

The Peace of Christ ...



be With You!

The First Presbyterian Church of Florence, AZ

Volume 11, Issue 03 (March 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 . . .

This year the month that we say, "Comes in like a lion, goes out like a lamb" does go out with . . . well, we have an early Easter this year, March 27, so if one wanted to be corny, which I would never seek to be, one could comment on the paschal lamb, or rather, the resurrection of the paschal lamb.

And before I go into what to me is interesting Bible study concerning that "lamb" image with Jesus, I do want to comment on what our Holy Week celebrations shall entail. On Sunday, March 20, we shall observe Palm Sunday – not Palm & Passion Sunday, because on "Good" Friday, March 25 at 7:00 pm we shall observe Christ's passion on Good Friday with a service of Tenebrae ("shadows"). That, however, will be preceded by our Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Lord's Supper, 6:00 pm, to which we are again inviting (though as yet with no response) our Methodist and Episcopalian friends from Coolidge as well as our brothers and sisters from Community Presbyterian.

Easter morning we shall have our 6:00 am Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden and morning worship at 10:30 in the sanctuary.

Just a word that I have offered before: the three most important days in our church calendar, in the Christian calendar, are Christmas – God becomes incarnate as Jesus – Good Friday – Jesus is killed by humans and buried in a tomb – and Easter, Jesus rises from the tomb. My point is the story is incomplete if we skip any of the three; without Good Friday, Easter makes no sense; without Christmas, what could Good Friday mean? Without Easter, what happened on Christmas tells us less than God intended.

. . . but back to "lamb." The Easter events coincided with the Jewish Passover, though there is a day difference between what the three synoptic gospels tell us and what the Gospel according to John says, but in any event, it is an important connection, and in Exodus, where the first Passover is described and the rules for the Passover meal spelled out, we are told of the lamb "without blemish" that is to be "slaughtered" for the Passover meal. In Leviticus, written many years later, descriptions of how to bring a lamb for sacrifice are described, and also described, though it is a goat and not a sheep, is what we

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John Johnson
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Evangelism

????????

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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.

would call the scape goat, a young goat that was to be sent out into the wilderness to carry the sins of the community – to atone for the sins of the community and its people. Sans goat, this is the idea of the Jewish Holy Day of Yom Kippur, the “day of atonement.”

The oldest book in the New Testament, 1 Thessalonians by Paul, indeed, all the letters recognized as from Paul himself, while they speak of Jesus’ resurrection, never speak of his death as atonement for our sins (it may have been assumed that Christians accepted this idea, but that is not clear), moreover none of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Matthew and Luke [listed in this order because Matthew and Luke are based in large measure on Mark]) speaks of Jesus’ death as for our sins, but rather as necessary to fulfill God’s plan that Jesus would rise again. Yet all of us are very familiar with the imagery of “the lamb that taketh away the sins of the world” and the idea of Jesus’ death as sacrifice for our sins; why?

This idea, or these ideas appear in the Gospel according to John, the last written (one can argue the case, but not persuasively, against the order I have indicated) of the four canonical gospels. Even in John, the idea is not so strongly emphasized, appearing only in the words of John the Baptist: “Look, here is the Lamb of God” (1:35c).

But the idea also appears – and my suggestion is that they might first have appeared – in the epistle known as I Peter [if you are reading Donald, and I hope you are, that is “first Peter,” not “one Peter” – just having fun], written sometime after 70 AD, where very explicitly, the writer states, “You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish” (1:18-19), not quite our “sacrificial atonement,” though a bit later the writer states quite clearly, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.” (2:24, largely reflecting Isaiah 53:4-5, one of the second Isaiah’s “Servant songs.”)

This is simply to suggest that the atoning death of Jesus perhaps does not need to be thought of in sacrificial terms, at least that does not appear to be how Paul or the three earlier gospel writers saw it. An idea I like – not original – is that the atoning power of Jesus’ death was to reconcile humans to the love of God by showing that the most awful thing a human could do – killing the Son of God – could not separate us from God’s love; to make us realize how great is God’s love and forgiveness.

And that relates to one of the great values of confessing to God: a realization of how much God must love us if God can forgive all that we in our most honest moments can confess.

So, among other things, do not spoil the meaning of Easter by failing to acknowledge how generous God is to us in our current lives by that forgiveness.

Peace and joy,

John



Pray For:

Bruce Brink, Kurt Brumage, Norma Eppinga, Ann Schneider, John Thompson.

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.



