



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

Last month I talked about the significance of spiritual practices in supporting **faith formation** and said I would write about faith formation this month. What is it and why talk about it?

One website describes it this way: "Faith formation is at the heart of what the Christian life is all about. In many ways we engage in the practices of our daily lives and the rituals of our faith communities – through worship, mission, working for justice and peace, evangelism, and education – so that our faith may be nurtured, enlivened, sustained and formed."
<http://www.ucc.org/education>

Another site puts it this way: "We define faith formation as every action, experience, or relationship that nurtures a transformative relationship of trust with God and shapes the way we see and interact with God's world. Basically, faith formation is the process by which our faith grows, and our lives are shaped by God's love."

<https://spiritandtruthpublishing.com/faith-formation/#whatis>

As a pastor, I see this as the goal of all that we undertake as a church, and because we are here for those who have grown up in a Christian environment and those who have not, we need to think about the ways we can support the faith of all. How is the love of Christ, the good news of God's grace, and the power of the Holy Spirit shared among each other and with the world?

In the short time I have been with Gilbert Presbyterian Church, I have observed several ways you offer opportunities to support faith formation, and it is exciting. Maybe this is not one of the ways you have talked about your church in the past, but it certainly is a part of your reality. Worship, praying for others, mission activity that meets physical needs, learning more about the Bible, quilting for a purpose, singing praises, laughing and crying with one another are only some of the important ways this church is faithful. You are practicing your faith together, and I encourage you to invite others to join you.

Pastor Judy

ABOVE: Mary Jenkins, Barb Atchison and Barb Belz, Stacey Bruno, Caralee and Don Howlett, Pastor Judy

Gilbert Presbyterian Church

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Gilbert, AZ 85234-4536

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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..... Jan Palmer
Youth Choir Director Susan Martinez
Joyful Ringers Director Jennifer Nagy
Pianist/Organist..... Susan Martinez
Webmaster..... vacancy

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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Did you know we are blessed with not one, but two adult Sunday School classes? Pastor Judy facilitates lively Bible-based discussions on next week's Scripture and sermon. This group meets in the Palmer Center meeting room 7 at 10:00 AM each Sunday. All are welcome!



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Thank you to all our GPC members who participated!



BOY SCOUTS

Our local Boy Scout Troop 286 held a pancake breakfast for us on Sunday, April 28, 2019. This annual event is a blessing, as not only are we fed well, we had a chance to mingle and chat with the scouts. Thank you!



TTF FORMATION

The newly formed **Technology Task Force** is meeting regularly. Their mission, as assigned by the Session, is to assess, coordinate and oversee the use of technology in worship, communication, security, offerings collection, and mission outreach. Members include Gail Blackburn, Ray and Barb Zubler, David Paul, Ken Hassen, David Martinez and Pastor Judy.

NURSERY UPDATE

Last month we asked for volunteers to cover the nursery during Sunday services. Unfortunately, no one stepped forward to volunteer. Therefore, please note that beginning June 2, 2019, there will be nursery care available for the **8:30 AM worship service only**.

We do want to thank our three volunteers who have been working in the nursery and missing worship services themselves due to covering both services. A huge thank you to **Judy Sullivan, Britney Blackburn and Cheryl Williams !!!**

WORSHIP HELP NEEDED



Why do Judy, Frank and Cheryl look so happy? They enjoy preparing our communion elements! The Worship Committee is looking for more people to assist with this important part of worship. Tasks include preparation before first service, restocking between services, and cleaning up after second service. You do not have to do all three! Contact Cheryl Williams at grafivr@gmail.com.

JOYFUL RINGERS 2018-19 SEASON ENDS



FIRST ROW: Linda Savarese, Marilyn Dickens,, Sue Jax, Judy Walmsley, director Jennifer Nagy
SECOND ROW: Ray Zubler, Judy Sullivan, John Paterson, Barbara Zubler

The Joyful Ringers performed a wide variety of music this year utilizing handbells, chimes, and even percussion! We want to grow to a three-octave choir, so if you read music and have played an instrument or sing, please contact Jennifer at janagysoprano@gmail.com. We start rehearsals again in August.



