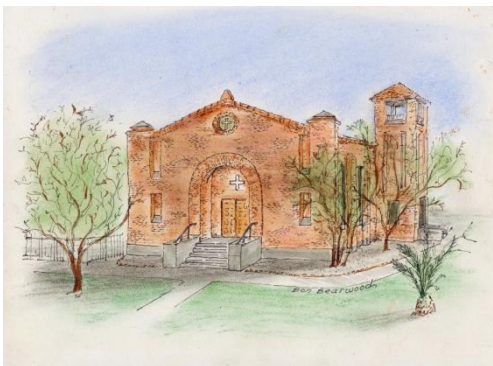


# The Peace of Christ ... Be With You!

The First Presbyterian Church of Florence, AZ

Volume 10, Issue 08 (August 2015)



## First Presbyterian Church of Florence

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**Sunday Church Service**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship after worship**

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## *From the pastor . . .*

As some of you know, I have several health conditions – terminal grouchiness, must-have-chocolate, and golf. I had successfully cured myself of the latter in 1991, but Patricia, as part of her plan to get me to move to Arizona, got me a set of golf clubs that I could not return as a birthday present eleven years ago, and the rest is history.

Golf is an interesting game; while it can be a matter of competition, it is ultimately competition with one's self, and for that reason, competing against another person can bring out a different sense of competition than, say, tennis, where beating the other person is usually necessary for a sense of satisfaction. Not that there was ever competition between us in such things, but I can still remember how on the 18<sup>th</sup> green, my son Michael jumped in joy when I sank my putt the first (and only, though I plan more to be on the way) time I broke 80.

This is brought to mind by observing the finish of this year's (British) Open, in which Zach Johnson from Iowa defeated South African Luis Oosthuizen, himself a winner of the Open a few years back. In a four-hole playoff, on the third hole, Oosthuizen missed a makeable putt that would have tied him with Johnson, and on the fourth hole, again missed such a putt, making Johnson the winner. (Not that Johnson had not played well.)

I suppose it is partly his name that drew my attention to Johnson eight years back, but it was even more his physical stature – more like mine, aspiring to 5'9", than like the tall, broad-shouldered Tiger Woods. About three years ago, though, something else drew me: Johnson defeated a fellow Illini, Steve Stricker, in a tournament, and in his comments after, he expressed thanks to his "Lord, Jesus Christ." One can wear one's faith in an off-putting (no pun intended) way, but Johnson was emotional and sincere.

As he watched his friend, Oosthuizen, miss the final putt that gave him the championship, Johnson grimaced: in golf, the true golfer does not delight in even his opponents lack of success, but gives thanks for his own. In a moment that undoubtedly will prove the high point of a pretty successful career, Johnson went on to say that he did not enjoy seeing his friend miss that putt, even though he knew what it meant.

Which I think means that Johnson's Christianity is not just skin deep. Leading a Christian life never should be considered as something that

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**Newsletter**  
Larry & Denise Kollert  
[225butte@gmail.com](mailto:225butte@gmail.com)  
Deadline is 20<sup>th</sup> of month

**Church Secretary**  
Nancy Rodrigues  
**Church Hours**  
Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday  
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

*From the pastor . . . Cont'd*

must cost another. There is an interesting biblical conflict between what appears in a key portion of the Old Testament and what we read in the New. In Exodus (21:23-25) we find quoted a part of Hammurabi's Code, which dates to well before the time of the Exodus, the "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" passage. But in Romans 12:9-21 (and in a few other places) we get this message:

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.*

*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (NRSV)*

Just as golf is a matter of seeking always to improve one's own game, not to diminish another's, so the Christian life is one of trying not only to live more faithfully in one's individual life with God, but to "follow God's rules for living with others" just as one who really loves golf will play the ball as it lies and count all his or her strokes.

Of course, I could say that just as the true Christian should be humble, golf has forced me to learn a humility that is otherwise not-so-comfortable, but in golf, even when I used to play for big money -- dimes -- with my good friend Vince Taylor, I would always want him to enjoy his game so much that he not only would enjoy paying me my 30 cents or so at the end of the round, but would be anxious for us to play again.

