

The Peace of Christ ...



be With You!

The First Presbyterian Church of Florence, AZ

Volume 11, Issue 09 (September 2016)

The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Florence is to share Jesus Christ through word and action with all whose lives we can touch.



First Presbyterian Church of Florence

P.O. Box 950
Florence, AZ 85132
Ph: 520-868-5634
Fax: 520-868-3053

Email: FlorencePresby1@icloud.com

Web site: <http://florenceazchurch.co>

Sunday Church Service
10:00 a.m.

Fellowship after worship

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From the Pastor . . .

This has been a new experience for me.

For those who did not know, on August 15 (I am writing this on August 24), I had *orthoplasty* of my left shoulder: I had a shoulder replacement.

I suppose the whole history of that shoulder had some challenges for me. I think my earliest symptom must have shown about 2004 or so when I could not make a particular shoulder motion in an exercise I did. I had assumed it was a muscle issue, but when working out late summer of 2007, while we were still in Chicago, a trainer told me I should have it checked out. At a physical therapy firm's open house, a therapist took a quick look and said I should see an orthopedic surgeon, which I did. The surgeon took X-Rays and told me, "Well, it's arthritis, but you've earned it, *at your age.*"

At your age! So it did not start well, but he did send me for several months of physical therapy that ended when Patricia and I moved to Tucson in early 2008. I dealt with the situation by grimacing as it slowly restricted further my movement and – I'm fairly sure – limited my ability to follow through with my golf swing and eventually made sleep on my left shoulder "uncomfortable." When I would have my annual physicals, I would tell my internist about the problem, then finally, he determined that he wanted to get new X-rays, which led me a bit over a year ago to meet my orthopedic surgeon. His first words were, "The shoulder is shot; physical therapy would not do any good," that there would be no questioning were he to prescribe a replacement, and that he could do cortisone shots for some relief.

I did nothing, but a few months later, based on advice through the Presbyterian Medical Plan, I got my first cortisone shots, and at first, they at least helped the growing discomfort in my sleep. But after the third such regimen, I gave up: I need a replacement.

I have had a remarkably easy ("I'm doing *sinfully* well") recovery so far. I was able to quit pain pills less than 72 hours after surgery,

Pastor
John Johnson
Cell: 312-933-3494

Session Members
Clerk of the Session
Nancy Blank 520-868-5538
Ministry of Management
Administration/Finance
Robert Woodhull 520-840-9740

Property
Roger Hiestand 520-868-0343

Building
Mark Stephens 520-868-4254
Congregational Care

?????????
Fellowship
Laura Hofmann 520-858-2945

Evangelism
?????????

Mission
Denise Kollert 520-868-8177

Worship
Anita VanWagoner
520-868-4671 Cell: 520-709-2771

Christian Education
Rosanna Ringer 520-868-3056

Stewardship
Dave & Lois Platt 520-868-8135

Church Personnel
Anita VanWagoner
520-868-4671 Cell: 520-709-2771

Bookkeeper
Nancy Rodrigues

Treasurer
Connie Stephens 520-868-4254

Assistant Treasurer
B.J. Brown-Ferguson
602-989-2108
Anita VanWagoner
520-868-4671 Cell: 520-709-2771

Prayer Chain
Jessie Laing 520-868-9585

Newsletter
Larry & Denise Kollert
225butte@gmail.com
Deadline is 20th of month

Church Secretary
Nancy Rodrigues

Church Hours
Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

and while I am astounded that there are some simple things I could not do when tried in PT (for evaluation purposes), I am very pleased with how well the rehabilitation is going.

Part of my good result is that I went into the operation in good shape: the muscles that moved in most directions were strong. But in addition, I have been absolutely dogged in doing the at-home exercises prescribed for me to do. I have willingly pushed to a level of discomfort within the limits of what I should be doing, *but I have been dogged* in pursuing physical recovery. (And Patricia has been remarkable with all the help and support she has given me.)

