

The Peace of Christ ...



be With You!

The First Presbyterian Church of Florence, AZ

Volume 11, Issue 06 (June 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.



First Presbyterian Church of Florence

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Sunday Church Service

10:30 a.m.

Fellowship after worship

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From the Pastor . . .

Nine years ago at this time, I resigned from the church I was serving in a Chicago suburb when a plurality of the members of Session wanted to postpone for two years any further discussion of a potential merge. We were in pretty much the eleventh hour of discussions – with a nearby United Church of Christ Church, and possibly with a second UCC Church and even a Methodist Church that had begun to participate in the discussions.

At my request, a staff member of the Presbytery of Chicago, a woman with whom I had a somewhat checkered experience when she was a visiting “pastor in practice” faculty member at my seminary, had, at my request, visited the Session when I was in Mississippi helping a mission, and she had in essence told the Session, “Well, you do not have to merge, you can survive as a smaller church.”

Forget that I put her comments as sour grapes because she had told me of an unsuccessful attempt she had made to lead something similar at a church she had served in the east before I knew her, but I resigned, saying, “Merely surviving is *not* being a church.”

I was sufficiently frustrated that I wanted nothing to do with the Presbytery of Chicago and had intended not to return to pastoral ministry for about five years, and then I would go back to interim ministry, my initial sense of call. God had other plans, for which I am grateful, and so I am “here,” but the point for which I resigned has not changed: *Merely surviving is not being a church.*

My Chicago-area experience did teach me some things, but what was perhaps most disappointing was that there was a small core of members who simply – my opinion – valued the building over the church.

Sound contradictory? Isn't a “church” a building?

I have no more to ask the question but that I believe everyone reading this would say, “No! Of course not!” But that is not the way humans behave.

I like to emphasize – and it is not completely original by any means – that a church is like a *tripod*; it stands on three legs: worshipping together, sharing fellowship and supporting one another, and serving Christ outside the church family through mission and evangelism. When one of those

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Roger Hiestand 520-868-0343

Building

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Congregational Care

?????????

Fellowship

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Evangelism

?????????

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Anita VanWagoner
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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.

three legs is missing, what remains may look somewhat like a church, but it is not; like a tripod that has lost a leg, it falls.

Several years ago, the then Moderator of the General Assembly of the PCUSA proposed “10,000 new worshipping communities,” a cause that is being pursued with modest success. But a worshipping body, and there are several in our larger area, is *not* a church; indeed, in a real way a “worshipping body” caters to what I used to think made *me* a good Christian: I set aside an hour each week to show God I valued Him, and then sought to be a good example in my work. I even contributed generously financially.

But that was not really being a part of a church. I suppose what really drove me in that direction was when my late wife, Carol, not as strong of professed faith as was I, joined with a friend to lead Vacation Bible School, and then, with another friend when they two became deacons, organized a weekly activity for “seniors” (we were in our late 30’s to early 40’s at the time) that still exists thirty some years later.

Worshipping, sharing fellowship (we are pretty good at this) and supporting one another (not bad at this, either), *servicing Christ outside the church family through mission and evangelism*. The latter is the struggle of every small church, and essentially a non-starter for worship-only-communities. Yet without that, we delude ourselves in thinking we are part of a church: we may attend worship, but we are not part of a church.

Earlier in my still not twenty years of ministry, I tended to judge effectiveness in Mission by the percentage of a church’s budget spend on Mission; I believed – and still believe – that a church should essentially *tithe*, spend ten percent of what it takes in on Mission and not merely on survival. It doesn’t tend to be realistic, yet I have not given up.

With time, I have learned that Mission, especially *local* mission, can utilize not only – and I need to emphasize that, *not only but not without* – money, but time and talent of members. The clothing pantry at Community in Coolidge, the Hygiene Projects there and at First Presbyterian in Florence, the Florence Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes, require time and effort and . . . *money*, yet neither works without the other. What is particularly “good” about these types of mission activity is that recipients of the mission work see a human face on the “dispensing” end; they see, whether they realize it or not, the presence of Christ in those volunteers who give them food or soap or clothing.

They cannot see him through Sunday-worship-only gatherings, however sincere in their faith those gathering might be.

“10,000 new worshipping communities” recognizes that the PCUSA, like every other mainline Protestant denomination, is losing members – which makes particularly challenging the funding of missions that are not those of the local church, funding that does matter and in which every church should participate.

In a post-resurrection appearance in the Gospel of John, Jesus three times asks Peter, “Do you love me?” Peter three times, with increasing frustration, responds, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Three times Jesus then says, “Feed my sheep.”

Cont’d on next page...

If we mean it when we say that we love Jesus in Sunday worship, what we are to do is clear: *Feed his sheep*. Mission is essential work of the Christian and of Christ's Church.

Amen.

John

P.S. The pastor who succeeded me at that church that did not want to merge has resigned; the church is not sure it is able to call another pastor; it has survived -- sort of.

There are three kinds of people, those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder, "What happened?" Which do we wish to be?

