



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

Thanksgiving is over and we turn our sights to Advent and the Christmas season. As we go through this busy season, I hope you will remember that God has called us to be a part of GPC for this time. There is purpose to your being a part of GPC during a season of waiting and watching. Remember that the bigger picture wasn't clear to Mary or Joseph when God called them at a particular time. The bigger picture of your belonging to GPC may not be totally clear to you.

Why belong to a church that doesn't have a permanent pastor? *Why not?* God is still working out purposes of divine grace through us and among us here. This December may not look like other Decembers at GPC. But when it comes to loving God and each other, GPC is the

same vital congregation and people of faith! Sure, some activities have changed or will change. Others will remain the same and provide opportunities for new members to become involved and grow in faith. Jesus isn't present only in big churches or churches of a certain number of members. Christ is here in the waiting and preparing.

Maybe you will be involved in a variety of church activities this month, or maybe you will settle for just worship and two or three other ways to participate. It's not the number of things you do, but why you do them. It may be doing more, or it may be doing less that will help you be a better steward of your life. We all must continue to assess our place and our capacity for involvement. I pray you will take the time to see what a blessing you are to others and how others can be a blessing to you.

- Pastor Judy

ABOVE: Susan Martinez, Arlyn Hearn, Ellen Roberts, Don and Caralee Howlett, and 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM

STAFF

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

Admin. AssistantLiz 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



The Crossroads is published monthly; submission deadline is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Submit news and information via email to azgpcoffice@gmail.com or hand in hard copy to the church office.

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

Designer, Reporter and Editor: Barbara Zubler

Production and Circulation: Liz Nelson

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our children and youth will be helping lead worship on the third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019. Our older students will be serving as liturgists and leading prayers, and our younger students will be sharing their musical gifts in Christ's Kids.

The children's Sunday school class continues to study the "Living the Word" curriculum. The class meets following the children's message during the second service.

The youth (junior and senior high) class is studying the Rob Bell video series. The class meets at 10:00 AM in the senior high classroom.

The traditional Sunday school class for adults is studying "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes". The class meets in Room 7 of The Palmer Center.

The adult video class is studying "Because of Bethlehem", an Advent study. The class meets in the overflow area of the sanctuary.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Many thanks to Laurel Coughlin, Ginny Goodbar, Barbara Zubler, and Judy Sullivan, for tidying up the church library! Donations to the library are currently on hold until sorting is complete. The library should be back in service in January!!!

COOKIE SALE

The Gilbert Presbyterian Women will be having their annual Cookie Sale on **Sunday, December 15, 2019**. For over 10 years, PW has held a Christmas Cookie Sale to raise money for both local, Presbytery-wide, and national Presbyterian mission projects. Each year we contribute approximately \$2,000 to these projects. With an active membership of between 10 and 20 women, the annual Christmas cookie sale definitely helps to make this all possible.

But first, in order to sell cookies, we need people to bake cookies! We accept cookies, candy, and brownies (please no pies, cakes or cupcakes). There are two signup sheets: one can be found in the Sanctuary Narthex, and one in the Palmer Center Library on the desk. Please call Liz in the Church office at 480-892-6753, or sign up online at: <https://tinyurl.com/PWcookies2019>.

Please indicate if your cookies contain nuts, peanut butter, nut flavoring, or gluten. Disposable containers are preferred (or please make sure you have your name on your container).

Cookies need to be delivered to the Palmer Center Kitchen between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM on Saturday, December 14, 2019. Please use the south entrance by the kitchen.

We will be open for business on Sunday, December 15, 2019, from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. The cookies sell for \$6.00 per pound.

Thank you in advance for your support! If you have any questions please contact Gaill Blackburn at 602-920-5021 (call or text) or GaillBlackburn@gmail.com.

MONTLURE NEWS

The Montlure Traveling Day Camp will be held at Mesa First Presbyterian Church on June 22-26, 2020. Registration information will be available in January!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

We gathered on Friday, November 8, 2019, at FMSC for an evening of assembling meals to feed the starving children of this world.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN Pack again soon! | fmsc.org | [#fmsc](https://twitter.com/fmsc)

Boxes Packed: 170
Meals: 36,720
Kids Fed For A Year: 100
Cost: \$8,812.80

Christmas Eve Worship Services

December 24, 2019

5:00 PM Joyful Ringers

9:00 PM Chancel Choir

★
JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU

GPC WORK DAY

Our thanks to all who helped on **Irrigation Saturday**, November 16, 2019. We got a trench dug and 100 feet of pipe laid along with six risers for watering the trees and bushes on the east side of the Palmer Center. They cannot be seen from the center of the GPC campus, but they certainly can be seen when approaching the church on Guadalupe from the east. Those participating were Greg Smith, David Paul, Dennis Wilkie, Bret Blackburn, Jim Brown, Sean Gallagher and Mike Gallagher.

