

# Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2021

## Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

We had our first joint American and African Youth Group last week. I really sweated what to do for the serious part of our program. Who would be there? How would we translate? How could we break the ice? What would bring us together?

I finally decided that everyone can tell their story, and that stories could help us get to know each other. I challenged everyone to tell a story of a time when they messed up, failed, forgot God, sinned, and God made something good come of it anyway. We used Romans 8:28 as our Scripture verse: *In all things God is working for good for those who love the Lord.* We were all challenged to not only tell our stories, but to tell the tales with God as a major actor in our stories.

We got a broad range of narratives. I told a story about being ripped into by someone with no cause and how upset I was. A secular counselor heard me out for a time and then said: "Remember what happened to Jesus? Remember what he said would happen to his faithful followers." God SMACKED me upside the head! Getting ripped into is part of the gig of being a disciple. How had the pastor forgotten that?!

There were a couple stories of cheating on school-work and getting caught at it. One girl told a story of asking her father to buy her a pen when they were back in Africa. Her father could not do it because they did not have the money. The next day she stole several pens from her classmates, but was found out when one of her friend's father came to her house. God has taught our youth that sometimes getting caught is the best thing that can happen to you. God can work for good through the consequences of our failures.

Most of our African Youth have a story of tremendous hardship fleeing persecution and living for many years in a refugee camp. God took this tragedy and worked for good in bringing them to America. Now they have opportunities that they never could have imagined. Now we have each other as sisters and brothers in Christ!

Often, it's easy to see God at work in our past, but it's much harder to see God working for good when we are in the middle of something rotten. The more experience we get, however, the more trust God can give us in the present. In all things, God is working for good . . .  
Hmmmmmm.

Ken



## Mission

### Alternative Giving 2021

We are all grateful to be meeting in person at church again. As we approach the Christmas season, we are especially mindful of the needs of others. Alternative giving is a way of honoring our loved ones while at the same time letting them know about some of the projects we support at OPC. This year our patio will again feature Heifer Project during the month of December. We will also have special cards for donations to schools in Honduras, including scholarships. We hope to have the WHEAT Fair Trade Store on the patio the first Sunday in December. Looking forward to seeing you outdoors in this special season of giving.

### Eye Clinic for Trinidad, Honduras

**Background:** In 1992 Providence Presbytery sent its first medical mission team to Central America. Dr. William C. Oliver, a member of Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church and an optometrist in Rock Hill, South Carolina was in that group. Then, and on subsequent trips, Dr. Oliver learned that cataracts are a problem for many of the individuals who live in remote communities in Honduras. Since those early days the clinic has been constructed by other church groups working in Trinidad.

**New Partnership:** The Honduras Team of Orangewood Presbyterian Church has joined with the Providence Presbytery of South Carolina to help finish the Eye Clinic project and get it operational. We have visited the clinic itself and are excited to join with Dr. Bill Oliver and Barbara Kurz of the Providence Presbytery in this endeavor!

**Current Status:** Most of the equipment needed to operate the clinic has already been purchased. Two rooms have been set up in a new facility dedicated to eye surgery.

**Next Steps:** Providence Presbytery and Orangewood Presbyterian Church in Phoenix will do fund-raising to complete the purchase of equipment and supplies to ready the clinic for operation. We will also work together to recruit ophthalmologists who will volunteer to travel to Trinidad to perform the surgeries.

*You can help! No gift is too large or too small. All donations will be used for the Presbyterian Eye Clinic in Trinidad, Copan, Honduras and are tax deductible. In addition to funding, we are collecting sunglasses.*



## Nourish Phoenix

As most of you probably know, Nourish Phoenix (formerly ICM Food and Clothing Bank) is a long-time partner of Orangewood in reaching out to our community. We provide financial assistance to Nourish Phoenix through our Mission budget, and conduct food and clothing drives to help them meet the needs of the community. Members and friends of Orangewood also volunteer many hours at Nourish Phoenix, and they can always use more support in sorting donated items or in the clothing room. Their website is <https://nourishphx.org>, and it contains a wealth of information on volunteer opportunities. If you would be a first-time volunteer with them, they ask that you complete their Volunteer Application before signing up for shifts. From their home page, click on "Get Involved", "Volunteer Today", then click the red "Volunteer Today" button to reach the application. They are a great organization, and this is a wonderful way to help those who need a hand up in difficult times!