I am frustrated for the simple fact that I am not all that patient, and I am generally limited to one-handed activities; I cannot yet drive. . . *but I have been dogged* in pursuing physical recovery, physical health.

And it pays, *but what about our being dogged in pursuing spiritual health, dogged in engaging in conversation with God, maybe even engaging in prayer!*

Being blunt, I am human and there are days when trying to rush out the door in the morning I skip the daily session of prayer that has for so long been so important to me; the limits on my movement and the limitation imposed by being temporarily one-armed have provided the opening to pray without worrying about other demands on my time (though I really want to get my desk cleaned!).

I hope to be able to resume leading worship on September 4. The Lectionary psalm that week is one of my favorites, Psalm 139, and I cite it when talking about prayer:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³ You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. [NRSV]

And the point I want to make is in that last verse: God knows our needs; prayer is not to inform God, prayer is to let us realize that God is there, and that within the gaps in our own words, God may be speaking to us.

Thanks be to God for my finding that out yet again in what otherwise is an uncomfortable limit on my activities.

Thanks to all of you for your prayers on my behalf; thanks to God for always being there for me.

And my prayers for all of you.

John

September Sunday Worship is at 10:00 am in Florence

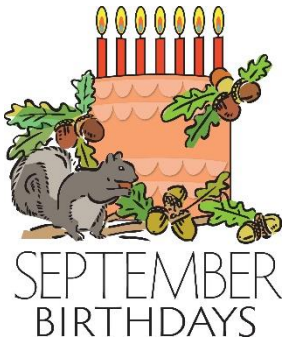
Pray For:



Nancy Bohlander, Bruce Brink, Family of Bill Bullis, Family of Bill Dean, Char & Gary Ellsworth, Marilyn/Rose/Lily Hall, Roger Hiestand, Rev. John Johnson, Muriel Marsteller, Phyllis Mikles, George Oberdorf, Connie Stephens, Anita VanWagoner, Holden Wagner. Also, our Church and our Country in these troubled times.

Prayers for our military: Lord hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for selfless acts performed.

Don't forget to pray for our Police Officers and our Fire Fighters.



September Birthdays

- 06. Maria Hiestand
- 08. Jean Askov
- 08. Kathleen Beduhn
- 10. Larry Kollert
- 18. Maggie Froetschner
- 18. BJ Brown-Ferguson
- 25. Bob Phillips
- 30. Junior Hiller



September Anniversaries

- 14. Mark & Connie Stephens
- 20. Jerry & Donna Studer
- 21. Leslie & Berneice Kelm

DISCLAIMER

Articles shared or written by individuals are not necessarily the views or opinions of the Church.

If you have something you would like to share or something you have written, we would be happy to include it in the newsletter.

All shared or written articles will be attributed to the person who sent them in. [Please do not violate the copyrights of others.](#)

Thank you, Larry & Denise Kollert Newsletter Editors

Newsletter input to: 225butte@gmail.com

About The Congregation

Miriam Reed re. Bruce Brink. "Please pray for this gentle Christian - he and Patty are carrying a heavy load and need some prayerful support from us - he has been dealing long and hard with serious health issues but keeps his faith and spirit strong."

On August 10th Bruce wrote: For some of you, this is old news. For others, new. Approximately two weeks ago, I was hospitalized with upper gastrointestinal bleeding. During the hospitalization it was determined that the cause of bleeding was a cancer in my esophagus. Since discharge, I have been seen by numerous physicians and the result is that I will undergo five(5) weeks of radiation (5 days a week) and weekly chemotherapy. Treatment will begin next week. I will keep you informed as to my progress and any other significant events.

I covet your prayers, both for me and for Patty. She is an excellent care-giver, but I am concerned she will overdo it. I am praying that God will give me the strength to meet and overcome the obstacles that I may encounter and to give me peace of mind so that I may remain optimistic and positive during the treatment.