NEW MISSION

Have you heard about or seen **COFFEE ON THE CORNER** in action? The Evangelism Committee is trying out this new program for a few months. The goal is to reach out to our immediate neighbors with free coffee and cookies. Your assistance is needed from 9:45 AM until 10:30 AM to serve passers-by. Please see Ken Hassen or Gaill Blackburn if you can help!

PSALM 133

Paraphrased by Frank Walmsley

How good it is! How wonderful it is
When we live and worship together in
unity!
The love and grace of God flowing down
from the mountains,
Like rain, a heavenly sent refreshment
Onto our heads in abundance.
Soaking into us and flowing down,
Dripping off our chins,
Soaking our clothes,
Filling our shoes, filling our souls,
Telling us we are God's children,
Loved and empowered like never before.



CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

The next Stated Meeting is Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 6:30 PM. Please notify Pastor Judy if you would like a place on the docket.

Rocky Mackey

CHURCH OUTING

The deacons have secured 25 tickets to a performance of ***Barefoot in the Park*** at the Hale Centre Theatre in downtown Gilbert. Here are the details:

WHAT: Performance of Barefoot in the Park

WHERE: Hale Centre Theatre, 50 West Page Avenue, Gilbert

WHEN: Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 12:00 PM

COST: \$ 27 per ticket

A group of 25 seats has been secured for the performance. A sign-up sheet and envelope will be in the Narthex. Checks should be made out to Lisa Ewoldt. Money must be turned in by Sunday, December 29, 2019, as the Hale Theatre requires payment two weeks in advance. Questions can be directed to Lisa Ewoldt at ewoldt.lisajohn@gmail.com.

This will be a great time!

CHRISTMAS ANGELS



Once again we will have a Christmas Angel Tree in the narthex for our GPC West families. Please take an angel card with a needy child's wishes and replace it with a Christmas ornament from the basket by the tree. Return your wrapped gifts by December 22 as delivery to GPC West is scheduled for Monday, December 23, 2019, with the food boxes. Please see the bulletin for further information on this program. Thank you for participating!

GPC BY THE NUMBERS

ATTENDANCE REPORT

November 2019

11/03/19	132
11/10/19	129
11/17/19	125
11/24/19	124
Total Attendance:	510
Average Attendance per Sunday:	127

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balances as of October 31, 2019:

Operating.....	\$ 3,653.18
Savings.....	\$ 26,606.86
Capital Campaign	\$ 31,269.03
Total Income.....	\$ 24,214.07
Total Expense.....	\$ 18,925.55

Breakdown of Giving for October 2019:

Unrestricted Giving

Operating.....	\$ 19,654.57
Facility Use	\$2,130.00

Restricted Giving

Worship	\$ 0
Deacons	\$ 105.00
Scrip Cards.....	\$ 1,740.00
Fry's Fundraisers	\$ 106.60
Interest	\$ 2.18
Local Mission	\$ 27.02
Per Capita	\$ 184.70

September per capita and mission pledges have been paid but October has not been paid to the presbytery, so we are currently one month behind in our payments to them.

- John Paterson, GPC Treasurer

2019 PER CAPITA is \$36.25 per member

IN MEMORY OF FREDERICK ELVIN SHAW

April 28, 1929 to October 30, 2019

Services were held on Saturday, November 9, 2019, at GPC

Elvin Shaw passed away at home, age 90. Left to cherish memories of him are his wife of 65 years, Audrey; a son Brian; daughter Janet and son-in-law Tom; and grandchildren Patrick and Sophia Keith; a sister Helen Louise and many loving family members and friends too numerous to mention.

