

The Peace of Christ ... Be With You!

The First Presbyterian Church of Florence, AZ

Volume 10, Issue 10 (October 2015)



First Presbyterian Church of Florence

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Sunday Church Service

10:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m. – Starting Oct. 11

Fellowship after worship

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From the pastor . . .

By now I believe everyone is aware that beginning October 1, at least for the following seven months, I shall be wearing two hats – er, two stoles: pastor at First Presbyterian in Florence, and pastor of Community Presbyterian in Coolidge. The congregational meeting for October 11 is not for the purpose of approving this arrangement, but of facilitating (in this case, making easier) the financial aspects of the arrangement.

Parties enter into agreements because they are expected to benefit both parties, and I believe this is definitely the case here. Because of an over six-year role with you, I have tried to leave the actual negotiation to others, more out of fairness to Community than anything else, but my hand has been in it. What is good about this agreement? In the short term, it economically resolves an “empty pulpit” situation for Community, which did not see itself as likely to afford or to be able to find a half-time pastor; I know that they are being realistic, for several years ago I worked with them as Committee on Ministry liaison in doing a pastoral search. At the same time, there is a meaningful financial benefit to a hard-pressed First Presbyterian, which by virtue of sharing me will have an annualized saving of roughly \$10,000. My commitment to the combined churches will represent an increase in my “official” hours worked by one-third.

How can this work and how will I survive (to those who have expressed concern for me, personally)?

While it is a cliché, by working smarter. I shall deliver the same sermon (excepting for any specific references to a person in one or the other congregations) with essentially the same order of worship in both churches; those tasks for most pastors would be considered as consuming almost all the time I am “officially” employed now at Florence, although I think I do those with a high level of efficiency. But the point is, sharing that part of my work halves its “cost” to both churches and minimally increases my efforts in preparation. More or less “ditto” for preparing Bible Study. Pastoral visits in the East Valley can be combined, and

Pastor
John Johnson
Cell: 312-933-3494

Session Members
Clerk of the Session

Nancy Blank 520-868-5538

Ministry of Management
Administration/Finance

Robert Woodhull 520-840-9740

Property

Roger Hiestand 520-868-0343

Building

Allen Saunders 480-656-8816

Congregational Care

Verna Boyle 520-868-8182

Fellowship

Laura Hofmann 520-858-2945

Evangelism

?????????

Mission

Denise Kollert 520-868-8177

Worship

Anita VanWagoner
520-868-4671 Cell: 520-709-2771

Christian Education

Sandra Saunders 480-656-8816

Stewardship

Dave & Lois Platt 520-868-8135

Church Personnel

Anita VanWagoner
520-868-4671 Cell: 520-709-2771

Bookkeeper

Judi Hyland

Treasurer

Vicky Bahme

Assistant Treasurer

B.J. Brown-Ferguson
602-989-2108

Anita VanWagoner
520-868-4671 Cell: 520-709-2771

Prayer Chain

Vera Schell 520-868-8720

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.

From the pastor . . . Cont'd

“present in the office” time can occur on the same day at both churches.

While both churches will experience a shift in worship time, Community’s moving from 9:30 to 9:00 and “our’s” from 10:00 to 10:30, members of both congregations will have the opportunity of attending “the same service” with some flexibility in when they do so. Concerned about missing a Packers’ klick-off? Attend at 9:00 in Coolidge.

We also plan to look for opportunities to bring the congregations as close together as the towns are geographically. Already, some women from Community are attending our Women’s Luncheon, something I have not been privileged to do (I think my position on the social uselessness of cats makes me unwelcome there).

And those efforts at bringing congregations closer together are part of a longer term necessity: our churches must change! It is no secret that I personally believe that the four mainline Protestant churches (Spirit of Joy Methodist in Coolidge, St. Michael’s Episcopal in Coolidge, and our two Presbyterian churches) -- and if I still had contacts with the ELCA office, any Evangelical Lutheran effort -- need to work at organic unity in order to survive, and, far more importantly, to carry Jesus Christ into the world outside the walls of any of our churches. I repeat that I am very disappointed that enough members of Spirit of Joy did not want to worship outside their walls this summer that they missed what was a decently successful program of shared summer worship.

