



# THE CROSSROADS

Gilbert Presbyterian Church is called to be a Christ-centered covenant family, nurtured by the Holy Spirit, to worship God and share God's love with EVERYONE.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### The Time In-Between

Last month I presented a tentative timeline and a general map for the journey ahead. This interim period provides an opportunity for the church to examine the way things have always been done and by whom.

This is a time when the congregation takes a look at its identity and ministry while the session reviews its procedures and guidelines. It is a time when focus is on specific areas of interim ministry.

Some Sundays, the sermon will deal directly with that, rather than with Christian living and faith in general. Watch for ways the congregation can participate more directly in this process

through surveys and discussion groups in August and September.

- Pastor Judy



## TRANSITION TEAM

The interim pastor's Transition Team has been selected. GPC members **Karen Gallagher, Susan Martinez, Dennis Wilkie, Judy Walmsley** and **Diana Schans**, along with **Anne Barton**, have agreed to serve. This group is responsible for gathering data and completing our mission study.

*ABOVE: Rick Black and Irene Williams, Joe Carpenter and Rob Nagy, Betty and Tom Walford, Pastor Judy*

## Gilbert Presbyterian Church

235 East Guadalupe Road

Gilbert, AZ 85234-4536

480.892.6753 / azgpc1@aol.com

Website: www.azgpc.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**SUNDAY WORSHIP** 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

(10:00 AM for July and August 2019)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** 10:00 AM

### STAFF

Interim Pastor..... The Rev. Judy Wellington

Admin. Assistant .....Liz Nelson

Chancel Choir Director.....Ray Zubler

Youth Choir Director ..... Susan Martinez

Joyful Ringers Director ..... Jennifer Nagy

Pianist/Organist..... Susan Martinez

### GPC SESSION

Ann Bernal, Gaill Blackburn, Mike Gallagher, Ken Hassen, Thomas Lemme, Rocky Mackey, Rob Nagy, John Paterson, John Stover, Judy Sullivan, Judy Walmsley, Cheryl Williams

### CLERK OF SESSION

Rochelle "Rocky" Mackey

### BOARD OF DEACONS

Debbie Andree, Bret Blackburn, Carole Blake, Lynn Clapper, Lisa Ewoldt, Linda Gibbons, Ginny Goodbar, Liz Hansen, David Nape, Cheri Peterson, Mary Sumner, Betty Walford

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings & Grounds, Education, Evangelism, Finance, Mission, Personnel, Stewardship, Worship



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Proofreaders: Gaill Blackburn, Carole Blake, Rocky Mackey, Liz Nelson and Judy Sullivan

Designer, Reporter and Editor: Barbara Zubler

Production and Circulation: Liz Nelson

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

The presbyteries of Grand Canyon and de Cristo hold an annual meeting dedicated to expanding knowledge of topics related to our church work, known as **The Big Event**. This meeting is open to all of us and you are encouraged to register and attend.

**The Big Event** will be held on August 24, 2019, at Mission Del Sol in Tempe, Arizona. Please register online at [pbygrandcanyon.org](http://pbygrandcanyon.org) and choose from over 25 workshops.

As a past attendee, I found these workshops informational and useful. I also met many of the great people who make up our presbytery. Please come, learn a little and make some new friends while enjoying food and fellowship too! - BZ



*Pastor Judy delivers a July 14 Children's Sermon to GPC's Ethan Nasiff, PhD candidate Joe Carpenter, college student Britney Blackburn, high school graduate Sammi Martinez, employed Madison Russell, and college senior Scott Martinez.*

## BELL CHOIR NEWS

**Joyful Ringers** will begin a new season of ringing soon!

If you are interested in learning more about what it means to play handbells, consider coming to our Bell Technique/Training Session on Thursday August 15, 2019, from 6:20 PM to 7:20 PM. Only very basic music reading skills are required.



Our regular rehearsal time for the 2019-2020 season will be Thursday evenings, from 6:20 PM to 7:20 PM. Our regular rehearsals will begin Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 6:20 PM. Our meeting day and time is a slight change from previous years.

