



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 between permanent pastors is when the whole church can claim or reclaim objectives in ministry that serve God's purposes. It is a time when all can become clear about identity and the way forward. During an interim period, the church has the opportunity to examine patterns that may need to change and affirm ones that are healthy and contribute to vitality.

In our Presbytery of the Grand Canyon, the interim time includes the development of a church Mission Study before the Pastor Nominating Committee may be elected. Timelines for this process have been provided in the bulletin from time to time and in last month's *Crossroads*.

How long does the process take? In general, the entire process between the time of hiring an interim pastor to the calling of the next permanent pastor can take between 18 months to 24 months. The session was reminded at their October meeting that before Pastor Terry was called, it was 10 months from the time the Rev. Shelly Moe was hired, to the election of a Pastor Nominating Committee.

If you are feeling anxious or impatient, that would not be unusual. The process involves trusting God in this time of uncertainty and that's not always easy to do. Remember that God is faithful and continues with you in the work required in this season of the church's life.

-Pastor Judy

ABOVE: Marge Hathaway and Margaret Hansche, Don Boyd, the Burel Family, and Pastor Judy

Gilbert Presbyterian Church

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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.....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

Sunday school classes for adults and junior/senior high school are held at 10:00 AM each week.

The adult video class meets in the overflow room, and the traditional adult class meets in Room 7 in the Palmer Center.

Junior/senior high youth are currently viewing and discussing the Rob Bell video series.

The class for kindergarten through fifth grade continues to study the "Living the Word" curriculum, which includes stories, crafts, and games to help children better understand Bible lessons. This class is meeting at the north end of Falkenstine Hall after the Children's Message in the 11:00 AM service.

Christian Education Committee

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Nursery volunteers for November:

November 3–Judy Sullivan

November 10–Britney Blackburn

November 17–Sammi Martinez

November 24–Jean Nielsen

We are always looking for more volunteers to help care for our little ones! Please see Judy Sullivan if you are willing to help out!!

PLEDGES

Dedication Sunday is scheduled for November 24, 2019. The Stewardship Committee will provide further information in the coming weeks.

PLEDGE SEASON

That scary word – the S word — is about to raise its head once again. Yes, it is **Stewardship** and our annual pledge opportunity. It really should not be scary.

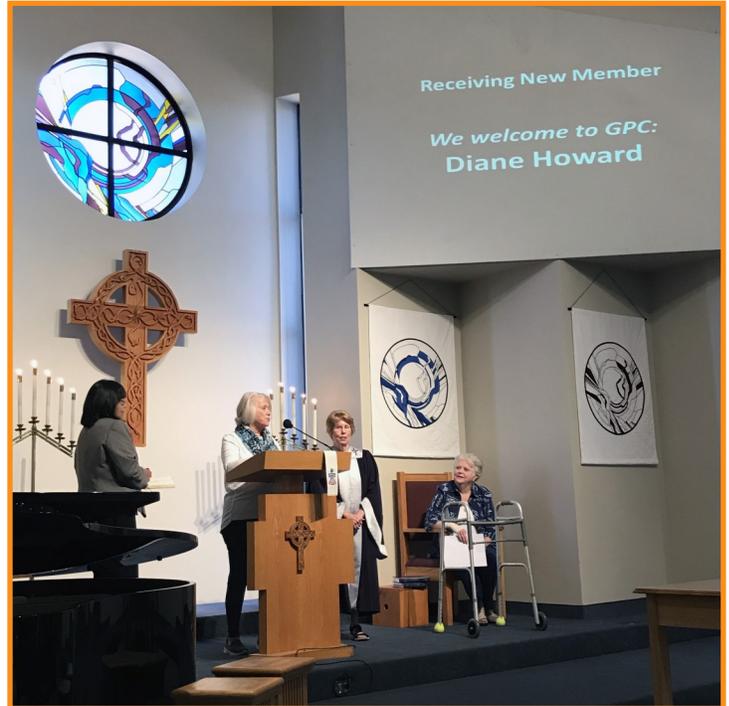
Stewardship is everything after we say “I believe.” The pledge is simply providing information to the finance committee about what you think you will donate to the church on a regular basis. The finance committee uses this information to plan the expenditures for the coming year.

