

# Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2023

## Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

We had a wonderful Session Retreat in early January! We played silly games, learned about change and resistance to change, talked about future trajectories for the church, worked on discerning God's will for Orangewood and had wonderful Fellowship. Bob Wells cooked taco meat with a blindfold on! Ron Carmichael preached a great sermon on 1 Peter 5 and our required humility as Christian leaders. Many of us cannot multiply by four!

One of the things we discussed was the gifts that God has given us at Orangewood. Of course our primary gift is God's love in Jesus Christ. Without that, we would not be here, or we would simply be a service or fellowship organization. After that, we discerned that our three greatest gifts are:

- Caring about our communities with a heart for service
- Our amazing campus
- Joyful, passionate and faithful African Christians

At Orangewood we care about our communities with a heart for service. Nobody at OPC gets away with being a Sunday Christian – and nobody wants to! Our service comes out of the joy of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. God has served us – we can't help but serve others. From Mexico to Honduras to Central Africa, but mostly right here in our city, we are doing amazing mission. Did you know that we have built 67 houses in Rocky Point? Did you know that Orangewood supports 6 congregations in the Great Lakes region of Africa? Did you know that we regularly serve 200 or even 300 pancake breakfasts to homeless people downtown? Did you know that we have supported the building of whole villages in Honduras? Actually, I bet you did know. You have been a part of all our projects, either hands-on, through financial support or all of the above.

We have an amazing campus! You definitely knew this one. We have a lovely piece of property in an area that ties a middle-class community with neighboring Sunnyslope (one of the most diverse communities in Phoenix). Our buildings are gorgeous and functional. They have been upgraded with technology such that we can live-stream and host Zoom meetings in 5 different venues. We have excellent spaces for both contemporary and traditional worship. We have an excellent organ which delights us each week. Our air conditioners are all new. Our solar system will soon come on line.

On top of this, our buildings themselves have a ministry to our community. Stop by on a weekday morning, and you will be stunned at how many children are being served by the Creative Bridges Preschool. Come by on a Tuesday night, and see how many young adults are in Bible Study. Don't come by and see the addiction recovery groups, because they are anonymous. Simply know that our meeting rooms are serving them. Visit our two African Presbyterian congregations on Saturdays and Sundays and you will see vibrant Christians growing in faith and love and striving to become more Presbyterian.

**Continued on the next page.....**

## **Pastor's Page Continued**

You may not know this, but our campus is now pretty much self-funding. What we spend on maintaining our property is paid for by our rental income. That frees up your contributions to support staff, programs, and mission! It helps a great deal that our property is paid off thanks to the faithful generosity of Presbyterians past!

Last, but not least, we have joyful, passionate and faithful African Christians at Orangewood. I worshipped with over a hundred in our African Fellowship last week. I'm not sure if I counted the children correctly because there are so many of them and they don't stay in one place long enough! They are actively involved in mission and do an amazing job at finding people apartments, taking food to a family when the breadwinner is sick or loses a job, connecting people to health care, and visiting those in crisis. Last month I also preached for our South Sudanese Nile Presbyterian New Worshipping Community. They are supported by several grants from the Presbyterian Church (USA). S. Sudan was a strong mission focus of the Presbyterian Church in years past, so most of our S. Sudanese are already Presbyterians. They are well on their way to becoming a Presbyterian Church in their own right some day, although we may still share a campus.

Session talked about sharing our campus. Is it a pain or a joy? Our answer was kind of "yes." Sharing is a pain sometimes. Working with refugees who lived in refugee camps for decades, we have to educate them about our norms of taking care of our property, supervising children, scheduling rooms and more. This hasn't been without pain. It has also been an amazing joy as we watch joyful, passionate and faithful Christians blossom in their new country. It's hard to even express how much it means to them that we have welcomed them to Orangewood. They have something to give us, as well. If there are two things the frozen chosen could use they are more passion and more joy!

Thanks be to God!



## **OPC Presbyterian Women**

OPC PW is gearing up for a fresh approach in 2023. The Presbytery of Grand Canyon's PW theme is "Celebrating Our Caring Community" and Orangewood is taking part with projects focused on addressing hunger as a component of poverty. It's time to go through our closets and donate clothing that we no longer use. We can bring it to OPC February 10 – 15 for donation to the Clothes Silo on February 16. You can join the car pool to the Clothes Silo or donate clothes or both!

We hope your calendars are already marked for these PW dates:

Saturday, January 28, Page Hall at 10 am – First PW meeting of the year

Thursday, February 16 – car pool from OPC to the Clothes Silo to donate clothing

Saturday, March 25 – Presbytery PW Spring Gathering at Desert Palms

Saturday, April 22 – Rummage Sale at Page Hall

Saturday, May 6 – Spring Tea

**Join in any or all of the activities listed above. All Orangewood women are welcome!**

## Mission News

### Honduras Update

We recently received positive news from Tim Wheeler, who was in Honduras January 7 – 15. He visited Dulce Nombre to see about living accommodations and planning for the housing project they have proposed. While there are still details to work out, the outlook is bright for a trip in July. Look for upcoming publicity about fund-raising events to support the project there as well as ongoing scholarships in multiple communities.