On Saturday, May 4, 2019, members **Jennifer Nagy, Marilyn Dickens** and **Sue Jax** attended the Area 11 Handbell Musicians of America event “*Handbells Rising*” with clinician Debbie Rice, at Mountain View Lutheran Church. Over six handbell choirs attended, with a mass ringing concert at 3:00 PM finishing off a great day of music workshops and praise.



CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

In a called meeting, session members enthusiastically approved membership for **Richard Wyman**. He will be introduced to us at our 8:30 AM Sunday worship service on June 2, 2019.



In other recent actions, the session approved: (1) a volunteer position of Property Manager, to be administered by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, (2) placed responsibility for management of GPC's administrative functions with the Personnel Committee, and (3) accepted a request from the non-profit support organization **GRASP** to hold monthly meetings in the Palmer Center.

Rocky Mackey

EVMC NEEDS HELP

We will prepare lunches on Sunday, June 9, 2019, at 1:30 PM in the Palmer Center. Please sign up to help!

HEALING SERVICE

Our inaugural Healing Service was such a success, we are going to host another one! Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 23, 2019, at 6:30 PM. If you have questions, please email Rob Nagy at robnagyson@gmail.com.

facebook.
Live Streaming



Please note that the 11:00 am service is being live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AzGpcActivitiesPage/>



Thanks for collecting these labels to help support The Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We sent in 529 labels this time. Each one is worth ten cents to the school. Since we have started collecting these labels in 2014, we have sent The Menaul School a total of 3,383 labels (worth about \$338) to them for the purchase of needed items.



A container is in the narthex. Add your labels to the container and they will be sent to The Menaul School. We are only collecting **Box Tops for Education** as shown from General Mills products.

Thank you for supporting this excellent Presbyterian-related school.

Frank Walmsley

GPC BY THE NUMBERS

ATTENDANCE REPORT

May 2019

05/05/19	116
05/12/19	116
05/19/19	102
05/26/19	120
Total Attendance:	454
Average Attendance per Sunday:	113

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balances as of April 30, 2019:

Operating.....	\$ 6,293.82
Savings.....	\$ 30,103.96
Capital Campaign	\$ 74,132.20
Total Income.....	\$ 36,396.00
Total Expense.....	\$ 22,283.42

Breakdown of Giving for April 2019:

Unrestricted Giving

Operating.....	\$ 31,201.32
Facility Use	\$1,495.00

Restricted Giving

Christian Education.....	\$ 640.00
Deacons	\$ 0
Evangelism	\$ 0
Flowers.....	\$ 40.00
Interest	\$ 3.96
Local Mission.....	\$ 212.97
Per Capita	\$ 397.75
Fund Raisers (Scrip Cards)	\$ 2,405.00

April per capita and mission pledges have **NOT** been paid to the presbytery and they were notified; \$15,000 moved to savings to cover summer month expenses.

- John Paterson, GPC Treasurer

2019 PER CAPITA is \$36.25 per member

FINANCE UPDATE

Since last month's update, I am pleased to report that everyone's increased giving has continued through April and the first few weeks of May. We continue to watch what we spend our income on and are saving any added income we have received to date for use during the summer months.



Summer is the time of the year when our normal levels of tithes and offerings are at their lowest, since many of our members and friends are out of town and out of state. Income above and beyond the first 4 to 5 months of the year is used to cover shortages normally expected during the middle of the year. The income we receive during the remainder of this month and the month of June will provide a better picture of where we stand and what, if any, additional actions might be necessary.

At this point, we are hopeful that these levels will continue, thanks to the continued generosity of the members and many friends of GPC.

God bless you and thank you!