A lot of people do not “pledge”, but they do contribute. That is really appreciated; however, we really wish for a statement of planned giving, simply because it takes a lot of the guesswork out of planning. The regular contribution, or pledge, is really the core support of the church when it comes to trying to keep the doors open. Without these gifts, GPC could not stay open. As it has been said before, pledges cover the very basic needs – staff salary, electric and water bills, internet bills, landscaping and janitorial costs, even the paper towels in the restrooms.

Please do fill out a pledge card when the opportunity comes.

The Stewardship Committee

NEW MEMBERS



We welcomed our newest GPC member, **Diane Howard**, at our first service on Sunday, October 13, 2019. Pastor Judy Wellington, Sylvia Legal, Diane and Rocky Mackey are pictured above, as we received Diane into our body of faith. Diane is already a choir member and we are delighted to have her join our church family. Welcome, Diane!



CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

ELECTIONS AND INFORMATION HIGHLIGHT

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

October 27, 2019

Deacons and elders were elected by the congregation to serve three-year terms ending in 2022. Deacons include **Barb Atchison, Jean Nielsen, Diane Schans** and **Mary Ann Wilkie**. **Laurel Coughlin** was elected to fill an unexpired term ending in 2021.

The ruling elders elected for the class of 2022 are **Gaill Blackburn** (2nd term), **Don Boyd, Lyn Goodbar** and **Dennis Wilkie**.

Copies of the proposed budget for 2020 were distributed. Finance Committee chair John Stover and Treasurer John Paterson answered questions from members. The budget will be finalized and approved by the session in December, after the stewardship campaign in November.

Ethan Nasiff presented a PowerPoint program for the session at its October meeting. He talked about his experiences at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium last July at Purdue University in Indiana. The event, held every three years, brings together thousands of Presbyterian youth from every state and many nations to celebrate and worship together.

The session approved Financial Policies and Procedures for all church funds;

agreed to begin its Stated Meetings at 6:30 PM, and approved the baptism of Paige Christensen, infant daughter of Lisa and Eric.

GPC member rolls were updated with removal of the following people: Jacob and Andrea Barton; Pat, Rita, Greg, Chelsea and Joey Brooks; Jaymie Lucas Chowning; Annette Rood; Kelly Slease; and Andrew and Brian Smith.

Members who wish to address the session should contact the Moderator Judy Wellington for time on the docket. The next Stated Meeting is November 19 at 6:30 PM.

Rocky Mackey



PILP LOAN UPDATE

Our Treasurer, John Paterson, updated us on the current status of our \$200,000 capital improvements PILP loan. The amount of \$187,673 was pledged by our members to be paid over a 3-year term, and of that, \$123,974 has been received. An additional \$31,256 has been received as well from non-pledging members. We pay monthly on the balance and have about 22 payments in the capital account for that purpose at this time. We did pay the principal down \$100,000 in two installments already. Things are looking good! Thank you all!

GPC BY THE NUMBERS

ATTENDANCE REPORT

October 2019

10/06/19	102
10/13/19	101
10/20/19	98
10/27/19	108
Total Attendance:	409
Average Attendance per Sunday:	102

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balances as of September 30, 2019:

Operating.....	\$ 524.31
Savings.....	\$ 28,290.67
Capital Campaign	\$ 30,742.71
Total Income.....	\$ 14,659.40
Total Expense.....	\$ 21,087.02

Breakdown of Giving for September 2019:

Unrestricted Giving

Operating.....	\$ 13,231.57
Facility Use	\$1,310.00

Restricted Giving

Worship	\$ 40.00
Deacons	\$ 57.76
Flowers.....	\$ 0
Fry's Fundraisers.....	\$ 0
Interest	\$ 2.09
Local Mission.....	\$ 17.98
Per Capita	\$ 0

August per capita and mission pledges have been paid but September 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

TRANSITION TIMELINE

The transition team is working hard during this interim period to complete their mission study; one final survey remains. Here is the current timeline:

Sunday, October 27, 2019: Transition Team has a Minute for Mission.

October 2019 Session Meeting: Pastor Nominating Guidelines discussed.

November and December 2019: The Mission Study will be written.

December 2019 Session Meeting: The Mission Study document revision and Session approval, at which time the document will be shared with the congregation.

January 2020: The Mission Study will be submitted to the presbytery's Commission on Ministry (COM).

