

Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2020

Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

Now that our society is sick of Christmas and ready to move on, it is actually Christmas in the church. Christmas is a season that runs from Christmas Day through Epiphany on January 6th. We Christians are likely sick of Christmas, too, in the sense of lights, presents, wrapping, eggnog, and spending money we don't quite have. O, and all those calories!

Hopefully we are not sick of real Christmas. This can be a season of focus on the true meaning of Christmas: The incarnation. God becoming human gets a lot of play at church, every year, but there is another aspect of incarnation about which we often forget. Just as God is incarnated in Jesus of Nazareth, God also wants to be incarnated in us.

You may remember the line from our communion prayer: "Just as this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world!" These two types of incarnation go hand in hand. It is a synergistic pairing. Christ can be the salvation of the world, but if no one is spreading the word and sharing the love it doesn't go very far.

It may seem a bit far-fetched to use the same word, incarnation, for both of these meanings, but they are closer than you might think. The Holy Spirit came upon Mary, making her with child, and Jesus was born. The Holy Spirit has come upon us, as well. The Holy Spirit dwells within us and works through us. Quite literally, God is incarnate in us!

We get the choice to work with God, or work against God. If we allow our lives to be full of sin, there is a lot less room for God in our bodies. If we confess our sins, seek righteousness, and stay in regular communication with God through prayer, God gets a bod!



Ken

PW January Meeting—Planning for Seniors

Orangewood Presbyterian Women will meet on Saturday, January 11 in Page Hall at 9 am. Following welcome and refreshments, we will have a brief business meeting. Our featured speaker will be Jennifer Olsen, MSW, Director of Social Work for Sage Hospice and Palliative Care. Jennifer will draw on more than 20 years of experience to share information about the resources that are available when illness occurs, including differing needs depending on the specific illness, support groups for patients and caregivers, and insurance implications. She will also address the need for and types of advance directives. This program is a lead-in to the Community Health Fair planned for February 29. Hope to see you there!

Congregational Life

Growth Groups

- Phebe met with Greg Harris and Ken Page after our meeting and we determined that the new Growth Group calendar would begin on March 15 and go through May 31, with the exception of the weeks of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Follow-ups will go out to the group leaders so that we can follow the process of evaluation for the fall set of small group meetings.

Parish Life

Events

Everyone agrees on how wonderful the Lessons and Carols celebration was. Many thanks to Chuck, guest musicians, the choir, the bell choir and Jackie and her team of bakers.

Plans have begun for an all-church picnic on March 8. We will contact the Worship

Committee about having one service at 10 am. The picnic will follow at 11 am. We will do early publicity with the African community.

“Bob’s Picture Show” – very early planning stage of a summer event featuring the photos taken by Bob Orf.

- **New Member Class.** Bernale will contact Pam to put this on the calendar for spring.

SAGES

- Still in need of someone to book the monthly entertainment.

Adult Education

Our next book study will begin February 2 for 6 weeks. This study will be “Short Stories by Jesus”: the “Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi.” Books and sign-ups are on the patio.

General Business

- Budget request was approved and the budget accounts have been adjusted to reflect our current organization.
- Annual report and narrative budget have been submitted.
- We discussed goals for 2020:
 - ◇ Work closely with the deacons.
 - ◇ Publish a new Orangewood brochure for use at the Welcome Table on the patio (to be completed in time for the Community Health Fair on February 29).
 - ◇ Publish a new photo directory.
 - ◇ Continue to increase input to the Plumblin.
 - ◇ Build a “job board” for the patio to seek new volunteers.
 - ◇ Expand committee membership.

E Focus

Many people are not aware of the electronic newsletter that our Presbytery publishes each week. It contains a message from Brad Munroe and other articles of interest. It also lists upcoming events in the Presbytery and the community. This week, for example, there is a notice about a **Free Church Safety Workshop** presented by The Insurance Board in coordination with the Southwest Conference United Church of Christ, Presbytery of Grand Canyon, Presbytery de Cristo and the Arizona Region Disciples of Christ. This educational event is designed for safety and security teams, pastors, board members, church staffs and volunteers. Three workshops and networking will be held to help establish or enhance security and safety at houses of worship. When: January 18, 2020. Where: First Presbyterian Church in Casa Grande, Arizona. Location: 702 E. Cottonwood Lane, Casa Grande, Arizona 85122. Time: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

A second featured event is that the Princeton Theological Seminary will host a Bilingual **Festival of Singing** in Phoenix Friday, January 10 at 7 pm at Trinity Cathedral, 100 West Roosevelt, Phoenix. Join them for a bilingual (Spanish/English) festival of singing led by Maria Cornou, Carlos Colon and Martin Tel with the Princeton Theological Seminary Touring Choir.

