

THE CROSSROADS

Done-On-The-Fly Without My Publishing Software Issue

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Pastor Judy took a well-deserved vacation from her church duties. Thank you, Pastor Judy, for all that you do for us! We appreciate you and your guidance as we transition between pastors and become the church we want to be.

FROM THE EDITOR'S TOWER PC

I have had an incredible string of technical good luck. For over 40 years, I have enjoyed custom-built computers made by my husband Ray. Problems are very rare, and Ray makes all repairs and upgrades to our tower computers.

Four years ago, I required a laptop for my work in order to give Power Point presentations. We purchased the most souped-up one we could afford, in the hope it would keep up with technology and I could get maybe 10 years out of it.

Two weeks ago, my laptop began playing dead. Because the laptop is a closed system, Ray could not just order a new power switch and install it; we had to take it into the repair shop. The repair people informed us it would be shipped out to be fixed, and away it went. Now my laptop is on its way back to me, unfixed.

As you have guessed by now, my laptop contains all the data and publishing software I use to create *The Crossroads* newsletter each month. In the event my laptop cannot be fixed, I will have to bite the bullet and spend the many hours necessary to install publishing software and recreate *The Crossroads* on another computer. This chunk of time would be more if I did not possess a flash drive containing all the backed-up files from my laptop. Yippee!

All this downtime has got me thinking about our power grid and technology, and how we take our instant communication channels for granted, until they fail. God, however, never fails us. He provided a way for me to send out this issue of our newsletter!

I am grateful to have had 40 stress-free technical years. I will get a working laptop eventually, and *The Crossroads* will resume its previous look and feel. In the meantime, please send a little prayer my laptop's way, if you can. Thank you!

Barbara Zubler

CAMPUS WORK DAY

The Buildings and Grounds Committee thanks everyone who participated in the tree removal project on Saturday, September 7, 2019. Your efforts are greatly appreciated! Participants were: Bret Blackburn, John Stover, Terry Coutts, Marilyn Kelly, Roy Martin, and Mike Gallagher.



SUMMER MUSICIANS

Thank you to all our members who provided special music this summer!

June 2	Ralph Tromp
June 9	Jan Palmer & Cheri Workman
June 16	Christ's Kids
June 23	Jennifer & Clara Nagy
June 30	Ray Zubler
July 7	Sue Jax, Marilyn Dickens, & Barb Zubler
July 14	Britney & Bret Blackburn
July 28	MaryBeth Szabo
August 4	Leonora Hubbard
August 11	Sammi Martinez
August 18	Cheri & Dave Peterson
August 25	Joe Carpenter



BOY SCOUT GPC LIAISON

Elder David Martinez has agreed to serve as the Charter Organization Representative for Scout Troop #286, which meets regularly at GPC. He will serve as GPC's liaison and communicate with the Boy Scouts to keep everything running smoothly. David actually worked with the Eagle Scout who constructed our play set years ago. Thank you for your service, David!



TRANSITION TEAM LUNCHEON

A church-wide luncheon was held in the Palmer Center on Sunday, September 15, 2019. Over 60 surveys were completed and turned in to the team, to be evaluated at their next meeting. Thank you to all the members who could participate!



EVMC DINNER

The Mission Committee needs your help in hosting dinner for the East Valley Men's Center on Sunday, October 20, 2019, at 5:30 PM. Please sign up to serve on the clipboard in the Narthex.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday school classes for our children and youth began in September. The youth class (grades 6-12) meets between worship services in the senior high room. A video series is being followed. The children's class (grades K-5) now meets following the children's message during second service, and is held at the north end of Falkenstine Hall. Classes are taught by a rotating team of teachers. The youth class is taught by David Nape, Joe Carpenter, and Judy Sullivan. The children's class is taught by Britney Blackburn, Linda Gibbons, Lisa Ewoldt, and Mary Burger. If you're interested in joining the team, please see Judy Sullivan.