Shalom,
Bruce

On August 22nd Bruce wrote: I've just completed a week of radiation and one infusion of chemo. I continue daily radiation and get my next chemo infusion on Wednesday. All in all, the therapy is going quite well. I did have a couple of rough days this past Saturday and Sunday (bone pain and nausea). Keep the prayers and comforting thoughts coming my way!

Thank you and Shalom,
Bruce

Miriam Reed re. Bill Dean.

On August 27th Derry Dean wrote: Bill died peacefully two hours ago; his body was tired from dealing with the cancer inside, he hadn't been able to eat any solids for over a month so his strength drained away.

Bill had already planned his service with his favorite hymns and scriptures. Bill had willed his body to the University of Arizona Willed Body program.

Please do not send sympathy cards but use the money for a care as an offering to your church. If you wish to give a larger donation, please consider the following organizations:

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 E. University Blvd. Tucson, 85705
NAMI Southern Arizona, 6122 East 22nd Street, Tucson, 85711
Fight Colorectal Cancer, 1414 Prince Street, Suite 204, Alexandria, VA

Derry

Miriam Reed --- Joe Cooper passed away the evening of August 17th – he was 89.

News from Korey Bahme

Hello everyone,

I want to report in on my progress as to what I am doing with myself and once again to thank all of you who have supported me. To those who know me I want to once again thank you for the support, love and prayers and especially for the money you donated to me to support me my first year of college. I want you to know that I did N.A. U. Flagstaff, in 3 years not 4 and I graduated Magna Cum Laude with a 3.92 GPA.

I did not achieve Stanford like I would have liked to but I did choose Western College of Law in San Diego and I will start this August. I am well on my way and thanks to all of you who supported me and this church and the youth group throughout the years I was there.

I learned a lot and since I was 10 when I started it was a blessing in my life and it formed who and what I am today. I got to attend all of the church camps and had a blast at those, also I helped out Nancy Bohlander at the church youth programs during church service and I was the Church angel at the Christmas programs for ShaRon Liedl when it first started and my last time was my freshman year so a long time for that. You all taught me how to bring God into my life and to respect all human beings and to be a good person.

My special thanks to Nancy and Clancy Bohlander, Sue Landis, ShaRon and Pastor John as you all were with me throughout the years and my best supporters. Love and blessings to all of you and I will always think of you.

Korey 2005



Korey Bahme

Live Nativity Angel 2008



Graduation NAU May 2016



Hygiene Bank Report

We had 24 Families at the August 10th distribution (3 new ones). Thank you for your continuing support to keep the Hygiene Bank funded to assist those less fortunate in our church community.

Please note that the Hygiene Bank is in danger of being suspended (at least temporarily). There is only enough funding for 1 to 2 more months of continuing operation.

Thank you -- Denise Kollert

'The Closet' At Coolidge Community Presbyterian Church

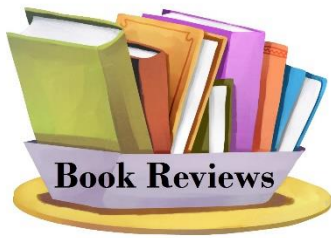
The Closet offers free of charge to the public clothing, household items, bedding and home décor.

If you have items to donate, they are accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Church Office.

The Closet is open to the public every Thursday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

If you would like to help either on Tuesday to sort & setup or on Thursday to distribute it would be greatly appreciated. If interested, please contact Janice Cockrill at 520-431-1841.

Denise Kollert/Mission



When God Winks at You
How God Speaks Directly to You Through the Power of Coincidence
by
Squire Rushnell

First, let's clarify what a godwink is: Like a little wink a loved one gives you across the dining room table, sending a silent message of assurance, God sends a silent message of assurance through a coincidence that tells you to stop worrying, or to keep the faith, or that everything will be all right.