Rather than repeating the notices in E Focus, You are encouraged to go to the Presbytery website (www.pbygrandcanyon.org) and subscribe to have a link delivered to your email each week. You never know what you may find there and what's more if you want to issue an invitation or make a report to the Presbytery at large, you can submit information to Carolyn McBurney (pbyoffice@gmail.com) for placement in an upcoming E Focus. Remember, it comes out every week! Try it out.

Advent Service Events

This past year, we collaborated with the Phoenix Presbyterian Partnership churches for each event. We had attendance by Westminster, Memorial, Palo Cristi, and Orangewood. The first event was wrapping Christmas gifts for the Angel Tree kids. We had gifts for 40 children in 20 families. It takes many people to do this project each year. First, there is a group of faithful telephone callers who contact the caregivers for the children. Thank you to Jeannie Oosterwyk, Marilyn Edwards, B Van Mantgem, Lisa Dart Campbell, and Anita Shipley. They are the ones who get the ball rolling! Then there are all the many people who buy the gifts, taking special care to select the item wished for. Thank you to all who came to wrap these gifts with bright colors and special touches. A special thank you to the people who have delivered the gifts: John Hayes, Cynthia Jennison, Kaydie Marshall, Cindy Baker, Ron Carmichael, B Van Mantgem, Travis Kroodsma and Jean Lee.



Our second event took place at Westminster on December 11. We made plastic yarn (otherwise known as "plarn") by cutting plastic bags and connecting loops to make a continuous "yarn." About 25 people filled tables at the fellowship hall and cut and looped together for almost 2 hours. A couple of people even took a turn at crocheting! Under the tutelage of Wilma Oosterwyk, they began the work on sleeping mats. At the end of the evening, Wilma gave Marcia Weiland of Westminster two finished mats for people who regularly sleep on the grounds of the church.

Beads on the Patio

Many thanks to all who purchase beads from Bead For Life each year. The beads are made by women in Uganda from recycled paper and the women use the income to send their children to school. Here are some photos of some of our faithful customers!



Sages

Orangewood's SAGES fellowship group celebrated its December luncheon with a delicious meal, prepared by Moderator of our Deacons Kris Rennell. Turkey and stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, and mixed fresh vegetables were followed by pumpkin pie with fresh whipped cream for dessert. Kris was assisted in the kitchen by Phebe Packer, Sandy Snyder, Jean Lee and Dick Wright. Our entertainment was provided by two classes of preschoolers from Creative Bridges Preschool. According to Jeni DeBenedetti, who coordinated our entertainment, teachers prepared for weeks, and the kids, all dressed up in Santa hats, sang Christmas carols with lots of Christmas spirit! Table decorations from Jeanne Matt's collection featured colorful ornaments with lighted small Christmas trees as centerpieces. Plan now to attend our next luncheon on our regular meeting day, Tuesday, January 11, 2020. Our program will be a musical presentation by Mr. Don Forrest. Don features wonderful songs from the 40's and 50's—you won't want to miss this! Please call the office should you need transportation.



PW Bible Study

A great way to begin this new year is by coming to the monthly Bible Study which normally meets on the first Wednesday. This month, however, it meets on January 8. All are welcome. The focus this time is on another Commandment as we explore "Words of Love: Honor the Life Givers." Gloria Olsen will facilitate the discussion on Wednesday, January 8 in Seminar Room West at 1:00 pm

Breakfast Out Bunch

This month we are meeting for breakfast at Village Inn, 310 E. Bell, at 9:00 am on Wednesday, January 15. Call Jean Lee at 602-870-8342 and let her know if you will be coming. Friends are always welcome.