February 2020: Upon COM approval, the congregation will elect the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

March 2020 onward: The PNC will work with our COM liaison, the Rev. Mary Saylor, to begin the interviewing and hiring process.

Please continue to pray for all parties involved in this process, including all members of our congregation.

LIVING THE FAITH

GOD'S TIME

Thanksgiving came at just the right time this year. Like company appearing when one has not picked up the living room debris, she arrived in previous years at times when I was not sure I wanted to invite her in, let alone ask her to sit and rest awhile! This year I am pleased to welcome both Thanksgiving and Praise, for together we have much to share.



Many years ago I arrived in San Diego with nothing underneath me but the Lord. I hydroplaned into the city, not knowing where I would work, or how I would survive. Emotionally and financially I had been through a series of lessons designed to “build character.” In this course, I had been required to give away or sell a couple hundred books, sell my beloved piano for two weeks’ rent, and sleep on the couch in a friend’s small apartment. My furniture was stored in her garage, and I was terrified to open the door, lest that cause it all to vaporize and I would never see it again.

I went looking for a job. Three weekends in a row I walked the university campus, claiming my “land of Canaan,” and asking the Lord to let me work again with college students. He gave me a job all right, but

not one having anything to do with my job description.

My assignment entailed working in an office where everyone was jockeying for attention and affirmation. I was to be a friend to my coworkers, share the Lord and depend on His leading to bring harmony to the office. Working deep in the files in the back room, I would murmur, “I could do the jobs of all three of them.” And the Lord would reply, “Just do your own, and I’ll be happy.” Tears of indignation and frustration slid down my cheeks again and again, as I continually had to choose graciousness and loving actions when I would rather have reacted with anger. After six months, I didn’t think I could take it any longer.

Fresh energy and understanding came after I heard a message on servanthood. I knew then that I was to be an ambassador (yes, in a foreign country) and be the best I could be, until the Lord chose to accept my request for a transfer.

Many testings and a great deal of waiting later, I can say that all I have now is from the Lord. Along with other blessings has come the acceptance that His timing is best. “The hardest thing about waiting for God is that last half hour,” commented a friend to me recently. But the one I am waiting for *is* God. Give thanks with a grateful heart!

Sharon Mahoe

BOX TOPS UPDATE

Thanks for collecting these labels to help support **The Menaul School** in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Keep collecting as long as the labels appear on the boxes. The labels are good until the expiration date on the label. If you scan and send in the label, the school gets a double credit through the end of the year.

The collection method is changing to electronic gathering. Here are the details:

1. Download to your phone or other device that has a camera, the app **Box Tops for Education**. If you have an iPhone, go to the Apple App Store (there should be an icon on your phone). If you have any other brand, go to Google Play. Download the app.

2. Open the app and sign in. Answer all the questions and choose the **Menaul School** (type **menaul** and it should pop up). It will think you are the parent of a Menaul School pupil.

3. Now you are ready to go.

4. Get your grocery store receipt (no

more than 2 weeks old). Open the app. There is no password or any more sign in. You are going to take a photo of the receipt.

5. Click on the blue scan button at the bottom, not the big SCAN word. If the receipt is long, it will ask if you have a long receipt and then move down on the receipt and take another photo.

6. Click on Submit. You will get a message about what it found or didn't find. That's all.

Thank you for supporting this excellent Presbyterian-related school.

Frank Walmsley



FEED MY

STARVING CHILDREN

Our next opportunity to pack meals for this ministry will be on Friday, November 8, 2019, at 5:45 PM, at FMSC headquarters next to Fiesta Mall in Mesa, Arizona. Please watch for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thanks for volunteering!

We are delighted to announce that on Sunday, October 27, 2019

Paige Christensen

the daughter of Eric and Lisa Christensen

was baptized at GPC during second service

MEET YOUR DEACON

David Nape has been a GPC church member for 14 years. He and his wife, Clarice, have two adopted children, Lena and Dylan. David currently works full-time for Wells Fargo in Operations. He was born and raised in Chicago, where he met Clarice. They moved to Arizona in 2005 as a result of a work promotion, and subsequently adopted their children. The family is unique in that each child not only gets to celebrate a birthday, but also their very own Gotcha! Day. Lena and Dylan have been our second service acolytes for over 6 years to date. David coaches Dylan's Little League baseball team and has done so for years. The family likes to travel and, in addition to family visits in Chicago and Missouri, they are planning a trip to Hawaii in 2020.