## Presbyterian Women

OPC Presbyterian Women held their "season opener" on Saturday, October 16 at 10 am in Page Hall. Nine women gathered to kick off the season with a preview of the theme and meetings scheduled throughout the fall, winter and spring. The group had fun with some questions for sharing and reviewed the basic beliefs of Presbyterian Women including the various giving offerings. We talked about the year's theme of "Building Bridges of Understanding" and labelled this one a "challenging" bridge.

We extended the idea of building bridges to include writing our own personal statements of faith. We spoke about jotting down favorite hymns and passages of scripture to use as we develop our individual statements. We will work on these private statements throughout the year and dedicate them at our spring meeting.

All the women of Orangewood are invited to gather on Saturday, November 20 for a "Thankful Gathering" in Page Hall from 10:00-12:00 to sing, pray, laugh and joyfully be thankful together. A part of the morning will focus on the 12 recipients of the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women. In 2021 a grant was selected for each PC (USA) Synod and three international ministries. One of the grants is slated for Frontera de Cristo in Douglas, AZ, U.S.A. and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico to fund "Enhancing Skills of At-Risk Children and Parenting Skills of Adults." Come hear about this and other worthy recipients!



## Music at Orangewood

Happy Fall! Slowly but surely we are getting our feet back on the ground at OPC after the interruptions of the past year and a half. Our music ensembles are meeting again and we are continuing to work on blending our services and providing online, live-streaming opportunities for worship.

**Choir** - Our choir is meeting on *Wednesday mornings from 10:30 until noon* in the choir room. For the time being please bring a mask and your voice and be ready to sing with us. We are beginning to prepare for the Advent/Christmas season as well as our Sunday services.

**Bells** - The bell choir is meeting on Sunday mornings after our 10:30 worship services until 1:00 in the choir room. We too are wearing masks for the time being and are beginning to mobilize for the holiday season. Don't worry if you haven't rung before. We would love to teach you!

Our yearly service of **Lessons and Carols** will be on Sunday morning, December 12 during the 10:30 worship hour. **Our Christmas Eve service** will be on Friday, December 24 at 7 pm (only one service). Please plan on worshipping with us those days. Any questions, please give me a holler. Blessings, Chuck



## Old Friends

Mary Turkal and Ev Noice were so happy to see each other at SAGES. Both are having sight problems and were just tickled to finally see their old friend.

It was such a beautiful sight.





## SAGES



Orangewood's SAGES fellowship group met for our first time in our new program year on October 12, and we were treated to a wonderful lunch of fried chicken, green beans, scalloped potatoes, warm French bread, and apple crisp with vanilla ice cream. Our kitchen crew was headed by Bernale Wright, and included Jackie Collier and Phebe Packer. Thanks for a wonderful meal! Table centerpieces were provided by Jeanne Matt, and featured fall colors, complete with bright napkins to match. Our tables were placed far apart, and seating was limited to five guests per table, to comply with the latest guidelines.



We will continue this arrangement until further notice. Entertainment was provided by singer Mr. Don Forest, who was accompanied by his extensive selection of recorded music. Don performed many classics, including songs by Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin and many others. Barbara Digges, our new Plumblin Editor, attended our function, and took photos of a few guests for the upcoming new Orangewood directory. You might see Barbara and her camera at upcoming fellowship group meetings, as she explained that "we can use more photos in our church publication!" Our next regular scheduled luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, so mark your calendars now to save the date!