March Birthdays

- 03. Rhonda Schmidt
- 10. Lois Kuder
- 15. Burnell Hanson
- 25. Verna Boyle
- 27. Norma Eppinga
- 30. Vera Schell



March Anniversaries

- 04. Dick & Flory Bondelid
- 05. Robert & Jessie Laing
- 18. Tim & Margo Wendt
- 23. Larry & Denise Kollert

[Pastor John on Local Mission project ...](#)

For some months now we have been operating what proves to have been a much-needed mission, our “Hygiene Bank,” the equivalent of a food pantry for personal hygiene and laundry products. We serve about 28-30 people each month, approximately 2 or 3 are “new” in any given month. We have relied on added generosity from you to support this project. It costs us about \$18 per family for first visit. Subsequent 2nd and 3rd visits are \$8 - \$10. Please consider support of this project as an addition to the support you give the church; please mark envelopes or checks “for Hygiene Bank.” Many thanks -- John

Stewardship REPORT



Administration/Finance (Bob Woodhull)

	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	2015 YTD(Jan)	2016 YTD(Jan)
Expense	\$10,206.00	\$9,533.00	\$10,206.00	\$9,533.00
Income	\$8,630.00	\$9,191.00	\$8,630.00	\$9,191.00
Total (+/-)	\$1,576.00	\$342.00	\$1,576.00	\$342.00

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



All funds raised will support the next Live Nativity.

Annual Yard Sale

The annual yard sale to support the Live Nativity will be held Saturday March 12th (8:00-2:00).

Donations can be brought to the church at any time between now and then.

We want your furniture, bedding (clean), clothing (clean), appliances (working), and other interesting things.

Food items should be taken to the Florence Baptist church or call 520-868-1728.

Call: ShaRon Liedl @ [520-431-0883](tel:520-431-0883) (after 2/26)

arizonacraft@wmconnect.com

or B.J. Brown-Ferguson @ [602-989-2108](tel:602-989-2108)

bjbf000@icloud.com

Watch Sunday bulletins For News Of Upcoming Planning Workshop

With the help of one of our winter family members, Kathy Hoyem, we shall be holding a workshop on Planning — specifically, Advanced Directives, Medical Power of Attorney, and Living Wills. Please watch your Sunday bulletins for details.

Pastor John

'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

Choir and Pastor Feud (just kidding)

Church feuds are not uncommon, especially among cliques in the congregation. But when the music director and the pastor get into it, stand back.

One week the pastor preached on commitment and how we should dedicate ourselves to service.

The choir selected "I Shall Not Be Moved" as the final hymn.

Next week the pastor preached on giving and how we should gladly give to the work of the Lord.

The choir selected "Jesus Paid It All " as the final hymn.

Next week the pastor preached on gossiping and how we should watch our tongues.

The choir selected "I Love To Tell The Story" as the final hymn.

Next week the pastor, being disgusted over the situation, told the congregation that he was considering resignation.

The choir selected "Why Not Tonight " as the final hymn.

Then the pastor resigned the next week and told the congregation that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was now leading him away.

The choir selected "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" as the final hymn.

Anita VanWagoner

Korey Bahme

I wanted to give an up-date on Korey Bahme for those of you who know her and have helped her through the years and for those of you who do not know her a bit of history on her.

We came to the Church when she was 10 years old and she of course stole everyone's heart. There were not that many kids who came but there was enough to send to the Church camp in the summer and to help Nancy Bohlander with a kids thing during church.

Through the years you all gave of your hearts and money to help send these kids to camp each summer with the bake sales, car washes and anything else that came up. When Korey sold things for high school you all were so good and bought from her to help out, she also was the Angel when ShaRon started the Nativity at Christmas and was up until her 2nd year of College.

Korey is now 21 years old Flagstaff. She will graduate with honors, average is a 3.92. Her future plan is to go to Law School and hoping to get several schools but of about summer which one



and in her last year at NAU in graduate in May and has done found out that she will Magna Cum Laude, her grade future plan is to go to Law Stanford. She has put in for course will not know until she will attend.

Needless to say we as her grandparents are so very proud of her as she has stayed focused and kept her grades up high which is a big help money wise as you all know. We just would like to thank everyone again for helping her out. This Church has stood behind her all the way and even though she has not been back she does think of all of you and can never thank you enough for all you have done for her.

I will let everyone know in May which school she will be attending.

Billy and Vicky Bahme

Hygiene Bank Report

We had 26 families at our February distribution. It was good to be back participating in the distribution. Please – We need your continuing support to keep the Hygiene Bank funded to assist those less fortunate in our church community. We continue to shop for the lowest prices possible. Even so, it costs \$2.75 for a 75 oz bottle of laundry detergent; a 22 oz bottle of shampoo is \$1.80. These are just a couple of examples of what it takes to keep the Hygiene Bank going. Most of us take for granted purchasing these same items for our own use. We just go to the store and buy them when needed. Others in our community are not as fortunate.

Thank you -- Denise Kollert/Mission

Teacher Appreciation

What is a teacher, if not a mirror in which we perceive the divine image hidden in the soul? What is a teacher, if not a sower of seed and a cultivator of young gardens? What is a teacher, if not a shaper of souls and a guide who gently shows the right path for the journey? What is a teacher, if not the most hopeful of dreamers, who plants and nurtures and sees the bright destiny and harvest of the work even when the student cannot? What is a teacher, if not a shepherd watching over the flock and leading it to abundant pastures?

Dreamers and sharers of dreams, sowers of seed and guides who chart the way, mirrors of goodness and shepherds of grace — it is for these teachers and this ministry that we give abundant thanks to God.