Delight in the other person's joy; our happiness is not dependent on another's sorrow or failure. Indeed, let us inspire to find joy in the successes of those whom we have trouble liking; then we shall be truly living as Christians.

Just as in golf the rule is "keep your eye on the ball," in Christianity the rule is to "keep your eye on the Cross," remembering that Christ died not just for you and me, but for all -- including those to whom I had to pay my dimes!

Blessings,  
*John*



**Pray For:**

Gary Ellsworth, Mary Palmer, Junior Hiller, JL Hooper, Heidi Lowe, Maria, Kurt, Billy Bahme, Bob & Verna Boyle, Karen Smith, Dick & Flory, Larry Kollert, Barb Newman, Alma Yost, Lew Moon, Wayne Jackson, George Oberdorf, Agnes Eeg.

**Prayers for our military:** Lord hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for selfless acts performed.

Don't forget to pray for our Police Officers and our Fire Fighters.

*Happy  
Birthday*



August Birthdays

- 10. Lois Platt
- 11. Phyllis Powell (deceased)
- 16. LeRoy Bring
- 25. Jerry Studer
- 27. Betty Rieffer

*Happy  
Anniversary*



August Anniversaries

- 10. J.L. & Joann Hooper
- 16. Tom & Karen Smith
- 29. Gary & ShaRon Liedle

Subject: Billy's Team (from Miriam Reed re. former pastor Bill Dean – July 13 Update)

Hi to everybody,

Last week Bill finished his 7th round of chemotherapy on Xeloda; good checkup today; hematology reports are staying in the normal range; blood pressure good; has even gained a pound. Energy level and appetite go up and down. He will have another MRI and Cscan on July 29 with a report on August 3. In spite of the heat and humidity, he keeps a-going. Still goes on with his jokes on the weather, the news, food, etc. Will have another MRI and CScan on the 29th with report on Aug. 3. Will keep you all updated.

Hope the summer is going well for all of you. Our summer heat is about half gone. Will be very glad to see September. Thank you for all your gracious prayers and thoughts.

*Many blessings and love, Billy, Derry and family*

**Prayer — it's in our genes**

I don't think prayer is merely a sociological phenomenon. I don't think it's something we do just to fit into a community or when we've exhausted all other options. I think it's hardwired into our spiritual DNA. God is the inevitability of humanity's search for true meaning.

—Jared Brock, *A Year of Living Prayerfully*

**Just So You Know**

Long-time member Margaret (Maggie) Schultz is moving to:

Oasis at Mesa Palms  
1418 N. Country Club  
Mesa, AZ 85201

# Stewardship REPORT



## Administration/Finance (Bob Woodhull)

	June 2014	June 2015	2014 YTD(Jan-June)	2015 YTD(Jan-June)
Expense	\$11,415.00	\$9,979.00	\$63,437.00	\$67,162.00
Income	\$15,753.00	\$4,223.00	\$66,183.00	\$51,708.00
Shortfall	.00	\$5,756.00	.00	\$15,454.00

### **DISCLAIMER**

Articles shared or written by individuals are not necessarily the views or opinions of the Church.

If you have something you would like to share or something you have written, we would be happy to include it in the newsletter.

All shared or written articles will be attributed to the person who sent them in. [Please do not violate the copyrights of others.](#)

Thank you, Larry & Denise Kollert .... Newsletter Editors

Newsletter input to: [225butte@gmail.com](mailto:225butte@gmail.com)

# Love

is patient ♦  
 kind ♦ not envious ♦  
 not boastful ♦  
 not arrogant ♦  
 not rude ♦ does not insist  
 on its own way ♦  
 is not irritable or resentful ♦  
 does not rejoice in  
 wrongdoing ♦ rejoices in the  
 truth ♦ bears all things ♦  
 believes all things ♦  
 hopes all things ♦  
 endures all things ♦  
 never ends. ♦

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NRSV [adapted]



## A work in progress

A Christian is always in the process of becoming, never in the state of having become. The Christian life is not being pious but becoming pious, not being healthy but becoming healthy, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet [what we are to be], but we are becoming it. It is not yet done and has not yet happened. It is, however, going on and coming to be. It is not the end, but it is the way.

