fax)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 AM to 5 PM