Born in Los Angeles, he was the son of Fred Shaw Jr. and LaWilda (Nell) Berlin Shaw. Graduation from Washington High School in 1947 was followed by LA City College, 1949. In 1950 he joined the Navy, serving honorably during the Korean War on the USS McGintey for four years. He married Audrey, his college sweetheart, on August 22, 1954. He received a bachelor's degree from LA State College, 1957. He worked for Rockwell International as an electrical engineer and field manager for 28 years.

After retiring in 1987, Elvin and Audrey enjoyed 36 years of RVing around the US, as well as travel overseas. He was state manager for Holiday Ramblers RV Club in Utah and Arizona. He coordinated state and regional rallies, assisted with international gatherings and led RV caravans to rallies and campouts.

A lifelong Christian, Elvin was raised in the First Baptist Church in LA. He married Audrey in Morningside United Church of Christ, Ingelwood, CA, and later joined Faith Community UCC in Garden Grove, CA. They were faithful church members everywhere they lived—California, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona where they found a church home and became active members of Gilbert Presbyterian Church.

LIVING THE FAITH

BLESSED TO LISTEN

Someone toughed it out for three days with a bad cold. I caught it from her—just in time for the choir retreat. Most frustrating, I had lost my voice, and could only squawk. Should I go after all? At the last minute, I thought, “Maybe I’ll be even sicker next week—is this smart?” True, my nose felt so stuffy I could hardly breathe, but if I stayed home I would still have the stuffy nose! “Never mind, God will work it out. Lord, please bless this time even though I can’t sing.”



Promptly at nine on Saturday morning everyone gathered for rehearsal. Unable to participate in the music, I became intent on the words:

“This stable is a Prince’s court, This crib
His chair of State;

The beasts are parcel of His pomp—the
wooden dish His plate.

The Person in that poor attire His royal
liveries wear;

The Prince Himself is come from heaven;
This pomp is priz’-ed there.”

My eyes filled. Around me, the music soared. I thought of all those generations of people who had ever celebrated Christmas, long before shopping malls, catalogs and credit cards. “Abby, your

father took on extra jobs for the neighbors all year to buy this doll for you.” “Mama, the Masons are waiting outside in their carriage. They want me to go caroling. May I?”

And now, 2,000 years later, over Johannesburg and London, Bosnia and Boston, the angels still proclaim His birth. Oh, perhaps not over a quiet hillside, hanging from the stars. But through the words sung by young carolers at a retirement home; by the Beautiful People crowded into orchestra seats at the Messiah Sing-A-Long; and by a young mother, crooning a lullaby to warm her children among war-torn ruins.

During this time when commercials rise to a crescendo and calendars protest, “I can’t handle any more!” take the time to listen to the words.

Sharon Mahoe



YOUR FAVORITE GPC CHRISTMAS MEMORY

The Christmas plays the children and teens used to do. There was a real sense of community. It was fun to teach the kids the Christmas story.

Britney Blackburn

We get to use some of the seldom-used Advent hymns, the ones with haunting harmonies and beautiful melodies.

Susan Martinez

My favorite memories of the Christmas season at GPC were the many Christmas Potlucks followed by the Children's Performance. I pray every day for GPC to be blessed with more children like it once was!

Gaill Blackburn

The Christmas Angel program.

Mary Jenkins

The feelings of hope and anticipation, which add greatly to our energy levels.

Ray Zubler

For two years, I have been unable to attend Christmas Eve services. I so loved the people who came to my home.

Barb Atchison

Our son Ian was just a baby. The Christmas program was being held on a Saturday night and he was the baby in the manger. My husband Dave draw a picture of him and that picture graced the cover of the bulletin. Five years later, we were able to experience this moment again when our son, Joshua, got to be the baby Jesus.

Cheri Peterson

Presenting the gifts and food boxes to GPC West. The joy in the kids is very magical.

Don Boyd

I remember lots of little children singing during the Christmas Eve service, the orchestra and beautiful songs they played. It felt relaxed and "right." Ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Marge Hathaway

The beauty of the Advent artwork and fabrics, especially the nativity scene in stained glass applique (created by Jeani Mitchell), as well as Ginny Goodbar's Advent banners.

Sharon Mahoe



Coming in and seeing the church decorated for Advent for the first time. It is breathtaking, one never knows what to expect.

Laura Coughlin

When I was a very little child, we were very poor. At church I was given an orange and a banana—I had never seen them before. I still think of that every time I have one!