GPC Finance Committee

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Effective immediately, **The Crossroads** is available by electronic means only. Please contact Liz Nelson in the office (azgpcoffice@gmail.com) if you are not receiving it via email. Thank you!

LIVING THE FAITH

THE PRUNER

The leaves on the trees outside my third floor window danced with each waft of wind. I loved to watch the play of light and shadow against the side of the building next door. The branches muted the sunlight coming into the office and, as I stood at the cabinet to schedule patient appointments, I would gaze at the tree trunks' ragged textures and follow the bees as they moved around the tiny flowers.



Then one day I noticed some construction going on. I walked carefully past the windows so as not to disturb the builders. Mr. and Mrs. Bird were preparing for their nuclear family! Soon the project was completed and shifts assigned for runs to the grocery.

One Monday morning I arrived in the office to find two more little bodies flopping around an already crowded nest. I watched with envy as the wind rocked them in their new home. The location seemed so ideal, I wished I could apply for the next vacancy.

Within a few days, the family moved without telling me. Perhaps they sought a better school district. Over my "fence" I checked often to see whether any new occupants might be moving in.

A week later, on the patio below there appeared some large trucks, their cranes reaching to the sky—and to my trees! I opened the window and called out the screen, "What are you doing? You're cutting down my shade!" The burly man shut off his clipper and replied, "This kind of tree is very brittle; it won't last through a storm unless it is cut back. If there is a lot of wind, it could cause quite a bit of damage." I was sick.

By the end of the day, the trucks had gone, and so had over 15 feet of my tree. Now the sunlight was so bright I had to pull the drapes or get a headache. I missed the graceful sway of the branches and was sad that I would not have the birds again as neighbors.

Several weeks later, San Diego experienced a very heavy storm with rain and wind severely lashing the coast. Damages from fallen tree branches were great and the cause of many power outages.

The next morning I cut through the parking lot and went directly to the patio below my office window. None of the branches were down, nor had any been broken or cracked. At last I understood.

I loved the trees. But the Pruner loved them more.

Sharon Mahoe

B & G HELP NEEDED

The Building & Grounds Committee has been tasked by Session with the responsibility of Property Management for the GPC campus. If you have any experience in any aspect of Property Management, and are willing to assist us in this effort, please join us. We meet the second Sunday of each month, after the second service. Please contact Mike Gallagher for more information or to volunteer. 480.497.8604 / azMikeG@gmail.com.



Confirmation

Classes will be held
in between services
June 16, 23 & 30

This intergenerational class is also
open to anyone wanting a refresher!
(More details to follow)

OUR MISSION WORK

The Mission Committee at GPC coordinates several projects each year to support the community, made possible by the generous outpouring of time and treasure from the congregation. This month we are highlighting activities for two of the organizations that GPC supports: the UMOM Halle Women's Center, and the East Valley Men's Center (EVMC).



GPC serves evening meals at the Halle Women's Center on the fifth Sunday of the month. Serving the evening meal makes a big difference in the lives of these women. Opened in June 2017, the Halle Center is the first Arizona shelter designed specifically for women. Before the Halle Center opened, women experiencing homelessness were housed in the Watkins Temporary Shelter and GPC served meals to them there. At Watkins, the women shared a large space with more than 100 other women. At the Halle Center, three women share a room with a private bathroom. Halle Center better supports the transition out of homelessness with daytime hours available for work, with case managers to gain skills, find jobs, solve problems and identify a path to permanent housing.

GPC prepares sack lunches and serves dinner several times per year for the men at East Valley Men's Center, a housing service of **A New Leaf** organization. EVMC is an emergency shelter for homeless men who make the commitment to become self-sufficient and move back into the community. They are provided with food, shelter and basic needs, case management focused on permanent housing solutions, navigation of community resources, work assistance, life skills classes and financial coaching. GPC has been serving at EVMC for many years.

For information about UMOM please visit <https://umom.org/>.

For information on EVMC and the other programs of **A New Leaf**, please visit <https://www.turnanewleaf.org/welcome.html>

Rob Nagy

HAPPY RETIREMENT, JAN PALMER!

