

Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2019

TRIP TO FRONTERA DE CRISTO

With school on Fall Break (October 10, Addison and Sabrina Case, their mom Leeann and their neighbor, Dawn, headed down to Douglas with a minivan and cargo container jammed with supplies donated by Orangewood and other Presbyterian churches.

It's an interesting 4-hour drive travelling right by the OK Corral and other Tombstone attractions, past the Bisbee mines and a lot of beautiful desert landscape.



In Douglas, our troope met up with Sarah Gieseke, a stipend coordinator, who escorted us (twins had to share a seat) to where the supplies were unloaded and will be stored until they can be sorted and taken over the border bit by un-notable bit. We were shown the crosses that are part of the Tuesday prayer and walk to the border. Each cross represents a migrant who died during their journey. There were too many names, and too many "No identificado."

After unloading, we headed to a parking lot on the American side of the border and walked across to the Frontera de Cristo Migrant Center.



Their website says: *The Migrant Resource Center is a partnership of many different people and organizations working together toward the common goal of helping migrants. Migrants, especially those who have been recently deported, have many basic humanitarian needs—a fresh pair of socks, a burrito, help making a phone call home, and maybe some basic medical attention for dehydration and blisters. We help inform migrants of their options, including helping them obtain reduced price bus tickets so that they may return to their place of origin. Another important part of the Center's work is abuse documentation, which we use to better understand the situation migrants face, and in some cases, help victims of crimes pursue legal options.*



When we were there, there was a "How to Help People suffering from TRAUMA" class in session.

We were offered coffee from their coffee co-op program and it was really good. (You can order some at justcoffee.org) We were shown the showers and toilet facilities and the small stock of hygiene supplies (OPC delivered items that will help stock it for months!!).



Then it was time to escort the migrants who are waiting at the border for asylum to the center. This is done with volunteer escorts in identifying vests who walk the short distance from the center to the border, where a structure made of PCV pipe and canvas – that make a closed tent over the 4 mattresses that house the 20 adults and children. There are concerns about the migrant safety as cartels and gangs sometimes prey on their desperation.

TRIP TO FRONTERA DE CRISTO CONTINUED

The 20 in the border structure were first registered at a Migrant Mission, which houses around 40 people.

As asylum seekers are permitted entrance into America, 2-4 per day, their space is taken by the next in line and everyone moves over a mattress, making room for the next asylum seekers at the back (nearest the emergency toilet/bucket).



At this point we left the escorts and the migrants and wished them all well and walked back across the border waiting in line for 30 minutes where the guard asked what we were doing in Agua Prieta, and then said "Ahh, I figured you were with a church."

The 2-4 per day who can cross into the U.S. are then likely sent to Eloy a medium security privately-owned prison or another detaining facility According to Wikipedia

the Eloy company receives approx. \$180/day/detainee. This source also says that at one point approximately 300 mothers were housed there separated from their children. Here they can wait months until their case is determined. Currently most asylum requests are denied.

The beauty of this day came in being able to provide a few things that will make the journey of our brothers and sisters a little easier. Please join us in praying for the safety and success of those we met on our trip.



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

November 16 from 8 am to Noon –
Followed by a fellowship lunch

The weather is cooling, were preparing our hearts for the holidays and it's time to give some of our time and energy to some needed repairs and beautification of our wonderful campus. We have many projects planned for the morning and you can see signup sheets on the patio between worship services. Each project needs a leader and some helpers. Please help us keep our campus prepared for the many missions of the church. Your energy will help us to manage our property without hiring work out. Come join us for some fall fellowship and demonstration of your gifts!

Questions on what's involved? Call our Facilities Chair Brent Upson at 602-550-9935 or email: bwupson@gmail.com

Budget Summary: As of September

Utilities	\$31.8 of 42.4 spent – On Budget
Custodial	\$20.8K of \$28.8K spent- On Budget
Grounds	\$7,722 of \$13,950 spent- Under Budget
Maintenance	\$27.7K of \$23.4K spent- Over Budget
Manse	\$5.4K of \$6.7K spent- On Budget
Total	\$93.3K of \$115K spent. Over Budget by 7% vs. our plan for this point in the year.