The survival of the earthly body of Christ matters, and while one can talk about “God will save it,” I cannot forget the “three boats and a helicopter” story. God works through humans, and since humans for the last almost 1600 years have done a rather lousy job with the Church entrusted to them, we have a challenge before us. I figure I have a bit more than three years left as pastor, God and yourselves willing, and I do not want to be the last pastor of this congregation, but I strongly believe that unless we make real progress toward removing blinders that allow us to define ourselves primarily as occupants of a historic building, I will be the last pastor.

We are called to service, not just to comfort and not just to worship, so I humbly but with real conviction ask, “Please make this work!” I can only contribute my part; Jesus needs you to do your part.

Thanks and blessings,

John

Financial Impacts of John Johnson preaching at both Florence and Coolidge churches

To the First Presbyterian Church of Florence Congregation,

The joint services between Coolidge’s Community Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Florence have ended. Effective October 11th our service will begin at 10:30 Sunday morning and Community Presbyterian Church’s service will begin at 9:00 with Pastor Johnson preaching at both services. One of tenets of our minister has been to encourage the congregation to go out into the world with our Christian Good News. I view Pastor John preaching in Coolidge as going out into the world.

Economically the church income will rise by \$25,200 annualized with costs increasing by \$14,854 annualized. This program will be reviewed April of 2016 to decide if the both congregations wish to continue the program.

Bob Woodhull – Administration/Finance



Pray For:



Gary Ellsworth, Mary Palmer, Junior Hiller, JL Hooper, Heidi Lowe, Maria, Kurt, Billy Bahme, Bob & Verna Boyle, Karen Smith, Dick & Flory, 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.

Editors note regarding the newsletter prayer list: Starting with the Newsletter for November 2015 the prayer list will be refreshed each month. I will attempt each month to build a new list for that month using input from the Pastor via the Church Secretary, Jessie Laing and, of course, any other input from our members.

My concern has been that the on-going list becomes stale and I have no good way to make it better. With your help we can make it better and more current. If you want your name to be on the list from one month to the next you will need to make one of us aware of that.

Larry

*Happy
Birthday*



- October Birthdays
- 2. Allen Saunders
 - 8. Bob Woodhull
 - 10. John Johnson
 - 10. Sandra Saunders
 - 16. Dennis Schmidt
 - 16. Dick Bondelid
 - 16. Myrtle Lowater
 - 20. Shirley Colley
 - 23. Joe Eppinga
 - 30. Char Ellsworth



*Happy
Anniversary*

- October Anniversaries
- 5. Bob & Joan Phillips
 - 18. LeRoy & Barb Dressel

Please note the passing of long time member Gloria Kuhns

Long time member Gloria Kuhns passed away on Tues., Sept. 15th. She and Cliff have been living in Nebraska for several years - Cliff did much work for the church and was the one who painted the whole sanctuary by himself - the color we now see - Gloria was Treasurer for a time. Cliff will be moving out here soon and no doubt will return to our church.

For those who wish to send a card to Cliff, the address is: 318 16th Ave. - Franklin - Nebraska - 68939.

Miriam Reed

Stewardship REPORT		Administration/Finance (Bob Woodhull)			
		Aug. 2014	Aug. 2015	2014 YTD(Jan-Aug)	2015 YTD(Jan-Aug)
Expense	\$7,655.00	\$8,740.00	\$79,316.00	\$83,938.00	
Income	\$4,035.00	\$4,469.00	\$75,771.00	\$60,672.00	
Shortfall	\$3,620.00	\$4,271.00	\$3,545.00	\$23,266.00	

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

Hygiene Bank Report

Due to the flooding of Hanna Hall, there was no Hygiene Bank distribution in September. We are hopeful that the repairs will be far enough along to have the October distribution.

Thank you and God bless you for continuing to donate funds to keep this mission project going. It is much appreciated by those in need.

Denise Kollert/Mission

Box Tops --- Menaul School --- Box Tops

The congregation donates box tops which are then sent to Menaul School to help them purchase needed items. But, box tops have expiration dates. So, please check the expiration dates before you donate them.

Denise Kollert/Mission

Food For Thought – From ‘While U Wait’

What would have happened if there had been *three wise women*? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and given practical gifts for the home.

