

# Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2019

## Pastor Page's Pastor Page

There is an old story about a man who made a career out of rescuing babies from a raging river. One day, exhausted and cold from his rescue efforts, he was relieved to see a woman rushing along the path beside the river.

"There's a baby out there," the man yelled. "Could you rescue it? My energy is gone!"

The woman just kept trudging up the path. She had clearly heard him and ignored him. The man was incensed! "Didn't you hear me? There is a baby out there, drowning, and you are just going to ignore it and keep going up the river? Where are you going that keeps you from basic human decency?"

"I'm going up the river to find out who keeps throwing babies in!"

Are you the kind of person who rescues baby after baby, or are you the kind of person that will head upriver to right the wrong that is causing the problem in the first place? Both are good people! God made different people with different gifts for a reason. I think, all too often, though, we are neither person. All too often, we ignore the river because it is too depressing. What difference could we make anyway?

I am on the board of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and we are in the business of long-term disaster recovery. I guess you could say, we specialize in rebuilding babies' lives after they have been plucked from the river. Because of our partnership with you, we are pretty good at it. Recently, though, we have been talking about how much we want to get involved in advocacy. How much do we want to try to change the policies that result in drowning babies? We respond to mass shootings. Mass shootings have a policy side - laws that could make them less likely in the future. We respond to hurricanes and floods that are getting worse over time. At what point do we start to advocate for policies that fight climate change? We are in refugee camps in Syria, Myanmar and elsewhere; and in asylee detention centers in Arizona and elsewhere; and in camps on the southern side of our border where migrants in fear for their lives are kept from applying for asylum in the U.S. At what point do we go talk to our senators?

For me, that point was last week. In Washington, DC, for a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance meeting, I went to lobby for a bill that would guarantee a minimum number of refugees to be admitted to the United States each year. Since 1980, when Ronald Reagan and a Republican controlled congress passed the Refugee Act, the U. S. has admitted an average of 95,000 refugees per year (more at times: the Vietnamese Boat People; less at other times: the aftermath of September 11). The new proposal for admission of refugees into the U.S. is only 18,000. This at a time when there are almost 71 million displaced people in the world, almost 25 million of whom are officially refugees!

I spoke to Senator McSally about the GRACE Act, which would set a minimum of 95,000 refugees per year, and how I believe that our Christian values and our American values mandate that we do more. While I didn't get a firm commitment from her, she is quite sympathetic. She told me about her child that she sponsors through Compassion International, and her experiences while working in Africa. She told me of good people she knows who were refugees. I don't know if I had any impact, but I'm not stopping. Together, we can do something about those babies!



## OPC Committees Need Help!

OPC has many committees that work under the direction of our Session. These include Worship, Facilities, Finance, Stewardship, Personnel, Congregational Life, Mission, Children and Youth, and Nominating. All of these committees need your help. As we carry out many activities throughout the year, we are in constant need of volunteers for specific events and activities. Maybe you cannot see your way clear to serve full-time on a committee but can contribute your talents for a specific task. Like what, you ask? Well, we are thinking about publishing a new OPC photo directory and will need help for that. Mission needs people to be at the table on the patio after each of the Sunday services. Our Welcome Table has the same need. Volunteers are also needed to assist with all-church functions during the year – the annual meeting, picnic, fall festival, Thanksgiving dinner, and Lessons and Carols. Each of these opportunities is short-term and does not require someone to attend a meeting. Please think about it and see us at the Mission table or contact the church office. Thank you!

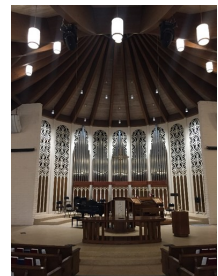
## Session Approves New Wedding Policy

The Session approved both a new policy for the protection and use of our facilities as well as listing our Sanctuary and reception hall in the Wedding-spot.com app.

The goal is twofold: First to welcome more people to Orangewood by promoting our use as a wedding venue. We expect hundreds more will find our beautiful church by attending weddings and we hope they choose to join us in worship. The second goal is to raise rental income from non-members using our campus. The Facilities Committee continues to look for ways to fund the maintenance of our large campus with external funds in addition to our members' pledges.

Here's a summary of prices effective in October:

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Sanctuary Rental		\$1,000
Page Hall Rental		\$1,000
Pastor Honorarium	\$Any Amt	\$350
Wedding Coordinators	\$200	\$200
Audio	\$100	\$100
Organist/Pianist	\$250	\$250
Venue Insurance	\$115	\$115
Setup/Cleaning	\$100	\$100



Key changes to our new wedding policy include the requirement for liability insurance to protect the church as the couple invites guests to the campus; the restricted use of beer and/or wine at a reception only when served by a licensed server with proper insurance; and restrictions on decorations and "throwables" that would harm our facility or create a hazard.

