

Plumblime

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 2022

Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

As I have grown spiritually, I've become largely uninterested in praying for stuff. I don't mean that I've become uninterested in prayer – quite the opposite! What I mean is that letting God know what God should do is less and less a part of my prayer.

More and more, my prayer is for God to help me know God's will and to give me the courage to do God's will and the peace to accept God's will even when it doesn't match my will. I failed Freshman comp for putting the word "will" in a sentence four times, but will, will, will, will really drives the point home, doesn't it.

Whose will is it about? Unless I'm really careful and prayerful, the answer will be my will. What I want can be what it's all about. But . . . what makes me think I know what's better for me than God does? What makes me think I know what's better for you than God does?

Author Jan Karon has written that there is only one prayer that is always answered in the affirmative, and that is "Thy will be done." She writes, "When I pray, God already knows what's on my heart. But I talk about the person or thing I'm praying for and how I think things should go. Then I always add with great sincerity, deepest sincerity, 'your will be done.' That's the most satisfying prayer of all."

We're allowed to talk to God about what we want, but the primary reason we do it is to turn the person or issue over to God, not to get what we want. If I pray for a person or an issue today, and then I forget to pray about the same thing tomorrow, that's actually a win. I have turned it over to God. If I'm still anxious or still focused on getting my way, you can bet I'll be praying the same thing tomorrow. If I can turn it over to God in prayer, I will have a peace about it – however things turn out. That peace, that trust, is how I want to live my life.

Our best example of this is how Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. He really did not want to hang on a cross. He was scared of it for good reason. He talked to God about what he wanted, "please take this cup from me!" Then he added, "thy will be done." What he got was not a sparing from the cross. What he got was the courage and the trust to pursue God's will, and he got a peace about it. That courage, trust and peace changed everything. That prayer changed everything.

Ken

Thy will be done.



Thy
Will
Be
Done

Big Thank You!!

Jackie Collier would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all the ladies who made cookies for the Lessons and Carols reception. Also thanks to Addison Case for all her help setting up and moving everything from Page Hall. We couldn't have done it without all of you.

Nourish Phoenix Winter Donation Drive

Orangewood gathered donations for Nourish Phoenix's winter drive. The hanging jackets were collected by the Creative Bridges Preschool and there are over 100 jackets. The other pile, even though not displayed as well, is the Orangewood collection and is at least 3 times bigger than normal. We just weren't as creative on our display.

Thank You Orangewood!



Strategic Planning

There will be a joint meeting of the Congregational Life, Worship, and Children and Youth Committees to engage in discussion and planning for the future. We welcome your input. We invite you to join one of our committees or speak to a committee member if you have a brilliant or new or creative idea to share—maybe even an old idea you would like to enable again. Bernale Wright, Elizabeth Reifsnider, Sammi Burkhart, Phebe Packer, and Dave Haskins are some of the people who would be happy to get ideas or commitments from you. If you have a passion for a ministry or even interest in serving in any small way, let us know.

Women

Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 4 at 10:00 am in Room 11 we will be studying the lessons taught to us by the women in Jesus' genealogy. "Ruth and Royal Love" is the focus in January with B. Van Mantgem this month's discussion facilitator. Do consider adding this monthly study to your 2022 calendar. The focus in February is "Ruth and Redemption"; in March "Bathsheba." Check the Bulletin Board outside the kitchen for more information.

"Standing on the Shoulders of Empowered Women"

Saturday, January 29, at 10:00 am Orangewood Presbyterian Women is hosting speaker Carol Main. Carol represented the Synod of the Southwest on a USA Mission Experience exploring the beginning of women's rights in upper New York. Following her presentation the Pot Luck Luncheon is scheduled at 11:30. All the women who worship on the Orangewood campus are encouraged to bring friends, neighbors, and relatives. Reservations may be made on the patio starting January 9 or by calling the church office (602-944-1508).

Thanks for the Socks

At their Christmas Coffee Presbyterian Women collected 116 pairs of socks for men, women and children for Nourish Phoenix. If you have more new socks to donate please add them to the collection boxes outside of Page Hall any Sunday.

Thank You!!!

There are no words big enough to express our gratitude to Jackie Collier and all the helper volunteers who provided food and hospitality for the many holiday events that are such an important part of our life at OPC. Love and hugs to each and all of you.



Our January Birthdays

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

January 1: Ed Edwards, Nancy Lewis-Lynch, Dakota Norling
January 3: Susie Harris
January 4: Joanne Sullivan, Jean Donaldson
January 6: John Marshall
January 8: Gail Lind
January 11: John Sickafoose,
January 25: Bob Wells
January 26: Tom Zandler
January 28: Dylan Swartz
January 30: Brady Putzke



Advent vs Christmas

Dr. Laurence Stookey, author of "Calender," writes about the Twelve Days of Christmas as "the evidence that once Christmas truly was celebrated as a season of twelve days – not simply a day, and not December 25 plus however many preceding days might be needed to make preparations for it. We have now developed a "Christmas Season" that begins before December 25 and extends backward to early December (or early November in the commercial world) instead of extending forward (from December 25) for twelve days.