Don Howlett

I remember the first time that Sue and I saw the GPC Christmas Angel tree and walking over to it, seeing the individual angels and discovering the significance of the children represented on each angel! Sue and I made a big fuss, (as we still do each Christmas season) on shopping for our angel, no differently than if for a child of our own. This tradition continues to further connect us to the true spirit which is Christmas and to each other, especially during these times when abounding distractions work to disconnect people from the true value of Christmas tradition and what Christmas truly is: a big birthday celebration for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Ken Hassen

My family had the honor of lighting the very first Advent candle ever—in 1983.

Sue Jax

FAVORITE GPC CHRISTMAS MEMORY PAGE 2

My favorite was the huge golden fabric angels with trumpets designed by Dixi one year.

Cheryl Williams

One year Dixi McKenzie, Kim Lynch and I set up the huge golden fabric angels with trumpets. It was a toss-up as to which husband was going to have to climb the ladder to place them!

Dorothy Smith

I remember several special times at GPC during Christmas. I always enjoy the candle light service and singing Silent Night, it just made Christmas so special. Also enjoy giving gifts to people we pick from the Angle Tree.

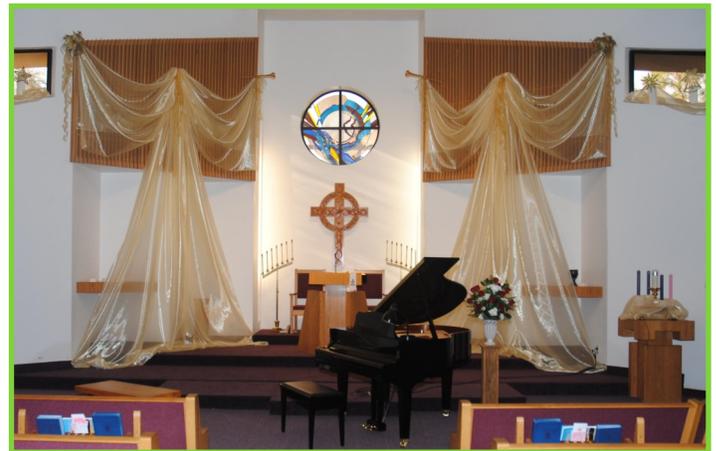
Mary Sumner

Probably my favorite Christmas activity at GPC (besides the cookie sale!) is the Christmas Eve worship service. I've been to both the early and late services, and each is special in its own way. The retelling of the story of the birth of Jesus, through both readings of scripture and singing of carols, reminds me of what is truly important at this crazy busy time of year. I leave feeling peaceful and calm, and ready to approach the new year with a determination to count my blessings every single day.

Judy Sullivan

Silent Night in the courtyard by candlelight on Christmas Eve.

Barbara Zubler



I love the Christmas Eve services. I remember singing the carols together and enjoying the beautiful voice of a special person next to me.

Sylvia Legal

I like everything.

Liz Hansen

I especially enjoy singing *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. My favorite part is when the lights gradually go out and we are in candlelight.

Jewel Nicholls

The lighting of the candles for singing *Silent Night* at the end of each service means a lot to us because in a previous church, it was our responsibility to start the candle lighting.

Ralph and Joyce Johnson

The Christmas potluck and the Nativity play performances following, acted by the children.

Tom Russell

One of my friends had a young daughter in the Christmas play put on by the youth. She was cast as an angel. When she came on stage, she was so proud and happy she walked back and forth instead of standing still, just beaming with smiles.

Irene Williams

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this church family article!

- BZ



QUILTS OF VALOR AT GPC

In 2003, the Quilts of Valor Foundation was founded by Catherine Roberts, whose son Nat was deployed in Iraq. Catherine had experienced a vivid dream, in which she saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed, hunched over. She could see his war demons clustered around him, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, in the next scene, she saw him wrapped in a quilt ~ and his whole demeanor changed from despair to one of hope and wellbeing. She says that the message of the dream was:

QUILTS = HEALING

The mission of the *Quilts of Valor Foundation* is to award a quilt to those who have been “touched by war” by serving during war time. A Quilt of Valor would say, “Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor.” The GPC congregation has seen awardees become very emotional for their award, and for being recognized for their service.



The original founding quilters from 2007: Betty Walford, Kaye, Janet Paterson, Barb Zubler, Mary Jenkins, Arlyn Hearn, Ellie Gill.