Many thanks to our Facilities Committee, Hospitality Committee, wedding coordinators and the Session for a coordinated plan to enhance our visibility to the community and bring another source of rental income.  
Brent Upson, Finance Committee

## Health and Wellness Fair

On Saturday, February 29, 2020, Orangewood Presbyterian Women is sponsoring a Health and Wellness Fair for the community in Page Hall and in at least three of the classrooms. We will need lots of helpers to facilitate this event. Everyone is encouraged to save this day on your calendars and invite lots of folks to attend.



## Youth Christmas Party

On Sunday December 15, at 5:00 pm, will be our Youth Christmas party at the Griep residence 517 E. Deepdale Road Phoenix, 85022. Youth grades 6 through college, parents, and volunteers are welcome to enjoy dinner and refreshments. Bring a wrapped Ugly Christmas Sweater to exchange.

## Advent Devotional

Our Presbytery pastor, the Rev. Dr. Brad Munroe, has published his Advent devotional "Praying Luke: The Gospel in Voice and Vision" on E Focus for us this Advent season. A limited number of printed copies are available through the church office.



## Service Worship – Wednesdays in Advent

Memorial, Orangewood and Westminster Presbyterian Churches are partnering this year for Service Worship. Instead of gathering for a Worship Service, we will gather for a service project with a small worship component:



Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 pm, **Orangewood** – Wrapping of Angel Tree gifts

Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 pm, **Westminster** – Plarn sleeping mats for the homeless

Wednesday, December 18, 6:30 pm, **Orangewood** – Hygiene kits for Agua Fria Food Bank, letters to detainees in Eloy, and packaging vitamins for the Honduran mission trip.

Orangewood Presbyterian Church—7321 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Phoenix

Westminster Presbyterian Church—4735 N 19th Ave., Phoenix

## Christmas Services

### FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

4:00 pm Sunday, December 8, in the Sanctuary—Join us in welcoming the Advent and Christmas seasons with renderings of favorite carols, choral anthems, and familiar Bible readings. Come early and listen to a Christmas Prelude with organ, bells and an instrumental ensemble.

### UGLY SWEATER MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST

10:00 am Sunday, December 22, in Page Hall—A love feast service is primarily a music service designed to convey a thematic message. The hymns and music in a Christmas Love Feast tell the story of our Savior's birth. Wear your best ugly sweater to our family friendly Love Feast. We will sing carols, listen to scripture readings, and enjoy sweet buns and coffee or hot cocoa.



### CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

7:00 pm Christmas Eve—We are looking forward to a special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service this year. As usual, we will conclude with "Silent Night" sung by candlelight. This is always a most meaningful and holy moment in our celebration of Christmas. Please join us.

### CAROL SING

On December 30 join us for a carol sing at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. There will be only one service on this day.





**WE ARE CALLED**

*Sow Justice - Reap Peace*

*Peace and Justice Network Presbytery of the Grand Canyon*

**HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: What to look for during your annual visit to elderly relatives, by Mary Twomey, MSW, Co-Director, Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse and Neglect**

For many of us, the holidays offer a once-a-year time to visit with elderly relatives who live at a distance. These holiday visits are a good time to assess what assistance parents or other elderly loved ones might need....During your visit, keep an eye out for warning signs of self-neglect, or abuse or neglect by others...Plan a longer stay so that you can visit local aging service organizations during regular work hours. Allow enough time to accomplish necessary tasks.

Take private moments with the elder to discuss future planning. Allow time for them to express anxieties. Be observant while visiting. Realize you may need to arrange a doctor visit for a full evaluation.

**SELF-NEGLECT** If the senior lives alone, some things to look for:

Confusion, depression, overuse of drugs or alcohol, frequent falls, no longer able to handle meal preparation, house cleaning, laundry, bathing or bill payments. Senior appears undernourished, dehydrated, under-medicated, or is not receiving adequate care for eyesight, hearing, dental, or continence problems.

Remember that 75-90% of elder abuse is committed by family members. Don't let denial become an obstacle...This is not the time to hide your head in the sand, setting the stage for future regrets.