June Sunday Worship is at 9:30 am at Community Presbyterian in Coolidge

Please Note Also:

Discussions continue at the Methodist District Superintendent – Presbytery Pastor level that might impact the balance of the summer.



Pray For:

Gladys Anderson, Bruce Brink, Fred Dietz, Maria Hiestand, Lois Kuder, Vera Schell, Ann Schneider, Phil & Alice Win.

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.

June Birthdays

- 06. Phil Winn
- 07. Dan Rice
- 11. Art Colley
- 13. Nancy Blank
- 17. Myrna Leef
- 22. Berneice Kelm
- 22. Jessie Laing
- 23. Pat Vucson
- 24. Sandra Hartman



June Anniversaries

- 17. Bob & Verna Boyle
- 18. Bill & Judith Johnston

An Update From The Winn's (Phil & Alice) May 5, 2016

Thank you so much for sending the monthly newsletter. I enjoy reading about the happenings at FPC of Florence. Larry & Denise, you do a fine job with the newsletter and I enjoy reading about the Hygiene Bank and "the closet". We haven't been very faithful in keeping in touch with the church family, things here are not as I would have wanted. Alice is in a Memory Care Home and is doing as well as can be for someone with this dreadful disease. She doesn't recognize anyone and is not very happy. She doesn't smile anymore and thinks the world is out to do her harm. I had a mild stroke a month ago but all is fine now. No side effects and am back to normal, whatever that is. I enjoy the FPC of Twin Falls and have made a lot of new friends. I think of you folks a lot and truly miss you and your friendship. I hope you will share this with the congregation.

Your friends, Alice & Phil Winn

--- The origin of Father's Day ---

One Sunday in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd listened to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. Dodd wondered why there wasn't a day to honor fathers, so she arranged a tribute to her father at a church in Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many people believe this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another account holds that a West Virginia church held a tribute service for fathers in 1908, following a mine explosion that killed 360 men. Regardless of which story is correct, President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to designate a special day to honor fathers. In 1924, he proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.



Thanks For Someone Willing To Serve

Sunday, May 15th; No one to play the piano. But wait ... Someone did play the piano; and, did a beautiful job. The congregation thanks Darrell Hill for taking on the assignment at the last minute.



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



Florence First Presbyterian

Hygiene Bank Report

We had 29 Families at the May 11th distribution (3 new ones).



May 11th was the Hygiene Bank's 1 year birthday. I am so proud of everyone who made this possible with your donations. You should also be proud of yourselves.

FYI – I have applied for a grant through the Presbytery. It is a 3-step process which must filter upward from the Presbytery, to the Synod, and finally to the General Assembly. I will not know anything until October 2016 as to whether we got the grant.

So please, if you can over the summer, donate to the Hygiene Bank so we can continue to serve the needy citizens of Florence. It is so appreciated by these folks.

Thank you -- Denise Kollert



Coolidge Community Presbyterian

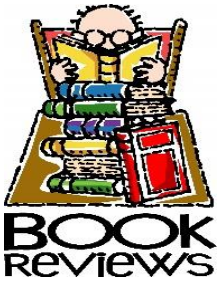
['The Closet' At Coolidge Community Presbyterian Church](#)

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

There is a particular need at the present time for mens and childrens clothing. If you have items to donate, they are accepted on Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The store is open every Thursday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

If you would like to help either on Tuesday to sort & setup or on Thursday to distribute it would be greatly appreciated. If interested, please contact Janice Cockrill at 520-431-1841.

[Denise Kollert/Mission](#)



The Artist's Way - A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity

by Julia Cameron

This Course in Discovering and Recovering Your Creative Self will make excellent summer reading since its 12 chapters are designed to be read, one each week (that's 3 months). Cameron leads us through a recovery of our lost artist (usually lost in our earlier years) due to criticism, ridicule, indifference, and threats to being/dreaming/doing the impractical. Our inner artist becomes submerged under layers of being practical, of should & should nots, of living a "successful" life which becomes a life of blocked creativity.

Cameron is adamant about art being a spiritual transaction. "Making our art," she writes, "we meet firsthand the hand of our Creator." And, "Creativity is God's gift to us. Using our creativity is our gift back to God." She does not suggest that a Rembrandt or a Bach, a Dickinson or a Hendricks stands inside our blocked minds, waiting for release and fame. She does firmly believe there is creativity awaiting escape, be it to enhance our cooking, our gardening, our interior renovations, or perhaps...perhaps...in some world class gift to humanity. The sidebars of the text are replete with quotes such as: "I myself do nothing. The Holy Spirit accomplishes all through me." *William Blake*; "Straightaway the ideas flow in upon me, directly from God." *Johannes Brahms*; Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up." *Pablo Picasso*.

Chapter titles address Recovering a Sense of...Safety, Identity, Power, Integrality, Possibility, Abundance, Connection, Strength, Compassion, Self-Protection, Autonomy, & Faith. But recovering any of these Senses must include a commitment to the Morning Pages, 3 hand – written, stream-of-consciousness pages in which the random mix of feeling, hopes, dreams, complaints, & descriptions of mundane activities will produce creative insights. (Yes, cleaning the toilet bowl & wanting to kill your boss are all legitimate entries.) A major gardening project of mine involving a brick walkway emerged as a completed design in my head recently. Why morning pages? Because the challenges of the day have not yet settled on us.