The bell choir usually plays for Sunday worship services once a month, from September through May. Please consider joining in this music ministry within the church.

Contact director Jennifer Nagy at [janagysoprano@gmail.com](mailto:janagysoprano@gmail.com) or 480-734-7367 for more information.

## CHRIST'S KIDS

Christ's Kids rehearsals will resume September 1, 2019, immediately after 2nd service. We welcome all children 3 years old and up. We are a flexible and fun group who sing. Please joins us!

*Susan Martinez*

## CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS

The GPC **Chancel Choir** begins a new season on August 8, 2019!

We are always looking for more singers to help us in worship! If you are interested in singing with us, our weekly rehearsals have been moved to Thursdays from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the GPC sanctuary. An optional informational/introductory meeting will be held on August 1, 2019 at 7:30 PM. The first official chancel choir rehearsal will be on August 8, 2019, at 7:30 PM.



This year, you do NOT have to be able to read music to be in the choir! We will help you learn to read music as our year progresses. The only requirements are that you are able to listen well, and that you are at least 12 years old (7th grade).

While we encourage choir members to sing at every service when we sing our anthems, with proper notice, we are able to manage situations where members can only participate in one of the services on a Sunday.

This year is a great time to join our Chancel Choir. Please contact director Ray Zubler at [rezubler@gmail.com](mailto:rezubler@gmail.com) or 602-538-6556 for more information.



## CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

Two new members were welcomed into the Gilbert Presbyterian Church, one as a Confirmand and the second by Letter of Transfer from another Presbyterian church in California, at a called meeting of the session on July 21, 2019. They will be introduced to the congregation on August 4.



**Ryan Stover**, who has grown up in GPC and frequently takes part in worship services, joins through the confirmation process for youth. He is the son of members John and Angela Stover.

**David Paul** transfers from the Lompoc Presbyterian Church, of Lompoc, CA. He has attended and worked on GPC committees for some time. An ordained Elder, he is a lifelong Presbyterian.

Session members gathered as usual on the third Tuesday of July. It was determined at an earlier Stated Meeting of the session that the July meeting would be a workshop, not a business meeting. It was such a success that more workshops are scheduled for August 4, 11 and 25. A Stated Meeting of the session will be held on its regular date, August 20, 2019.

*Rocky Mackey*

## STEWARDSHIP

### *What is Meant by 'Stewardship' ?*

Stewardship is most often associated with money, but that is just part of stewardship. It is also associated with our time and talents, so being a good steward encompasses many kinds of activities. It was said by Charles R. Lane, "Stewardship is everything I do after I say 'I believe'."

You are a good steward if you serve on a church committee or community charitable committee.

You are a good steward if you usher or prepare communion elements on Sunday.

You are a good steward if you prepare or serve meals at UMOM or EVMC or FMSC.

You are a good steward if you are an active, engaged Deacon or Elder.

You are a good steward if you help to keep our campus in good shape.

You are a good steward if you participate in the Angel Tree program at Christmas.

You are a good steward if you attend church regularly.

And of course, you are a good steward if you financially support GPC and its programs.

What other illustrations of good stewardship can you think of?

*The Stewardship Committee*

# GPC BY THE NUMBERS

## ATTENDANCE REPORT

July 2019

07/07/19 .....	87
07/14/19 .....	75
07/21/19 .....	80
07/28/19 .....	97
Total Attendance: .....	339
Average Attendance per Sunday: .....	85

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balances as of June 30, 2019:

Operating.....	\$ 10,432.23
Savings.....	\$ 34,788.57
Capital Campaign .....	\$ 27,708.21
Total Income.....	\$ 23,984.18
Total Expense.....	\$ 17,930.14

### Breakdown of Giving for June 2019:

#### Unrestricted Giving

Operating.....	\$ 22,097.57
Facility Use .....	\$1,440.00

#### Restricted Giving

Christian Education.....	\$ 220.00
Deacons .....	\$ 0
Flowers.....	\$ 0
Interest .....	\$ 3.19
Local Mission.....	\$ 45.67
Miscellaneous Income .....	\$ 35.00
Per Capita .....	\$ 142.75

April per capita and mission pledges have been paid now, but May and June have **NOT** been paid to the presbytery. A second \$50,000 was used to pay down principal for our PILP loan in June.