## Join in Celebrating Our November Birthdays

Wish them a happy birthday with a card, email, phone call or prayer.

- November 3: Carol Hullihen
- November 5: Pat Harris and Christina Suarez
- November 6: Emma Page and Oliver Page
- November 8: Gary Mandile
- November 9: Courtney Diamond
- November 14: Janis Bladine, Sally Haskins, and Sandy Snyder
- November 15: Mackenzie Kaup
- November 16: Cleve Lynch and Neal Vandenburg
- November 18: Willy Zunker
- November 21: Ron Reifsnider
- November 26: May Tansley
- November 29: Molly Lawson

## Operation Christmas Child

As some of you know, I was a music teacher in the Glendale Union HS district and continue to be involved with Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) both locally and statewide. Several of our high school FCA chapters participate in Operation Christmas Child, a yearly effort that provides shoebox Christmas gifts filled with various items to poor and refugee children around the world. The students collect, pack and provide shipping for the boxes that are assembled in early November and mailed so they can arrive by Christmas. The target groups our chapters have chosen are 10-14 year old boys and girls. This year the boxes will be assembled here at OPC on Saturday morning November 6 in Page Hall. If you would like more information on Operation Christmas Child, check out the following YouTube video:

[Operation Christmas Child Overview 2021, Full](#)

We are always looking for donations for the purchase of items and the shipping of these boxes overseas. This is a very worthwhile cause since for many kids this is the only Christmas gift they receive. It also gives the people who serve them a chance to tell them about the meaning of Christmas and about God's ultimate gift, His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Let me know if you want to participate in any way.  
Chuck



## Worship Committee Liturgy Study

### Christian Time Explained

We humans would be lost without the ability to keep track of time. Just imagine what chaos would ensue if no one had a clock or a watch! Our Presbyterian denomination would also be chaotic without the ability to keep track of the sequence of our religious life.

The first and most important use of time is found in Genesis, when God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. This "week" of work punctuated by a "day" of rest is the basis of our SUNDAY WORSHIP. Indeed, Sunday worship is the bedrock of our religion. The 52 Sundays of Worship each year are what keep us focused on God.

The Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus told in the New Testament adds special meaning to some of the Sundays that we celebrate. EASTER SUNDAY and PENTECOST are lifted up to acknowledge how God intervenes in our lives. There are also special seasons set aside to help us keep track of God's intervention. The four Sundays before the birth of Jesus are the SEASON OF ADVENT. The six Sundays before Easter are the SEASON OF LENT.

The name for our tracking of Christian Time is THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR. Starting with Advent this year, the Worship Committee will be paying special attention to the Liturgical Calendar, highlighting the special ways that our worship is tied to the story of JESUS CHRIST. We will be using the Plumline and the Sunday Bulletin to put a new spin on our corporate worship.

The basis for our endeavor is the book "CALENDAR, Christ's Time for the Church" by Dr. Laurence Stookey. The Worship Committee has been reading and discussing this book and we invite anyone in the congregation to read and discuss it along with us.

## Welcome our new Director of Children and Youth

Orangewood welcomes our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Samantha (Sammi) Burkhart. Sammi has a degree in Youth Ministry from Grand Canyon University. She has seven years of volunteer experience in leading children's ministry, worked as a behavioral therapist for children with autism, and taught children about science at the Butterfly Wonderland. If you'd like to invite her over, she is a fiend for raspberry sorbet!!!



**On October 31**, right after service at 11:45 will be the Fall Festival!! Lots of good fellowship, games for the kids and yummy food. Hospitality will furnish hot dogs and chips. Please bring a side dish of veggies, salad, or dessert to share. Don't forget to bring your **chili**. Not sure if we will judge the chili officially but we will enjoy testing each one. We would also like to have a **cake walk**, so donations of cake are needed.

