



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

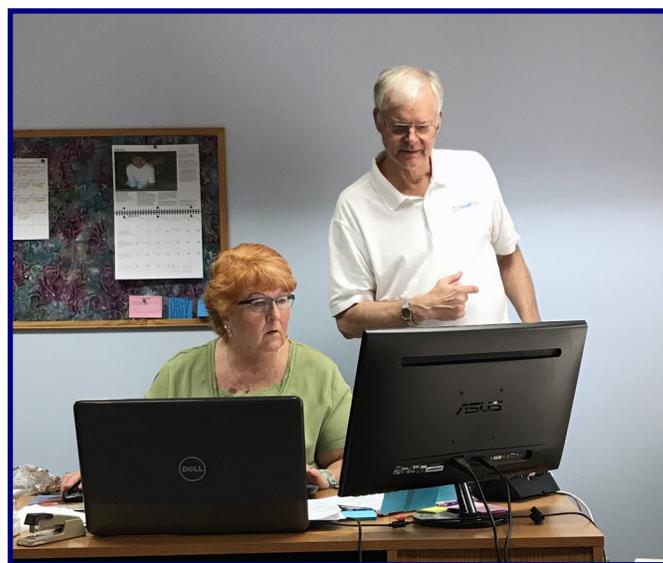
Thank you on behalf of the Transition Team for all the responses to the Church Identity Assessment. There will be another opportunity for sharing before the Transition Team makes a report to the congregation. Save the date of **September 15, 2019** and watch email and bulletin announcements for more details about a church-wide conversation. A *Minute for Mission* will also be shared in the September 29 worship service.

It is no surprise that key words such as **community**, **family**, and **mission** emerged in your assessment responses. In addition to identifying important descriptions of self, we will be looking for more detail about the ways the congregation sees its internal life and

external service. If it excites you, it will also be exciting for a pastor seeking God's place for them.

Again, thank you for praying about this process of self-examination and preparation for seeking a new pastor.

-Pastor Judy



Liz Nelson and Ray Zubler collaborate on worship service slide preparation.

ABOVE: *Dennis and MaryAnn Wilkie, Bill and Cheri Workman, Bob and Mary Beth Szabo, 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



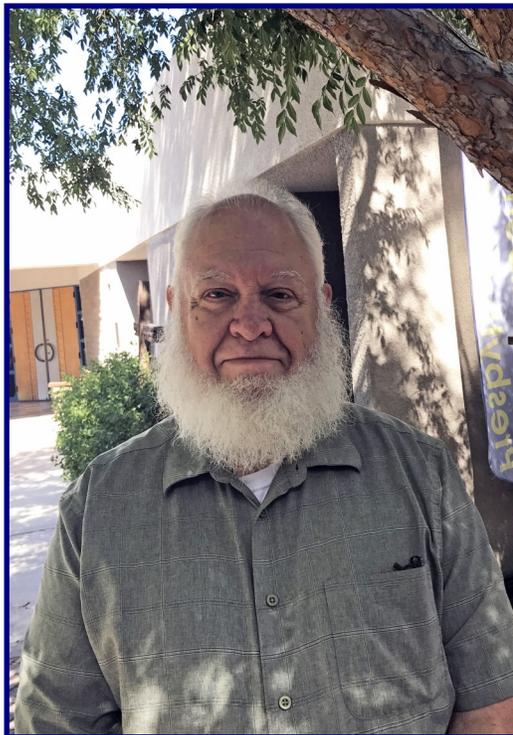
The Crossroads is published monthly; submission deadline is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Submit news and information via email to azgpcoffice@gmail.com or hand in hard copy to the church office.

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

Designer, Reporter and Editor: Barbara Zubler

Production and Circulation: Liz Nelson

NEW MEMBERS



We are delighted to welcome transferee **Dave Paul** and confirmation graduate **Ryan Stover**, the son of John and Angela Stover, to our church family!



BE A VOLUNTEER !

HELP!!

That is the most currently heard word lately from the Building & Grounds Committee. We really need people to assist us with the daily maintenance of the campus of Gilbert Presbyterian Church. The youngest person on the committee that can be asked to handle a shovel is 60 years old. The rest of us just have more experience.

As the committee ages, less and less of the required maintenance needed for the day-to-day operation of GPC can be done by us. The direct result is that we will need to start contracting with outside vendors to get the work done. This translates directly to a lot more expense from our operating budget. We are asking folks to please step up.