- John Paterson, GPC Treasurer

**2019 PER CAPITA** is \$36.25 per member

# PER CAPITA

Per Capita is one of the oldest concepts of the Presbyterian Church in the New World. First mentioned in the 1700s, before the American Revolution, Per Capita was a revolutionary idea within the young and growing church. By the 1800s a "plan of mileage" was adopted by the General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church to defray the expenses of commissioners attending GA meetings so that everyone could be present to participate, regardless of distance or financial resources. Over time, Per Capita has been used to fund "ecclesiastical and administrative" functions that are shared by the whole church. In 1995, the following definition was developed:



*Per Capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) through the mid councils (presbyteries and synods) to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians (GA minutes, Part 1, 1995).*

Paying Per Capita is similar to contributing one's dish to a potluck meal, or paying to be connected to the Internet, or participating in community supported agriculture (CSA) or a similar co-op.

In essence, per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (USA). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC (USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system. More information about Per Capita will appear in future issues of *The Crossroads*.

Rocky Mackey

# LIVING THE FAITH

## WORDS



It had been a terrible day, somewhere in the middle of a terrible week, the end of another day in which I felt totally drained and misunderstood. I worked in an office where I spent most of my energy affirming and paying obeisance to an insecure supervisor. The thought (not a new one) occurred to me: “Just throw your coffee in her face, and walk out!” So far, I hadn’t.

Now I was driving down the boulevard in the early evening, feeling close to tears. The lights on the storefronts were blinking on and, as I passed one shop, my eyes caught the words of a sign: **PRINTING AND MAULING SERVICES.** I burst out laughing, and was still giggling several blocks later. Yes, I did feel mauled—and I was in my car, not a cage at the zoo! Unfortunately, things would be the same until I could quit that job, but the laughter had lifted my dark mood and put it all in perspective. I could manage, one more day.

Words, how I love them! At an early age, I was editing my mother’s request: “Would you like to do the dusting?” “Mom, you know I wouldn’t like to do the dusting-why don’t you just ask me, ‘please do the dusting?’ When you ask,

me if *I’d like to*, then I start thinking about how I really wouldn’t.”

During my childhood and early teens, I learned hundreds of Bible verses to win my entrance to Bible camp. Years later, when I was apart from God, these verses came back to me, lighted neon across my memory. “*I will never leave you, nor forsake you,*” and others. I knew He was still there, waiting for me to acknowledge Him again.

When, just a few years ago, I started back to church, I carried tissues to sop up the tears that would spring unbidden to my eyes. The verses from my childhood seemed so tender, so powerful now. They had been there all the time, buried in someone else’s rhetoric, and I hadn’t understood.

His words do come back, they do not return void, and they accomplish that which He sends them to do.

*Sharon Mahoe*



*Please welcome Liz Nelson, our fantastic new administrative assistant*

# BUNCO GAME NIGHT



On Sunday, July 28, 2019, we gathered for Game Night in the Palmer Center at 6:00 PM. A jovial crowd enjoyed playing bunco and munching on delectable treats. School supplies were requested, and donated with enthusiasm. Thank you to all of you who donated them! GPC's **Gaill Blackburn, Barb Atchison** and **Sue Hassen** were our Target gift card winners!



## MEET YOUR DEACON

**Bret Blackburn** has been a GPC member for 20 years. Bret is midway through his third 3-year term as a Deacon and will serve through December 2020. Bret served in the Army and was medically discharged due to a traumatic brain injury (TBI) in 1985, followed by a second TBI in 2004, at which time his handyman business had to close. Despite his two TBIs, his wife, Gaill, remarks that he is simply amazing, with all the things he can do, despite his brain injuries.

Bret is a very active member of our church. He sings in the choir (10+ years), ushers, serves communion, and sets up the adult Sunday school AV equipment each week (7+ years).