### Habitat for Humanity

We've been informed that the 2023 Habitat house that OPC is involved with will begin work on February 25. The slab is poured and they're close to confirming a family. The location is in the area of 59th Avenue and Glendale. Keep checking the bulletins and the Mission table for updated details as we receive them and get ready to help build a new home!

## Mission Committee

Upcoming Activities and Events

**Grace in the City:** February 19 is OPC's next pancake breakfast for the homeless.

**Nourish Phoenix:** February 20 is OPC's next volunteer service.

*You can sign up for one or both of these on the patio.*

**Rocky Point:** March 30 is the next Rocky Point Trip. We will again partner with Mountain Park Church.

**Honduras Trip:** Set for July 9—17.

We extend a **BIG Thanks** to Addi Case for coordinating the annual Angel Tree gift giving.

**...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine,  
you did for Me. Matthew 25:40**

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Get ready for the Souper Bowl of Caring before and after the 10:30 Service on February 12. The money will go to fight hunger. You can choose from three buckets in which to place your donation: one for each of the teams competing in the Super Bowl (sorry, the Cardinals didn't make it this year – not even close!), or the "Undecided" bucket if you just can't make up your mind.

## Resources for Lent

As we approach Lent, we may be looking for resources to more fully honor and experience the season leading up to Easter. PC/USA has a wonderful array of materials to choose from, including a book by Rachel M. Srubas called "The Desert of Compassion" (Devotions for the Lenten Journey) and a book by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr called "Meeting Jesus at the Table" (A Lenten Study). There are books for study and devotion, and books for preaching and worship. The website also offers adult coloring books for inspiration and reflection as well as materials for children and youth. Most materials are available both in print and by download. Check out the website and see what you may find!

Go to <https://www.pcusastore.com/Content/Site119/>

[Basics/13841Lent2023pd\\_00000157116.pdf](https://www.pcusastore.com/Content/Site119/Basics/13841Lent2023pd_00000157116.pdf) or just type PCUSA 2023 Lent Resource Guide into your browser.



## Join in Celebrating Our February Birthdays

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

Dorothy Vandenburg	February 2	Kathryn Rasmussen	February 20
Jackie Collier	February 5	Sheena Kroodsmma	February 22
Ernest Workman	February 6	Mitra Khazai	February 24
Russ Seideman	February 8	Daniel Lippman	February 24
Drew DeBenedetti	February 9	Anita Shipley	February 25
Donald Carlson	February 11	Kaydie Marshall	February 25
Phebe Packer	February 11	Catherine Witte	February 27
Rick Hunter	February 12	Eric Hiser	February 27
Lynda Rychener	February 16		

## Pancake Supper

Orangewood's Annual Pancake Supper to celebrate the feast at the Mardi Gras is on Tuesday February 21, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in Page Hall. Donations will go to support Youth Summer camps.





## SAGES

The SAGES met for their first regular monthly luncheon of the new year in Page Hall on Tuesday, January 10. Jeanne Matt's table centerpieces featured colorful cactus arrangements, and as an added takeaway gift, each table setting included a small actual cholla cactus remnant, called a "rib" or "spine." Hedy Martin prepared a delicious meal, which included homemade chili, tossed green salad, bread and butter, with frosted cake and ice cream for dessert. Thanks, Hedy! The meal was served by Jackie Collier, and Luci and Dan Sherwood.

We were entertained by award-winning quartet "The Associates" Mr. Gary Steincamp introduced other members Tim, Mark, and Scott, and they proceeded to present a wonderful program with some very humorous audience participation! This talented group are members of the A Capella Chorus, which conducts their practices here in Page Hall, and preparing an upcoming event here at Orangewood in the near future. The program featured, among others, a barber shop quartet song from 1904, a song from the 50's, Beach Boys songs of the 60's, and Billy Joel's famous song "For The Longest Time," showing us their wide range of very best harmonies. In our audience was Orangewood member Sally Haskins, mother of the "deep voice" of The Association singer Tim Haskins! Sally and Tim's father, Dave, are longtime members of our Chancel Choir;- could this be where son Tim got his beginning love of music? Well done, Sally and Dave!

Our next regular SAGES fellowship meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14 in Page Hall. Our church treasurer, Bob Wells, Sr., is preparing a presentation on the history of Orangewood, and this is sure to be informative and entertaining! Plan now to attend. Mark your calendars, and let Jeanne Matt or the office know should you require transportation.



## Session Notes

At an all-day meeting on January 9 OPC Session identified 3 focus areas for planning the future for Orangewood. These were:

- Grow and serve our surrounding community.
- Develop OAF leadership skills
- Fellowship for all youth

At the Session meeting on January 17' discussion of these areas of focus continued with ideas for moving in the identified directions.