—Author unknown

The Incredible Snow Teacher – Sunday Jan. 24, 2016



a.k.a.
Nancy
Bohlander



Nancy Bohlander works incredibly hard at delivering a Bible based message to our younger folks (and we tall kids) each and every Sunday during 'a time for children' before they leave us for Sunday School. She must spend a great deal of time each week (during the week) preparing for Sunday morning.

Please help me say to Nancy and all our Sunday School teachers a much deserved Thank You for your efforts.

Larry

Some Sunday Worship PICS

Sunday, January 24th (in the absence of Pastor John); Brad Munroe, Presbytery de Cristo Pastor led us in worship. His sermon which was entitled 'For Whom Christ Died' said much to all of us about evangelism/mission in our local area as well as the rest of the world. For all who missed the worship service on the 24th, you missed a really good message.

Larry



Sunday, February 7th with Blue Grass from Heaven leading the worship. Much good music was enjoyed by all who attended.



The Women Who Shaped the Presidents

by
Bonnie Angelo

Bonnie Angelo explores the formative years of twelve United States presidents, from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to George Walker Bush, revealing the secrets, boyhood antics, family living conditions, and maternal influences that would eventually shape the attitudes and goals of presidential decision-making.

The media brings us vignettes of adult politicians seeking the highest office of the land. But unless one has explored the plethora of biographical material (listed at the end of the book) about these 12 men and their families, one knows little about their formative years.

All had mothers who promoted early reading. Johnson was reading at age 2. Clinton was reading newspapers in the first grade. All had mothers who encouraged dinner table conversations about religion, world events, history, biographies, literature, culture. All were devoted to, and especially connected to, their “favorite” child. All the mothers shared their faith paths, some extremely strong, that promoted the basic tenets of Christianity. All the men maintained a life-long devotion to their mothers, who received regular phone calls, letters, gifts, poetry and public accolades all their lives. Many actively campaigned for their sons and traveled extensively with them. All dealt with the challenges of accepting “the daughter-in-law.” For some it resulted in close friendships.

Among the often humorous descriptions of fun times, pranks and punishments, early work experiences, academic successes and failures, first romances, and eventual marriages run dark threads about parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents and their struggles with rejection, wresting poverty, brutal alcoholism, divorce, multiple marriages, war service, premature death, and serious health problems.

Despite these histories, all these men were triumphant and successful adults. Angelo makes references to the legislative successes and failures of these men as presidents, but without political judgment. And their mothers always stood by them, offering encouragement or solace as “Mom.”

This book would make a fine gift for young mothers who could learn lessons about faith, focus, toughness, goals and unconditional love as they shape the lives of their little ones, regardless of personal setbacks and limitations. And grandmothers could reflect on and evaluate their past child-rearing experiences and perhaps bring new and better approaches to the development of their grandchildren.

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.

=====

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. Honor your father and mother which is the first commandment with a promise – that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life. ~ ***Ephesians 6:1-3***

You made all of the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. ~ ***Psalms 139: 13***

Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it. ~ ***Proverbs 22:6***

Parts of the Navajo Creation Story tell of Spider Woman weaving beautiful rugs on her loom, and it was through Spider Woman's teachings that Navajo weavers learned their craft. *Navajo weaving is meditative work that invites Woman into the energy center of the balanced universe, a place where every day happenings merge with the mythical.*

Navajo rugs and blankets are more than just art and artifacts of history; they represent the entirety of Navajo life and spirituality. The Dine' (Navaho) do not separate the concepts of art, beauty, and religion. They are all interconnected.

Most mothers are instinctive philosophers. ~ ***Harriet Beecher Stowe***

Sons are the anchors of a mother's life. ~ ***Sophocles***

According to legend, in a time of famine a mother pelican would draw blood from her own chest and give the blood to her chicks. The pelican symbol was adopted into Christianity by the 2nd century, symbolizing the sacrifice of Christ on the cross (because he gave his blood for others) as well as the Eucharist (because it represents Christ's blood and provides spiritual nourishment).

The angel came to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you!" ~ ***Luke 1:28 Angel Gabriel to Mary, mother of Jesus***

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bible Study 9:30-11:00	2 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Old Pueblo 6 p.m. Choir Practice	3	4	5
6 Josh. 5:9-12 Ps. 32 2 Cor. 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	7 7 p.m. Al-Anon	8 Bible Study 9:30-11:00	9 6 p.m. Choir Practice	10	11 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch @ Old Pueblo	12 Annual Yard Sale 8:00-2:00
13 Isa. 43:16-21 Ps. 126 Phil. 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	14 7 p.m. Al-Anon	15 Bible Study 9:30-11:00	16 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Old Pueblo 6 p.m. Choir Practice	17	18	19
20 Luke 19:28-40 Ps. 118:1-2, 19- 29	21 7 p.m. Al-Anon	22 Bible Study 9:30-11:00	23 6 p.m. Choir Practice	24	25 Good Friday	26
27 Easter Acts 10:34-43 Ps. 118:1-2, 14- 24 1 Cor. 15:19-26 John 20:1-18	28 7 p.m. Al-Anon	29 Bible Study 9:30-11:00	30 6 p.m. Choir Practice	31		

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

----- Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

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