

Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2022

Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

What are your hopes for Advent? Do you even have any? Imagine that it is Epiphany, January 6, and you are reviewing how Advent and Christmas went. What would be a success? Do you expect to meet Jesus in this season? Do you think you might be more able to see God working in your daily life?

What if we gave those expectations a chance? There are things we could do to make them more likely: Weekly worship, daily devotions, sitting quietly with God, serving the less fortunate, quality time with family and friends.

There might be some things that have to go from our lives as well. There are so many expectations to "make" a good Christmas, that sometimes all those activities get in the way of a truly great Christmas. Can you simplify? Can you lessen the expense? Can you do less in order to have more time to just be with God and with your family?

The central truth of Advent is that God is coming. The central truth of Christmas is that God comes to meet us. We don't find God, God comes to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Notice that there was nothing in these central truths about bells, lights, decorations, shopping, wrapping, presents, cookies, turkeys, or elves on shelves. These "necessities" of Christmas can sometimes get in the way of Christmas.

We have some events to help you draw closer to God in waiting for Jesus this Advent and Christmas:

- Service Worship – Wednesday Evenings in Advent at 6:30 pm
 - ◊ November 30: Hygiene Kits for the International Rescue Committee
 - ◊ December 7: Caroling at Beatitudes and Fellowship Square
 - ◊ December 14: Support Packs for the Homeless
- Service of Lessons and Carols – Sunday, December 11, Sanctuary at 10:30 am
- Moravian Love Feast – Sunday, December 18, Page Hall at 10:30 am
- Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carols – December 24, Sanctuary at 4:00 pm
- Christmas Day Worship – Sanctuary at 10:30 am
- New Year's Day Worship – Sanctuary at 10:30 am



Ken

Mission Committee

Nourish Phoenix-Our service work continues on site on the 4th Monday of each month. We will have a food drive at our three Advent service events on 11/30, 12/7 and 12/14. Participants will be encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item. OPC Women will be collecting adult diapers at their 12/17 event.

Grace in the City-Next breakfast is 12/18/22 and will be continuing on the third Sundays of even months.

Rocky Point-On the first weekend in November, a group of nine from OPC (including 5 youth) participated in a home building project in Rocky point. The trip was led by Mountain Park Church in partnership with 1Mission. Dan and Luci Sherwood were already in Mexico and were able to stop by the work site to observe and provide some help as well. The 1Mission program offers groups a service opportunity similar to what OPC has had with Amor in the past, building homes for those in need. The purpose of the trip was to evaluate their program as a potential better fit for our trip goals.

Happily, the OPC participants were impressed with the experience! The leadership and participants from Mountain Park Church were welcoming and inclusive. Everyone seemed open to working together on future trips. Our group was challenged with adjusting to staying at the 1Mission campsite and the slower work pace that Mountain Park keeps due to their stronger emphasis on building relationships in the community. The Amor program encouraged us to complete a home during our weekend, but the 1Mission program doesn't have this requirement. OPC folks are used to working hard and fast!

Advent Programs-We will host programs on three Wednesdays during Advent that will include worship and a service project each evening. We will also have holiday cards on the patio. We will encourage folks to write words of encouragement to those in the Eloy detention center.

11/30 Hygiene kit making for IRC

12/7 Caroling at Beatitudes and Fellowship Square

12/14 Support pack making for homeless in our community

Committee reviewed Mission Committee Budget for 2022-2023

A motion was made and approved:

- to pay a vendor \$500 for technical work performed on the Mission Partners "Thank You OPC" video.
- to add \$500 to 5918 Montlure (new total \$1,000).
- to add a new line item for Lutheran Immigration Services and fund that at \$1,000
- to move \$1,000 from 6936 Florence Project to our discretionary account until that organization is contacted for updates.
- to add \$1,000 to 5956 Honduran Project (new total \$2,000).
- to remove \$500 from 5919 World Mission.
- to remove \$1,000 from Desert Mission Food Bank.

A motion was made to approve the Mission and Outreach 5900 budget of \$45,100.00.

Christmas Joy

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to provide critical financial support to retired church workers and their families, and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color by providing education and leadership development. This Offering will be collected during the Christmas Eve Service, but donations may also be made anytime through the church office or online.