Another commitment is to a Weekly Artist Date. You go only with your Inner Artist. Plan on 1-2 hours. Buy something frivolous like gold stars & stick them on your outgoing mail. Sit & watch seagulls on an empty beach. Browse the magazine section at Barnes & Noble. Eat a light meal in a completely strange restaurant & people watch. You will return home with numerous creative ideas. Then, implement one of them.

You may never know fame and riches, but you will be richly blessed by the greatest Creator in the Universe.

Judith Johnston



An Artist's Prayer

O Great Creator, We are gathered together in your name that we may be of greater service to you and to our fellows.

We offer ourselves to you as instruments. We open ourselves to your creativity in our lives. We surrender to you our old ideas. We welcome your new and more expansive ideas.

We trust that you will lead us. We trust that it is safe to follow you. We know you created us and that creativity is your nature and our own.

We ask you to unfold our lives according to your plan, not our low self-worth. Help us to believe that it is not too late and that we are not too small or too flawed to be healed--by you and through each other--and made whole.

Help us to love one another, to nurture each other's unfolding, to encourage each other's growth, and understand each other's fears. Help us to know that we are not alone, that we are loved and lovable. Help us to create as an act of worship to you.

[From the book]

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.

=====

Buddhist art originated on the *Indian* subcontinent following the historical life of Siddhartha Gautama, 6th to 5th century BC. Creation of Buddhist art is usually done as a meditation. An example of this is the creation of a sand mandala (a circular art form) by monks; before and after the construction prayers are recited. Tibetan *thangka* - cloth images of Buddhist deities painted with mineral pigments and gold are used by Buddhist practitioners in rituals and meditation as visual aids in their pursuit of enlightenment. Pieced silk thangkas were invented in the 15th century. A common motif is the lotus blossom, symbolizing our own pure Buddha nature, free from the mud and dirt of the material world.

A **Muslim** prohibition against depicting representational images in religious art, as well as the naturally decorative nature of Arabic script, led to the use of calligraphic decorations, which usually involved repeating geometrical patterns that expressed ideals of order and nature. It was used on religious architecture, carpets, and handwritten documents, reflecting a balanced, harmonious world-view. It focuses on spiritual essence rather than physical form. The Islamic resistance to the representation of living beings stems from the belief that the creation of living forms is unique to God.

Christian sacred art is produced in an attempt to illustrate, supplement and portray in tangible form the principles of Christianity, and built around themes familiar to the intended observer, the most common being that of the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus, and Christ on the Cross. The oldest surviving Christian paintings are dated around the year 70, and the oldest Christian sculptures are from the beginning of the 2nd century.

Jewish painter, Marc Chagall (1887-1985) depicts the crucified Jesus in somber, often brooding paintings which are often read as metaphors not only for war but the particular expressions of Jewish suffering and persecution in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. They demonstrated to both Jews and Gentiles that what was being done to modern Jews had a direct parallel in the fate of Jesus, cruelly misunderstood and executed for his outsider status. It was the image of Jesus Christ as a Man of Sorrows - a sufferer- that made him the exemplary Jew.

Native American arts have an extremely deep connection with spirituality and Mother Nature and have been a way of life, tracing back to cave paintings, stonework and earthenware thousands of years ago. Materials used have evolved from rocks and feathers to cloth, clay, turquoise, silver, glass and fabric; each piece of art reveals intricacies of the diverse indigenous peoples. Tall wooden sculptures known as totem poles are one of the most elaborate forms of Native American art. Each pole represents generations of family members or spiritual story. The Hohokam and the Anasazi made pottery, and like all things, is said to have a spirit. It is a product of Mother Earth: her body forms the walls of a vessel; her bounty provides the paints to decorate it. The Navajo tribe is very well known for their hand woven blankets. It is believed that Spider Woman, after weaving the universe, came to the Navajo to teach them how to weave. It is a long-standing tradition that continues to pass from generation to generation.

June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Old Pueblo	2	3	4
5 1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24) Ps. 146 Gal. 1:11-24 Luke 7:11-17	6 7 p.m. Al-Anon	7	8	9	10 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch @ Old Pueblo	11
12 1 Kings 21:1-10 (11-14) 15-21a Ps. 5:1-8 Gal. 2:15-21 Luke 7:36-8:3	13 7 p.m. Al-Anon	14	15 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Old Pueblo	16	17	18
19 Father's Day 1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a Ps. 42 & 43 Gal. 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39	20 7 p.m. Al-Anon	21	22	23	24	25
26 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Ps. 77:1-2, 11- 20 Gal. 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62	27 7 p.m. Al-Anon	28	29	30		

**Don't Forget – June Sunday Worship is at
9:30 am at Community Presbyterian in
Coolidge – See you there!**

**First Presbyterian Church
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225 E. Butte
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