

# Plumblaine

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2022

## Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

Our Wednesday evening class is taking a deep dive on reconciliation. We started with a global perspective on reconciliation, looking especially at the harm that colonialism has done to many around the world. Eventually, we will wind up with interpersonal and even our personal reconciliation with God. This week, however, we are working on what is perhaps our hottest topic: The political divide in our nation.

As I write this, we'll be testing a hypothesis tomorrow evening: **For true reconciliation, we have to talk about the issues.** We're pretty sure this is true, we're just not sure that we can actually do it! But we're going to give it a shot. So often, a decision to not talk about it masquerades as unity even in the church (especially in the church?). With God's help could we get to a point where we could talk and listen about the hot topics without becoming divided?

Our practice issue is transgender rights - we didn't pick an easy one. Participants are asked to research and bring some facts. They are also asked to be super clear about the source of their facts. Is it a hyper partisan source? Is it peer reviewed? If it is a news article, does it cite its source? Did you look at that source? Is it a correlation that doesn't prove causality, but might suggest it? Our facts and our assessment of facts are important.

Last week we worked on a foundational principle: **Always be able to state the best of your opponent's arguments before engaging them in debate.** It's so much easier to reduce your opponent's arguments to the most ridiculous and their motives to the most scurrilous. That doesn't lead to reconciliation!

When we engaged in this practice, we found much to agree on. I was more concerned about the climate change aspects of the Keystone Pipeline, and my partner more concerned about gas prices. But I am concerned about gas prices too, and we agreed that this especially affects the poor who are already struggling. He was concerned about climate change, too. We discovered that our disagreement about the Keystone Pipeline came down only to weighting these issues a little differently. That made for a good discussion and better reconciliation.

In its major section on reconciliation, the Confession of 1967 states:

***The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.***

The reconciliation that we have been given in Christ, is the reconciliation that we are supposed to share with each other and the world!



## It's almost time for Vacation Bible School

Hi everyone! This is Sammi checking in to make sure that VBS is on your radar! It seems like a long ways away, but summertime will be here before you know it, so please make sure to put it on your schedule **now!** VBS will be in the mornings on June 6-10. Our theme this year will be Deep Sea Dive, and we are going to be learning about how to deepen our faith and our relationships with God. We are looking for children aged 5-10 to attend and I hope to see all my sweet kid friends there!

Not in that age range but want to join in on the fun? Sign up to be a volunteer! Volunteers make the world go round and whatever your talents, we've got a role for you! If you have any questions or would like to sign up to be a volunteer please email me at [orangewoodchildrenandyouth@gmail.com](mailto:orangewoodchildrenandyouth@gmail.com).

## Habitat for Humanity

OPC is working on a house for DoraAnn in the downtown area. Our build dates are April 23 and 30 and May 21. We welcome you to join the crew whether you have any experience or no experience. More information can be found at the Mission table, or call Dirk or Jeannie Oosterwyk. Thank you!

## Mission Highlights

Grace Lutheran—96 plates served for Pancake Breakfast on February 20.

Rocky Point—15 people participated on Presidents' Weekend. A family of 5 received the home.

They had lived in a very old AMOR home and were excited for the upgrade. The committee discussed current costs of continuing with Amor Ministries and other options.

Super Bowl of Caring—\$652 was raised and will be used as determined by the Youth.

Habitat for Humanity—build started.

Nourish Phoenix new monthly *Volunteer* Event – We will go on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. Sign up at the Mission table.

Honduran Project: Eye Clinic focus with South Carolina group—possible trip in August. New relationships are being formed with newly elected political officials in Trinidad and Copan.

Orangewood African Fellowship: Youth gathering is planned—Mission budget is used only for mission and scholarships, not administrative expenses.

Youth Missions: Budget is still available. Triennium sadly was cancelled due to COVID.

There will be a "clean up" event at Montlure on May 13.

The committee discussed support for Ukraine. The congregation will be encouraged to donate directly to the Presbyterian Disaster Fund.

Lutheran Immigration Services to attend April committee meeting.

Reaching out to The Neighborhood Christian Clinic about setting up a tour and volunteer opportunities.

Orangewood has sent financial support to 15 world and local mission partners and 11 Presbyterian mission projects during this fiscal year. We are pleased to report that all of them have not only affirmed receipt of this support, but all have sent our congregation their heartfelt Thanks

### Announcements:

Church needs kneeler walker.

Ask your dentist for donations of dental care products for our homeless bags or hygiene kits.

Check out **EFOCUS** to get updates and stories about the work of the Presbyterian church. EFOCUS is a free weekly newsletter published online by the Presbytery of Grand Canyon. You can see a sample and/or subscribe at [pbyoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pbyoffice@gmail.com)

**Thank you** to Doris Lawson for making the Mission poster for the church patio!

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 11, 10:00** – All congregational members are invited.