**NEGLECT OR ABUSE BY OTHERS** Some things to watch for:

Presence of "new best friend" willing to care for the senior at little or no cost. Recent change in banking or spending patterns. Senior seems afraid of the caregiver, has unexplained bruises, cuts, or bedsores; senior appears dirty, undernourished, dehydrated, and is not receiving necessary medical care. Family pet seems neglected or abused. Caregiver isolates older person from family and friends, and may have problems with drugs, alcohol, anger or emotional stability.

**Opportunities for Action:**

**\* If you suspect your loved one is at risk, call your local Adult Protective Services or Office on Aging and go to [www.centeronelderabuse.org](http://www.centeronelderabuse.org) for more information. The Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse and Neglect, is a program of the University of California Irvine. It conducts research, training, advocacy and direct services on elder abuse and neglect.**

**\*Eldercare Locator is a national toll-free service that helps older adults and caregivers find local services. Visit the website at [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov), or call 1-800-677-1116.**

**\* Learn more about common geriatric conditions, medications and markers of abuse. Refer to Geriatric Pocket Doc, a compact guide book for non-physicians; found at [centeronelderabuse.org](http://centeronelderabuse.org).**

**\*Introduce yourself to responsible neighbors and friends. Give them your contact information.**

**\* Ask your loved ones directly if they are afraid of anyone, if anyone is taking things without their permission, if anyone is asking them to do things they are not comfortable with, or if anyone is putting them down.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO OFFER THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS, CONTACT:  
Joan Fenton at [rjfenton5@gmail.com](mailto:rjfenton5@gmail.com). Or 602-451-7926, Elder abuse prevention classes are available.**

# Mission to Rocky Point

## November 8-11 Trip #52

After some excitement at the border, our equipment was "taxed" \$100 by the Border Guards, and shortly after, our equipment truck was "fined" for speeding by the local *policia* – leading to a quick stop by the *Policia Station* to pay the fine.

Then, one group headed to our two rental homes, both of which were well appointed



and comfortable, and one group went to the site to start sifting dirt and sawing planks. Thanks to Greg Swartz we no longer needed to measure each piece, but put them in the appropriate length cradle and could cut. The work went quickly and we all went home to dinner of delicious tamales, donated by Betania!



The next day we started with mixing around 100 wheelbarrows of concrete to form the floor. All work is done without electrical help. As that dried, the walls were assembled and stacked for easy placement on Sunday.

Sunday morning the wall frames were upright and anchored; then they got plywood, tarpaper, chicken wire and the first layer of stucco, and the roof got its first protective coating.

Monday – Doors and windows got installed, second layer of stucco was added, second coat to the roof too, then we had a short church service that culminated in the passing of the key. Traditionally, first time builders get the honor; this time, our two engaged couples (Katie and Adam,



Ariel and John) presented the key. With that we cleaned equipment, loaded up, gathered our things from the house and headed back to the U.S. A 2-minute wait at the border, and no excitement was our reward! It was a great trip!



## SAGES Luncheon

In November a luncheon with the theme of "Thankful Pilgrims," was held on our regular meeting date of the second Tuesday of the month. Centerpieces by Jeanne Matt featured miniature statuettes of Pilgrims. Missing were table settings by Lois Manning, who is recovering from surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery, and hope she enjoyed the "get well" cards signed by our members. Our meal featured a menu of apple and spring lettuce salad, baked chicken, mixed veggies, and cookies for dessert. Main chef was Judy Proffitt, and she was assisted by chef Barb Digges and "sous-chef" Dennis Proffitt! THANKS to our crew! Bernale Wright gave an update on the recent successful mission trip to Rocky Point, and thanked the SAGES for their help with this Orangewood Mission Committee activity. Bob Orf reported on the results of the entertainment preferences submitted at the October meeting. The results, in order, are: musical presentations, historical presentations, travel, health and safety, arts and poetry, and nature presentations. For December, a program has been scheduled for our luncheon that will feature the schoolchildren from Creative Bridges Preschool. SAGES remember the delightful, colorful, and "cute" experience of last December, and we look forward to this presentation. Thanks go to the wonderful teachers of Creative Bridges for their efforts with their students.



# Congregational Life Committee

## Small Groups

- Status: 96 members in ten groups. New group started this fall at The Beatitudes by Brent Upson.
- Meeting times include five days of the week, with starting times morning, afternoon, and evening – many to choose from!

This session ends at the end of November and the groups will start again after Easter.