Next scheduled meeting is November 13 at 1pm in Room 11.

Thanks to our facilities committee for another month of great progress on our campus: Bob Jenson, Terry Frost, Greg Harris, Joe Miller, Bob Wells and Pam White. *Brent Upson*

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE NOTES

- The small groups began again in September and will continue for 10 weeks. We now have 96 people attending 10 groups. It's never too late to sign up! Contact Pam White to find out when the groups meet. There are daytime and evening meetings.
- Name tags are always available. Stop by the table on the patio to give us your name.
- Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the [Stephen Series](#) system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. We are looking into the possibility of starting Stephen Ministry again at Orangewood. If you were a Stephen Minister in the past or are interested in becoming one now, please let us know (phebepacker@cox.net). For more information about this ministry go to www.stephenministries.org.

- Many thanks to Melissa Hooper and everyone who assisted in holding the Fall Festival!

We are working on a brand new "communications assistance process" to help keep people "in the loop". Anita Shipley will be the point person for connecting Pastor Ken, Pam White, Deacons and others when information becomes known about an individual that needs to be shared within these areas. The idea is that despite all our modern technology we still need a person to make sure things get handed off and forwarded where needed. Becky Cederquist will be Anita's back-up. Many thanks to both of them for volunteering to help in this important area.

We are always looking for new members to assist this committee in its mission to "Help our congregation grow in vitality as a family, in spiritual depth, and in bringing the good news to our community." We need both "idea/creative" and "practical" talents for hospitality, new programs and events, adult education, and the nuts and bolts of serving our congregational. Please consider attending our next meeting on Wednesday, November 13, at 9:30 am in Room 11.

WOMEN

PW Bible Study

Wednesday, November 6 at 1:00 pm in Room 11B. Van Mantgem is the discussion facilitator in an exploration of the power of God's name and our call to use it correctly. Each monthly lesson focuses on "Love Carved in Stone—a fresh look at the Ten Commandments." All are invited to bring your Bible and join in.

Orangewood Presbyterian Women's November Meeting

Saturday, November 16 at 9:30 am we will gather in Page Hall for a 47 minute meeting with refreshments, prayers, a bit of business and calendar setting followed by a "Go and See" as we reconvene at the WHEAT office at 1400 N. 7th Street. We will learn more of the mission WHEAT supports, and explore WHEAT'S Clothes Silo and WHEAT'S Fair Trade Store.

Breakfast Out Bunch

Wednesday, November 20 that at 9:00 am. Come for breakfast at IHOP just West of 19th Ave. on Northern. To be sure there are enough spaces please call Anita Shipley at 602-595-0448 to make a reservation for yourself and any friend you are bringing.

Thank You Many thanks to Marilyn Mollman, who coordinated the PW Mission tour to St. Mary's Food Bank on October 23.

WAYS TO DONATE TO ORANGEWOOD

Did You Know.....

That there are many ways that you can fulfill your financial commitment or donate to Orangewood Church. Below are the more common procedures. Most all allow you to schedule your giving throughout the year or give on your own schedule.

Via the Church Office. The church office handles gifts received via the Sunday offering plate (envelopes, loose checks, and cash), by US mail, or just dropped off at the office.

Via Church Treasurer. Your treasurer can accept your gifts via credit cards or by direct draft from your bank account. Direct drafts are new for 2020.

Via Your Own Bank. Go online to your bank's web site and login to your account. Go to the "Pay My Bills" section (may be different at your bank) and schedule a payment to Orangewood. You will need the church address.

Via Orangewood's Website. Go online to www.orangewood.church, and scroll down to the "GIVE" button. Select or press the button and follow the directions.

Via Your cell phone. Go to your apps store and download the app "[GIVE+ or GIVEPLUS](#)", open and follow the instructions to set up your password and use the app.

Via Your Broker.

(Appreciated Stock). If you have highly appreciated stock that you want to donate to a charitable institution to avoid the capital gains tax, donate it to Orangewood. The proceeds will be applied against your giving commitment. Call the treasurer for procedures.

(IRA Distributions). Seniors who are over 70 ½ years old can donate all or part of their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) via a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Talk to your Broker. This can save taxes but provides no itemized deduction. The proceeds will be applied against your giving commitment.

INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER VISIT

We spent an exciting week with International Peacemaker Thang Van Liam, September 23-30. He spoke with more than 300 people at many locations throughout the Valley, from Pinnacle PC and Mesa PC in the east to Faith PC in Sun City. He visited with the congregation in Sacaton, did some mission work at St. Vincent de Paul, met with members of Guadalupe PC, and visited with detainees in Eloy. All this was made possible by the dedicated work of the Peace and Justice Network of the Presbytery. Cindy Michels and Selena Keesecker were key in seeking out meaningful opportunities for Liam and in fact he highlighted the visit to Eloy when he returned to Louisville at the end of his itineration. Jeanne Matt graciously hosted Liam at her home for the week. We were fortunate to hear him speak at the OPC PW meeting on September 28. It is probably accurate to say that most of us were not aware of the serious circumstances in Myanmar for not only the Rohingya (Muslim) people but also for Christians. Liam told us about his own life and the many challenges for pastors in Myanmar, including poverty, transportation, language differences and outright persecution from the Buddhist majority government. We are exploring ways to support his ideas for change into the future. Meanwhile, since Liam lives in Atlanta (attending Columbia Seminary) and has a church of immigrants from Myanmar, We have put him in touch with Pastor Tully Fletcher. They will have some great exchanges!

OCTOBER SESSION NOTES

OPC Session met on October 15. It was a busy meeting with in-depth discussion of motions that were presented and passed.

- The Session approved the new Orangewood Presbyterian Church Wedding Policy, following a presentation by Brent Upson that resolved issues raised regarding insurance coverage and licensing for serving beer and wine at the reception. The OPC campus will be promoted as a wedding site through the on-line Wedding App and it is hoped this will generate additional income for the church. The new policy has revised pricing and states that there must be a caterer (licensed and insured) if beer or wine is to be served.
- The Session approved removal of 12 member from the rolls who are no longer attending our church or who have moved out of state.
- The Session Approved a motion to add to the trip covenant that was approved at last months' meeting the statement that all adults over the age of 18 who participate in an overnight trip that includes youth must have a current background check.

Additional items of interest:

- Bob Wells report that finances are about \$15,000 in the red. The shortfall is mostly due to member giving, not expense overrun. This is a typical situation for this time of year and should be made up in the next two months.
- Pastor Ken reported that the African Fellowship has experienced a loss of membership when their choir ensemble decided to relocate. However, some new families have joined them and their service has about 80 in attendance. Carol Hunter and Ken continue to work with them on tracing attendance and finances.
- The Children and Youth Task Force have the Children and Youth (APEC) positions listed on the Association for Presbyterian Christian Education website. They hope everyone will share the positions available with others so that we can identify candidates soon. The descriptions are available on the OPC website.

BREAK THE CYCLE

Joan Fenton wrote this article about dating relationships. She met with OPC youth on October 13 to discuss the topic.

A + relationships are important for the young people in your life. But 1 in 3 high school students experiences some form of dating violence. Some might call that a public health epidemic. 81% of parents said they don't think or know if dating violence is a problem.

AWARENESS AND PREVENTION BEGINS WITH YOU. Love is Not Abuse (LINA) is a growing grassroots coalition of adults who want to learn about and prevent dating abuse. It really does begin with you. Members can be parents, advocates, teachers, government officials, health care workers, or any caring adult working with youth.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Find resources, toolkits, handouts and more at breakthecycle.org, loveisrespect.org, techsafety.org, the National DV hotline 1-800-799-7233, and the teen/college workshops presented by Joan Fenton at rjfenton5@gmail.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO OFFER THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS, CONTACT:

Joan Fenton, rjfenton5@gmail.com

Fall Festival, What a Blast!

The highlights of the Fall Festival included Greg Swartz was the zaniest judge we have ever employed. He made his own awards in gold, silver, and bronze. Accepting "donations" as he sipped chili from champagne glasses he upheld the highest standard of professionalism. B. Van Mantgem won gold with her white chili chicken recipe. Dick Wright took silver with his exotic venison and wild boar chili. Guest Thomas Mejia accepted the bronze for his Red Phoenix Chili, named after his granddaughter Phoenix Norling. Thank you to everyone who poured their soul into making chili. The competition was fierce. Hot dogs were flying off the grill to make chili dogs.