Should we try to buck cultural forces in an attempt to reverse the process? Yes and no. On the one hand, until the recent process of lectionary revision, the careful observance of Advent was necessary to stress the future dimension of history. On the other hand, good arguments can be set forth for holding the old demarcations between Advent and Christmas, and for keeping Christmas as a full season that begins at sunset on December 24. One of the functions of the church in any age is to stand over against the prevailing culture."

The celebrations of Christmas and Advent give us a "head vs. heart" problem. Our "heads" tell us that there are advantages to making a clear distinction between the Advent and Christmas seasons. This distinction would require Christmas activities to be held only from sundown on December 24 until January 6. Advent activities would be held on the four Sundays prior to December 25. However, we all know that out in the world Christmas activities actually begin about the first of November and continue throughout Advent. Moreover, when December 26 arrives, Christmas is abruptly over. The Christmas carols stop and there are almost no Christmas parties, programs or concerts during what used to be The Twelve Days of Christmas. The retail businesses have moved on to handling gift returns and preparing for Valentine's Day and beyond. Our "hearts" tell us that there must be a Christmas Season. It truly is "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." To insist that the Christmas season only start on December 25 is a hopeless battle with the world out there, but compromises are possible.

Orangewood Presbyterian has for many years made compromises in the following ways.

The four Sundays before December 25 are designated Advent Sundays. The worship services on these Sundays use Advent Bible passages recommended by the Revised Standard Lectionary for scripture readings and sermon topics. The Sanctuary is decorated with an Advent Wreath, a Chrismon Tree, and other Advent decorations. Advent carols are frequently sung.

Christmas carols are used in some Advent services, particularly late in Advent.

Christmas programs may be offered in Advent. In the past Orangewood Presbyterian has had children's pageants. The adult choir has performed a Christmas-themed opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors." A "Service of Lessons and Carols" is a Christmas worship service held for many years in the evening of the Second Sunday in Advent.

The Third Sunday in Advent (December 12) this year was a strong Christmas musical service based on the "Service of Lessons and Carols", because it is Gaudete Sunday.

The only worship service held during the traditional Twelve Days of Christmas will usually be a Hymn and Carol Sing on the Sunday morning after December 25.

Worship Committee

Prayer Requests

A request has been made that current and urgent prayer needs be included in the Announcements that are part of our weekly bulletin. You may have already noticed that this is now occurring. You may contact Pam at the office if there is something or someone you wish to include. Prayer is a powerful gift. Thanks be to God.



SAGES and Mary Turkal's 101th Birthday

Orangewood's SAGES fellowship enjoyed a Christmas luncheon with lots of activity and good food! Jeanne Matt prepared a delicious meal of meatloaf, peas, au gratin potatoes and coleslaw. Jean's serving crew included Phebe Packer, Judy Proffitt, Barb Digges, Sandy Snyder and Carol Khazai. The kids from the preschool assembled on the stage in Page Hall, and sang Christmas carols for us, assisted by their teachers. Pastor Ken played the guitar as accompaniment. Our guest of honor for this luncheon was member Mary Turkal, who celebrated her 101st birthday this December. Mary invited several of her immediate family to join us, and her nephew Jack played "Happy Birthday" on his accordion while the SAGES sang. Luci Sherwood sang George M. Cohan's lively tune "Mary, Mary" as a birthday gift to our Mary Turkal. Luci also celebrates her birthday in December! Jackie Collier baked our desert, a delicious birthday cake, which included a replica of a hat with icing decoration in honor of Mary's collection of colorful apparel. We hope all enjoyed a wonderful and safe Christmas season, and look forward to a New Year!



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Grace Pancake



Eight Orangewood volunteers prepared and served breakfast to the homeless at Grace Lutheran in December. More than 100 plates were filled with pancakes and sausage, with beverages of coffee, Tang, and water. Following COVID protocols, guests picked up their plates inside and then headed to dine at tables in the covered breezeway. Volunteers and diners were masked except for eating.

Thanks to Ron Carmichael and Barbara, Phil and Leanne Spangler, Addi Case, Barbara Digges and Phoebe Digges-Elliott, and Brent Upson for heeding God's call to feed the homeless. As one of the guests remarked, "You are one of my blessings."



Quilt for the Music Room

The talents of Orangewood quilter extraordinaire Sally Haskins are on display in the Music Room. Sally's latest creation, a wall hanging, is entitled *Birds on the Wire*. Singing birds on a wire are appliquéd on a musical clef background. Husband Dave Haskins selected the colorful fabrics for the birds. This quilt joins another created several years ago by Sally, featuring a menagerie of animals, perhaps waiting to board Noah's Ark. Stop by the Music Room to see these works of needle art.