Bret currently serves as our unofficial church sexton. He unlocks the doors each Sunday, adjusts the air conditioning, moves furniture as required, and locks up after all of us leave. If we have flowers, he and his wife Gaill put them out and return them to the fridge after services. Bret sets up and tears down the tables and chairs required for any event held at our church.

At 60, Bret is the youngest member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, serving on this committee over 10 years. Since the irrigation system was broken, Bret has spent the spring and summer watering the church plants twice a week, fixing new leaks, keeping the trees trimmed, and performing the many tasks it takes to keep our campus operational. Since the landscapers moved to Mondays, Bret “blows” the courtyard before service on Sundays as needed. He removes new

carpet coffee stains throughout the campus as well. He is part of the B&G team grinding down high sidewalk areas to keep us safe. Bret was also one of the committee members present and working every day during church campus renovations over the past year.

Bret likes serving as a Deacon, and he utilizes the greeting card website *Blue Mountain Arts* to send cards to his flock. He actively drives church members to their appointments. Bret would love to have more time to attend to his flock, but this writer notes that maintaining the church campus takes up much of his time. Bret hopes some of the younger church members will join the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

When you see Bret, please thank him for his exceptional service to our church family, his unconditional love for us all, and his absolute willingness to perform any task requested of him. **Thank you, Bret!**



*Bret and his daughter Britney performed special music for our July 14, 2019 worship service.*

## MEET YOUR ELDER

**Gaill Blackburn** has been a GPC church member for 20 years. She and her husband, Bret, have a grown daughter, Britney, who was raised in our church family from the time she was three months old. Gaill is currently District 10 Director (of 5 states) for Little People of America (LPA).

Gaill began her second term as Ruling Elder this year. She has served or chaired the Evangelism Committee, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Christian Education Committee, and the Worship Committee. She is a member of the Interior Resources Committee, Technology task force, Property Management task force, and Presbyterian Women.

Gaill has been responsible for organizing major events at our church, including Palmer Retirements I and II, assisting with the Capital Campaign dinner, Bingo and Bunco, and the PW Christmas Cookie Sale.

Gaill manages and runs our live stream video Sunday worship service feeds, and has done so for over 10 years. She maintains the archives online. Gaill is heavily involved in bringing our church technology up to date. She and our administrative assistant, Liz Nelson, are in the process of revamping the GPC website, have updated the email system, and streamlined our Facebook and Google Business pages. Gaill was single-handedly responsible for hiring this editor for *The Crossroads*.

Gaill feels serving as an elder is a great

responsibility, being one of twelve ruling elders who represent the entire church. She enjoys the camaraderie of her peers. She feels it is important to listen, and to be open to new ideas, while representing multiple church member viewpoints.

Gaill has embraced volunteerism since Britney was six months old. Throughout the 28 surgeries her daughter has had, Gaill feels GPC has been an amazing comfort to her family, whether at home or in the hospital. Gaill feels unconditional love works both ways, and wants to give back to her church family and community by doing her favorite thing: bringing people together. Please thank Gaill for her outstanding service and dedication to us, her church family. **Thank you, Gaill!**



