

The Peace of Christ ...

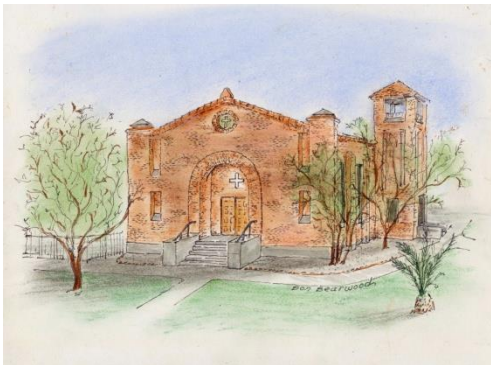


be With You!

The First Presbyterian Church of Florence, AZ

Volume 11, Issue 07 (July 2016)

**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.**



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**Sunday Church Service
10:30 a.m.**

Fellowship after worship

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From the pastor . . .

This is Patricia's and my ninth summer in Arizona, and living in Tucson while spending time as a pastor in Florence and Coolidge and doing visits in the Phoenix area while making monthly trips out to Sells and Santa Rosa on the Tohono O'odham reservation have shown me that within this area, there is tremendous geological *and* climatological difference variety.

Very specifically, the summer monsoon is a far more dramatic – and quenching – occurrence in Tucson than in the other areas, last year's flooding of the Florence Fellowship Hall notwithstanding.

I still remember the first summer when we sat on our back patio the early evening of July 4 and had two fireworks displays to observe, one traditional, the other "heavenly" as thunder and lightening filled the sky.

And while I will not say that the start of monsoon is like clockwork, the monsoon occurs by definition from June 15 to September 15, but sometimes it is a distressingly disappointing event. Average rainfall is just that, average, and some years rainfall is – to repeat a word – *disappointing*. The rainfall for which we await is not always adequate to the task of energizing the wonderful plant life of the Sonoran dessert as much as in other years.

No, just waiting for rainfall does not always produce the desired results.

And that in one sense is why some leaders of our churches are pushing for our doing something to combat the religious malaise that threatens our very existence as part of Christ's earthly body. I have often (to the point of exhaustion, I think most would say) told the story of the river that flooded and the attempts of the sheriff three times to save the man who lived by the river as the river rose to his porch, his roof, and finally to the chimney, but to no avail as the man would say, "The Lord will save me." The man drowned, of course, and when he got to heaven God said, "I didn't plan to see you so soon," to which the man replied, "I thought you would save me!" "I sent two boats and a helicopter; what more did you expect me to do?"

My point is simply that we cannot wait around and expect a different result than we have seen in terms of what is happening to the role of Christianity in our communities and in the world; specifically, we cannot expect the Church of Jesus Christ to spring back to life on its own, we must make it

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Newsletter
Larry & Denise Kollert
225butte@gmail.com
Deadline is 20th of month

Church Secretary
Nancy Rodrigues

Church Hours
Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

happen; no one – least of all the denomination of which our churches are part – will do it for us.

That is why we began sharing me between Coolidge and Florence, and it is why Coolidge and Florence – Community Presbyterian and First Presbyterian – need *in my opinion* to continue to work toward true union, ideally with the participation of churches of one or more other denominations, but without waiting for those other denominations to act. There is no reason to believe that other denominations are any more “make things happen” than is our PCUSA.

This is a real challenge, moving toward unity, but we see its upside such as on June 19, when, though the number is not big enough to sustain, forty-five people, split essentially evenly among people from both churches, worshipped in Coolidge. That was a nice number for worship in Coolidge, obviously less than the 140 or so Florence draws during the winter, but more than it draws most summer Sundays. But this is not going to keep either church alive on its own any more than the heavy winter attendance can keep Florence alive on its own!

So, first thing different: we must find a way to be one church!

Next to which the other thing I want to say might seem trivial, but perhaps it is not. No one is unaware (double-negative intentional) of the generation gap between most church-goers and those who do not attend. In order to have some visibility and hope of attracting the “lost” generations, we need to take advantage of their most common means of receiving news and being exposed to new things: The Internet. The Florence website (www.florenceazchurch.co -- and it is dot co, not dot com) is fine, but I would like to see it serve more than one church. We also need to reactivate and maintain a Facebook page started for Florence, and while most know I am NOT a fan of Facebook, I have begun putting links to my sermons that are on the Florence website on my Facebook page. Several winter members of Florence have contributed toward the idea of video-recording sermons to post on the webpage, with Facebook links and possible YouTube postings as well.