Alternative Giving 2022

OPC's alternative giving season includes Heifer Project, Presbyterian Giving Program, and Honduras Building and Scholarships. Come to the Mission Table to find out more about these great opportunities. Here are the **patio dates:**

- Nov.27: Presbyterian Mission Giving
- Dec. 4: Presbyterian Mission Giving and Heifer
- Dec. 11: Heifer and Honduras
- Dec. 18: Heifer and Honduras



Fair Trade Store at WHEAT

When you shop at WHEAT's Fair Trade Store in December you will get a 25% discount on your entire purchase!! Go see the wonderful items they have from all over the world, just down the street at 4000 N. 7th St, Ste 110. And remember that "fair trade" means that the people who made the items are getting a good income for their work and they work in a safe environment.

Honduras Update

Plans are continuing for a possible mission trip to Dulce Nombre in the summer of 2023. The Mission Committee has committed \$2000 to support both building and scholarship funding for the coming year. We hope to add to these funds during the alternative giving on the patio in December and invite you to consider making a contribution. Here are the projects currently in process or under consideration:

- Scholarship students in the communities around Copan Ruinas.
- Scholarship students in Trinidad.
- Building project in San Juan Planes.
- Building project in Dulce Nombre.

We are also investigating how we can support a hospital in San Marcos that needs some basic equipment. We are investigating nonprofit organizations in the US that may provide funding for these needs.

Job Opportunity Presbytery Records Administrator

The Presbytery of Grand Canyon and Presbytery de Cristo seek a Records Administrator for the Combined Presbytery Staff. This position requires the applicants to be living in the Phoenix metropolitan area. The applicant must be experienced in the use of the Office Windows software packages. Experience in church life and business and the Presbyterian Church (USA) would be beneficial. The Records Administrator position is about 32 hours per week. Compensation will be based on experience of the applicant.

Interested applicants may contact:

Rev. Brad Munroe, Presbytery Pastor
bradmunroe1963@gmail.com
719-251-9737

Robert Schulz, Stated Clerk
pbyclerk@gmail.com
480-215-4037

Applicants should send a resume and cover letter to pbyclerk@gmail.com by December 16, 2022.

Rocky Point November 2022

Thanks to Leann Spangler and Luci Sherwood

Last month Orangewood continued its long tradition (28 years!) of building homes in Rocky Point. This venture was the first of what is hoped will be future partnerships with the non-profit 1MISSION and Mountain Park Church in Ahwatukee.

Nine persons, including 5 youth, from Orangewood made the trip: Dennis, Dirk, Julius (exchange student from Finland), Addi, Sabrina, Leeann, Dunja (exchange student from Serbia), Greg and Hunter. Dan and Luci were already in the neighborhood and joined in building.

Mountain Park brought more than 60 individuals. Four teams were created to work on six different houses. Unlike prior builds, where the work team constructed a house from start to finish, the 1MISSION teams work on several simultaneously, in various stages of completion. The structure that Orangewood arrived to work on had Styrofoam block walls, no roof, the trusses made, and the electrical wiring carved into the Styrofoam. The Orangewood team added trusses and sheets for the roof and applied two layers of thin stucco to the exterior. Finishing the roof and interior were to be completed by the next team. Mountain Park was impressed with the work quality and work ethic of Orangewood's team, especially our youth. Our stuccoing skills were even noted by members of another worksite team who stopped by. OPC's biggest challenge was to match the slower 1MISSION pace. Our crew is trained to work full speed until the whistle blows! 1MISSION knows there is another crew that will get finished whatever you don't.

The 1MISSION homes differ from houses of the past in several ways. The homes are larger, with plumbing and electrical. Rather than frame and plywood, Styrofoam blocks are used, reinforced with concrete and rebar. This provides a stronger and more enduring structure as well as a more stable interior temperature. The home has value that the homeowner can use as equity.

Food and food preparation were handled by 1MISSION and Mountain Park. Meals were taken together in a pavilion on site. The sleeping accommodations included tents and RV facilities. The OPC-ers were housed in a bunkhouse that accommodated 30, using 3-high bunks. (Dirk got a bottom bunk!) There were three indoor bathrooms per bunkhouse and showers and four port-a-johns just outside, as well as a shower house, that had five showers and five sinks. Unfortunately, there was no water Friday morning. Dennis helped put it in perspective and reminded everyone that we were just living like the people we are working with.