# AUGUST 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room <b>7:00pm Deacon Mtg</b> 7:30pm Choir 8:00pm AA Mtg	<b>2</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	<b>3</b> 6:45am AA Mtg
<b>4</b> 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship <b>11:15am Christian Ed Committee Mtg</b> 1:00-4:00pm Oasis <b>2:00pm Session Mtg Special</b> Heavenly Threads pick up	<b>5</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY 7:00pm AA Public Info Mtg	<b>6</b> 6:45am AA Mtg <b>7:00pm Mission Committee Mtg</b> 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	<b>7</b> 6:45am AA Mtg <b>8:00am Men's Breakfast IHOP</b> <b>1:00pm Stewardship Committee Mtg</b> <b>6:00pm Worship Committee Mtg</b> 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	<b>8</b> 6:45am AA Mtg <b>3:00pm Evangelism Committee Mtg</b> 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room <b>7:30pm Choir</b> 8:00pm AA Mtg	<b>9</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	<b>10</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 10:00am AA Special Mtg
<b>11</b> 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship <b>11:15am B&amp;G Committee Mtg</b> 11:30am - 10:00pm Jason's Deli Fundraiser 1:00-4:00pm Oasis <b>2:00pm Session Mtg Special</b> Heavenly Threads return 4:30pm Caregivers Support Group	<b>12</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg	<b>13</b> 6:45am AA Mtg <b>12:30pm PW QOV Quilters</b> <b>7:00pm Finance Committee Mtg</b> 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	<b>14</b> 6:45am AA Mtg <b>8:00am Men's Breakfast IHOP</b> <b>6:00pm Personnel Committee Mtg</b> 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	<b>15</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room <b>6:20pm Bell Choir</b> <b>7:30pm Choir</b> 8:00pm AA Mtg	<b>16</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	<b>17</b> 6:45am AA Mtg <b>9:00am PW Mtg</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship <b>1:30pm EVMC pack lunches</b> 1:00-4:00pm Oasis <b>4:15pm Piano Recital Martinez</b> 5:00pm GRASP	<b>19</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg	<b>20</b> 6:45am AA Mtg <b>7:00pm Session Mtg</b> 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	<b>21</b> 6:45am AA Mtg <b>8:00am Men's Breakfast IHOP</b> 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	<b>22</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room <b>6:20pm Bell Choir</b> <b>7:30pm Choir</b> 8:00pm AA Mtg	<b>23</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 3:30pm Breckenridge HOA Meeting 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	<b>24</b> 6:45am AA Mtg <b>9:00am The Big Event at Mission del Sol, Tempe</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship <b>2:00pm Session Mtg Special</b> 1:00-4:00pm Oasis <b>4:15pm Piano Recital Martinez</b> <b>6:00pm Game Night Bingo</b>	<b>26</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg	<b>27</b> 6:45am AA Mtg <b>12:30pm PW QOV Quilters</b> 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	<b>28</b> 6:45am AA Mtg <b>8:00am Men's Breakfast IHOP</b> 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	<b>29</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room <b>6:20pm Bell Choir</b> <b>7:30pm Choir</b> 8:00pm AA Mtg	<b>30</b> 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	<b>31</b> 6:45am AA Mtg

## FROM THE EDITOR'S LAPTOP

For those of us lucky enough to stay in the Valley all summer, we welcome the return of the hot, dusty and humid monsoon season each July. We emerge from our air conditioned houses to wash dust splattered vehicles, and retrieve windblown outdoor cushions from the corners of the yard where our evening storms blew them. We sit on the back porch and enjoy lightning displays with wild wind as chimes ring over our heads. We grumble as we skim the pool or sweep the sidewalks, but secretly we love this season, when we live more closely with the elements of our earth.



My favorite part of a monsoon storm occurs at the end, when the last rays of a sunset penetrate the clouds and send down shafts of evening light, connecting the earth with the skies. I feel the presence of God then, and a closeness with his created world. Each storm brings damage, but God shines on us in the light, and reminds us He is there for us as we make things right and face the next day.

May you openly enjoy our monsoon season and revel in the dust, the wind and hopefully some rain, knowing God has our backs. Blessings to you and yours!

*Barbara Zubler*

## AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2 Lynn Clapper  
2 Mary Ann Wilkie  
5 Beryl Elwood  
5 Tim Swanson  
6 Alia Eccles  
6 Terry Palmer  
7 Mike Russell  
11 Danny D'Aguanno  
11 Jan Palmer  
12 Terry Coutts

13 Anne Barton  
19 Joyce White  
22 Kaly Nasiff  
23 Matthew Burger  
24 John Stover  
25 Sue Jax  
31 Lena Nape

### WEDDING

### ANNIVERSARIES

3 Bruce & Dale Coe  
11 Rick & Marilyn Dickens  
13 John & Lisa Ewoldt  
14 Ken & Sue Hassen  
19 Bob & Mary Beth Szabo  
22 Elvin & Audrey Shaw  
26 Tom & Betty Walford  
29 Frank & Judy Walmsley