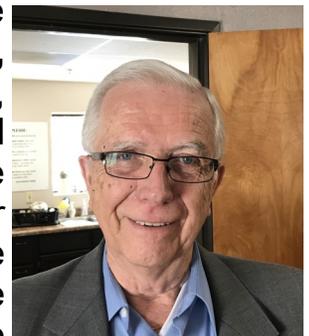
The GPC Quilters are sponsored by our Presbyterian Women’s group. Each quilt is formed by loving hands that join pieces of fabric together, one at a time. They are considered “the equivalent of a civilian purple heart” by the QOV Foundation. Most of the quilts that are made by the GPC Quilters are turned over to our Arizona QOV State Coordinator to be awarded in Arizona. Others we have personally awarded. What a mission it is to have the privilege of honoring someone for his or her service.

To nominate someone who served or is presently serving in any branch of the military during wartime, the website is: **QOVF.org**.

*Sue Jax, Team Leader
GPC Quilters*

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next blood drive will be held **Saturday, December 7, 2019**, from 7:00 AM until 11:00 AM in The Palmer Center. Your donations are valuable. We are looking for 10 more volunteers to donate blood. Please call or text John Stover (602-284-1437) to reserve a time. Thanks again to all those who have donated in the past!



TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

Highlights from the Third Congregational Survey of October 13, 2019

On an importance scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest, the average ranking in category (Column 1) was in the range of 2.5 to 4.7. In the report below, an average of 4.0 and above was considered to be of high importance, 3.0 – 3.9 medium importance, and below 3.0 as lowest. **The highest listings of 4.7 were for Chancel Choir and Children's Choir.** Those categories receiving less than a 3.0 average were *Coordinate guest speakers, Prison Ministry, After School Tutoring, Volunteer Reading to Children, and Food Trucks*, with *Coordinate Guest Speakers* as the lowest.

Mission Activities

Medium to strong importance and involvement was reported for most of the current mission activities in which GPC is currently engaged. Especially strong support was noted for the **holiday food boxes** and the **Christmas Angels**. Only *Prison Ministry* had more responses of 1 (one) in importance rank than responses in any other of the four choices (2-5). Although high importance was not noted for *After School Tutoring* and *Volunteer Reading with Children*, a number of persons expressed interest in doing this. The same was true for *Visitation to Assisted Living Homes*.

Buildings and Grounds

Every item listed in this category received high support or just below high importance.

Worship

As one might expect, worship was reported as high importance, especially the music programs. In addition to music, many people are participating in ushering, being liturgist and acolytes. Although items including *Service in the Park*, and *Bible Chats in Local Cafes* were recorded as medium importance, there were very few responders who reported an interest in serving in these areas. Notably, about one-third of those taking the survey are interested in supporting the category 'Explore new and existing worship experiences'.

Christian Education

Everything related to the education of children and youth was deemed to be of high importance. Intergenerational activities ranked as somewhat lesser in importance and the library received only medium support with almost no one interested in working on it.

Evangelism

The activities in this area were generally noted as slightly lower than medium.

The Transition Team



MEET YOUR DEACON

Ginny Goodbar is completing her fifth consecutive year as a Deacon and her term will end in December. She is a retired businesswoman, having owned an art gallery in Scottsdale, Arizona, and the business *Quilting in the Desert* (which this author happily attended prior to meeting Ginny). Ginny is a first-rate domestic engineer. She has been married for 13 years to her husband Lyn. They live in Sunland Village East, where other GPC members are located. Ginny has one son and one daughter, and has three sisters. Her parents are in Minnesota.

Ginny is a creative fiber artist, having designed and made our sanctuary banners during Pastor Terry's sabbatical, and the baptism banner with the beautiful shell. She has decorated the church for Easter and Christmas seasons, as well as creating the wonderful Advent banners we enjoy each year.

Ginny has served on the Worship Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee. She is an usher, liturgist and faithful coffee deacon. Ginny joined the bell choir and chancel choirs this year and we love having her participate! Ginny often does mission work with our members. She has served at UMOM, FMSC, EVMC and Paz de Cristo, as well as delivering Christmas Angel boxes and gifts to GPC West. She participates in Heavenly Threads as well.

Ginny's favorite role as a deacon is to chat with GPC attendees before service and during the coffee hour. She feels talking and connecting with each other strengthens our church family bonds and

keeps us together. Ginny says, "I love my church people. That's what makes it more than anything else."