Finance and Stewardship



The Finance/Stewardship Committee would like to say thank you for your devotion to generosity! In addition to all the time and talent committed by this congregation to God's kingdom, your generosity with your treasure means the funding needs for 2020 have been met!

The 2019 financial year is closing out on a good note. Orangewood's finances are in good shape, the financial review has been completed and we look forward to a lifestyle of stewardship in 2020.

3F (Fun, Food, Friends)

A group of Orangewood "singles" meets for dinner once a month. Call Jackie Collier or Becky Cederquist if you would like to join. Here is our group at Alexis Restaurant, December 9, It was all women on this occasion and we missed Gene Nix and Dennis Daniel, but we took a picture of our desserts just to show them we were thinking of them!



Our Church Family

It was luck to catch this wonderful scene at the end of church service in December. Kaydie Marshall and Gail and Paul Lind greet Courtney Diamond's daughter, Jacqueline Rose.

Rocky Point Trip

Registration for our next trip to Rocky point is now open. The trip dates are February 14-17. Please follow the link below to register with AMOR. Once you complete the on-line registration, we will mail you the additional paperwork you will need to complete registration with OPC. **Your registration is not completed until we receive all paperwork and your payment. The deadline for this is January 31.**

You may recall that our trip fees to AMOR have increased as of February after we were given a loooooong grace period on this by AMOR. We now need to commit to the number of participants we have a bit earlier than in the past and are no longer able to provide refunds once you have paid. The fee for the trip going forward will be \$170 per person. There will be discounts given to families with three or more members.

We always need drivers and are so grateful to those who help us with this essential responsibility. We appreciate the extra cost that this involves and have set aside funds to assist with insurance costs if this is an obstacle for anyone who might be otherwise willing to drive.

We have worked out the kinks (Thank you Dennis) and will be staying at Shirley's big house on the beach (fingers crossed) once again. We are looking forward to (possibly) being joined by Oliver Page and some members of his youth group from California so we may have a good-sized group. We can take a maximum of 35 people and registration will be on a first-come basis so plan to register as soon as possible if you want to be part of this wonderful trip.

18 years and over: <http://bit.ly/2R83ErG>

17 years and younger: <http://bit.ly/2Xa0TM3>

Please contact Bernale Wright or Christina Suarez 602 448 5599 if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Community Health & Wellness Fair—Mark Your Calendars Now

You won't want to miss the Community Health & Wellness Fair planned for Saturday, February 29, at Orangewood. Page Hall will be filled with resources to check out! There will be providers from multiple agencies with information on managing medications, support groups, mobility, palliative care, community assistance, and more. Your sponsors, OPC PW, have commitments from Area Agency on Aging, DUET, ASU Nursing, and National Health Service to provide screening for blood pressure, cholesterol, cognitive impairment, and blood sugar. We will have mini-workshops on nutrition, fitness and fall prevention and many other features. If you are interested in volunteering to assist in helping attendees navigate our campus, please contact Jeanne Matt or Phebe Packer.

Honduras Mission Trip, January 16–25, 2020

Our upcoming trip has three areas of endeavor – we will work with the people in the community of Nueva Estanzuela to build houses; we will hold medical clinics; we will follow up with current educational scholarship recipients and make decisions about the scholarship recipients for 2020. This year we will be taking some laptop computers to the students for their use at the schools. Our group will be housed in Copan and we anticipate a trip out to Trinidad to visit communities where we have worked in the past. The continuity of our relationship with many communities in western Honduras is a significant aspect of the development there. Remembering each other throughout the year gives a sense of solidarity to us all. We give thanks to all the people at OPC who have brought in donations for this trip. We will be better equipped than ever this time! If you would like to make a financial donation, there is still time. Make checks payable to OPC.

Desert Mission Food Bank

How would you like to start off the New Year with a morning of work at the food bank? The day for that is Saturday, January 4, from 9:00-11:00 am. Join us and help the food bank be able to serve their clients. Signups and more info are at the Mission table after services. Thank you!

Orangewood Presbyterian Church
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Phoenix, AZ 85020

Or Current Resident

January

www.orangewood.info

2020

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Band Leader	Brady Putzke
Director of Christian Education	Melissa Hooper
Church Administrator	Pam White
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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 February Plumblin is January 17.**