

# Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2022

## Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

I have a life verse – a scripture verse that speaks to me so profoundly that I have decided that it will be central to the way I live my life. My life verse is 2 Corinthians 12:9.

This verse reminds me that anything that I can accomplish in my personal life, or in my ministry comes, not from my own gifts or my education, but from the grace of God. I have a lot of weaknesses and sometimes they rear their ugly heads! I can get down on myself for them and even beat myself up over them.

Then, I remember: "my power is made perfect in weakness."

My weakness is a cause for celebration because it is especially in my weakness that God's power becomes most evident. Even my strengths are weaknesses compared to God's power. This frees me up to do my best and know that although my best isn't good enough, God is using my best . . . and even my worst . . . to accomplish God's purposes.

Recently, my weaknesses have included multiple health challenges. I'm trying to make "God's power is made perfect in weakness," into a mantra of mine. When I am weak, God's power is even more manifest.

My life verse comes immediately following the one where Paul talks about his thorn in his flesh. He never

says what it is. It could be anything: Weak eyesight, "unnatural lusts," an illegitimate child in Jerusalem. It's kind of a gift to us that Paul doesn't get specific about his thorn, because that enables us to fill in the blank with our own thorn(s). Paul has prayed for his thorn to be removed, and God says "Nope, not removing it." What God says instead is that God's power is made perfect in weakness. Paul's thorn helps God's power to shine even brighter, because it becomes clear that weak old Paul isn't the source of the accomplishments. That honor belongs to God.

You have a thorn – a weakness. Maybe you even have dozens of them, like me.

Do not fret about your weaknesses, for God's power is made perfect in weakness.

***My grace is  
sufficient for  
you, for my  
power is  
made  
perfect in  
weakness.***

*Ken*

## Join in Celebrating Our November Birthdays

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

Carol Hullihen	November 3
Christina Suarez	November 5
Gary Mandile	November 8
Courtney Diamond	November 9
Sally Haskins	November 14
Sandy Snyder	November 14
Janis Bladine	November 14
Mackenzie Kaup	November 15
Neal Vandenburg	November 16
Cleve Lynch	November 16
Willy Zunker	November 18
Ron Reifsnider	November 23
May Tansley	November 26
Molly Lawson	November 29

## SAGES

Orangewood's SAGES fellowship met for their first luncheon of the new program year on their regular meeting date (second Tuesday of the month) on October 11, 2022. We were able to spend time at this first meeting to catch up on the long summer's activity, and reconnect in this very pleasant atmosphere. Table centerpieces by Jeanne Matt reflected the fall theme of this meeting, with colorful dried fall leaves and miniature gourds. A delicious meal was provided and served by Jeanne Matt and her kitchen crew, including Hedy Martin, Helen Hopkins and Gene Nix. We enjoyed lasagna, home-made coleslaw, fresh spring peas, and peppermint flake or English toffee ice cream. It was announced that Pam White would join the SAGES team as Entertainment Coordinator, and she has already engaged November's entertainment! We will welcome Mr. Steven Ryan, whose specialty is theatrical illusions and comedy with audience participation. You won't want to miss this! Thanks, Pam! Do plan on joining us at our next meeting on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and let the office know you are coming and if you need transportation.



## Flowers for Sunday worship

Many people have commented on the beautiful bouquets that grace our Sanctuary each Sunday. The Worship committee has invested in artificial flowers of many colors and types and choir member Judy Proffitt makes artistic arrangements with them each Sunday. COVID has made it impossible for the Deacons to deliver our usual live bouquets to the sick or shut-in people, so this seemed like a logical option. They were also moved closer to the communion table so the on-line worshippers could better see them. Thank you, Judy, for your faithful contribution.

## Christmas is for Poinsettias

Now that we are worshipping in person again and enjoying the beauty of the Sanctuary, you may have wondered about our Christmas Poinsettia program. In the past we collected money to buy 6" poinsettia plants that could be taken home by the donor after the Christmas Eve service and enjoyed for the rest of the season. This year the Worship committee has decided to add to our collection of artificial plants because they look deceptively real, can be used over and over, and don't need the constant attention the real ones demand. If anyone is interested in donating to the Poinsettia fund you may put a check in the collection plate or mail it to the office. Please put "Poinsettias" in the "For" line. Your name will be printed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve as always. (But you can't take them home.)



