

The SPIRE
First Presbyterian Church
12225 N 103rd Ave
Sun City AZ 85351-3501

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Youngtown AZ
Permit No. 55



First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, Arizona

Volume 49, November 2017

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

First Presbyterian Church
of Sun City, Arizona

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 am Worship Services in the Sanctuary, the Rev. Dr. David Hodgson preaching
10:00 am Coffee and Fellowship in Swain Hall

Worship Services This Month:

Sunday, November 5
Sunday, November 12
Sunday, November 19
Sunday, November 26
Tuesday, November 28, 5:00 pm in the Chapel

Winter Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday: 8:00 am-4:00 pm
Thursday: 8:00 am-1:00 pm
Friday: Closed



Pastoral Searching

The Adventure Ahead

I write to share exciting news—that the Commission on Ministry of Grand Canyon Presbytery approved by unanimous vote our church's Ministry Information Form! After a summer of hard work by the Session, the Presbytery Pastor will now advertise our congregational search and will submit candidates for a designated pastor for our consideration. It is time to match our vision of the future we believe God has in mind for our church with the qualifications of those who feel called to lead us into that future.

I selected the image above from the Internet because it describes what pastoral searching is all about. It reminds us that we look in all directions! We look to the past for clues about what God may have in mind. We look in the present for any inspiration that God may be providing. And we look beyond all that is familiar and convenient for the adventure that God clearly has in store for us.



It is time to hold the Session in our collective thoughts and prayers, and time to rally behind them in their task. Searching for a pastor is not an easy task, but it can be deeply satisfying if by searching we discover what God intends for the life of our church. Let us encourage them in their work, pray for them in their discernment, and thank them when their work is done for the benefit of all.

With gratitude and praise,

~David

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Message from Our Pastor..... 2
Reports and Activities..... 2-6, insert
This Month's Calendar insert
Celebrations and Updates 7

Service of Reflection

This month's evening Service of Reflection will be on "Giving Tuesday," November 28. A service of "psongs and psalms," reflecting on the themes of the other November worship services, will start at 5:00 in the chapel, to be followed by dinner in Swain Hall. A signup sheet for the meal is available in Swain Hall.

A Message from Our Pastor

On Being Surprised

The word *surprised* doesn't begin to express my reaction to your pastor appreciation event on October 8th. At month's end I can still hear the sound of *When The Saints Come Marching In* as that magnificent trumpet player started down the church aisle with the Session swinging along behind him.

I was speechless! And to realize that so many of you knew what was going to happen and I didn't have a clue what was happening, even as it unfolded around me—well, it means that it is possible for a church congregation to keep a secret. What I had once imagined to be virtually impossible, you all proved to be quite easily possible.

Thank you! I have relived the moment many times, and each time it becomes more precious to me than the time before. And the hymn the choir sang with words provided by Carol Maxwell just gave me pause to say *Thank You, God* for each and every one of you.



I think that God likes surprises, too! I say that because of all the times in life when God surprised me, and surely God would not dish it out if God did not delight in being surprised as well.

So I suspect that God enjoyed the surprise as much as we all did—as much as those doing the surprising and as much as the one being surprised!

Yeah God! Church is fun! Life is Good! And being surprised by God in daily life is the greatest fun of all!

Daily blessings,

~David

The Prayer Project

To All Members, Affiliates, and Regular Visitors of First Presbyterian Church, Sun City:

By the time you read this newsletter, you are already being prayed for by someone from First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, AZ.

Be still ... and feel God's presence in your life!

To our Friends Through Prayer:

Thank you to all of you who have accepted the challenge to pray for a list of our congregational family members every day for one year. You are a blessing to God's House and to His people!

Thank you.



~Mary McMartin, Worship Committee

Celebrations and Updates

CHANGES FOR YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY

New Members:

Louis and B'Ann Reese
12501 W. Varney Rd
El Mirage, AZ 85335
Louis (cell): 602.516.8560
B'Ann (cell): 602.516.8559

Address Change:

Janet Werner
Merrill Gardens, Bankers Hill
2567 2nd Ave., #501
San Diego, CA 92103-6581
619.255.4368

Email Change:

Donna Roth
donnaroth_1@cox.net

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

2	Kay McDermott	16	Mary Jo Conwell
4	Dorothy Mills	21	Sharyl Moen
7	Joyce Heuett	23	Nate Harvey
10	Bunny Geisbert	23	Marilyn Olney
10	Jerry Heuett	24	Mary Lou Klatte
11	Gerry Shaw	25	Jack Keen
11	Walt McMartin	28	Norman Keprios
12	Dot Marker		



We are celebrating you! Please join the Birthday Celebration on Sunday, November 12, in Swain Hall following the worship service.