## Peace and Justice Network



The Peace and Justice Network believes that building community furthers the goals of peace and justice and that community comes about through compassion and understanding. Check the Presbytery's EFOCUS for recent articles on domestic violence, the immigration work of the Young Center and the assistance given to asylum seekers and migrants by University Presbyterian Church. Contact the Presbytery Office to subscribe for your weekly copy of EFOCUS, delivered to you by email. [pbyoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pbyoffice@gmail.com)

## Our April Birthdays

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

Lois Manning	April 1	Bob Jenson	April 11
Victoria Widener	April 1	Ryan DeBenedetti	April 11
Dennis Proffitt	April 2	David Rathman	April 13
Rusty Thumma	April 2	Mae Hicks	April 14
Dennis Daniel	April 5	Edna Miller	April 15
Noah Williams	April 5	Marilyn Jacobo	April 18
Mike Lawson	April 6	John Van Mantgem	April 23
Sandi Workman	April 7	Kathleen Geary	April 23
Ruth Hall	April 9	Ruth Ann Van Westrienen	April 25
Terry Frost	April 10	Carol Mandile	April 27
Spencer Case	April 10	Charlie Bladine	April 30
Judy Lippman	April 11	Jeni DeBenedetti	April 30

## SAGES

Orangewood's Sages enjoyed their regular scheduled luncheon in Page Hall, prepared by Jackie Collier and assisted by Carol Khazai, Sandy Snyder and Jackie's friend and neighbor Janice Lavoie. Chicken and rice casserole and carrot salad with dinner rolls, were topped off by a generous helping of Texas chocolate sheet cake for dessert. Table centerpieces and other decorations from Jeanne Matt's collection included many sunflowers in honor of Ukraine, as the sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine. Our entertainment was provided by a precision dance group, the Dancing Delights from Scottsdale, led by director Shirley Goss. Following their performance, which consisted of several musical dance numbers, Shirley led the SAGES in an audience participation exercise – very entertaining! Our next luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 12, at 11 am. Mark your calendars now, and be sure to let the church office know should you require transportation.



## Rocky Point February 2022

By Dennis Daniels Photos contributed by Sammi Burkhart, Mitra Swartz, & Ken Page

### Highlights of our first Rocky Point (R.P.) trip in two years:

Our February, 2022 trip to Puerto Peñasco, a.k.a. Rocky Point, was mostly different, but in some ways the same, as the last three dozen or so trips we've made.

#### *Things that were different:*

- ◆ Only two Youth on a trip that historically was built around Youth participation. We thank Bryce Swartz and Walker Murff for admirably representing the latest generation of R.P. Youth!
- ◆ Consequently, it was the smallest group we'd had in recent memory – just 14 total. But half the group were veterans of well over 20 trips, so the impact on productivity was much smaller than anticipated! Experience made up for fewer hands!

- ◆ Our first stay at the fairly new Amor Ministries R.P. camp (on land donated by the R.P. City Council several years ago). Sleeping in tents was a different experience for some of us! Food-wise, we enjoyed delicious Mexican fare prepared at the Amor camp kitchen by local caterers. Chilaquiles for breakfast the last day were a real treat!

- ◆ We did NOT completely finish the house, lacking time and people to apply the second coat of stucco on the final day. We applied the first coat of stucco on the morning of the final day, and left bags of cement and sifted sand so that the family could do the second coat themselves. (And this was considered a good thing – more "sweat equity" on the part of the family!)

#### *Things that were the same:*

- ◆ God showed up! - as God always does. Despite an extraordinarily long time getting into Mexico through Customs, half the group size we typically have, and having to adjust to different accommodations than we had gotten used to, none of those things presented any real obstacles in the end – God prepared the way for us.

- ◆ And most importantly, a family that was living in inferior housing got a sound, safe, new structure (with solar-powered lighting, even!) in which to move forward with their lives. They were living in an Amor house that was almost 20 years old, which had served admirably since their oldest daughter, now 19, was a newborn, but had been deteriorating in the last few years.