LIBRARY NEWS

Due to the generosity of our congregation, the GPC library is overflowing with donations. We are out of room for any more items, so donations of books, magazines, videos, etc. will no longer be accepted. If anyone is interested in helping clean up and reorganize materials in the library, please contact Judy Sullivan.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The certificate shown was sent to GPC to recognize our participation in all four of the Presbyterian Mission's special offerings each year for the past 21 years. This is a notable accomplishment!

Thank you for your faithfulness.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Interior Resource Committee (IRC) is looking for additional members. The committee meets occasionally on an "as needed" basis. The committee was originally formed in May 2018 to aid in decisions with the renovations of the church. The IRC picked out the interior and exterior building colors, flooring choices, furniture placement and décor including bulletin boards. If you would love to help continue to shape the look of GPC, we would love to have you on board! Please let Liz Nelson in the office know if you would like to be a part of the committee (azgpcoffice@gmail.com).

PER CAPITA PART 3 OF 3

By Rocky Mackey

In 1734, before cars and planes, organizers of the Presbyterian Church recognized the need to provide a resource so that church leaders, no matter their financial status, could travel to committee and other church gatherings. This resource eventually became known as Per Capita. It supports specific areas of work throughout the Presbyterian Church (USA). Some of them are:

- Bringing together commissioners and advisory delegates for synod and General Assembly (GA)
- Gathering church leaders from presbyteries and synods
- Supporting those elected to serve on GA committees
- Expenses of the Co-Moderators of GA
- Work in the area of ordered ministry, helping all Presbyterians respond to God's call in their lives as teaching elders, ruling elders and deacons
- Information, advice and counsel to presbyteries and pastors whose members have immigration issues
- The Presbyterian Historical Society, ensuring that our witness to the gospel today will be preserved for future generations, just as we have learned about the history of past generations
- A Presbyterian presence at ecumenical events in the USA and worldwide, which

extends our mission efforts and our work for peace and justice far beyond what we can do by ourselves and promotes Christian unity.

Here are a few examples:

Our pastor, Judy Wellington, is an At-Large Commissioner to the Synod of the Southwest and a board member of the GA Presbyterian Mission Agency. The expenses for these meetings are covered by Per Capita.

Some years ago, I served as Moderator of our synod. Travel and other expenses were all covered by Per Capita.

When the GA holds its meeting next year, we hope that our nominee as a commissioner from the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, Cheryl Williams, will be elected to attend. If so, her expenses for the week-long gathering will be covered by Per Capita.

In 2019 the Per Capita assessed by the three administrative agencies—presbytery, synod and GA—totaled \$36.25 per member. The breakdown is presbytery \$21.30; synod \$6.00; and GA \$8.95. The amounts for 2020 will be set soon.

Each church is asked to pay Per Capita based on its number of Active Members at the end of the previous year. Every presbytery is required to pay Per Capita on all of its Active Members. While churches are encouraged to pay Per Capita on each of their members—many do, some don't. Per Capita is a line item in the GPC budget. Look for it when the 2020 budget is presented at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, October 27, 2019, between services. Each Active Member of GPC is encouraged to pay his or her own Per Capita.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

We are averaging about 45 people per Sunday worship service, in total about 90 people each week. Greater accuracy is promised next month!

DEACON OF THE MONTH AND ELDER OF THE MONTH

This feature will resume with the return of the editor's laptop.

HEALING SERVICE

GPC is proud to host a healing service on Sunday, October 20, 2019, at 7:00 PM, with elder Rob Nagy leading us in prayers for all people in need of healing, as well as those present who wish to be prayed over by our elders. The service is open to all – we hope to see you there!

TREASURER'S REPORT

By John Paterson

Cash on Hand as of August 31, 2019:

Operating:	\$4,450.03
Savings:	\$33,893.74
Capital Campaign:	\$27,370.99

August 2019 total income:	\$14,890.47
August total expenses:	\$17,699.52

Breakdown of Giving for August 2019:

Unrestricted Giving

Operating	\$12,508.14
Per Capita	\$ 143.75

Other Giving

Worship	\$ 339.20
Deacons	\$ 50.00
Evangelism	\$ 0.00
Facility Use	\$ 1,800.00
Interest	\$ 2.03
Local Mission	\$ 47.35
Misc. Income	\$ 0.00

We have paid in full both our Per Capita payment and our Mission Pledge to Presbytery thru July 2019. We did not pay either the Per Capita or the Mission Pledge to Presbytery for August, which means we are currently one month behind in our payments to them.