You are not required to attend the meetings, held on the second Sunday of each month after second service, but be available on a frequent basis to assist as needed. No experience is needed; we will show you what needs to be done, and how to do it. Mechanical aptitude is a bonus, but not required. So, please, if at all possible, join our Buildings and Grounds Committee.

For any questions, or to sign up, please contact Mike Gallagher at 480-497-8604, or azMikeG@gmail.com.

Peace,

Mike Gallagher
Moderator,
Buildings and Grounds Committee

NURSERY HELP !

We continue to look for volunteers to care for our youngest children during Sunday worship. If you love little children and would like to help out, please add your name to the sign up sheet on the door of the nursery or contact:

Judy Sullivan at 602-577-6602 or
jwsullivan2001@yahoo.com

You'll be rewarded with lots of hugs and kisses!!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth Sunday School begins on **Sunday, September 8**. Children's class will follow the children's message during second service. Junior/Senior high school class will meet between worship services at 10:00 AM.

PW SURVEY

GPC's Presbyterian Women's group developed a survey that they would love ALL women's input on. You can easily enter your answers online at:

<https://forms.gle/obm8A3Wv7aTexo3h8>

If you prefer to hand write your responses, we will have some surveys printed out in pink and available on Sunday. Thank you in advance for your input!

GPC's Presbyterian Women

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

Jean L. Nielsen's membership by procedures for GPC, some of Reaffirmation of Faith was welcomed by which were dated in the early the session at a Called Meeting August 1990s. After discussion, all 18, 2019. She will be introduced to the are referred to the congregation at the second service on appropriate groups to make September 1, 2019. sure they are relevant today.



As is customary, the session agreed to At its last scheduled special forgo one summer stated meeting, this meeting on August 25, 2019, session year, substituting a workshop format on members discussed and reviewed the regular date of the July Stated congregational connection with the Meeting. Discussion began with "10 denomination and the question: who are things ruling elders should know" by the neighbors God is calling us to minister Alyson Janke. General comments to target population(s) and why. describing GPC followed.

During another special meeting on August 4, 2019, the topic covered the rules and regulations that should be included in a Rental Agreement for church property. It was agreed that a policy must be established. Ann Bernal and Judy Sullivan will write a policy to be approved by the session.

On August 11, 2019, session members reviewed all current policies and

The August Stated Meeting of session dealt with facility use requests and other routine matters.

The next Stated Meeting is September 17, 2019, in Room 7 of the Palmer Center, at 7:00 PM. Anyone wishing to address the session about a particular topic should contact Moderator Judy Wellington to secure time on the docket.

Rocky Mackey

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening is a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings. We are pleased to offer a preventive health event here at Gilbert Presbyterian Church on September 30, 2019. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems. Please register for a Wellness Package which includes four vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. There are three ways to register for this event. You will receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129. Please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle> or text the word *circle* to 797979. **You'll find pink registration forms on the table in the Narthex, along with discount coupons.**

GPC BY THE NUMBERS

ATTENDANCE REPORT

August 2019

08/04/19	93
08/11/19	91
08/18/19	80
08/25/19	90
Total Attendance:	354
Average Attendance per Sunday:	88

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balances as of July 31, 2019:

Operating.....	\$ 8,714.96
Savings.....	\$ 34,790.05
Capital Campaign	\$ 27,504.59
Total Income.....	\$ 19,815.92
Total Expense.....	\$ 15,776.38

Breakdown of Giving for June 2019:

Unrestricted Giving

Operating.....	\$ 16,852.00
Facility Use	\$2,335.00

Restricted Giving

Christian Education.....	\$ 0
Deacons	\$ 43.00
Flowers.....	\$ 0
Fry's Fundraisers.....	\$ 127.26
Interest	\$ 2.01
Local Mission.....	\$ 41.90
Per Capita	\$ 414.75

May and June per capita and mission pledges have been paid but July has **NOT** been paid to the presbytery. Thanks to **Anne Barton** and **Hoyte Mitchell** for our 2018 financial audit, which was found satisfactory.

- John Paterson, GPC Treasurer

2019 PER CAPITA is \$36.25 per member

TRANSITION TEAM

Thank you to all who provided feedback on the Church Identity Assessment. The Transition Team would like to follow up with a church-wide event on **September 15, 2019**, following the second service. Please save the date and watch for more details to come!