OUR STAFF

Interim Pastor	The Rev. Dr. David Hodgson	davidh@firstpressuncity.org
Associate for Congregational Life	Beth Mabee	bethm@firstpressuncity.org
Admin. Assistant, Treasurer	Norma Mack	norma934@cox.net
Choir Director	Dr. William Gleason	billg@firstpressuncity.org
Handbell Choir Director	Mary Lou Klatte	fancypancy@cox.net
Pianist/Organist	Kelsey McKee	
Custodian	Lyle Tollefson	

The SPIRE is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, AZ. Please call the church office at 623.974.3605 to be added to our mailing list, or see our website at <http://firstpressuncity.org> to access current and back issues in PDF format.

Items to be included in the next edition of *The SPIRE* should be submitted to Beth Mabee at the church office or by email at bethm@firstpressuncity.org by **Monday, November 20**. (We have to send our scheduling information to the local papers on Tuesday morning.)

Financial Update

As of September 30, 2017

GENERAL FUND

<i>Actual Income:</i>		<i>Budgeted Income:</i>	
Contributions to date:	\$124,031.71	Pledge budget to date:	\$117,187.47
Other Income:	25,896.99	Other Income budget:	21,411.22
Transfer from Foundation:	<u>34,500.00</u>	Transfer per budget:	<u>35,000.00</u>
Total:	\$184,428.70		\$173,598.69
 <i>Expenses to date:</i>		 <i>Budgeted to date:</i>	
	\$179,222.17		\$174,792.78

FOUNDATION FUNDS

<i>Income:</i>	
Dividends:	\$16,497.51
Income from Annuities:	6,067.27
Bequests:	5,000.00
Capital Gains Reinvested:	8,494.27
Interest Income:	<u>12.93</u>
Total:	\$36,071.98
 <i>Disbursement:</i>	
Transfer to General Fund:	\$34,500.00
 <i>BBVA Investment Solutions:</i>	 \$1,442,273.31



Habitat for Humanity

Our Congregation's Involvement in Habitat for Humanity continues, as we work with the Habitat's West Valley Presbyterian Coalition (7 congregations) to keep the building projects for needy families moving forward in our area. Last month we had the wall-signing ceremony for a new "renovation home" project in Avondale. The Ceremony for that home's Dedication will be on Saturday morning, November 18, at 9:30 am, and we would love to see some of you there to witness this inspirational occasion. Please call Dick Zabriskie or Bob Johnson for directions or a ride to the location.

Our Coalition has also just taken on the building of a new home to be built for a family for 2018, agreeing to pay one quarter of the \$100,000 now needed for a new home. Let us all continue to contribute as generously as possible to this ongoing mission work, remembering the tax advantage for donors available each year from the State of Arizona.

A big shout-out to Walt McMartin for his fine help with our congregation's Habitat involvement for quite a few years, providing us with a bulletin board and pictures in our church building, and participation on the Coalition Board and the various dedication ceremonies. Thank you, Walt!

Awaiting Advent

It's almost Advent! We will be decorating the church for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 25, starting in Swain Hall at 9:00 am. We have plenty of jobs that don't involve climbing or standing, so please plan to join us. Lunch will be served around 11:30, or sooner if we are finished before then. Sign up today if you can come!



"It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich!" ~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Fellowship Dinners

October

Twenty-seven (27) people attended the Octoberfest dinner and mission program on Thursday, October 19. We were served brats, potato salad, sauerkraut, and chips. Dessert was root beer floats.

Ruth Langford and Brenda Hedt from HART (Helping At Risk Teens) Pantry gave a very nice presentation. HART Pantry was started by somebody coming into the office of Peoria First Presbyterian and asking for money so they could buy food for needy students at Peoria High School. The program was started in the church, moved in with Eve's Place until they outgrew that location, and is now on 99th Avenue in one of the Lion's Club buildings. They help homeless and abandoned teens (the minor must attend school to qualify). Recommendations come through the schools. A gift bag will contain hygiene products, single serve food items that do not need to be cooked, school supplies and clothing (they always need socks). Currently the program is helping over 150 teens and growing. Remember, we have a donation bin for HART Pantry in Swain Hall.