—Martin Luther

## Hygiene Bank Report

We had our 3<sup>rd</sup> hygiene bank distribution on July 8<sup>th</sup>. We are averaging about 18 families with some repeats and some new ones each time. I want to thank all who have donated and keep doing so. It has been greatly appreciated by all who have come.

God Bless -- Denise Kollert



New members will be taken into our Church on Sunday, August 30, 2015.

## Editor's Musings – Maybe It's Just The Heat

It's the time of year here in Florence when it is really hot and everything slows down to a crawl. After all, most folks have gone to cooler climes where they mow their grass and pick up the sticks which have fallen in their yards at their other homes in the months while they were here. So, everything at your Church in Florence should be slow too one would think.

But wait – It ain't necessarily so! A lot has been happening this summer and continues to happen. If you will, let me recap for you what is really going on.

First, early this summer your Church began a Sunday School program for our children. This continues even though it is a challenge while we are away from our own building attending the Shared Summer Worship Services.

Then, the Church provided the resources so that a group of five of our children could attend summer camp.

Our pastor and several other volunteers took it upon themselves to conduct our first ever Vacation Bible School for a week – Wow!

Now, we are well into the Shared Summer Worship Services with Coolidge Community Presbyterian, Coolidge St. Michael's Episcopal, and ourselves. Denise and I have been able to attend all the shared worship services so far – Thanks Be To God. For my part, I would say I have been blessed to have done so. I have met a lot of new people, shared the bread and cup with them in their settings, and enjoyed their fellowship. It has been a very enriching experience so far with more to come.

The Hygiene Bank continues to serve a good number of families in our community who greatly appreciate what we are attempting to do to help them meet their physical needs.

Also, preliminary planning for Thanksgiving & Christmas food boxes is underway.

Without a doubt I have missed something because John, our Pastor, continues to be 'the energizer bunny'. How he does it all I'll probably never know but what I do know is that we are extremely blessed to have him as our Pastor.

So, you see much is happening in your Church even though it is really hot outside. Remember that everyone can do something whether it is teaching, being a Liturgist, singing in the Choir, or just making a financial contribution when you can.

The challenge for all of us is to answer God's call when it comes.

I would offer the following words from Isaiah Chapter 6, Verse 8:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"



Larry

## The Humor Corner

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon.  
"How do you know what to say?" he asked.  
"Why, God tells me."  
"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

BJ

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on.  
Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered,  
"Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

BJ

The Sunday School Teacher asks,  
"Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?"  
"No ma'am," little Johnny replies, because I don't have to. My mom is a good cook."

BJ



Larry

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story.  
From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek.  
She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again.  
Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"  
"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."  
"Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"  
"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."  
Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

BJ

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother,  
"Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."  
"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?"  
"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, And I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."

BJ



Sandra Saunders

## The whole is greater ...

Composer Iannis Xenakis said, “The collision of hail or rain with hard surfaces, or the song of cicadas in a summer field. These sonic events are made out of thousands of isolated sounds; this multitude of sounds, seen as totality, is a new sonic event.”

What would one cicada sound like, or a lone hailstone hitting the ground? Would we even hear that? How about one raindrop, one low rumble of thunder? But put those individual sounds together in groups and they’re powerful.

What can one coin in an offering plate accomplish? Or one volunteer from an entire congregation? What if John the Baptist’s lone voice had never been joined by the disciples, and all the Christians after them, sharing the Gospel?

One voice alone isn’t inconsequential, just as one coin, one volunteer, one raindrop isn’t nothing. But if each felt inconsequential and stopped contributing its “sound,” soon there would be nothing. Conversely, when many individuals stay in the game, soon they find they aren’t alone at all. God brings their contributions together, creating a whole new “sonic event”!