Sunday was the only sit down "circle time" and then church in town. Every morning there were prayers and comments and a Bible verse read before we all headed out. In the evenings the kids played "volleyball" after announcement time.

The Sotelo Palma family that hopefully at this moment is occupying the house is a father who is a fisherman making \$100/week (tops); the mom, a homemaker; a teen son; and a 6 y/o daughter. Their life has been changed with the help of the Mountain Park and OPC workers (and other teams on other weekends) and the churches who support them and we pray for only good things for their future.

To learn more about 1Mission: <https://1mission.org/> [1MISSION|Facebook](#)



Tri-level bunkbeds



The homeowner family



The Orangewood crew & smooth stucco

The Build



The family's existing home, a wooden shack, is common in this area of Rocky Point.



The neighborhood



Some tools must be cleaned before work can begin.



Styrofoam blocks, reinforced with concrete and rebar, are used for the foundation and walls. This results in a stronger, more enduring structure.



Channels are carved into Styrofoam for electrical wiring. The walls will be stuccoed.



Measure twice, cut once. She's not trying to cut plywood with scissors. She's trimming mesh.



Getting ready to raise the roof.



The Spangler-Case Girls say, "Yeh, we can do that!"



The trusses had been built by a prior group; it was our team's job to get them hoisted up and secured prior to adding the sheathing. Material.



Many hands contributed to finishing our roof work and applying two coats of stucco to the exterior. Do I see some celebratory dancing on the roof?!!



Dia de los Muertos

Latin America Updates

At OPC we have learned a lot about Honduras through the years, but there is much to know about other countries as well. Several current situations call for attention and prayer:

Guatemala: Our friend Leslie Vogel lives in Guatemala and this country has descended into a dire circumstance of widespread corruption and human rights abuses. Twenty-five judges and prosecutors, including the nation's lead anti-corruption prosecutor and former Attorneys General Claudia Paz y Paz and Thelma Aldana, were forced to flee the country. A principal area of concern in Guatemala is the threat posed to the ancestral lands of indigenous communities by mining projects. In addition to gold and silver, Guatemala has rich deposits of non-metallic minerals such as limestone, basalt, marble and jade.

Colombia: Several years ago the Presbytery of Grand Canyon hosted an International Peacemaker from Colombia, the Rev. Sanmiguel. The Peace and Justice Network has continued to communicate with him since the visit. In June 2022, Colombia's Truth Commission presented its final report on the country's long-running civil conflict, announcing that at least 450,664 people were killed over almost 6 decades of conflict. The report called for substantial reforms. It is believed that with a new government taking office, there is a real opportunity for progress toward peace.

Cuba: On August 5, 2022, Cuba endured the worst fire in its history. A lightning bolt struck a large oil tank base in Matanzas, igniting the fire, which then destroyed about 40% of Cuba's main fuel storage facility. At least 125 people were injured and nearly 5,000 people were displaced. Although the United States provided technical assistance to Cuba after the fire, the Cuban people still need humanitarian cooperation to combat the aftermath of not only the explosion but also the toxic clouds of smoke that stretched for 60 miles across the island. Humanitarian assistance is hindered by government restrictions that block or slow delivery of relief.

The Piecemakers Show Their Work

As you walked towards the Sanctuary on a recent Sunday morning, you were greeted by more colors than a box of Crayolas. If you stopped to browse the 50 or so quilts on the patio, you likely spied rainbows, bears, cows, sunflowers, and a variety of geometric shapes, along with many other themes. The quilts are the creations of Orangewood Piecemakers, Sally Haskins and Luci Sherwood, supported by their spouses Dave and Dan. The quilts were created over the summer and will be donated to Maggie's Place for homeless and abused women who are learning job and parenting skills.

A dozen of the quilts found new homes with Orangewood folks. The proceeds from these sales will be used to purchase batting and fabric so that more quilts can be made. We are grateful to Luci and Sally for using their God-given talents to serve others.