LIVING THE FAITH

By Sharon Mahoe

HIDE OR NOT?

The kitten, tail twitching, crabbed across my patio and flung herself down in front of us. She was black and grey marbled, with one ear torn and bleeding from a recent encounter with someone or something. Despite her wound, she trusted our friendship and we all knelt down to scratch her on the tummy. Her little legs carried her alongside us as we headed out to my car. She looked so hungry. "Wait," I said, "let me go upstairs and find a bowl of milk left over from your breakfast, Naomi." The girls held her while I went to fill a plastic bowl and set it on the stairs. Back at the curb, I took the kitty from Gloria's arms and put her on the step, where I pushed her nose into the milk and left her, whiskers dipped, lapping away. A couple more times that day I stepped out to find her, small nose and pink tongue in the yellow bowl. I haven't seen her since.

There are many cats on my street. When I ride my bike out to the cliff, I see them lounging in windows, under hedges. They are sitting under cars, between two rear tires, where they may look out at the world and still be safe. They won't come out, even when I lean down, play with a twig and coax them patiently.

Thinking about cats watching the world from under a car, I wonder: have you been sitting between two rear wheels of a car lately? Are you looking at the world from under a muffler, wondering when it will be safe to go back out again? Do you know how many of us out here would care about you if you would choose to join us?

We promise . . . a full bowl of milk (more where that came from) and we know someone who will fix your torn ear . . . or torn life.

Please come out.

OCTOBER 2019 CALENDAR

Please see GPC's website (azgpc.org) to access the calendar.

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

By Rocky Mackey

Diane Howard became GPC's newest member when the session welcomed her into our family of faith at its Stated Meeting in September. Already a member of the Chancel Choir, Diane looks forward to participating in other church activities. She will be introduced at the 8:30 AM service on October 13, 2019.

Committee on Ministry (COM) liaison, the Rev. Mary Saylor, visited with session members. She will work closely with the Pastor Nominating Committee once it is chosen.

Judy Walmsley, moderator of the Stewardship Committee, reported receiving a certificate recognizing 21 years' participation in all four of the church-wide special offerings. They are One Great Hour of Sharing (Palm Sunday/Easter); Pentecost; Peace and Global Witness (Worldwide Communion Sunday in October); and Christmas Joy. More information about these offerings is available at www.pcusa.org/specialofferings.

Interim Pastor Judy Wellington reported on the status of the on-going work of the Board of Deacons, and the Transition Team.

The next Stated Meeting of the Session is October 15, 2019, at 7:00 PM in Room 7 of the Palmer Center. Members who want time to address the session should contact Moderator Wellington during the week prior to the meeting to schedule time on the docket.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Judy Sullivan
3 Brian Hansche
3 Tom Walford
5 Audrey Shaw
6 Les Barton
7 Ralph Tromp
8 Erica Coe
9 Jessica Dickens

9 Dennis Wilkie
15 Maxine Marshall
16 Kim Lynch
25 John Ewoldt
26 Dan Bernal
31 Laurel Coughlin
31 Sue Hassen

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

We have two couples who have been married more than 50 years this month!

2 Don & Caralee Howlett (66 years)
4 Dave & Cheri Peterson
13 Steve & Cheryl Williams
19 John & Angela Stover

26 Larry & Stacey Bruno
28 Dennis & Sylvia Legal (58 years)
30 Ed & Carole Blake
30 Dale & Mary Burger

GILBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Interim Pastor: the Rev. Judith Wellington
Ministers: all members of the congregation
Worship Services 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM
Adult, Jr./Sr. Christian Education 10:00 AM
Children's Sunday School 11:15 AM

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