



Chalice Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

THE SOJOURNER

July 3, 2013

FLIP FLOP-WATER DRIVE

In July the Outreach Team will be sponsoring a flip-flop and water drive which will benefit the Dignity House, a residential program with Catholic Charities which reaches out to sex trafficked women on the streets and in the jails. DIGNITY,

which stands for
Developing
Individual Growth and
New Independence

Through Yourself, finds that 90% of those who complete the program leave the life for good. So bring your donations of flip flops and water during the month of July to Chalice.



AZ DWM Retreat
"I Am Fearfully and
Wonderfully Made"
September 13-15, 2013
at Chapel Rock
Prescott
Registration deadline
is August 1st.



This week's Table Talk
scripture is
Luke 10:25-37.
Join this informal study
on the patio, this Sun-
day morning starting at
8:45 and
Ending at 9:30.



Because of the General
Assembly, Messy
Church will happen on
Saturday, July 27th
from 5 to 7pm. Invite
a friend to join you
for activities,
celebration, and fun.



Dividing Lines

The anniversary of the United States' declaration of independence from Britain is coming up this week; I confess, I don't always know what to do with this holiday. While I could talk at length about political reasons for that feeling, the real reasons are Franziska, Nicolai and Stella and David, Tamir and Mirwaiz. They're the first people who caused my identity as a Christian and a US citizen to crash head on.

All of them were immigrants to the US, studying at Emory University. They were from Germany, Bulgaria and Afghanistan. Four were Christian; two were Muslim. All of us lived in the same apartment building in student housing. Since we all came from Abrahamic traditions, we knew more about each others' faith than anything else and could most easily talk about that. Given, it was never particularly easy when conversations often needed translation through as many as three languages. Luckily for me, my new friends were all multi-lingual and could facilitate translation, at least most of the time.

That year was a very strange one. I showed Nicolai how to drive a car with an automatic transmission. (Ok, I held on for dear life while he experimented with driving my truck with an automatic transmission.) I helped Stella figure out ingredient equivalents for her recipes; there were more than a few cooking disasters. I learned about kids' vaccinations and went on a couple visits to a pediatrician with David. We all gathered for Franziska's 30th birthday on Halloween, a holiday they told me was a purely US phenomenon. At their request, we carved pumpkins in celebration. Little did they know that my mother was anti-pumpkin carving mess, so we usually just painted ours. I think I faked it well. Whenever I said I was from Kentucky, I got used to the reaction, "Oh, fried chicken!"

What came up more often than anything else, though, was their fear. Tamir and Mirwaiz stayed in Atlanta for the nearly six-week winter break; they found out only three days before they came to the US that their visas were cleared. They longed to see their children; each had one who had learned to walk while her father was away. They were doctors, earning masters of public health so they could return and help build a medical infrastructure. They stayed because they were too afraid they wouldn't be allowed to re-enter and finish their degrees.

The word "deportation" came up more days than it did not. Their countries' histories of communism and Nazism haunted Nicolai, Stella,

David and Franziska. The iron curtain was part of their reality. Franziska had been denied service in restaurants because she was German. They lived day in and day out with a niggling fear of what might happen to them. My assurances did no good.

At that time, Emory also had a large Korean student population. The students, though, were quick to correct me: “South Korea.”

Time and again, the people I encountered, the people I lived with, the people I came to love thought that our countries’ politics would be the measuring stick for how I welcomed them. They thought that because that had been their experience before. They all knew what my reaction *could* be.

They weren’t certain my first obligation was to honor them as my brothers and sisters in Christ. The Muslims didn’t know that Jesus’ command to love my neighbor as myself had to win out over our countries’ differences.

There aren’t many traditions that proclaim ecumenism as fiercely as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). There aren’t many who cling so hopefully to Paul’s promises that there is only “one Lord, one faith, one baptism” and “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” It’s why we accept all forms of baptism; it’s why we offer communion to anyone who wishes to come. The same tradition has always valued scripture and its place in shaping our lives. We know that the sacred text trumps many other things.

So watch fireworks and eat hamburgers and hot dogs this week. Apple pie and watermelon are quite welcome, too. Watch a baseball game. Enjoy all the Independence Day things that you like. Be assured, though, that this is only part of who you are. You are part of the body of Christ, with brothers and sisters of all languages, races and nations. You are part of the Church, universal, holy, called out from all other identities for over two thousand years. You are Christ’s. And that identity, beloved child of God, trumps all others. Live into it each day.

grace & peace—Abigail

*God in your mercy,
hear our prayers...*



Mike Ingraham & family
in the death of Mike’s father, Earl
Miriam Vessels, Clara Row’s mother
prayers.chalice@gmail.com

July 22nd Chalice will
sponsor I-HELP.



Contact Kathy Corner
(trailer1trash2@aol.com) if you are
willing to help serve a meal & clean
up after it.



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 Rev. Abigail Conley, Pastor
Chaliceoffice@gmail.com
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 Prayer chain—prayers.chalice@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule

8:30.....Oasis Coffee House Opens
 8:45.....Faith Development
 9:30.....Fellowship Time
 10:00....Worship

**Worship
 Participants**

Look for Worship information in
 Email by Thursday of each week.
 Check out July's schedule
 on the Tools Page of the website.

This Week at Chalice

Thursday

Office Closed for Independence Day

Sunday

See morning schedule above
 Alas de Salvacion Worship, 1:30pm

Monday

Office Open, 1:30-4:30pm
 Stewardship & Finance Team, 6:30pm

Wednesday

Office Open, 1:30-4:30pm
 Alas de Salvacion Worship, 7pm

Sunday, July 7, 2013
10am
 Elder.....Keith Garrett
 Liturgist.....Jim Corner
 Diaconate.....Ann Reed
 Janis Barnes

Purchase your \$5 Fry's Gift Card
 and you can use it
 just like money. Pick
 up your Fry's Gift
 Card today in the
 Chalice Office or this
 Sunday and shop to
 benefit Chalice.



The end of the program year is here. In the past each team leader has written an annual report to create a yearbook of events that have happened at Chalice. Look for a template for this report in your email and please fill it in and send it back electronically to the Chalice Office by July 15th.



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