I was born in Lyme Regis, England

By Jackie Collier

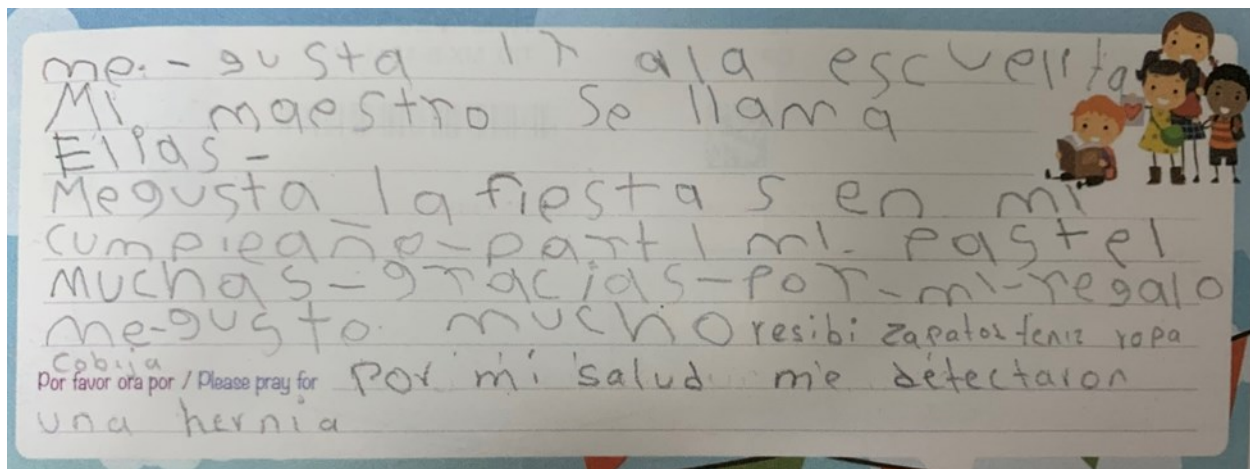
I was born February 1941 during WWII in Lyme Regis, Dorset, England. I don't remember much about that time, other than during our one and only air raid hiding under the kitchen table. During the next few years, my mother met and married my dad (my birth father died in the war). My brother was born in 1944 and my mother, brother and I sailed to Ellis Island to meet my dad. We lived in Pennsylvania for 9 years before finally settling in Phoenix.

I have visited Lyme Regis numerous times, the last of which was this past summer. Lyme Regis is a holiday resort town known to many as "The Pearl of Dorset". There is a museum that includes fossils and rock layers collected along the coast of Lyme Regis. It is part of the Jurassic Coast. There is an arm that extends out to the sea called the Cobb. You can walk on the lower level at most times and when the weather is nice you can walk on the top level. Jane Austen wrote about "Granny's Teeth" in *Persuasion* which is a number of steps from the lower level of the Cobb to the upper level. Langmore Gardens with its beautiful flowers overlooks the Cobb and the sea front. There are many quaint shops along the marine Parade. There is one main street called Broad Street that has the Royal Lion Hope, Post office, bank, grocery and pharmacy store, and numerous other small shops and hotels. Lyme Regis is truly a lovely place.

Taken from the Children's Newsletter

"Our sponsor child, Victor, has written back to us and our group could not be more excited! Victor wrote and told us all about his favorite things, and it was a great opportunity to discuss how even though we live far away from him, that we really are not that different! Victor told us that his favorite Bible story is Noah's Ark, his favorite color is red, his favorite food is spaghetti, and he loves to play soccer and do art. Do your children like any of those same things? He also **requested that we pray for his health**, as he has recently been diagnosed with a hernia.

Finally, he included a very special photo he wanted to share with us, showing us what he was able to get with the birthday money that we sent him. His family used it to purchase him a new pair of pants, a shirt, socks and shoes, a towel, and a new blanket for his bed. He shared in his letter that his family was also able to purchase him a cake to help celebrate his birthday and throw him a small party. I think it's safe to say we are already making a difference in this little boy's life!"



And the Survey Says Congregational Life

Many thanks to those who completed the *social events survey* at the October annual meeting. The responses have been compiled and some preferences clearly showed up. Most popular were Picnic and Meals (e.g., Spaghetti Dinner, Taco Tuesday, etc.) Yaaaaay we're doing those already! There was also strong support for a Community Yard Sale and Christmas Caroling. Thus, Orangewood folks will be doing caroling at The Beatitudes and Fellowship Square on December 7. Least popular were Movie Night or Game Night. Info sessions, craft workshops, and trivia/Bible trivia night were also not popular with respondents.

There was great flexibility shown as to the preferred day(s)-but Saturday or Sunday seemed best for most, with mornings being the least popular times. Most gratifying was the number of folks who indicated they would definitely or probably help out. We'll take you up on that!!