Thank you, everyone, for your faithful support of OPC's ministry to "the least of these" in Rocky Point through your prayers, participation and gifts! You have made an enormous difference in the lives of **over 60 families in 27+ years!**

**Isaiah 43:19a** *Behold, I am going to do something new, Now it will spring up; Will you not be aware of it? Pease, Lord, give us eyes to see!*



**Trip participants:**

**Christina Suarez:** Trip Organizer, Strategist, Liaison to Amor Ministries, and Queen of Cat-Herding

**Ken Page:** Sr. Pastor, Balladeer and Mexican kids' favorite payaso [clown]

**Sammi Burkhart:** CY Director, braving her "trip of many firsts"

**Mitra Khazai:** Trip Photographer extraordinaire

**Greg Swartz:** Maestro of the Tool Trailer

**Bryce Swartz:** solidly representing OPC Youth

**Walker Murff:** Mexican Kids' Street Ministry

**Bailey Page:** Gentleman Philosopher and co-Balladeer with his dad

**Dirk Oosterwyk:** without whom few jobs over 6-1/2 ft high could be done without a ladder

**Brent Upson:** who brings the Fruits of the Spirit to every task, every trip, every time

**Bernale Wright:** Matriarch of the OPC Rocky Point experience – from Trip #1 to Present

**Russ Seideman:** "Your Rocky Point Roofer for over 25 years"

**Gach Kur:** member of our Sudanese NWC on his first trip

**Jose Hernandez:** Senior representative of Betania Pres., still gettin' it done at 82-1/2 yrs young!

**Dennis Daniel:** Spanish interpreter and social gadfly

**Our cooks:** Lupita "una" y Lupita "dos", locals catering for Rocky Point groups with delicious "comida casillera" (homestyle cookin')

**Behind-the-scenes support: Luci and Dan Sherwood,** who provide departure and return support and window curtains for each new home.

**The Build process: Afternoon 1:** Frame out the slab, 11' x 22'. The structure will consist of two 11' x 11' rooms. **Day 2:** Mix concrete, pour the slab. Frame the roof rafters and walls.

**Day 3:** Stand up the walls, set the roof on, wrap the exterior walls with plywood, tar paper and chicken wire. Sift sand for mixing stucco. **Morning 4:** Mix and apply stucco to exterior walls.



## United in Worship and Fellowship

The Orangewood campus abounded with fellowship, praise and joy as the 2 congregations united in Page Hall for their worship service on Sunday, March 13. Pastors Joseph, Selemani, and Venant led the service; Pastor Ken delivered the Children's Sermon. One of the highlights of the service was the music and steps of the multi-generational African choirs—the Everlasting Choir, Mama's Choir, and Children's Choir. Quite the energy was created when most members of the congregation arose and moved in time to the choirs' rhythm and the instrumental accompaniment.

The bulletin for the service included many translations from Swahili to English. It was interesting to learn that some words are similar in the two languages; for example, kwaya = choir, muziki = music.

The fellowship continued at the All-Church Picnic following the worship service. Many thanks to Jackie Collier and her kitchen and table helpers, Dennis Daniel and Sandy Snyder for grilling the hotdogs, and Addi Case for coordinating the set-up and take down.



## Church Directory, March 2022

The 2022 Orangewood Directory was distributed by email in early March. Hard copies have been mailed to homebound individuals and a few are still available in the Narthex.

If you note any corrections or updates that need to be made, please notify Pam in the office. If you would like to have your photo added, please email it to Pam.

Updates to the Directory will be made periodically and distributed by email. It is cost prohibitive to print new copies each time there are updates, which happens quit often. There are printed copies in the back of the church if you need a hard copy or you don't have email.

## PW Green Luncheon

The GREEN luncheon brought out a wide variety of green foods to share on Saint Patrick's Day. Rev. Thea McKee shared a profile of Saint Bridget, female Patron Saint of Ireland, plus images of Irish locations. Phebe Packer created a Power Point showcase of Jean Donaldson's Irish photographs, to which Bob Wells added Irish music. The closing circle of prayer sent folks out empowered to be faith-filled Christians.



## A Family Affair

Janet Spangler, grandma to Addi and Sabrina Case, is full of pride at the girls' accomplishments on the Sunnyslope Vikings Softball team. Sabrina and Addi are the daughters of Orangewood member Leeann Spangler. Both girls are sophomores--Sabrina can usually be found at 2nd base while Addi is a utility player, playing the

outfield, 2nd base, or catcher (not all at the same time!!). Currently the team has an 8-1 record, recently won an invitational tournament in Cottonwood, and beat an in-town rival by 14-1. The team is well-coached by Mike Fenton, who is the son of Orangewood member Joan Fenton.

If you want to feel young(er) for a couple of hours, take in a nearby high school baseball game.

In the photos are Addi and Sabrina with Coach Fenton; Leann and Janet Spangler and Joan Fenton.



## Join us for the upcoming Lenten events

### Lenten Study on Wednesdays,

Through April 6, Room 11 at 7:00 pm,

A Study for education, discussion, and actual practices of reconciliation. In a divided time in America.

### Maundy Thursday,

April 14, in Page Hall at 6:00 pm. A Simple Meal with worship and scripture,

### Tenebrae Service

April 15, in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm

### Easter Day

April 17

Sunrise Service, on the Patio at 6:00 am Prepared by our youth

Traditional Service in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am



## Forty Days of Lent

We have often heard about the Forty days of Lent that we are now experiencing and we have three hymns in our hymnbook that we sing about them. Yet, if one looks at a calendar, and counts the days starting with Ash Wednesday and ending with the day before Easter, you will total forty-six days! This is because forty days of Lent are weekday fast days and six days are Sundays or Lord's Days. The Lord's Days are feast days.