Implementing the latter idea is less an issue of cost -- I think we are reasonably well covered there (or that some will help make up any shortfall), -- than of the need for *human capital* (one of my favorite expressions to define the strength of the Florence congregation and to contrast it to its financial paucity), the need for human capital in the form of volunteers to do the video recording!

Very specifically, I am seeking at least four individuals to step forward willing to man – or “woman” -- a video camera during the sermon portion of worship. With that number of volunteers, we should never be unable to record, and no one would be over-burdened nor denied the opportunity to sleep during most sermons.

This is a call for volunteers!

So while it might seem my message today is an oleo, I would suggest that it is not: both the issues I am raising are directed toward our being not merely a survivor for a few more years, but an adaptor and innovator in trying to be what we say we are: Disciples of our Lord and Savior.

In His name, many blessings and thanks,
John

July Sunday Worship is at 10:00 am in Florence



Pray For:

Maria Hiestand, Denise Kollert, Allan Saunders, Connie Stephens. Also, our Church and our Country in these troubled times.

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.

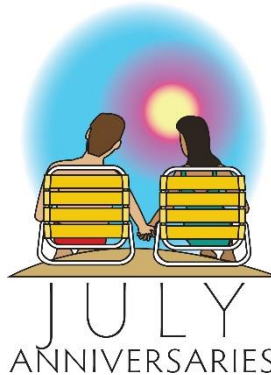
Don't forget to pray for our Police Officers and our Fire Fighters.

July Birthdays

- 01. Gladys Hiller
- 11. Barb Dressel
- 11. J.L. Hooper
- 12. ShaRon Liedl
- 13. Shirley Alberg
- 14. Lew Moon
- 14. Dean Rieffer
- 15. Farley Granger
- 19. Anita VanWagoner
- 23. William Johnston
- 26. Sue Webster
- 31. Denise Kollert



JULY
BIRTHDAYS



JULY
ANNIVERSARIES

July Anniversaries

- 03. Dean & Betty Rieffer
- 09. Paul & Vicky Hackl
- 22. Mike & Mary Palmer
- 31. Junior & Gladys Hiller

Remembering Gladys Anderson



Gladys Lucille Anderson 100 of Florence passed away May 26, 2016 due primarily to the simple passing of the years. Born in Kensal, North Dakota to William and Lottie Graham. She was the oldest of 3 children. She is survived by her son Glen B. Anderson and wife Gayle, daughter Barbara E. Fletcher and husband Bob, and sister Lois Wescom of Carrington, N.D. She married Ben B. Anderson November 12, 1935. They were married 60 years before Ben passed away in 1995. They had several great grand and great great grandchildren. Ben and Gladys owned and operated their own Dry Cleaning shops in Kent & Auburn Washington for many years. Gladys has lived in Florence for about 50 years. After retirement, she kept busy with sewing, knitting, and singing in the church choir for many years. She will be missed by many. In Lieu of flowers you may make a donation to Hospice of the Valley or First Presbyterian Church of Florence.

An Update from Phil Winn (submitted by Miriam Reed)

Thanks for the letter, it's good to hear from those we enjoy most in life --- good friends. Things here are about the same, Alice is giving up more each week, doesn't want to eat, won't exercise (walk) and sleeps mostly. She does respond to my voice, but doesn't really know who I am. We celebrated our 56th Anniversary last Friday and she did eat some cake. She gets real good care, I'm pleased with that. I keep up with things there both with the newsletter and friends. Jessie Laing & I talk often. How are things with you and Pat. I enjoy hearing about your family and their happenings. I'll bet Bill & Cathy are excited! Alice & I have 5 grandchildren but no prospects for any weddings in the near future. All have graduated from college except for our granddaughter who will continue her education at Northern Idaho University in the fall. Scott is working for Amalgamated Sugar Co. and will take the Plant Managers position in September. He will have about 600 employees and the largest production plant in the US. His wife Dee is a 5th grade teacher and really love her job. Me, I just go to the Senior Center every day for lunch and fellowship with friends I have made there. I have learned to say NO! when asked to get involved with the center. I don't mind helping out where I can, but don't want to involve myself in the politics of running the center. Well, I have rattled on long enough. Tell all hello from us and we miss you all.