David ends his fifth year as a serving Deacon at the end of December. His favorite reason for serving is that he has an active role in making our church better. He is open not only to change and new ideas, but also to implementing them. David stays in touch with his flock via email and cards. David sends an introductory letter to each new flock member, to introduce himself and communicate he is available to answer questions or provide assistance as needed. He especially enjoys meeting his flock face-to-face at worship services. He can be found in the same pew during second service.

David appreciates the Deacons moving their monthly meeting from Thursday evenings to Saturday mornings. He feels everyone is fresh, not tired from a long day, and therefore good conversations

and discussions can be had regarding the important work of this group. David feels conflict is good, and can lead to thoughtful discussions and solutions.

David also supports a possible Saturday late afternoon service. His wife Clarice works Sundays and is therefore unable to attend worship services. With all the restaurants now available in downtown Gilbert, we have a potential marketing opportunity to evaluate.

David would like us all to keep an open mind as we progress on our journey to define ourselves and hire a new pastor to lead us. He feels strongly that open communication is the key to success. Sharing ideas and being open to change will help us discern the path God wants us to follow.

Please thank David the next time you see him for his service and dedication to us, his church family. **Thank you, David!!!**



MEET YOUR ELDER

Cheryl Williams has been a GPC member for 16 years. She was a charter member of Mountain View Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale. She has served as an elder for 15 years, 6 of those years at Mountain View. She is completing her ninth year as an elder for GPC and her term expires in December. Cheryl has served or chaired multiple committees: Christian Education, Worship, Mission, and Evangelism. She is an adult Sunday School facilitator, Communion preparer and the person who telephones to arrange for communion servers.

Cheryl has been married to her husband, Steve, for 23 years. She has 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Cheryl is a retired teacher who taught elementary and junior high school. After 15 years teaching middle school, Cheryl became an English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor at an elementary school as well as the Title I Reading Specialist and Curriculum Specialist.

Cheryl's favorite part of being an elder is being an active participant in the life of our church. She feels connected to our church family and enjoys the opportunity to serve God in this manner. Her faith journey is important to her, and she has learned to be open and receptive to His purpose.

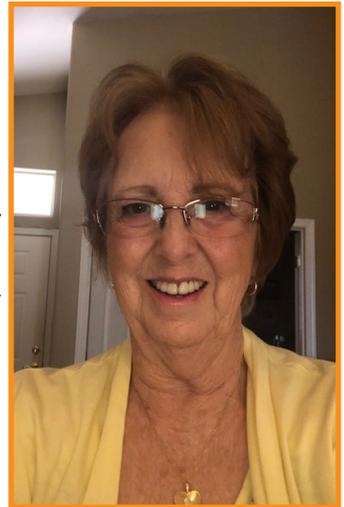
Cheryl recently traveled to New Zealand and spent 24 days with a close friend, exploring and meeting six of her friend's sisters who live there. She has had time to step away from our church and ponder a few things.

Cheryl feels it is very important to work on a personal relationship with God. We all have a unique faith journey, and using our gifts the best we can, in all areas of our lives, guided by God, is a great way to connect with Him. Take the time to step back and reflect.

Cheryl feels the older she gets, the better she is at achieving life balance. Cheryl recommends we hang in there, and be aware of God's presence in our lives. Life is a roller coaster ride – we often fall off the track – but God rescues us and we continue on. Faith will grow into a natural part of oneself, given time.

When asked, Cheryl has this advice to offer us regarding our church transition time: Open your heart and mind to the will of God. Step out and take risks, be honest with others and yourself. Do not give up when you feel the going is tough. Work hard to understand the process and be a part of it. Most important, remember why we worship together and celebrate the God who loves us. This journey to find a new pastor is taking a long time, but with lots of patience and prayer and hard work, we will find a person to lead us in the direction God wants us to go.

When you see Cheryl, please thank her for her dedication and service to our church family. **Thank you, Cheryl!!!**



IN MEMORY OF EDWARD HENRY BLAKE

Ed, as we fondly called him, was born on July 6, 1940, in Clarkston, Washington, the middle of five children of Earl and Clara Blake. He joined the United States Air Force after high school and served for nearly seven years in several locations, including Alaska, California, Texas and Lakenheath, England. Ed worked many jobs in his life, primarily with AT&T in locations around the country. He worked for APAC, a highway building company in Atlanta, Georgia, when he retired.