September 11, 2015

Las Noticias

Reflections on Discipleship: Craig Dykstra

Matthew's version of the Great Commission calls us to "make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:16-20). Traditionally, churches kick-off their programs for children, youth and adult in the fall - an interesting blend of sacred religion (devotion to Christ!) with secular religion (football is back!) - and it has become common place to call such ministry "discipleship formation" rather than "education." I applaud the change in nomenclature, as I believe it is more biblical both in phrasing and as a holistic, full-person description of Christian growth. But even the phrase discipleship formation still begs the question: how do we help form discipleship within people? Craig Dykstra, in *Growing in the Life of Faith*, names fourteen practices that support discipleship growth:

- Worshipping God together
- Telling the Christian story to one another
- Interpreting the Scriptures and history of church's experience together
 - Praying
 - Confessing sins to one another
- Tolerating one another's failures and encouraging one another
 - Carrying out specific acts of service and witness
 - Giving generously
- Suffering with and for one another and all our neighbors
 - Providing hospitality and care
 - Listening and talking attentively to one another
- Struggling together to become conscious of and to understand the world in which we live
- Criticizing and resisting powers and patterns that destroy people and corrode community
 - Working together to maintain and create structures and institutions that sustain life

An interesting spiritual exercise would be to use Dykstra's list, gathering in groups of two or three to "examine" one's maturity and the directions needed for growth as a disciple. Or, perhaps, the above list could serve as the template for a Session retreat to discern the areas of ministry in which your congregation is (and is not) empowering folks to move toward mature discipleship:

- What are the areas of greatest strength and deepest need?
- What are the Christian practices to which we give lip service but do not immerse ourselves in Christ?
 - What are the vital behaviors that encourage discipleship in each particular area of ministry?
 - What are we doing that (unintentionally) limits growth in each particular area of discipleship?
 - What practice is heard as if coming from a prophet calling in the wilderness?
- What one practice calls to us to seek the mind of Christ today, as we "kick-off" this new "season" of making disciples?

Grace to you today and always,
Brad Munroe

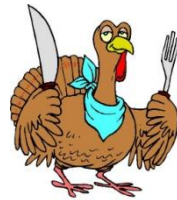


Thanksgiving Baskets

here in Florence so we can reach those families your donations to help those less fortunate in our support the local missions.

Thanksgiving/Christmas Food Boxes

I am asking for monetary donations only for the food boxes this year. My plan is when the stores have their sales before the holidays, I will purchase what is needed so all boxes are the same. I am donations to give gathering names



hopeful to collect enough each family a turkey. I am from different resources who are most in need. Thank you in advance for community. God Bless you for all you do to help



Christmas Food Baskets

Denise Kollert/Mission

Mission Outreach --- 'The Closet' --- Mission Outreach

The Coolidge Community Presbyterian Church has a mission outreach project called 'The Closet'. They offer free of charge to the public clothing, household items, bedding and home décor.

If you have such items to donate, they are accepted on Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The store is open every Thursday beginning Sept. 10th, 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.

In addition to 'The Closet', the church also offers computer classes, GED classes & job search assistance funded by United Way on Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The University of Arizona extension offers workshops in nutrition & health on Thursdays when 'The Closet' is open.

These are very worthwhile ventures and a lot of work. Let's support them in any way we can.

Denise Kollert/Mission

The B-I-B-L-E

I have worked at the Bible, prayed over the Bible, lived by the Bible for more than 60 years, and I tell you there is no book like the Bible. It is a miracle of literature, a perennial spring of wisdom, a wonder-book of surprises, a revelation of mystery, an infallible guide of conduct and an unspeakable source of comfort.

Give no heed to people who discredit it, for they speak without knowledge. It is the Word of God in the inspired speech of humanity. Read it for yourself. Read it thoroughly. Study it according to its own directions. Live by its principles. Believe its message. Follow its precepts.

No man is uneducated who knows the Bible, and no man is wise who is ignorant of its teachings. Every day is begun at its open page. It lies close at hand in all my work. I never go anywhere without it, and it is my chief joy.

—Samuel Chadwick

Book – Review

The Road to Character

by David Brooks (2015)

The eleven mini-biographies inspire the reader, not by what each character does, but by what each character is - the internal workings of their gifted minds, and the hearts committed to living lives that develop into greatness by dint of self-control, personal sacrifice, and ordered and focused intentions.

All were on the Road to Character, and for some the starting line was one of total self-centeredness, despicable behavior, or ego-centric visions of success.

Extensive footnotes for each chapter give the reader opportunities for exploring in greater depth biographies and publications of each of the personalities Brooks examines.