Love, Alice & Phil

From Miriam Reed re. Cliff Kuhns

A while back (May Newsletter) I gave you info that Cliff Kuhns (a former member now living in Nebraska, lost his wife sometime ago) was getting married to a lady in Nebraska soon - seemed so happy about it. Just now called and said the marriage plan fell through - too many differences - Cliff is 87.

So asked him if I could tell our friends here about the situation - he said yes.

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)



Administration/Finance (Bob Woodhull)

	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2016	2015 YTD(Jan-Apr)	2016 YTD(Jan-Apr)
Expense	\$10,121.00	\$8,020.00	\$42,979.00	\$45,432.00
Income	\$10,637.00	\$9,499.00	\$43,779.00	\$74,013.00
Total (+/-)	\$516.00	\$1,479.00	\$800.00	\$28,581.00

Volunteer Needed

I am looking for a volunteer who has been in the church for a long time who is willing to help me tidy up the Birthday/Anniversary database which is used for the newsletter.

What I suspect is that this data has sort of gone stale; members have left the church, gone on to be with the Lord, or whatever.

I can provide a printout of the Birthdays & Anniversaries for each month. What I need is for you to go through it and identify those names that should be removed or corrected.

Thankyou -- Larry

Running the race

During three Olympic Games, American triathlete Hunter Kemper never placed higher than seventh. But his athletic performance never defined him. "Whether I win a gold medal or not, I get my character as a person from my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," Kemper said. "That's who I'll always be, and therefore I can never be let down. You can never be let down if your faith is in the Lord."

Kemper, now 40, said, "Trust in the Lord, and he'll give you the strength to be on top. And if you don't end up on top, that's okay too. Ultimately for me, I want to run my race ... and give [God] credit, whether in victory or defeat."



Enjoy your freedom

Because many Americans have never known other circumstances, it's easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites knew firsthand the oppression of slavery. Yet when God finally led them out of Egypt, they had problems adjusting to their newfound freedom. Fearful and rebellious, the Israelites grumbled against their leaders, Moses and Aaron, saying they would've been better off as slaves in Egypt.

Our freedom as Christians cost Jesus his life. But we, too, often find it easier to fall back into sinful habits. In Galatians 5:1, Paul offers this encouragement: "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (NRSV).

We're no longer bound by sin and death. That "independence" is worth celebrating every day!

Unknown



Hygiene Bank Report

We had 22 Families at the June 8th distribution (4 new ones). Thank you for your continuing support to keep the Hygiene Bank funded to assist those less fortunate in our church community.

Thank you -- Denise Kollert

'The Closet' At Coolidge Community Presbyterian Church

The Closet offers free of charge to the public clothing, household items, bedding and home décor.

Summer Schedule

The summer hours for the closet are as follows:

June - Open Thurs. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

(June 2, 16 & 30)

July – Closed all month

Aug. Open Thurs. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

(Aug. 4 & 18)

Denise Kollert/Mission

I received a **reminder** post card from Menaul School letting us know that through support for Box Tops for Education they earned nearly \$5,000.00 last year. So please continue to send in your box tops. Just be sure to check the expiration dates.

Denise Kollert/Mission

Dear Friends,

Thanks to supporters like you, we earned nearly \$5,000 from Box Tops for Education alone last year!

Every little bit adds up! Tell your friends and families.

Blessings,

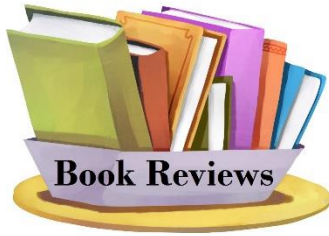
Mary E. Montoya

From Miriam; Yes, the very same Miriam who invites us to her 'Box O' ranch and stuffs us with good things to eat comes this important note:

New Diet Program



Go Figure !!!!