BOX TOPS MISSION

Thanks for collecting these labels to help support the Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Please keep collecting as long as the labels appear on the boxes. The labels are good until the expiration date on the label.



General Mills will soon be changing to electronic gathering. Please watch for more information on the gathering procedure; in the meantime, keep clipping!

Please look for the collection box in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please speak to Frank Walmsley.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes begin on Sunday, September 1, 2019, at 10:00 AM. Pastor Judy begins a new series in the Palmer Center. The DVD-based class continues *When Christians Get It Wrong* in the sanctuary overflow room. Please join us!

LIVING THE FAITH

YOU ARE IN GOD'S HANDS

Last night I fed my fish again. The shadow of my hand covered the water in the fishbowl. The goldfish immediately swam to the top of the water, mouthing widely for the food.



It struck me suddenly that I had never seen the fish dart frightened underneath a shell upon seeing their environment darken above them. They seem to know that a shadow over their home means food. Their response is to draw nearer the surface to obtain it.

How often have we looked up and felt a shadow darken our lives with sadness and confusion? We run and hide from God's hand when He has only reached down to spread out for us some food that we might grow.

The past five years for me have been most painful. They are years I would not choose—ever—to experience again. But my relationships with others and with God have been made stronger, and my sense of peace and rest in Him have come from the clouds which hovered over my life.

I have wept more tears than anyone else alive. Well, perhaps not! It has seemed so, at times. I have been stubborn. I have been self-sufficient. I have been tough. That I am less stubborn, less tough is due to God's love for me, and His infinite patience to wait as I feed from His hand held over my world. It has brought me pain and difficult situations. But now I respond by turning to Him for everything I need. I have no wish to run and hide, for I know that He can see my world better than I.

Where are you hiding? Under a career decision, a relationship, a college experience?

God knows where you are, just as I can see my fish wherever they are in their bowl. That next cloud over you might be God's hand. Turn your face up and watch for Him!

Sharon Mahoe



HEAVENLY THREADS PROJECT

We want to share this note the Mission Committee received this week from Heavenly Threads Clothing Ministry – John Paterson, member GPC Mission Committee

Thank you again for your support and for the support from the congregation. Gilbert Presbyterian has had such a positive impact in the Heavenly Threads Clothing Ministry at Church of the Master. The impact within the ministry echoes throughout the community not only near, but far as well. We were in prayer because our logistics had changed and the use of our tiny washer and dryer was no longer viable. Now with GPC's support of the ministry, we are catching up with our backlog of clothes. Every Monday from 9am-11am at Church of the Master (near Power and University in Mesa) people in our community may come pick out a free outfit and free pair of shoes. It does not matter what someone's economic background is, it is open to all of God's people.

As God keeps our racks and storage of clothes stocked, more and more people come. Keep up HIS good work. Thank you for being Angels. Thank you for helping and supporting this ministry. Please consider donating your clothes to Heavenly Threads Clothing Ministry. As God's agape love overflows the cup, clothes are cycled through in Mesa and spill out to thousands of people in our community, and through Guadalupe Presbyterian Church and through Ocean View Ministry in Mexico.



Clockwise: Dennis Wilkie unloads at Church of the Master in Mesa, clothes in Mexico, racks at Church of the Master, Ann and Dan Bernal returning a tote to GPC.



MEET YOUR DEACON

Betty Walford has been a member of GPC for 18 years. She and her husband, Tom, transferred from Omaha, Nebraska in 2001. Betty fondly remembers living just down the street from *Omaha Steaks* and *Kellogg's*. She says early in the morning one could smell the cereal being made throughout the neighborhood. Betty and Tom just celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on August 26. They have one daughter, two sons, a daughter-in-law and three grandsons. Betty has worked as a painting company office manager, and also for a nanny referral service in Nebraska which included licensing childcare programs for the state.

Betty will have served our church as a Deacon for 12 years when she completes this term in December. She has been a member of Presbyterian Women and part of the Quilts of Valor team (3 years). Betty assisted on Game Days in the past, when each Wednesday the elderly would come into the church and play games. They would bring a sack lunch and all would enjoy their time together. Betty also attended the Wednesday afternoon Bible study.