Tansley's Honored for Service at Desert Mission

Desert Mission Food Bank recently honored Glenn and May Tansley with a celebration in their home, honoring their **20+ years of service**. Glenn said he and May had intended to work for 21 years, but the pandemic cut that short; their final tally was 20 years and 7 months. During most of their 20 years, Glenn and May each worked two shifts per week, plus working with the Orangewood crew on most of the Saturday work days.

The photos were taken at the celebration and then put on their lockers at the Food Bank. One of the photos shows Joey, a Desert Mission employee, giving a photo the "heart fingers." The community is grateful for the Tansleys' many years of dedicated service. We wish them well in their "retirement."

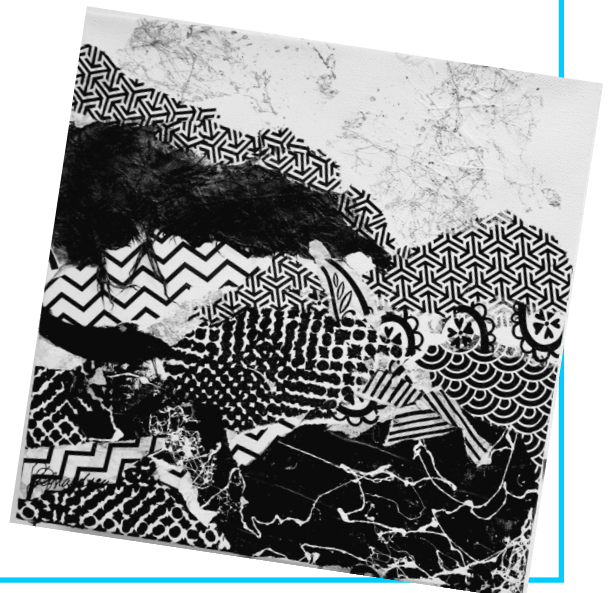


Local Artist—Jean Donaldson

Jean Donaldson is one of the featured artists in the *Only Black & White* exhibition at the Shemer Art Center.

This juried exhibition features **only** black and white works of art, created in all mediums. Jean's creations are both collages, entitled Landscape #1 and Landscape #2. Jean enjoys a wide range of art and craft media, including watercolor,

sculpture, ceramics, beadwork, lamp work, metal work, collage and acrylic painting. This showing at the Shemer Art Center runs through January 6th.



Advent Service Events

The season of Advent offers many opportunities for service and giving. In December weekly worship and service sessions were held in Page Hall on three Wednesdays. In early December, there were about 20 folks, young and not so young, who gathered to wrap the Angel Tree gifts for children of imprisoned individuals and prepare cards of hope and faith for immigrant detainees in Eloy. This year's Angel Tree matching of tags with donors, gift wrapping, communication, and mapping and scheduling delivery, was skillfully coordinated by Addi Case. Addi is a sophomore at Sunnyslope High School. Addi is also Orangewood's setup assistant who prepares and takes down meeting rooms, provides the rolling boxes for donations and hauls the filled ones to storage, and performs a myriad other tasks, always with a smile.

Two other service events were held on subsequent Wednesdays: assembling hygiene kits for immigrants on behalf of the IRC Welcome Center and putting together kits for homeless individuals. The kits included a bus ticket, socks, water, granola bar, and a "how to get help" card. We are grateful for the time and energy you gave to these projects.



The Plumline Needs Your Assistance

We would like to regularly publish human interest items about members of the congregation-- achievements, awards and recognition, hobby creations, etc. You can write the news item yourself or let Barbara Digges know and she'll flesh it out with details and/or photos. 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.

The Plumline needs more photographers to take photos at Orangewood events, 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 zebah48@gmail.com or 602-692-7336 or let Pam know.

We are looking for someone who would continue writing the profiles for Session members. We also hope to connect with someone to periodically write a feature on a member of the congregation. Remember the *Church Mouse*, by Millie Bartlett? That's an example of the type of writing we are looking for.

Finally, we are interested in your ideas and suggestions for what you'd like to see in the Plumline. Thanks for your help in making the Plumline a publication we look forward to. Much gratitude to the regular contributors to the Plumline and a special thank you to Jeanne Matt, Jeannie Oosterwyk, and Luci Sherwood who provided human interest items.

Deacon's Report

What are the deacons up to these days? And, who are the deacons? Well, God has provided some wonderful people, but the list is pretty short: Dennis Daniel, Becky Cederquist, Gene Nix, Judy Passalacqua, Doris Lawson, Mary Beth Hamel, and Martha Daudet. With such limited resources, we're still trying to look after those folks in our congregation who need our help, but we're also working on the Congregational Care Teams. We have several Care Teams doing some amazing work for the church using volunteers: sending cards, making phone calls, scribing for the Pastor, providing transportation when necessary, and visiting the homebound. We're also collaborating with the Congregational Life, Worship, and Mission Committees. If you feel called to help on one of the teams as a regular member or for a one-time service, you can call Dennis Daniel (480-614-8328) or Becky Cederquist (623-363-4509). We'll be happy to find something for you to do!



Four Generations

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January

www.orangewood.info

2022

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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.**