Getting Lucky

by Susan Marino, founder of Angel's Gate Animal Hospice

This is a short book of 18 essays, 16 of which feature one of the hundreds of sick, injured or dying cats/dogs/ birds/ horses that found love and care at Angel's Gate. Two of the essays are about Lucky, a Great Dane mix and a hero of sorts. He arrived via an ASPCA van, severely malnourished, barely able to stand, and with a distorted face, the result of severe beatings. He was expected to last a couple of weeks, but lived for 15 months, bringing a greater understanding of love, compassion, and faith to Susan and the workers at the hospice.

Readers—this is not a sad book, but a book of celebration, its author believing that love “is the best answer to most questions, no matter how complicated they are.”

Susan Marino, who left a 30-year career as an intensive care pediatric nurse caring for terminally ill children, founded Angel's Gate, the first residential hospice for animals. It is a place where “euthanasia” is not part of her vocabulary. Physical therapy, acupuncture, raw organic food, and massage are part of a daily routine for restoration, sometimes miraculous, and for others a loving, peaceful departure.

She writes: “We humans complicate death so much, making it something fearsome and mysterious. The animals know better. To them it just is what it is—an end and a beginning, a death and a birth. At Angel's Gate, our animals have taught us that death is just a normal part of life.”

She continues: “Sometimes the greatest gift we can give our animals is permission to leave.” Shouldn't we also give that gift to our human loved ones?

She concludes her book: “...at Angel's Gate...animals show us ...what is truly important, and what we often forget: that we shouldn't get caught up in the trivial. That to love is to share yourself deeply, and unconditionally. That life should be joyful, even when it is ending. And I believe ...that creatures like Lucky leave this earth when they've completed their work with us. They are the greatest teachers we will ever know...”

The “beginning” she talks about reflects her belief that these creatures go to their Creator, and like us, we shall be reunited again one day. Yes, this is a book about celebration.

Judith Johnston

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.

=====

Animals “are devoted to their offspring, sympathetic to their kindred, affectionate to their mates, self-subordinating in their community, courageous beyond praise, ...not because they are morally aware or morally trained, but because they possess another quality, which can only be called virtue.”

Sir John Arthur Thomson, Professor of Natural History, Aberdeen University

Buddhism takes into full account the animal’s latent capacity for affection, heroism and self-sacrifice. There is in Buddhism more sense of kinship with the animal world, a more intimate feeling of community with all that lives, than is found in Western religious thought. And this is not a matter of sentiment, but is rooted in the total Buddhist concept of life.

A group of workers at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography has obtained proof that fish, although they cannot produce “sound” as we know it, are able to communicate with one another by means of a variety of underwater vibrations which they produce by the air-bladders that control their depth in the water, or by the snapping of their fins and movements of the gills. By the use of tape recorders and underwater cameras, the research group has been able to establish definitely that certain sounds produced in this way relate to specific activities and have clearly-defined meanings.

It is a violation of Jewish law to neuter a pet. Hunting is prohibited. Declawing cats and docking the ears or tails of dogs are forbidden.

Judaism places great stress on proper treatment of animals. Unnecessary cruelty to animals is strictly forbidden, and in many cases, animals are accorded the same sensitivity as human beings. This concern for the welfare of animals is unique to Judaism; Christianity does not share this value, nor did most civilized nations until quite recently. Cruelty to animals was not outlawed until the 1800s.

The Qur’an strongly enjoins Muslims to treat animals with compassion and not to abuse them. The animals, together with all creatures, are believed to praise God, even if this praise is not expressed in human language.

July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 2 Kings 5:1-14 Ps. 30 Gal. 6:1-6, 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	4 Independence Day 7 p.m. Al-Anon	5	6 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Old Pueblo	7	8 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch @ Old Pueblo	9
10 Amos 7:7-17 Ps. 82 Col. 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37	11 7 p.m. Al-Anon	12	13 1:00 - 2:00 Hygiene Bank	14	15	16
17 Amos 8:1-12 Ps. 52 Col. 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42	18 7 p.m. Al-Anon	19	20	21	22	23
24 Hosea 1:2-10 Ps. 85 Col. 2:6-15, 16-19 Luke 11:1-13	25 7 p.m. Al-Anon	26	27	28	29	30
31 Hosea 11:1-11 Ps. 107:1-9,43 Col.3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21	Don't Forget – July Sunday Worship is at 10:00 am in Florence – See you here!					

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