For generations the question has been asked, “What’s wrong with our kids?” Brooks observes that the world view of today’s youth is: “...the self is about talent, not character.” “Morality has been replaced by utility.” We live in a conflicted culture of Little ME vs. Big ME, of Adam I (prideful, aggressively seeking dominance, control, and success) vs. Adam II (humble, self-denying, receptive to the guidance of a Higher Power). Brooks notes that technology creates “a falsely upbeat, slightly over-exuberant self that can be famous first in a small sphere and then, with luck, in a larger one.

Brooks’ mini-biographies are interspersed with his observations of character development (or demise), with sin and limitations running through our lives. He denies the “New Age” concept that we are all filled with goodness.

For clergy and counselors this book provides a provocative list of love descriptions—about falling in, falling out, finding or losing—that universal human expression that is so often distorted or conflicted by those who are seeking marriage or divorce.

This book is so rich in descriptive narrations and embellished by quotes of so many other authors, it is being re-read by this writer.

Judith Johnston

A group activity

[The Greek] word for church, *ekklesia*, was used at the time of Jesus to refer to the “calling out” of citizens for a civic meeting or for battle, and is employed in one form or another in both the Old and New Testaments to refer to the people of God, assembled together. So church is, essentially, a gathering of kingdom citizens, called out – from their individuality, from their sins, from their old ways of doing things, from the world’s way of doing things – into participation in this new kingdom and community with one another.

I’m not exactly sure how all this works, but I think, ultimately, it means I can’t be a Christian on my own. Like it or not, following Jesus is a group activity, something we’re supposed to do together.

–Rachel Held Evans, *Searching for Sunday*

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.

ONE EVENING, AN ELDERLY CHEROKEE BRAVE TOLD HIS GRANDSON ABOUT A BATTLE THAT GOES ON INSIDE PEOPLE.

HE SAID "MY SON, THE BATTLE IS BETWEEN TWO WOLVES INSIDE US ALL. ONE IS EVIL. IT IS ANGER, ENVY, JEALOUSY, SORROW, REGRET, GREED, ARROGANCE, SELF-PITY, GUILT, RESENTMENT, INFERIORITY, LIES, FALSE PRIDE, SUPERIORITY, AND EGO.

THE OTHER IS GOOD. IT IS JOY, PEACE, LOVE, HOPE, SERENITY, HUMILITY, KINDNESS, BENEVOLENCE, EMPATHY, GENEROSITY, TRUTH, COMPASSION AND FAITH."

THE GRANDSON THOUGHT ABOUT IT FOR A MINUTE AND THEN ASKED HIS GRANDFATHER, "WHICH WOLF WINS?" THE OLD CHEROKEE SIMPLY REPLIED, "THE ONE THAT YOU FEED."

You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor. **Aristotle, 384 – 322 B.C.**

Nothing is enough for the man [or woman] to whom enough is too little. **Epicurus, 321-271 B.C.**

It is better to conquer yourself than to win a thousand battles. Then the victory is yours. It cannot be taken from you, not by angels or by demons, heaven or hell.

Buddha, 563-483 B.C.

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

St. Paul, Romans 14:19

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Please note new worship service times.</p> <p>Beginning Sunday, October 11, nearly identical services of worship will be held each week at new hours: Community Presbyterian in Coolidge at 9:00 a.m., and First Presbyterian in Florence at 10:30 a.m.</p>				1	2	3
<p>4 World Communion</p> <p>Job 1:1; 2:1-10, Ps. 26 Heb. 1:1-4: 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16</p> <p>St. Michael's (Coolidge) 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 p.m. AI-Anon</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New member class 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9 a.m. Men's breakfast @ Old Pueblo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch @ The Vault</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">10</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">11</p> <p>Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Ps. 22:1-15 Heb. 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31</p> <p>Florence 10:30 Congregation Mtg. after svc.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">12</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green;">Columbus Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 p.m. AI-Anon</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hygiene Bank 1:00-2:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">15</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">17</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">18</p> <p>Job 38:1-7 (34-41) Ps. 104:1-9, 24, 35c Heb. 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45</p> <p>Florence 10:30 Rec. New Mbrs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 p.m. AI-Anon</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">24</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">25</p> <p>Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Ps. 34:1-8 (19-22) Heb. 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52</p> <p>Florence 10:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 p.m. AI-Anon</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">31</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green;">Halloween</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p>Prayer: Dear God, help us to remove from our lives anything that is keeping us from seeing you and the needs of those around us. Amen.</p> <p>Joan Campbell (Gauteng, South Africa) – Upper Room</p>						

**First Presbyterian Church
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Florence, AZ 85132**

**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.**