## Session Notes

### Pastor's Report:

The Presbyterian Triennium will be held in 2022 in Indianapolis and our campus will be well represented! Orangewood will send 2 participants and the African Fellowship will send 2. The New Nile Worshiping Community will also send 2 participants. This is a wonderful event for youth.

### Facilities:

Repairs will be made to the roof of Page Hall and the Sanctuary building by Star Roofing using payment from OPC's insurance company.

There is new carpet in the office area and a new ushers' cabinet has been purchased for the Sanctuary.

### Congregational Life:

100 lightweight folding chairs will be purchased to use for events on the patio and elsewhere. An adult education book study is being planned for Advent.



## THANKSGIVING DINNER



Mark your calendars for the All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 21 at 5:00 pm in Page Hall. Hospitality will supply the turkey, potatoes, stuffing and rolls. Bring a salad, side or dessert to share.



## The Plumline Needs Your Contributions

Barbara Digges is excited to join the team that produces the monthly Plumline. She has had prior newsletter and photo experience, publishing the newsletter and creating photo IDs and trading card photos of humans and their canine partners for Pets on Wheels of Scottsdale. We hope that with the addition of Barbara, we can make the newsletter more timely, informative, and reflective of the many varied activities and experiences at Orangewood.

Our **immediate need** is more **photographers** to:

1. assist with taking portrait photos for the forthcoming member Directory.
2. take photos at Orangewood events, e.g. Fall Festival, youth activities, or just things going on around the Orangewood campus. Don't worry if you're timid about your camera skills---- Photoshop can nearly always transform from dud to masterpiece (almost). If you're interested in helping with photos, please contact Barbara at [zeebah48@gmail.com](mailto:zeebah48@gmail.com) or 602-692-7336. Alternatively, you can also let Pam know.

**Ongoing need:** Ideas, suggestions for what you'd like to see in the Plumline. We also are always happy to receive your book or movie recommendations, recipes, cartoons, words of wisdom, photos, etc. We want to build a repository of these items, so that we can plug them into the newsletter when we need some space fillers. These can also be submitted directly to Pam.

Thanks for your help in making the Plumline a publication we all look forward to and much gratitude to those who are regular contributors to the Plumline.

## We Need Your Help!

The Personnel Committee is completing a performance evaluation of our Pastor, Ken Page, which will be reviewed by the Session. It would be helpful to Ken and to the Committee to hear from our church members. You can help us by thinking about the following questions:

- \* Is our worship challenging you to grow in your faith and become a better disciple?
- \* Does the worship experience include you, your prayers and concerns in meaningful ways?
- \* In your personal contact or counseling with Ken, have you found him easy to talk with? A good listener? Able to make helpful referrals as needed?
- \* With only one Pastor, managing multiple priorities is a challenge! How do you think Ken is doing with this?
- \* Do you think Ken is leading our congregation in a positive direction?
- \* There may be other comments or suggestions you may want to make.

To comment, please call or email one of the Personnel Committee members, listed below. We are not collecting names of "who said what," but are interested in common threads or suggestions. Your responses will be summarized, but will remain anonymous, without identifying information.

David Rathman (602) 670-5105 email comments to: [DavidRathman@yahoo.com](mailto:DavidRathman@yahoo.com)

Bob Orf (602) 993-5688

David Haskins (602) 971-0457

Jackie Collier (602) 291-1015

Thank you for your help!

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

**November**

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

**2021**

**Orangewood Staff**

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pastor                      | The Rev. Kenneth G. Page |
| Director of Music           | Dr. Charles N. Sedgwick  |
| Band Leader                 | Brady Putzke             |
| Christian Educator          | Samantha Burkhart        |
| Office & Facilities Manager | Pam White                |
| Set-Up Assistant            | Addi Case                |

Orangewood Presbyterian Church  
Phone: 602-944-1508  
E-mail: [secretary@opc.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:secretary@opc.phxcoxmail.com)  
Website: [www.orangewood.church](http://www.orangewood.church)  
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The *Plumblin*e, 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**e is **November 15**.