Ed and Carole met while they were both working for AT&T in Kansas City, Missouri. They were married on October 30, 1993, in Sugar Hill, Georgia. They moved to Gilbert, Arizona in 2000 and joined GPC in 2004. The church was central to their lives when Carole served as the office administrative assistant (and much more!) and Ed served as a Ruling Elder and chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, as well as daily handyman for the church.

Ed was happiest when helping others. He was a Navigator volunteer at Sky Harbor Airport for many years. He regularly donated blood and planned the GPC blood drives. The blood foundation was so grateful to Ed they named a star after him—truly! He was happy to drive folks to and from church, or to doctor appointments, until his car keys were removed due to dementia.

Ed quietly passed away on Sunday, October 6, 2019, at the Hospice of the Valley Lund Home. He will be greatly missed by Carole and his dog, Eddie, and by all of us who knew him.



Dear GPC Friends -

Thank you for the prayers and cards and kind expressions of sympathy. God has truly blessed me with a loving and caring church family. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated more than words can ever say.

Blessings,

Carole Blake



NOVEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	2 6:45am AA Mtg 9:00am Deacon Mtg
3 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:30am Coffee 10:00am Christian Education 12:15pm CE Committee Mtg 12:20pm Christ's Kids Rehearsal 1:00-4:00pm Oasis	4 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY 7:00pm AA Public Info – Room 6	5 6:45am AA Mtg 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Mission Committee Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	6 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	7 6:45am AA Mtg 6:20pm Bell Choir 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 7:30pm Choir 8:00pm AA Mtg	8 6:45am AA Mtg 5:45pm Feed My Starving Children 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	9 6:45am AA Mtg
10 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	11 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY	12 6:45am AA Mtg 12:30pm PW QOV Quilters 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Finance Committee Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	13 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	14 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	15 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	16 6:45am AA Mtg 9:00am Presbyterian Women Mtg
17 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 GRASP	18 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY	19 6:45am AA Mtg 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Session Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	20 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Break- fast IHOP 7:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	21 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	22 6:45am AA Mtg 3:30pm Brecken- ridge HOA 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	23 6:45am AA Mtg
24 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:30am Coffee 10:00am Christian Education 12:20pm Christ's Kids Rehearsal 1:00-4:00pm Oasis 1:30pm Food Box- es for TDay	25 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY	26 6:45am AA Mtg 12:30pm PW QOV Quilters 1:00pm Bible Study 3:30pm Steward- ship Committee Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	27 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Break- fast IHOP 7:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	28 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 8:00pm AA Mtg Thanksgiving Day	29 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	30 6:45am AA Mtg

FROM THE EDITOR'S LAPTOP

Fixing my powerless laptop was rather miraculous! After two failed attempts by certified repair shops, my brave husband Ray opened the case up, took out all the parts, reseated every board he could find and blew some air in there to clean out any dust. Once back together, the power came on and I am back in business!



Speaking of business, I am looking for a fellow church member to serve as co-editor with me for the next few months, with the idea of gradually taking over my position in March 2020, when my one-year

commitment ends. Please email me at gpcbarb@gmail.com if you have any interest.

November is our month for gratitude. I am grateful to have my old friend, the laptop, working for us again. I am thankful for the beautiful 200 plus members of this church family, all working together to define our mission and set future goals. As our beloved nonagenarian **Ellen Roberts** so enthusiastically states, "I cannot wait to see what God has planned for our little church!"

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

Barbara Zubler

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

06 Jodi Kevern	17 Denise Jones
06 Thomas Lemme	17 Gloria Nelson
07 Erica Modzelewski	17 Art Nelson
08 Gary Lolling	21 Zoe Bauerle
09 John Modzelewski	21 Karen Mannino
11 Ellen Roberts (yea!!!)	22 Aubrie Quayle
12 Barbara Belz	23 Joe Carpenter
12 Lauren Bruno	24 Jim Hubbard
13 Dave Lynch	25 Josh Peterson
14 Lisa Christensen	29 Tanja Bauerle
16 Hoyte Mitchell	

WEDDING

ANNIVERSARIES

10 David & Jennie Burel
23 Carl & Liz Hansen
23 Ralph & Joyce Johnson
27 Mike & Pam Russell