This small, easy-to-read book shares dozens of true stories about persons (a few well-known like Billy Graham, Don Knotts, Tim Conway) whose days or whole lives were changed by some "coincidence" that, upon reflection was divinely directed.

Over 40 years ago my husband and I were considering the adoption of 2 little girls from war-torn Viet Nam. This was not motivated by charity but a desire to enlarge our family. Over one million children were without parents, and many were sick, injured, disabled, traumatized. How would this affect our two little boys, the family's overall health, our long-term finances? All logical, rational concerns.

So, there I was, sitting in a Laundromat because our Colorado well was running a bit low. Becoming impatient and bored I began looking through a pile of out-dated, tattered magazines and noticed an article about Rose Kennedy, a woman whom I much admired. Rose's interviewer asked her why her privileged and extremely wealthy children (they each reportedly received a trust fund of one million dollars at birth) took such an interest in community service and charitable funding when they could live totally self-indulgent lives. She said that whenever any of her growing children looked to selfish pursuits she directed them to Luke 12:48b and Jesus' words, "*To whom much is given, much is required.*" I almost dropped the magazine. God's message of assurance was that we could move forward with the adoption confidently and all would work out, according to His will. And it did!

Reading the many anecdotes about the small desires or grand plans of such varied persons revived this memory of my godwink, along with many other recent ones. You may find to your surprise, Dear Reader, that your life has been full of godwinks and not coincidences at all!

Judith Johnston

In a Different Voice

**A monthly column written and submitted by:
(Judith Johnston)**

Strange, interesting, weird, charming, scary—as America becomes increasingly diverse, we are confronted by more & more people whose ways are not our ways. **Yet, God seems to have spoken to His children in many different places at very different times.** Some of these diverse views will be featured each month to encourage a healthy curiosity about other spiritual writings and to open us up to possibilities for a larger spiritual awareness.

=====

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by His Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. **Hebrews 1: 1, 2 NIV.**

God speaks to Balaam through a female donkey. **Numbers 22: 22-34**

God hears our prayers and He answers them, sometimes in very obvious ways and sometimes through impressions, promptings, and feelings of peace. By reading the scriptures and studying the words of His prophets, we can come to better recognize His influence and His voice.

Mormon Belief

Then when we ask how we can see spirituality in Hindus, the answer comes: by behaviour and practice. We can ask are we humble, are we tolerant and are we non-violent. Can we control our senses and our mind? Are we aware of others' suffering and are we willing to give up our comfort to help them? Looking at these criteria Jesus measures up as a *Sadhu*, a holy man. He preached a universal message, love of God and love of brother, which was beyond any sectarianism or selfishness. Jesus was one of those people who appealed from heart to heart, and that's what makes him such a good Hindu Saint.

Shaunaka Rishi Das, Director of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies since its inception in 1997. He gives his view on Jesus from a Hindu perspective.

September 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------|--|----------|--|----------|
| | 7 p.m. Al-Anon | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Jer. 18:1-11 Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18 Philem. 1-21 Luke 14:25-33 | 5 Labor Day 7 p.m. Al-Anon | 6 | 7 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Old Pueblo | 8 | 9 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch @ Old Pueblo | 10 |
| 11 Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28 Ps. 14 1 Tim. 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10 | 12 7 p.m. Al-Anon | 13 | 14 1:00 - 2:00 Hygiene Bank | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Jer. 8:18-9:1 Ps. 79:1-9 1 Tim. 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13 | 19 7 p.m. Al-Anon | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15 Ps. 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Tim. 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31 | 26 7 p.m. Al-Anon | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

Raise your praise

Let praise – not merely thanksgiving, but praise – always form an ingredient of thy prayers. We thank God for what he is to us, for the benefits which he confers and the blessings with which he visits us. But we praise him for what he is in himself, for his glorious excellences and perfections, independently of their bearing on the welfare of the creature. ... When thou singest praise, all creation (in a manner) sings in thee and with thee. –Edward Goulburn

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Florence, AZ 85132**

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