## Presbyterian Women: An Invitation

Orangewood's Presbyterian Women are following up the theme introduced at the October meeting when Jean Montgomery, Presbytery Grand Canyon Moderator, and Judy Proffitt, 2022 Honored Volunteer, shared "Who Are We and Who We Are".

The theme for the November 12th Pot Luck Luncheon is "Looking Closer at the Hunger in Our Community". Dr. Tamara Zivic, Executive Director and CEO of WHEAT (World, Hunger Education Advocacy & Training) is the guest speaker.

There will be a special offering to support the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering which funds multiple ministries around the world.

Every woman who worships at Orangewood Presbyterian is invited to come and to bring guests. To make a reservation sign up in the patio on November 6th or leave a message on Jeanne Matt's phone, (602) 216-9844, at any time.

**Saturday November 12, 2022 Pot Luck Luncheon  
at 12:00 noon in Page Hall**



## Breakfast Out Bunch Returns!!

Mark your monthly calendars to join the Breakfast Out Bunch on the second Thursday of the month at the Moon Valley Café. Great food and great conversation!!

Thursday, December 8 @ 9 am will be our first breakfast. Up to 20 people can be accommodated in our reserved room. Contact Anita Shipley to reserve your spot. All are welcome! Hope to see you there!

[ashipley2@cox.net](mailto:ashipley2@cox.net) 602-503-9109

## Session Notes

OPC Session met on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed Rev. Terry Marks from the Presbytery who asked us about successes and challenges at Orangewood and how the Presbytery can be of assistance. Following his visit, a regular meeting of Session took place with the following highlights:

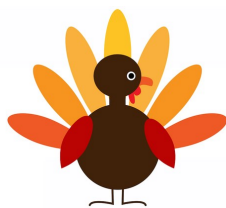
- Planning for Christmas worship events is underway. Christmas Eve Service will be at 4 pm. Lessons & Carols will be during worship on December 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Facilities: The permit for the separate Manse water meter was approved by the City of Phoenix. Approval for the solar connection by APS is pending.
- Mission: Participation for the pancake breakfast at Grace Lutheran was great. All relationships with community agencies are working well. More volunteers are encouraged to join the Nourish Phoenix team the last Monday of each month.
- Congregational Life: Fall Festival has been discontinued due to overload of events in the fall, including the Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving. New Bible study of 1 Corinthians on Thursday nights via Zoom. Currently five small groups are meeting. New season of SAGES is underway.
- Presbytery Grants: Both the grant for drivers' licenses and the one for English classes for OAF are going well. Six people have gotten drivers' licenses and new session English classes will begin in November.

We welcomed our newest Elder, Gene Nix. A complete list of Elders and their assignments:

- Ron Carmichael – Personnel Committee and Nominating Committee
- Nelly Kanyange – African Fellowship Women's Ministries
- Pete Ladigo – Finance and Stewardship Committee
- Joseph Lavi – African Fellowship Leadership
- Gene Nix – Mission Committee
- Phebe Packer – Clerk of Session
- Elizabeth Reifsnider – Worship Committee
- Brent Upson – Facilities Committee
- Bob Wells – Member at Large
- Bernale Wright – Congregational Life Committee

## *Thanksgiving Dinner*

Join us for the All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner, November 20 at 5:00 pm in Page Hall. Hospitality will supply the turkey, potatoes, stuffing and rolls. Bring a salad, side or dessert to share.



## **THANK YOU!!!!**

A BIG SHOUT-OUT "Thank you" to all those who stayed after the Annual Meeting to help with the kitchen clean-out. Many hands definitely made lighter work for our Hospitality Council, who had already done more than their fair share in setting up and serving lunch. It's so good to know we can always count on the lovely members and friends of OPC to step up when needed. God bless you all!!!