If there is one thing Betty excels at, it is serving others. Together we calculated she has served on the monthly coffee deacon team at least 25 times. She currently serves as a frequent usher and communion server at worship services, and is part of the communion clean up crew who clears away the elements after services. Betty has served at vacation bible school, church picnics, funerals, and presbytery events held at our campus.

Betty enjoys visiting her flock when they are in the hospital or in nursing homes, sends out a newsletter to keep her flock updated, and mails out birthday and anniversary cards to keep in touch. Betty likes serving as a deacon because she feels her church is a part of her family. She gets to know people in the church, understands and fills the needs of her flock personally, and recognizes their faces in the pews each Sunday, where she greets them by name.

Betty has always been a giver, and has given her time, talents and treasures to her church since high school. A little-known fact is that when one of our church members, Marilyn Goodenberger, became ill, she fretted because she could not complete a quilt she had worked on for years. Betty quietly finished the king size quilt for her, stitching it by hand. Betty states giving is just part of her, and we are so grateful to have her in our church family. Please thank Betty and congratulate her and Tom on 57 years of wedded bliss when you see them. **Thank you, Betty!**



MEET YOUR ELDER

Mike Gallagher has been a GPC member for 25 years. He and his wife, Karen, recently celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary. They met in an officer's club and both served in Vietnam, with Mike as a munitions officer and Karen as a nurse. Although an engineer for most of his working life, Mike was also a test pilot for five years, and owned his own plane, an Ercoupe built in 1942. He is a licensed pilot and, in addition, has a glider pilot license. Mike used to sky dive in college. His current hobbies include trains and ham (amateur) radio.



Mike ends his fourth three-year term as a Ruling Elder this year. He has been on the Finance Committee over 10 years, the Mission Committee over 10 years, chaired the Nominating Committee, and is the current chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, serving over 20 years. Mike served as the project manager for GPC's recent renovations, a full-time job that ran for several years, from planning through completion last Easter. In his role as B&G chair, Mike serves as the emergency contact for our church.

Mike is in charge of the annual Washington birthday party at the *Justa Center*. He heads up our Mission Committee *UMOM* fifth Sunday dinner event. Mike is on the board of directors for *Abounding Service*, which assists refugees. He used to be a presenter and on the board of directors for *NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)*. Mike was a member of *Habitat for Humanity* locally. GPC sponsored Mike with *Wheels For The World*, a 2007 mission where, as part of a group, he

went to Ukraine as a wheelchair mechanic and delivered much-needed wheelchairs.

Mike has served as pulpit supply three times for GPC, the most recent Sunday being the one prior to Pastor Terry's retirement last January, where his sermon topic was, most appropriately, "Renewal". Mike also attends the adult Bible Sunday School class.

When asked about his favorite part of being an elder, Mike states it is both a blessing and a curse, and that is the knowledge of what it really takes, working behind the scenes, to keep our church doors open, run our worship services, and handle the day-to-day operations. This knowledge is "neat" to know, but because we are in the people business, can be "heart-wrenching" at times as well. Mike likes to know he has had an opportunity to make a difference, and hopefully we are going in the direction God wants us to.

Please thank Mike, the next time you see him, for his dedication and many years of service to our church. **Thank you, Mike!**

PER CAPITA PART 2

If Per Capita makes so much sense why are you just now mentioning it?

Looking at how gifts, or offerings, are received and used within Presbyterian Churches—from a local church such as GPC, through all organizational levels—may seem complex. It helps to understand the structure, or organization, of the whole church.

Local churches are part of Presbyteries—geographic divisions—that help the individual churches carry out their ministries. This “interim time” in our church provides one example of how a presbytery supports the churches within its jurisdiction. Our Presbytery of Grand Canyon helped secure on-going ministerial help at the time of Pastor Terry Palmer’s retirement, and once a Pastor Nominating Committee is elected, will provide an advisor to help throughout the process of finding and calling a new pastor.

Above the presbyteries are 16 larger geographic divisions—synods—whose ministries support the Presbyterian Church (USA). There are several ministry areas within the national church. Most Presbyterians are familiar with “General Assembly,” the biennial national meeting.

The church as an organization, is similar to other organizations—they all have to pay their bills.