The Congregational Life committee appreciates your input and will be guided by your responses in planning social events in the coming year.

Presbyterian Women

Bible Study Circle

Mary/Martha Circle meets from 1:00 until 2:30 in Room 11 on Tuesday, December 6th to continue exploring "Celebrating Sabbath." Bernale Wright is this month's discussion facilitator. Each lesson adds a new dimension to the understanding of Sabbath. All women are invited to come any month or every month.

Christmas Cookies and Coffee

On Saturday, December 17, at 2:00 pm Presbyterian Women are hosting an afternoon for all the women of the Orangewood Congregation at Jeanne Matt's home, 1009 West Wagon Wheel Drive. Friends, family, and neighbors are all included in the invitation to a time of friendships and laughter and cookies! For the December sharing opportunity, Nourish Phoenix has a need for Incontinent Briefs to supply their clients.

Join in Celebrating Our December Birthdays

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

Luci Sherwood	December 1	David Haskins	December 16
Ethan Swartz	December 4	Samantha Burkhart	December 16
Errol Zimmerman	December 6	Megan Dixon	December 20
Brent Upson	December 8	Addison Case	December 26
Sue Morton	December 10	Sabrina Case	December 26
Ali Widener	December 10	Carol Foster	December 27
Joe Witte	December 13	Hedy Martin	December 31
Keith Jendricks	December 13		

ESL Update

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes have resumed for the OAF adult students. During the break, study hall sessions were provided by Phebe Packer, Carol Khazai, Becky Cederquist, and Barbara Digges. The participants, both students and instructors, were happy to return to their classrooms and pick up where they'd left off. One of the students has had perfect attendance—both at lessons and study halls.

You may have wondered what is covered in the classes. Every class focuses on developing four skills—listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Examples of themes covered in the sessions include food, weather, furniture items, clothing, opposites, telling time, verb tenses and pronouns. There's also a lot of laughter—on both sides of the table.

Sometimes the back-and-forth communication can be a bit challenging—we don't speak Swahili and the students know limited English. Several of the students, however, are also fluent in French, so that language becomes the bridge between English and Swahili.

Occasionally, there is a little bump in the road, when a word or concept that is totally unfamiliar to the students is included in the lesson. An example is the word "yard" (enclosed area of land). The students were quite puzzled in trying to understand this word—yards don't exist in the African culture—not in their villages, cities or refugee camps.

This session will culminate in a recognition event on December 18 in the Wright Center. (Time TBD). We hope that members of the Orangewood Congregation will join this gathering—presentations, games, refreshments, and laughter will be part of the celebration.

If you are interested in assisting with future classes, connect with Phebe, Carol, or Barb. No experience is needed.



Lessons & Carols

Please be sure to kick off the Christmas season with us on Sunday, December 11 during the morning service for our annual service of Lessons and Carols, featuring our adult choir, handbells, contemporary selections, and trumpet. The service will be followed by a Christmas cookie reception in the Wright Center. Plan to join us.



Pastor Tony Kobak



Christmas Memories

Twas the night before Christmas and.....what was going on at your house when you were a kid? We're asking everyone to share a favorite memory from their childhood and we'll compile the short glimpses to share with each other. To get started, here are some memories written by OPC members.

Helen Hopkins: I remember the year that Santa left me a baby doll that was big enough to wear clothes I'd had as an infant - and, of course, the time I got my Shirley Temple doll. My Grandmother Bell, who was a wizard with a needle, made her a beautiful wardrobe of pretty dresses. I definitely had the best-dressed doll in the neighborhood. I remember the first year that I was old enough to be in the Christmas pageant that was put on by our Sunday School at Highland Presbyterian Church. I wanted to be an angel (all the little girls did), but ended up as a shepherd as I was too tall to be an angel. As it turned out, this was better than being an angel because there was someone's pet sheep in the pageant and I got to stand next to the sheep to keep it calm.

Courtney Diamond: One of my fondest Christmas memories was driving with my family to Petaluma, California (which is about 45 mins. N from SF, where we lived) to cut down our family Christmas tree that year. Growing up in a very urban city it felt very magical to suddenly be in the woods scouting out a Christmas tree. I was 13, I believe, which would make my brother 16 at the time. My brother sawed the tree down as my dad coached him the whole time. We had lunch at a neighborhood diner which served homemade apple pie & hot cocoa. I remember my mom saying if there was anywhere she could move to when she retired she wanted it to be Petaluma. It was a special time looking back for all four of us to be together at Christmas.