- Discussion of what is our neighborhood (North Central Phoenix broadly, more specifically 7th to 12th Street, Northern to Glendale.
- Website improvement.
- Ideas for outreach to specific areas in the community, e.g., Creative Bridges.
- Ideas for more multi-generational families. This discussion included ideas about a contemporary service, a possible additional service on Saturday, and ways to attract teens, including the African youth.

The January 17 meeting also included the following highlights:

- Treasurer's Report:
  - ◇ Member Income - \$162,114
  - ◇ Total Income - \$186,045
  - ◇ Total Expense - \$171,221
  - ◇ Net - \$14,824
- Joint meeting of Grand Canyon and De Cristo Presbyteries, Saturday, January 28, 2023 in Casa Grande. Nix and Reifsnider are commissioners.
- Deacon/Care Team report: Pam White keeps Dennis Daniel and Becky Cederquist apprised of needs. Hospitalizations and illnesses are reported to Care Team (CT). We still have deacons but not formally organized as board of deacons. Visits are being made by Care Team. Anyone at OPC can be part of Care Team and anyone can receive visits from Care Team. Members of OPC are not assigned to a deacon and clusters aren't active, but people still serve on the CT to meet members' needs. Once a deacon, always a deacon. We won't actively recruit deacons but if someone has a gift and wants to serve on CT they will be ordained and integrated into CT.
- Pastor's Report:
  - ◇ Prospective member Miriam Martinez and family.
  - ◇ Approved motion for Baptism of Astrea Elise Norling requested on Feb 5, 2023.
- Personnel Committee reported that all staff reviews will be completed by May.
- Multicultural Task Force. (Carmichael)
  - ◇ There is some friction between OAF and Nile Community Church over use of Page Hall. A meeting between the two groups is begin facilitated..
  - ◇ Van damaged. OAF will be responsible for fixing it.
  - ◇ After service, lots of trash in the rooms. OAF needs to be responsible for clean-up.
  - ◇ Cultural change is hard. New people are added all the time. The OAF includes many tribes and some splits are because of tribal affiliations.
  - ◇ Manse Update. A sub-team of Session has been appointed to oversee the ongoing sale process.
- Session approved a motion to establish 2 Sundays for coffee and food as fundraising for Dulce Nombre for Honduras. March 12 coffee and Danish, April 9 Easter sit-down buffet.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be on February 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm by Zoom and/or in person in Room 11 of the Wright Center.

## ELL Classes (formerly ESL)

ESL classes at Orangewood have ended.....for now. OAF students and their instructors/assistants all benefited from their time together, sharing, not only the English language, but also cultural exchanges, new friendships, laughter, and a desire for more. One thing we English speakers have just learned is the term English as a Second Language (ESL) is being replaced by the phrase English Language Learning (ELL)----since English may not be just the 2nd language for the learners, but may be the third, fourth, or fifth.....So henceforth, we will try to remember to use the acronym ELL.

To provide further access to learning English for both of Orangewood's African congregations, we are pursuing a partnership with the non-profit Abounding Service, which provides ELL at the Hope Center on the campus of North Phoenix Baptist Church. Their classes greatly expand upon what we were able to provide at Orangewood. Each 2-hour class includes one-on-one conversation, group discussion, writing, reading and approximately 1 hour online using Rosetta Stone, a self-paced computer application. In addition, each class includes elements of obtaining citizenship. Classes are held multiple times each week, both during the day and in the evening.

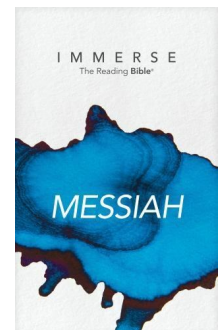
One of the key components of the Abounding Service ELL program is the role of "encourager." The *encourager* is an individual who pairs with a student for the duration of a 2-hour class. The *encourager* converses with the student, gives feedback on reading, writing, and oral exercises, and guides the student in using the Rosetta Stone program. Abounding Service provides training for *encouragers*. Orangewood's Cindy Baker has been an *encourager* for several years.

Orangewood, in addition to providing *encouragers* from each of the three congregations, will conduct periodic study halls, practice sessions, and mixers to celebrate the students' accomplishments. We'll keep you posted as we progress with this.

## Immerse Bible Study

OPC has not offered a study of the whole Bible in several years. At a recent Presbytery meeting, a few of us in attendance were introduced to the Immerse Bible put out by Tyndale publishing. It is offered in a novel format without the artificial addition of chapters and verses. One is encouraged to begin the study with *Messiah*, which covers the entire New Testament. The study is meant to give churches a framework for regular immersion into the Scriptures. By reading together in small groups twice a year, OPC can read through the entire Bible together in three years. The *Immerse* Bible comes in a set of six books, which can be purchased as a set or individually. Sign-ups for pilot groups will begin February 26. Small groups will begin after Easter.

Whether you are a first-time or a life-time Bible reader, we invite you to join in as we immerse ourselves in the Word in order to connect with God, build community, and grow our faith. Learn more at: [ImmerseBible.com](http://ImmerseBible.com)



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**February**

**[www.orangewood.info](http://www.orangewood.info)**

**2023**

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