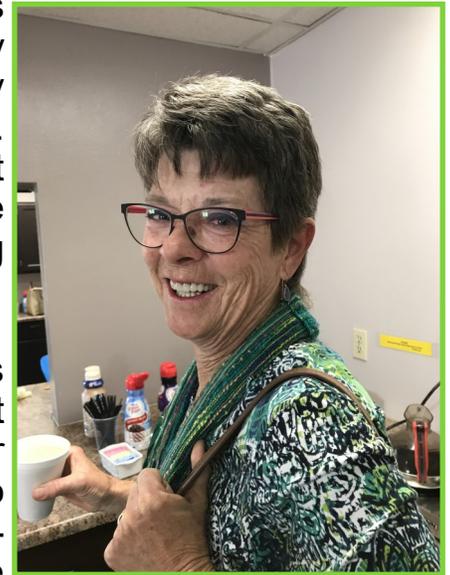
Ginny feels it is very important to keep our campus open to the various 12-step groups we

host as part of GPC's mission outreach. Our church serves as a refuge and place of rest and support for these groups, and she would like this mission work to continue.

When asked for advice regarding our pastor transition time, Ginny feels we should be patient with the process and do our best to keep an open mind. She believes we will be in a different place than we are now, not better or worse, just different. In addition to changing our pastor, Ginny would like to see some change in the way we set up the chancel front in the sanctuary. Atmosphere affects our worship and so décor is important.

One of Ginny's favorite Christmas season memories is the beauty of the sanctuary when decorated for Christmas, and the beauty of the music throughout the Advent season.

The next time you see Ginny, please thank her for her outstanding service to our church family. **Thank you, Ginny!**



MEET YOUR ELDER

Ann Bernal has been attending GPC for 9 years. Ann and her husband, Dan, have been married 40 years, have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Ann has worked for utility company APS for 36 years and is an Accounting Advisor, managing special projects and initiatives for the accounting department.

She is completing her sixth year as a Ruling Elder and her term expires in December. Ann serves on the Personnel Committee and Mission Committee, and served on the Interim Pastor Search Committee. Ann actively participates in the mission work of our church, serving at FMSC, UMOM, EVMC, Paz de Cristo, Heavenly Threads and organizing food boxes for GPC West at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. She assists with the Justa Center President's Day lunch and participates in the Christmas Angel program, organizing the project and delivering gifts and food boxes to GPC West.

Ann's favorite part of being an elder is the opportunity she has had to serve the needs of others with mission activities and to help with the governance of the church. Ann has been able to bring her business knowledge to the church and has helped develop and support Personnel guidelines. She is currently working on developing new facility agreements with those groups who utilize our campus.

When asked for advice regarding this transition time, Ann thinks it is important that we act with patience and give the

process the time needed to do the job right. This is a unique time for people to be able to express their thoughts and ideas, and Ann actively invites our members to participate in the process.

Ann's favorite part of the Advent season here at GPC is the Christmas Angel program. Going to GPC West to hand out the food boxes and gifts, and to see the joy on everyone's faces is very satisfying. The community is truly grateful to us for this mission outreach.

Ann's first love at GPC is doing the mission work of our church. When you next see her, please say thank you to Ann for her guidance and dedication not only to GPC, but to all the people our mission work touches throughout the year. **Thank you, Ann!**



IN MEMORY OF GRACE LOUISA WHITE MOSSMAN

February 20, 1944 — November 7, 2019

Funeral services were held at GPC on Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Grace Mossman passed away at her home in Gilbert at age 75. Her wit and wisdom will be sorely missed by her husband David, son Kenneth, daughter-in-law Christina, and David's siblings: Pete, Don and Judy Clark. She will also be missed by her friends at GPC, the presbytery, professional associates and acquaintances. She is preceded in death by her parents Billie and Kenneth White and her brother David.

Born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, she and her brother spent many summers with their mother's family in the North Carolina mountains. Grace and her family were devout, active members of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. After earning a bachelor's degree in microbiology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Grace went to work for the National Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta.

Grace and David married on June 8, 1968, and moved to Arizona in 1969. She went to work for the Arizona Department of Health Services, starting in the lab section. She worked her way up to Director of the Laboratory Certification and Licensure. In 1987 she started a



consulting group to help laboratories, sewage treatment facilities and health-related companies meet and maintain Arizona requirements. She also taught various courses at Phoenix College.