John Hayes: When my brother and I were small our parents put us in bed early and the only Christmas decoration was an undecorated tree in the sunroom of the house. Then they would have a party for their childless friends. During the party the tree and the house would be decorated as if by Santa. There was even a complete electric train set up in the basement. My brother and I would wake up to a fair-yl-land. Later when we got older we had a horse and a one-horse open sleigh that we rode through the streets until the horse had enough and dumped my mother and me into a snowbank. Such fun.

Bob Orf: Me and four siblings with Mom and Dad decorating the Christmas tree mid-December, everyone opening **one** present on Christmas Eve, **chaos** on Christmas morning, with everyone opening a present, one at a time around the family circle until nothing left but a tall mound of wrappings, dressing for, then attending, the latest church service on Christmas Day, Christmas Day dinner with all the trimmings!

Now write a few lines about your favorite memories so we can share them!

Recently, we talked about Christmas with the students in our ESL classes. They said that in Africa the focus is primarily on family, community gatherings and food. They especially enjoyed talking about eating fufu, an African doughy delicacy made from plantain and cassava.



Session Notes

OPC Session met on Tuesday, November 15. Session is planning a retreat in early 2023 to discuss the decline in membership since the pandemic, the current outlook for OPC, and future plans. Session welcomes input from everyone in the congregation on these issues. Current members of Session are: Ron Carmichael, Nelly Kanyange, Pete Ladigo, Joseph Lavi, Gene Nix, Phebe Packer, Elizabeth Reifsnider, Brent Upson, Bob Wells, and Bernale Wright.

Highlights from the recent meeting:

The Worship Committee has completed planning for Christmas season services including Lessons and Carols, Moravian Love Feast, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

African Fellowship currently livestreams its service to 17 churches in Africa. The OAF will baptize 6 new members in December. A meeting was held by OPC and OAF to discuss campus and van issues and steps are planned for improvement.

Facilities has approved 4 new projects: Preschool roofing and picnic table top repairs; repairs for walls around underground pits; wireless microphones; and new doors for the Wright Center. The next step in the sale of the Manse is the water line – to be scheduled by the city. Solar panel start-up still delayed by issue with electric panel on one building – the company OPC contracted for this process continues to reimburse OPC for delay in savings that the panels will provide when operational.

Nominating Committee: Ron Carmichael is off to a great start as Chairman by recruiting Christina Suarez to serve as an Elder. A Congregational Meeting will be called to vote on this nomination.

Highlights from Congregational Life and Mission Committee can be found in separate articles. The next meeting of Session will be on December 20 at 6:30 pm.

SAGES

Orangewood's SAGES fellowship group enjoyed their regular monthly meeting in Page Hall on the second Tuesday of November. Our kitchen crew of Barb Digges, Susan Hoefft and Carol Khazai prepared a wonderful meal of fried chicken, fresh green beans, chopped carrot salad with raisins and pineapple, and biscuits. For dessert, we were served cake, with a choice of blueberry or cinnamon apple topping. Jeanne Matt's table centerpieces were perfect for the Thanksgiving season, with colorful flower arrangements placed within pumpkins, and complemented by Thanksgiving napkins. Lynne Orf gave us an update on the increased activity at Nourish Phoenix Food and Clothing Bank (formerly ICM) where she has participated as a volunteer for the last 15 years. She reminded us that the small boxes placed on each table are for depositing money which goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Fund. Nourish Phoenix is also a recipient of our Orangewood congregation's mission giving. Our entertainment was a presentation by illusionist Steven Ryan, who performed a series of "magic" tricks that confounded and surprised us all! He engaged us with audience participation, and closed his show with a "snowfall" - since we don't get much snow in Phoenix! Bob Wells assisted Steven with our AV system's support, so that "suspenseful" music could accompany and enhance his performance. Thanks Bob! We are planning our regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 13 in Page Hall. Plan now to attend, and please let Jeanne Matt know if you need transportation. We will be joined again this year by the "little angels" from our Creative Bridges Preschool classes, who have been practicing their Christmas carols and who will don their cute costumes for their performance!



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December

www.orangewood.info

2022

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