When Gilbert Presbyterian Church installed Pastor Terry Palmer back in 2002, they received a surprise gift: a talented educator, organizer, community theater actress and musician in the guise of Jan Palmer, his wife.



Jan has given of herself in many ways to this congregation. She served fifteen years as an outstanding choir member (alto section), and the last two seasons as our choir director. Jan founded the GPC orchestra in 2002 (with the inaugural performance on Christmas Eve) and conducted the group for 13 years. Jan founded the Children's Bells and gave many of our young children a first taste of the joy worshipping with music brings. She conducted this group for at least 10 years.

Jan recognizes the role of music in the church is very important. Through all these groups, she has utilized classical music, both traditional and contemporary hymns, and inculcated them into the theme of each worship service, bringing home the message of Scripture each Sunday. Jan is very pleased to report that the quality of musicianship in our members is very high, and gratified to find that even with all this talent, the "message" of the music remains, and is not overpowered by the "performance aspect" of each rendition. As a congregation, Jan feels we are not only faithful to the message and use music as prayer, but we accomplish this feat very well. Thank you, Jan!

Jan has served on numerous committees during her tenure here, including 17 years on the Worship Committee, was the founding moderator of the IRC, and recently joined the Buildings and Grounds Committee. She has planned many of our main events, including hosting presbytery and synod meetings at GPC over the years. We have to thank Jan for 17 years of arranging our Sunday worship flowers as well.

Many of you may not know that Jan was ordained as an elder in South Dakota in 1984, and also served as an elder commissioner for the South Dakota and Central Nebraska presbyteries. The Presbytery of Grand Canyon was gratified when Jan agreed to serve as Moderator of the Leadership Team; she is currently a member. In her role as liaison to the Congregational Resourcing Team, Jan was instrumental in revamping the entire mission grant process, creating a grant judging rubric used to evaluate grant applications, revamping the grant application, and conducting mission grant workshops around the presbytery to aid churches in writing up their applications.

When asked, Jan tells us that as a child, her mother (a talented bass player) sang to her and Cheri every night. Music was a natural part of growing up in her family.

Jan feels strongly that choir music is a sung prayer. These prayers uplift us in celebration, uphold us in grief, and are used to express our joy in worship. She specifically chose the choral anthem ***Joy In The Morning*** as the last piece the choir will perform under her direction, giving us all a chance to express our joy in music as prayer, and ending her time with us with a very happy, positive anthem we will all enjoy.

Thank you for your many years of service to our congregation, Jan. You gave unsparingly of your time, talent, and gifts; we are the better for it. You will be missed. May God bless you and be with you as you step into your future.

Barbara Zubler



JUNE 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 6:45am AA Mtg 10:00am AA Workshop Rm 7
2 8:30am and 11:00am Worship Services 9:45am Coffee 10:00am Adult Christian Ed 12:15pm Christian Ed Committee Mtg 1:00-4:00pm Oasis	3 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg	4 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm Mission Committee Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	5 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Breakfast IHOP 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	6 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm Deacons Mtg 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 8:00pm AA Mtg	7 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	8 6:45am AA Mtg
9 8:30am and 11:00am Worship Services 9:45am Coffee 10:00am Adult Christian Ed 12:15pm B&G Committee Mtg 1:00-4:00pm Oasis 1:30pm EVMC Lunches	10 6:45am AA Mtg 9:00am Montlure Day Camp 7:00pm AA Mtg	11 6:45am AA Mtg 9:00am Montlure Day Camp 7:00pm Finance Committee Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	12 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Breakfast IHOP 9:00am Montlure Day Camp 6:00pm Personnel Committee Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	13 6:45am AA Mtg 9:00am Montlure Day Camp 3:00pm Evangelism Mtg 6:00pm Worship Committee Mtg 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 8:00pm AA Mtg	14 6:45am AA Mtg 9:00am Montlure Day Camp 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	15 6:45am AA Mtg 9:00am Presbyterian Women Mtg
16 8:30am and 11:00am Worship Services 9:45am Coffee 10:00am Adult CE 10:00am Pastor J Confirmation Class 1:00-4:00pm Oasis GRASP Rm 6	17 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg	18 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm Session Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	19 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Breakfast IHOP 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	20 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 8:00pm AA Mtg	21 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	22 6:45am AA Mtg
23 8:30am and 11:00am Worship Services 9:45am Coffee 10:00am Adult CE 10:00am Pastor J Confirmation Class 1:00-4:00pm Oasis 6:30pm Healing Svc	24 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg	25 6:45am AA Mtg 12:30pm PW QOV Quilters 7:00pm Stewardship Committee Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	26 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Breakfast IHOP 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	27 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 8:00pm AA Mtg	28 6:45am AA Mtg 3:30pm Breckenridge HOA Meeting 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	29 6:45am AA Mtg
30 8:30am and 11:00am Worship Services 9:45am Coffee 10:00am Adult CE 10:00am Pastor J Confirmation Class 1:00-4:00pm Oasis 5:00pm UMOM						