The author of the book that the Worship Committee is studying asserts that Sunday is the chief festival of the faith for Christians. He says it is not Christmas or even Easter Day. He concludes by saying that "from the First Day of the week, the meaning of the rest of the week is derived. The congregation that worships together on the Lord's Day continues its worship throughout the week, though necessarily in a dispersed manner."

"Why forty days? In biblical terms forty is a round number symbolizing fullness – a span of time sufficient to accomplish what needs to take place; as such the number is used frequently and becomes a kind of shorthand for much of ancient history."

There are numerous uses of the number forty in the Bible. To mention just a few:

Forty days of rain on Noah's ark

Forty years that the Israelites spent between Egypt and the Promised Land

Forty days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness

Forty days that the resurrected Jesus was revealed to the disciples

"In the early centuries, forty days was the time sufficient for converts to make their final, intensive preparation for baptism; and thus, a pattern for Lent developed."

"However these Forty Days are ordered locally, their observance should be disciplined – that is, intentional and sustained; and that discipline should proceed not from a sense of duty or obligation but from a sense of grateful devotion. In the past much was made of 'giving up something' for Lent. At times this was trivial if harmless self-denial: abstaining from chocolate or attendance at movies. At times it was dishonest: giving up cigarettes because the physician had sternly warned of the dangers of smoking, or reducing food intake because weight loss was desired. In reaction, it has now come into vogue to suggest that instead we should 'take on something' for Lent: pay a visit each week to someone who is ill or shut in, add an additional passage of scripture or prayer to personal devotions, or increase charitable offerings for six weeks. None of these is reprehensible; but neither do they grasp the depth of what is meant by Lenten devotion and discipline, if for no other reason than that they are temporary; presumably once Easter arrives, these 'add-ons' will be set aside for another forty-six weeks.

The fuller Lenten discipline is a self-examination that seeks greater conformity to the mind of Christ, and more effective ministry on behalf of the world (which is what true devotion is all about). In this perspective, Lenten disciplines are not temporary deletions or additions but spiritual exercises that permanently alter us."

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

## Road to Fellowship

Have you been traveling lately? Due to the pandemic has it been mostly arm-chair travel? You are invited to travel a road like no other. It will involve some history and geography revisits. Along the way you will meet interesting people and their stories. Are you ready to start down the road? Do you have questions? See the next issue of the Plumblin.



## Session Highlights – March 15, 2022 Meeting

Arizona Corporation Commission papers filed and approved for 2022.

Treasurer's Report:

Member Income, year to date: \$224,665 (53%)

Total Income: \$268,771 (51%)

Expenses, year to date: \$264,171 (50.0%)

Net: + \$4,600

Next Presbytery Meeting is April 23. PDA Director Laurie Krause will be a speaker.

Update on Sammi Inannen, whom OPC has sponsored at Austin Seminary. Sammi is doing supervised ministry in Austin and has been promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the Army Reserve, serving periodically in Kentucky. Ken has requested that Sammi preach at OPC this summer.

New chancel step railing to be installed.

OAF held new member class with 25 OPAE.

Facilities Report:

All AC in the Wright Center has been replaced and the old boiler removed.

Roofing project to be complete week of March 14. Installation of solar planned to begin March 21.

Other projects in process are sale of manse and replacement of office bathroom flooring.

Children and Youth Report:

Working to integrate African youth with American youth. Large event such as weekend "lock in" proposed.

Plans for younger children will require volunteers from both congregations.

Season for stewardship coming up in late April through most of May.

Future of Orangewood: Brainstorming session held on March 5 with very positive results. Next meeting will be Saturday, April 2.

## Where is God Leading OPC? - Joint Committee Report

The Worship, Congregational Life, and Children and Youth Committees met together on March 5 for some post-pandemic discussion and brain storming. There was a good exchange of ideas. We will be passing along the results of our efforts and inviting your input and involvement as well. We are seeking new ways to improve communication, make intentional efforts to get to know each other and combine our strengths in mission, renew our worship, support our youth and children, and more. We agreed to meet together more regularly in the future, with the next meeting on April 2, at 10:00 am in Room 11. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to join in planning for the future. What are your dreams for ministry at OPC?

## One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Hunger Program

Self-development of People

We will be collecting our donations, along with Presbyterians around the world, on Easter Sunday. Donations may also be made on our website or through the church office.

**Orangewood Presbyterian Church**  
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The *Plumbline*, 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 May Plumbline is April 18.**