Jesse Ramirez, founder of Valley View Food and Clothing Bank, is an unpaid volunteer and also serves on the Valley View board of directors. After twenty years with Westside Food Bank he became unemployed when there was a merger in 2007. He decided to start Valley View. They work strictly off of donations and volunteers, with no government assistance of any kind. He is very proud that each food box contains fresh produce! The main location is on Grand Avenue in El Mirage. They maintain small locations in Youngtown, Sun City and Surprise. You can bring non-perishable food items for them to church on the first Sunday of every month.

November

Our traditional pre-Thanksgiving meal of turkey and all the trimmings will be Thursday, November 16, at 5:00 in Swain Hall. Sign up today to reserve your spot! You can also sign up to help; we need cooks, greeters, setup and cleanup helpers.

The food and programs for our fellowship dinners are completely funded by your freewill donations. Thank you for your support!



Presbyterian Women

Thanks very much to everyone who modeled, then donated their best slightly-used wardrobe items at the October Gathering. Also thanks for the additional clothing that you brought to donate to Eve's Place. Sherry Gearhart planned a great meeting.



There is no Gathering in November for PW. But we all look forward to that second Saturday in December (12/9 this year) when the annual Holiday High Tea transforms Swain Hall into a winter wonderland, with everyone's best china and silver on display. Men of the church will serve lots of hot tea, scones, lemon curd, Devonshire cream, cookies, and other goodies to tempt our taste buds. Mike Chamberlain, "The Singing TV Guy," will perform his nostalgic and engaging Christmas program. Consider signing up to decorate one of the tables—call Beth in the church office to do so. Invite friends from other churches to come and enjoy. It's important to note that this event is our main PW fund-raising event. Tickets will be on sale soon. If you would like to help with the planning, meetings will be at 1:00 pm on November 2, 16, and 30 (all Thursdays).

January's plan is for the Annual Chili Feed, when the men of the church are honored. A speaker from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is being invited.

A brown bag luncheon in February and a salad luncheon in April are proposed.

Our Rachel Circle continues the *Horizons* Bible study: *Cloud of Witnesses*, *The Community of Christ in Hebrews*.

Blessings to all!

~Marge Hagerman

Note: Thursday, November 30, will be Cleaning Day for Swain Hall, to prepare for the High Tea and Christmas visitors. Signup sheets are available in Swain Hall. Cleaning supplies will be provided; please help if you can!

"If there was ever a secret for unleashing God's powerful peace in a situation, it's developing a heart of true thanksgiving." ~Lysa Terkeurst

Scheduling Reminders:

- Thank God It's Friday! Bible Study resumes in the Fireside Room on Friday, November 3, with a discussion of the scriptures from Reformation Sunday. Coffee and snacks will be available at 8:30 am, with Bible study from 9:00-10:00. Bring your Bible and a friend for this informative and thought-provoking morning!
- The ladies of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet as usual at 9:30 am in Annex 3 on Monday, November 6th, and go out to lunch together afterward. Their other November meeting will be on Monday the 20th. They will continue to meet at 9:30 on the first and third Monday of every non-summer month.



Session Meeting Recaps

Called Meetings of September 21 and October 19

September 21, 2017

Pastor's Report: The Mission Study has been sent to COM (Committee on Ministry) of Presbytery. COM has accepted our study. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the final paragraph of the mission study as official. The paragraph reads:

After thoughtful consideration, the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Sun City has agreed that the church should hire a designated pastor for the next two years, rather than starting the search for a permanent pastor at this time. The Session feels that this is the most appropriate way to meet the goals for the future enumerated above. We ask that COM ratify this decision and direct Presbytery to begin the referrals of possible candidates without delay.

A designated pastor could then work with the congregation to set goals for our church.

The statistical report reflects the deaths of Geraldine Darr and Tricia Meek. Anna Lucile Marsh was removed from the rolls, by Session action, due to lack of contact information. Communion was served by intinction in Swain Hall to 82 on August 6, 2017 and 80 on September 3, 2017.

Commission Reports: We are considering a Legacy Solar system for the campus; Craig McCoy will be retiring as groundskeeper at the end of 2017; Mission Month will be observed in October with Reverend Leslie Vogel and Delia Leal, peacemaking witness, from Guatemala speaking on October 1, and the Fellowship Dinner with Ruth Langford, Executive Director of Hart Pantry, and Jessie Ramirez from Valley View Community Food Bank as the program on October 19; and Mary McMartin is collecting "Year of Prayer Commitment Cards" to begin the program where every member of the church will be prayed for.