The kids enjoyed pony rides on Salt and Boots, adorable ponies from Freckle Farms. Parents took pictures and the littlest kids had fun petting the ponies fuzzy manes. Pastor Ken had kids, parents, grandparents and Lucy Sherwood moving and grooving to classic sing-a-longs like "I'm Going on a Bear Hunt" and the "BCA Song." The Cake Walk was full of sugar and competition. Many kids and youth were happy to bring home cakes or share them with the crowd.

Everyone was so generous making donations. We collected \$570 for Rocky Point Mission Trips. This will offset the cost for volunteer fees and housing for upcoming trips. Building dignified housing for many through Amor in Rocky Point fosters volunteerism in our youth at Orangewood and is the passion of many of our adults.



SAGES

Orangewood's SAGES fellowship group began their new program year with the luncheon theme of "Birds of a Feather..." A delicious chili lunch was prepared by Kaydie Marshall, with several ice cream selections for dessert. Kaydie was assisted in the kitchen, and with serving duties, by Hedy Martin and Sandy Snyder. Table centerpieces of various bird statuettes and colorful place settings were provided by Lois Manning. Our past Program Chair, Kaydie Marshall, has requested that she not fill this office in the coming year. We are all very appreciative of Kaydie's efforts in providing varied entertainment, and the SAGES committee is actively seeking someone to fill this position! If you are interested, or know of someone might be willing to help, please contact any member of the SAGES committee (Lynne Orf, Jeanne Matt, Sandy Snyder, Lois Manning or Bob Orf). A survey was handed out, and members identified the types of entertainment that they would like to see in the 2019/2020 program year. Our next lunch gathering will be on Tuesday, November 12, so plan now to attend. Jeanne Matt continues to contact SAGES each month to verify if they will be attending, so that our kitchen and set-up volunteers will know how many to expect. She also arranges rides for those in need of transportation to our event. Thanks, Jeanne, for your efforts! Visitors are always welcome please call Jeanne Matt or the church office and let us know.

OUR BUSY FALL PATIO

November begins our very busy season on the patio, the time when we find "angel" children on a tree, the time for recycled paper beads from Uganda, the time for selecting the perfect Heifer International animal as an alternative gift for someone. Here's the line-up for this year:

- **Angel Tree**
 - November 17 – tree on the patio with tags showing desired gifts
 - November 24 – 2 week for tree and beginning of bringing in gifts
 - December 1 – all gifts must be received at the church
 - December 4 – wrap gifts at the first Advent Service Event
- **Bead for Life**
 - On the patio November 10, 17, 24 and December 1
- **Heifer International**
 - On the patio December 1, December 8, December 15, December 22

ADVENT SERVICE WORSHIP EVENTS

We are excited to announce this year's Service Worship activities, each one of which includes "stand up" and "sit down" jobs. We will be joined for all of these by members of Westminster Presbyterian and the event on December 11 will be held AT WESTMINSTER (carpooling from Orangewood will be arranged). Cookies and cider per usual.

- Wednesday, December 4 at 6:30 pm in the Manse: wrapping Angel Tree gifts
- Wednesday, December 11 6:30 pm at Westminster: making plastic yarn (plarn) and crocheting mats for the homeless
- Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 pm in Page Hall: multiple activities, including writing letters or detainees in Eloy, sorting vitamins for Honduras, and assembling hygiene kits for Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank.

Orangewood Presbyterian Church
7321 N. 10th Street
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Or Current Resident

November

www.orangewood.info

2019

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Pastor	The Rev. Kenneth G. Page
Director of Music	Dr. Charles N. Sedgwick
Band Leader	Brady Putzke
Director of Christian Education	Melissa Hooper
Church Administrator	Pam White
Set-Up Assistants	Dylan Swartz & John Zandler

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The *Plumblin*, a monthly newsletter of Orangewood Presbyterian Church, contains helpful information for members and friends. If you would like to receive this publication via e-mail (pdf file), contact the office. Issues may also be found on our website. **The deadline for the December Plumblin is November 15.**