When Grace's father moved to the valley in early 2000 her priorities evolved. She continued to teach, and consulting jobs decreased as she and her father's searches for "the best church" led them to GPC. She became a Ruling Elder, serving in many capacities at GPC and in the presbytery. Grace found this investment of energy was fulfilling; thus her devotion to the church occupied most of her time and attention.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:30am Coffee 10:00am Christian Education 12:15pm Christian Ed Committee Mtg 12:20pm Christ's Kids Rehearsal 1:00-4:00pm Oasis	2 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY 7:00pm AA Public Info – Room 6	3 6:45am AA Mtg 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Mission Committee Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	4 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Break- fast IHOP 6:00pm Worship Committee Mtg 7:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	5 6:45am AA Mtg 6:20pm Bell Choir 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Choir 8:00pm AA Mtg	6 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	7 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00am Blood Drive 9:00am Deacon Mtg
8 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:30am Coffee 10:00am Christian Education 12:15pm B&G Com- mittee Mtg 12:20pm Christ's Kids Rehearsal 1:00-4:00pm Oasis 4:30pm Caregivers Support Group	9 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY	10 6:45am AA Mtg 12:30pm PW QOV Quilters 1:00pm Bible Study 2:30pm Steward- ship Committee Mtg 7:00pm Finance Committee Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	11 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Break- fast IHOP 6:00pm Personnel Committee Mtg 7:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	12 6:45am AA Mtg 3:00pm Evangelism Committee Mtg 6:20pm Bell Choir 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Choir 8:00pm AA Mtg	13 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	14 6:45am AA Mtg 9:00am-4:00pm Cookie Drop-off
15 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:00am-12:30pm PW Cookie Sale 9:30am Coffee 10:00am Christian Education 12:20pm Christ's Kids Rehearsal 1:00-4:00pm Oasis 5:00pm GRASP	16 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY	17 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00am-5:00pm Lifeline Screening 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Session Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	18 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Break- fast IHOP 7:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	19 6:45am AA Mtg 6:20pm Bell Choir 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Choir 8:00pm AA Mtg	20 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	21 6:45am AA Mtg 9:00am Presbyterian Women Mtg 4:45pm Piano Recital
22 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:30am Coffee 10:00am Christian Education 12:20pm Christ's Kids Rehearsal 12:30pm Prepare Christmas Boxes 4:45pm Piano Recital	23 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY Deliver Xmas Angel Gifts and Food Boxes to GPC West	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00pm and 9:00pm Worship Services 6:45am AA Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	26 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 8:00pm AA Mtg	27 6:45am AA Mtg 3:30pm Brecken- ridge HOA 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	28 6:45am AA Mtg
29 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:30am Coffee 10:00am Christian Education 12:20pm Christ's Kids Rehearsal 1:00-4:00pm Oasis 5:00pm UMOM	30 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY	31 6:45am AA Mtg 1:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	DECEMBER 2019			

FROM THE EDITOR'S LAPTOP

Aren't you excited for the Advent season? Me too. Oh wait, I am a musician! November and December are filled with wonderful music concerts and reenactments of the birth of our beloved Savior. But all that music must be prepared, which is why I try to start Christmas music practice in August. Thankfully, air conditioning noise drowns me out from the ears of my close neighbors!



What a wonderful time of year to celebrate not only the birth of Christ, but our family

connections. I took the liberty of asking our church family members to describe their favorite GPC Christmas memory. I hope you enjoyed reading the responses as much as I did!

I look forward to celebrating with all of you, my church family, on Christmas Eve. As we unite in spirit and song, may you feel the blessed peace, closeness and contentment that comes with God's love.

Barbara Zubler

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2 Joyce Johnson
3 Pam Russell
4 Dale Coe
4 Jaxon Grothe
4 Emily Nasiff
13 Don Ruehmann
17 Grace Nagy
17 Tom Winter
18 Emily Russell
19 Ryan Stover
21 Marge Hathaway

22 Alex Martin
23 Mike Gallagher
27 Sara Kevern
29 Jillian Cox

WEDDING

ANNIVERSARIES

7 Greg and Dorothy Smith
22 Dan and Ann Bernal
24 Dave and Kim Lynch