October 19, 2017

Pastor's Report: Pastor David announced that John and Gail Ohm will become "Friends of the Church." The financial package for a designated pastor was discussed. A motion was made for Session to request, in writing, that the Foundation Committee approve making available up to \$25,000 per year for two years for the financial package for the designated pastor. (This was approved at a special Foundation Committee meeting on October 22, 2017.)

The statistical report reflects two new members, Louis R. and B'Ann Reese. Communion was served in the Sanctuary to 89 on October 1, 2017. Total membership 169 this date.

Commission Reports: We are waiting for Legacy Solar to conduct the necessary survey for solar. It was reported we are within \$900 of meeting the 2% Peace and Global Mission giving goal. A motion was made, seconded and approved to ask the Men's Breakfast Fellowship and the Presbyterian Women's Association for donations. Our church has forty-seven (47) individuals who have been members for over twenty years. They will be recognized the second Sunday in December. Mary McMartin reported twenty-six (26) individuals have signed up on the "Year of Prayer Commitment Cards." This prayer program will begin November 1, 2017.



Deacon's Corner



Meeting of October 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Martha Porter.

Those present were Floyd Beyer, Mary Jo Conwell, Sherry Gearhart, Judy Goss, Billie Lewis, Rhea Nelson, Gitta Opatz, Martha Porter, and Beth Mabee. Excused: Shirley Walker.

The devotion and prayer were given by Martha Porter.

The minutes of September 5, 2017, were approved as printed.

The treasurer's report, with a balance of \$161.07, was accepted.

The statistical report was read and discussed.

Session Report:

Mary Jo Conwell reported a discussion on financing emergency items was held.

Committees:

Communion—Gitta Opatz—78 were served communion on October 1.

Flowers—Rhea Nelson delivered 17 flower arrangements in September.

Receptions—Martha Porter—no receptions in September.

Old Business:

Continued discussion of having artificial flowers for the chancel was held. A decision will be forthcoming when further research has been completed. It was suggested that the church make birthday cards for the deacons to send to their parishioners. "Lunch with Your Deacon" will be held on March 9. Possible programs were discussed.

New Business:

Tina Porter was commended for preparing the intinction communion for the summer months.

The meeting was closed with the Deacon Prayer.

Next meeting—November 7, 2017, at 2:00 pm in Annex 2; opening devotion and prayer—Floyd Beyer.

Next Session meeting—October 19, 2017, at 10:00 am in the Office Conference Room; Session Representative—Floyd Beyer.

"To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us—and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him." ~Thomas Merton



November 2017

A = Annex; CH = Chapel; DO = David's office; FR = Fireside Room; OC = Office Conference Room; SH = Swain Hall; SY = Sanctuary; WR = Westminster (Choir) Room

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Noon Bridge FR Noon Library open 6:00pm Choir WR	2	3 Church office closed 8:30am TGIF Bible Study FR	4
5 8:30am Communion rehearsal OC 9:00am Worship SY 10:00am Fellowship, Valley View Food Drive SH	6 9:30am Prayer Shawls A3	7 8:00am Men's Breakfast Fellowship SH 9:00am Prayer Partners CH 10:00am Staff DO 2:00pm Deacons AZ	8 10:00am Worship & CE OC 6:00pm Choir WR	9 9:00am Admin Comm OC 11:00am Cong Care OC	10 Church office closed 8:30am TGIF Bible Study FR	11
12 9:00am Worship SY 10:00am Fellowship & Birthdays SH	13 1:00pm WVGs SH	14 8:00am Men's Breakfast Fellowship SH 9:00am Prayer Partners CH 10:00am Staff DO 1:30pm Hearing Loss A1 1:30pm Rachel Circle A3	15 Noon Bridge FR Noon Library open 6:00pm Choir WR	16 10:00am Session OC 5:00pm Fellowship Dinner SH	17 Church office closed 8:30am TGIF Bible Study FR	18
19 9:00am Worship SY 10:00am Fellowship SH	20 SPIRE deadline 9:30am Prayer Shawls A3	21 8:00am Men's Breakfast Fellowship SH 9:00am Prayer Partners CH 10:00am Staff DO 10:00am Stephen Min A3	22 6:00pm Choir WR	23 Thanksgiving Church office closed	24 Church office closed 8:30am TGIF Bible Study FR	25 9:00 am Advent decorating SH
26 9:00am Worship SY 10:00am Fellowship SH	27	28 8:00am Men's Breakfast Fellowship SH 9:00am Prayer Partners CH 10:00am Staff DO 5:00pm Service of Reflection CH	29 8:30am Mail SPIRE OC 6:00pm Choir WR	30		