### Book -- Review (Judith Johnston)

#### Going Home—Jesus and Buddha as Brothers By Thich Nhat Hanh

Sometimes, perhaps often, our Christian faith path needs a boost from an outside source who sees with eyes unfettered by rigid doctrine and who defines faith as a living force grounded in love and always open to new ways of growth. Thich Nhat Hanh is one such source. A Buddhist monk, theologian, prolific writer and a Vietnamese whose background was steeped in both French Catholicism and Buddhist teachings, he is well prepared to draw comparisons between Jesus and the Buddha. His discourses on birth and death and no-birth and no-death sparked my further examination of the Resurrection. A re-examination of the Trinity and the Eucharist was spurred by his statement, “If Christ is the body of God, which he is, then the bread he offers is also the body of the cosmos.”

Always reminding the reader of “mindfulness,” a basic Buddhist tenet, this book should push the reader to more deeply examining his/her faith walk, being it Christian or Buddhist, and toward a more open, less judgmental attitude about a brother or sister whose path may not be like ours but often parallels it.

## *In a Different Voice*

A monthly column written and submitted by:  
(Judith Johnston)

Strange, interesting, weird, charming, scary—as America becomes increasingly diverse, we are confronted by more & more people whose ways are not our ways. Yet, God seems to have spoken to His children in many different places at very different times. Some of these diverse views will be featured each month to encourage a healthy curiosity about other spiritual writings and to open us up to possibilities for a larger spiritual awareness.

### **Bahá'í Faith:**

*"Ascribe not to any soul that which thou wouldst not have ascribed to thee, and say not that which thou doest not."*  
*"Blessed is he who preferreth his brother before himself."* Baha'u'llah

### **Buddhism:**

*Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful."* Udana-Varga 5:18

### **Confucianism:**

*"Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you"* Analects 15:23

### **Hinduism:**

*This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.* Mahabharata 5:1517

**Islam:** *"None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself."*  
Number 13 of Imam "Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadiths." 5

### **Native American Spirituality:**

*"All things are our relatives; what we do to everything, we do to ourselves. All is really One."* Black Elk

### **Shinto:**

*"Be charitable to all beings, love is the representative of God."* Ko-ji-ki Hachiman Kasuga

### **Taoism:**

*"Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss."*  
T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien.

**Yoruba:** (Nigeria): *"One going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts."*

**Epictetus:** *"What you would avoid suffering yourself, seek not to impose on others."* (circa 100 CE)

**Plato:** *"May I do to others as I would that they should do unto me."* (Greece; 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE)

**Socrates:** *"Do not do to others that which would anger you if others did it to you."*  
(Greece; 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE)

### **JESUS**

*Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*  
Matthew 7:12



# August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> 2 Sam. 11:26-12;13a Ps. 51:1-12 Eph. 4:1-16 John 6:24-35 <b>Community (Coolidge)</b> 9:30 a.m.	<b>3</b>  7 p.m. Al-Anon	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  9 a.m. Men's breakfast @ Old Pueblo	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 2 Sam. 18:5-9, 15,31-33 Ps. 130 Eph. 4:25-5:2 John 6:35,41-51 <b>Community (Coolidge)</b> 9:30 a.m.	<b>10</b>  7 p.m. Al-Anon	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Hygiene Bank 1:00-2:00	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 1 Kings 2:10-12 1 Kings 3:3-14 Ps. 111 Eph. 5:15-20 John 6:51-58 <b>Community (Coolidge)</b> 9:30 a.m.	<b>17</b>  7 p.m. Al-Anon	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 1 Kings 8: (1, 6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 Ps. 84 Eph. 6:10-20 John 6:56-69 <b>Florence</b>	<b>24</b>  7 p.m. Al-Anon	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Song of Sol. 2:8-13 Ps.45:1-2, 6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 <b>Florence</b>	<b>31</b>  7 p.m. Al-Anon					

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**The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Florence  
Is to share Jesus Christ through word and action  
with all whose lives we can touch.**