In the Presbyterian Church, Per Capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church, to give meaning to the interdependent nature of Presbyterian polity. Per Capita is often called the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian:

- Our theological identity;
- Our connectedness;
- Our system of mid councils that allow elders and ministers together to discern the mind of Christ;
- Our ecumenical connections that make us part of the church universal;
- Our core structures that keep us together as a church;
- Our call to work for full participation in decision-making;

Per Capita allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

How exactly is Per Capita received? Find out in the third article on Per Capita in the October issue of *The Crossroads*.

Rocky Mackey



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am Coffee 10:00am Christian Education 12:15 pm Christian Ed Committee Mtg 1:00-4:00pm Oasis	2 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY 7:00pm AA Public Info Mtg	3 6:45am AA Mtg 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 AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	5 6:45am AA Mtg 6:20pm Bell Choir 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 7:30pm Choir 8:00pm AA Mtg	6 6:45am AA Mtg 5:45pm Feed My Starving Children 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	7 6:45am AA Mtg 9:00am Deacon Mtg 12:00pm Brecken- ridge HOA
8 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45am 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 7:00pm Finance Committee Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	11 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Break- fast IHOP 1:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Personnel Committee Mtg 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 7:30pm Choir 8:00pm AA Mtg	13 6:45am AA Mtg 6:40pm Faith & Family AZ Dia- mondbacks 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	14 6:45am AA Mtg 12:00pm Little Peo- ple of America
15 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am Coffee 10:00am Christian Education 12:00pm Transition Team Event 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 7:00pm Session Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	18 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Break- fast IHOP 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	19 6:45am AA Mtg 6:20pm Bell Choir 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 7:30pm Choir 8:00pm AA Mtg	20 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	21 6:45am AA Mtg 9:00am Presbyterian Women Mtg 12:00pm Brecken- ridge HOA
22 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am Coffee 10:00am Christian Education 12:20pm Christ's Kids Rehearsal 1:00-4:00pm Oasis	23 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY	24 6:45am AA Mtg 12:30pm PW QOV Quilters 7:00pm Steward- ship Committee Mtg 7:30pm AA Mtg Overflow Room	25 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Men's Break- fast IHOP 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm AA Mtg 8:15pm AA Mtg	26 6:45am AA Mtg 6:20pm Bell Choir 7:00pm NA Mtg Overflow Room 7:30pm Choir 8:00pm AA Mtg	27 6:45am AA Mtg 7:00pm AI-Anon Mtg Room 7 8:00pm AA Mtg	28 6:45am AA Mtg
29 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am Coffee 10:00am Christian Education 12:20pm Christ's Kids Rehearsal 12:15 pm Christian Ed Committee Mtg 1:00-4:00pm Oasis 5:00pm UMOM	30 6:45am AA Mtg 8:00am Lifeline Screening Event 7:00pm AA Mtg WADY					

SEPTEMBER 2019

FROM THE EDITOR'S LAPTOP

For those of us ruled by the school calendar, here's to a new season of learning! In addition to adjusting to new schedules, we can also make decisions about what activities we will be involved in.



There are many opportunities to volunteer in our church available to you. Will this be the year you choose to reach out and be active in our church?

Perhaps you are middle-aged (89) or beyond (90) and feel you have already done your part. All you want to do is participate in worship services on Sunday. Or perhaps, you have volunteered for

almost every position out there and are, after years of dedication, burning out a bit. I certainly understand that!

Here is what I am going to do about the current lack of volunteers in our church: I am going to pray to God for direct help. Can you join me in that? I want Buildings and Grounds to get the help they need to maintain our campus. I want the nursery stuffed with willing volunteers to love our children. I want a facilitator for the DVD SS class, more ushers and more liturgists. And I want the burdens of our current volunteers eased. Amen!

Barbara Zubler

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2 Andrew Smith	20 Rocky Mackey
2 Richard Wyman	21 Carole Blake
7 Janet Leaman	22 Bradley Kevern
8 Greg Smith	25 Janet Paterson
9 Betty Walford	26 Miles Epping
11 Irene Williams	27 Gaill Blackburn
13 Aria Martin (yea!)	27 Cheri Peterson
15 Jeani Mitchell	29 Jewell Nichols
19 Don Howlett	30 Sharon Dendy
20 Jane Lolling	30 Tristan Epping

WEDDING

ANNIVERSARIES

13 Art & Gloria Nelson
23 Kevin & Tanja Bauerle
26 David & Susan Martinez