# Honduras Update

Orangewood is investigating a possible trip to work on a new project in Dulce Nombre in the summer of 2023. Where is Dulce Nombre and what is this project all about? This little town is in the western part of Honduras southwest of Trinidad and north of Santa Rosa. When we visited the town last August we found that all the buildings had been painted with murals. We learned that artists from all over the country had been invited to come and participate in “decorating” the town. This is just one thing the town has done to try to improve their economy and move toward becoming a tourist attraction. They have a modern-style restaurant. They have started a foundation to promote the economy with special focus on opportunities for youth. They have written a 5-year plan. It is hard to imagine that this tiny town of about 6,000 people can accomplish these goals – until you meet with the people and hear their plans and their passion for the future. The town wants to start a project to build 5-10 houses for people in need in their community. This is where Orangewood comes in. We have requested further information about where a team could stay and where the houses would be located.

We very much want to go to work there – perhaps with a team that includes several youth – but we want to make sure the opportunity is solid and well-planned. Stand by for updates and meanwhile have a look at the map below.



Dulce Nombre

Trinidad

## Mercy Mats

*Thanks to Jeannie Oosterwyk and Anita Shipley*

Most of you know Wilma Oosterwyk (mother to Dirk, mother-in-law to Jeannie), who resides at Fellowship Square (FS). Not long after moving into FS, Wilma began her efforts to get a group together to make Mercy Mats. If you're not familiar with Mercy Mats, they are mattresses or blankets that are crocheted from plastic bags. "Plarn" is the name given to the strips of plastic that are tied together and used as the "yarn." The mats are distributed to homeless folks to make sleeping on the ground a little more comfortable. The benefits of a Mercy Mat are twofold: it provides a cushion for sleeping and reduces the number of bags that end up in landfills.



It took quite a bit of time, and persistence on Wilma's part, before the facility finally agreed to give her a time slot and a meeting place. She started the group with just a couple of folks, but over time the Mercy Mat maker group grew larger. Eventually Wilma had to leave the group, but continued making the mats in her apartment. The group at FS continues to meet and churn out their mats. The mats have been delivered for many years to Grace Lutheran church (the downtown pancake breakfast church which has a large homeless ministry). They are always grateful for the mats.

Wilma had to cut short her efforts on the last mat she worked on. It was too small for a person but seemed the perfect size for a dog. One day Jeannie was driving through the park on 7th Avenue north of Peoria (the park where OPC folks, including Frank Leonard, used to pass out water and sandwiches to the homeless).

*"There was a guy and a dog enjoying the shade. The guy had a little bike trailer behind his bike that looked like it held all his earthly goods. I asked him if he would be interested in a sleeping mat for his dog. He looked at me suspiciously. I got the mat and showed him. His eyes lit up and he said something like "I have one of those! Sure, I'll take it." I could then see his mat rolled up in the bike trailer. He was genuinely delighted to see that mat for his dog because he loved his own mat."*

## From the Archives - - - 5 (30th Anniversary Celebration)

Orangewood has held church-wide celebrations on its 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. The information from the 30<sup>th</sup> is limited but from an archivist point of view the most fun on which to work. There was a booklet, a tray of slides, and an audio tape of the presentation. Through the magic of current software, I was able to reproduce the original presentation. The narrator was Evelyn Burns, an early member of Orangewood with a registration number of 158. Beth and I attended this celebration. Read the booklet and see the slide show.

Anniversary Booklet: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ybd6t1s3c2lb2bh/1983%20-%2030th%20Anniversary%20Program%20and%20History.pdf?dl=0>

Slide Show <https://www.dropbox.com/s/afu63mo1igep3yn/30th%20Anniversary%20Slide%20Show%20%28Video%20and%20Audio%29.mkv?dl=0>

Submitted by: Bob Wells



**2022 Annual Meeting**



**World Communion  
Sunday  
October 2, 2022**

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

**November**

**orangewood.info**

**2021**

**Orangewood Staff**

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

**Plumbline Contributors**

Editor:	Barbara Digges
Proof Reader:	Mary Jane Gregory
Mailer:	Judy Proffitt

Orangewood Presbyterian Church

Phone: 602-944-1508

E-mail: [secretary@opc.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:secretary@opc.phxcoxmail.com)

Website: [orangewood.info](http://orangewood.info)

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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 December Plumbline is November 17 because of Thanksgiving.**