## Parish Life

- **Events**
  - **Fall Festival** was a big success! Thanks to all who brought chili and cakes and those who volunteered during the event.
  - Jackie Collier's **hospitality team** will support the Thanksgiving Dinner and Lessons and Carols. Volunteers are always needed!
  - **Membership Directory.** The list of information has been published. The committee plans to do a new directory that includes photos in 2020.
  - **SAGES** has gotten off to a good start but we are in need of someone to book the monthly entertainment.
  - **Spring Picnic.** We discussed having a picnic in March, possibly in conjunction with a planned Amor celebration
- **Adult Education.** Our next book study will begin in February for six weeks. This study will be "Short Stories by Jesus: "The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi." Books and sign-ups will be available in January.

## General Business

- The Committee discussed budget needs for 2020. Phebe Packer will turn in requests for Adult Education (\$500), and name tags (\$100), and will raise the issue of funding hearing devices for Page Hall. The hearing devices are already under consideration so the Congregational Life Committee will be adding its voice to the requests from other areas for Session to work out the funding. Phebe will confirm with Jackie Collier the budget for hospitality, which is currently \$4,000.
- Committee membership. Phebe will write an article for the Plumline highlighting specific tasks that need volunteer assistance in the coming year, for example being at the Welcome table on

## Women

### PW Bible Study

Presbyterian Women's monthly Bible Study Circle meets on Wednesday, December 4 at 1:00 in Room 11. This month's focus is on the commandment "Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy." Phebe Packer is this month's discussion facilitator. All are welcome.

### Christmas Coffee

All women are invited to the annual Christmas Coffee at the home of Jeanne Matt (1009 West Wagon Wheel Drive). We will gather to share snacks and carols and laughter on Saturday, December 14, at 1:00 pm.

### Breakfast Out Bunch

Last Breakfast outing in 2019 is scheduled on Wednesday, December 18, 9:00 am at Moon Valley Café, 502 E. Thunderbird, Suite A. To make a reservation please call Anita Shipley at (602-595-0448)

### 2020 Calendar Alerts

Saturday, January 11, 2020 is a PW meeting at 9:30 in Page Hall, with a speaker, Mark your calendars.

## Campus Workday

What a great day we had together as 25 volunteers came together to repair, clean and give a fresh look to our beautiful campus. Work on the Manse, parking lot, kitchen and more was completed with help from members and the young adult bible study that shares our campus.

Many thanks to our team of workers, to Jackie Collier for a fellowship luncheon, and to our Facilities Committee for preparing all the logistics, tools and materials to put our large team of volunteers to work. Questions on what's involved?

Budget Summary: As of October:

Utilities	\$36K of 42.4 spent – On Budget
Custodial	\$23K of \$28.8K spent- On Budget
Grounds	\$9.4K of \$14K spent- Under Budget
Maintenance	\$29.7K of \$23.4K spent- Over Budget
Manse	\$5.9K of \$6.7K spent- On Budget
Total	\$104K of \$115K spent. Over Budget by 6K vs. our plan for this point in the year.



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, Facilities Committee

## A Big Thank You!

The Personnel Committee has completed the performance evaluation for our Pastor, Ken Page. The Committee received comments from staff, Elders, Deacons....and from you, members of our congregation. We want you to know that we appreciate all of you who contacted us with your comments! Ken's performance evaluation was reviewed with the Session at its November meeting. At Orangewood, the process we follow in doing performance evaluations is to seek input from those working with the person being evaluated, and then to ask that person to complete a self-evaluation. When all these are done, we meet with the person, and together complete the evaluation form. This form covers four areas: 1) What the person does very well and deserves praise for, 2) what areas need improvement, if any, 3) what the congregation can do for that person to help him or her improve and grow, and 4) goals for the coming year.

For this article, I wanted to highlight some things the congregation can do to help Ken. We now have a solo pastor, with no Associate Pastor...yet the programs and ministries of our congregation have remained the same. We all know this means an increased workload for our Pastor. The evaluation for Ken noted that a very important help for him will be to fill the Children and Youth Ministry position, and the Task Force appointed to help with this is aware of the urgency of their work. Another way of helping our Pastor is to support and encourage training and orientation for our officers – Elders and Deacons. And, by no means less important, we want to encourage Ken to take adequate time off. You can help by volunteering for a committee or to help in the office.

Thanks again for your willingness to give us your feedback – all members of the Committee enjoyed the opportunity to hear from you, and trust you will continue to keep Ken, his family and our whole congregation in your prayers.

For the Personnel Committee,  
Gloria Olsen, Chair

**Orangewood Presbyterian Church**  
**7321 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85020**

Or Current Resident

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**December**

**[www.orangewood.church](http://www.orangewood.church)**

**2019**

**Orangewood Staff**

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

**Plumblin Volunteers**

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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 January Plumblin is December 20.**