FROM THE EDITOR'S LAPTOP

I want to thank each and every member of our church who has commented positively on the new look and feel of **The**



Crossroads. I appreciate all the feedback, and have made a number of changes because, frankly, your ideas were great!

First off, the addition of photos, which are plastered all over this newsletter, have been a big hit. No one knows exactly when their photo will appear on the front page (after I have “stalked” you to get

one), and that is part of the fun! Seeing our mission work and worship in action speaks louder than any words we could use.

Increasing the font size to 14 points makes it easier for all of us to read the stories in each issue.

Color coding the calendar is new, and will hopefully make it easy to find the activities you are interested in, as well as get the committee members to their meetings on time!

Barbara Zubler

THIS IS IMPORTANT!

The Worship Committee, with the unanimous approval of the Session, is pleased to notify us of a change in our Sunday Worship. For the summer months of **July** and **August**, when attendance historically has been quite sparse, we are going to try **one single worship service at 10:00 AM**. Times for adult Sunday School and Fellowship Coffee will be determined. We will keep you notified in our Sunday bulletin. Many people loved our togetherness during our sanctuary remodel, so let's give it a try!



MUSIC MINISTRY

We are very pleased to announce our music leaders for the 2019-2020 season!



Jennifer Nagy (Joyful Ringers), Ray Zubler (Chancel Choir), and Susan Martinez (Keyboards)



Jan received a T-shirt quilt in thanks (made by Laurel Coughlin, Rocky Mackey and Arlyn Hearn), Pastor Terry went incognito in a choir robe, the music ministers (Jennifer Nagy, Ray Zubler and Susan Martinez) sang a tribute, Jan's speech received a standing ovation, gifts of a piano vase (by Gaill Blackburn) and a clock from the choir (page 9).



JUNE CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1 Irina Andriananjason
- 3 Betty Gleason
- 5 Alyssa Cox
- 5 Lisa Ewoldt
- 5 David Wautelet
- 6 Barbara Zubler
- 13 Lillian DeCarolis
- 14 Ginny Goodbar
- 18 Kevin Bauerle
- 18 David Martinez

- 18 Jane Poston
- 18 Bob Szabo
- 21 Marilyn Dickens
- 21 Margaret Hansche
- 24 Sean Gallagher
- 26 Frank Walmsley
- 28 Justice Lemme
- 29 Nina Lynn Wheeler
- 30 Clara Nagy

WEDDING

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Greg & Jodi Kevern
- 4 Bruce & Laurel Coughlin
- 8 Dave & Grace Mossman
- 10 Eric & Lisa Christensen
- 13 Alex & Alla Eccles
- 17 Mike & Karen Gallagher
- 21 Mike & Alicia Epping
- 25 Dennis & Mary Ann Wilkie