

Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



October 2023

From the Gap Interim Pastor

The first time my husband and I ever set foot on the campus of Orangewood had to be at least 30 years ago. We were living in Boston at the time and visiting my parents who retired to Phoenix in the late 70s. I don't remember what time of year it was or who was preaching that Sunday, but I do remember we were given a very warm welcome and a loaf of delicious homemade banana bread! As your gap interim pastor, I have received an equally warm welcome and am looking forward to being with you for these next several weeks.

For those of you who don't know me, I am originally from the Midwest, a farmer's daughter, the oldest of six siblings. I love music and am a cat person. I am a Red Sox fan, but a rather fickle one. I am an avid reader and enjoy quilting when I have the time. Before my retirement I was at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in North Phoenix for 13 years. And I am most blessed to have been married to George Saylor for over 47 years.

Church has always been an important part of my life. I was born on a Monday and my parents took me to worship for the first time six days later. My father once said our family had an "open door policy" about church: when the doors were open, we would be there—and that wasn't far from the truth! While I am not a lifelong Presbyterian (I became a Presbyterian during my seminary years), I have been at home in the church my whole life and count that as one of God's best blessings to me.

I believe the most important thing we do as a church family is to worship God together, so I will put much of my energy into planning worship and preparing sermons. In these next few weeks I also want to focus on good communication, especially as it relates to the interim pastor search process. I look forward to getting to know the congregation better and welcome the opportunity to visit with parishioners. I will be in the office on Wednesdays and Fridays, and you can reach me at 602-448-1867 or revmws@hotmail.com any time.

Blessings

Pastor Mary



Introducing: Kristi Parot

Orangewood welcomes Kristi Parot (the "t" is silent), who joined the staff at the end of August in the position of Office and Facilities Manager. Kristi retired from a 29-year teaching career in July of 2022. Teaching became a passion of hers while working with Pam Watts at Central United Methodist Church then continuing for 9 years at Creative Bridges. At the time of her retirement, she had taught with the Great Hearts Academies for the past 11 years, the last 6 in Special Education. In addition to her educational background, Kristi has ample experience in the business administration world and even owned her own store, "Everything Goes" on Cave Creek Road in North Phoenix.

Kristi is mother to three adult children and six grandchildren. Four grandchildren live in the Valley, one in Florida, and one is a sophomore at Southern Arkansas University. Additionally, Kristi helps care for her 90-year old mother in the north valley. Kristi and her husband Bill enjoy going to the movies and travelling, whenever possible, particularly taking cruises on Holland America!

Kristi is looking forward to supporting the everyday functions at Orangewood and sees it as an opportunity to share her faith with the congregation. When you have needs or questions, please feel free to contact her in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

602-944-1508 secretary@opc.phxcoxmail.com



Join in Celebrating Our October Birthdays

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

October 4: Susan Hoeft	October 15: Addison Brenci
October 5: Greg Harris	October 16: Matthew Bladine
October 5: Henry Rasmussen	October 16: John Sullivan
October 7: Homer Deen	October 19: John Hayes
October 7: Becky Cederquist	October 21: Gregory Geary
October 8: Jan Upson	October 22: Travis Seideman
October 10: Jacqueline Diamond	October 25: Helen Hopkins
October 12: Judy Passalaqua	October 26: Carol Khazai
October 14: Doris Lawson	October 28: Ken Page
October 14: Miffie Seideman	October 29: Doug Hall

Upcoming Events

World Communion Sunday	Oct 1	Annual Meeting of the Congregation	Oct 15
Sages	Oct 10	Thanksgiving Dinner	Nov 19
OPW Picnic	Oct 14		
Grace Lutheran	Oct 15		
Pancakes for the Homeless			

Not every upcoming event will be listed here. The Plumline will include Special Events and Worship Services, as well as groups that are resuming after summer break. Please check the OPC website calendar and/or Bulletin Announcements for details.

SPOTLIGHT

For many years, Orangewood had the tradition of welcoming visitors at our worship service, by having them stand, introduce themselves and presenting them with a loaf of homemade bread. Covid and losing our bread maker put an end to that practice. So our newcomers often fly under the radar a bit before we get to know them. Darlene Long didn't get a loaf of bread, but she is being introduced and featured in the Plumblin Spotlight. She's been attending Orangewood for several months and has already made her presence known, in a quiet way, by attending Sages and Presbyterian Women gatherings and joining the Orange Peelers, bringing 30 years of handbell experience. At present she is waiting for her official membership to be transferred to Orangewood from her former church in Pennsylvania.

Darlene was born in Philadelphia. Her first name came from Darlene Ice Cream which was sold in the 50s in the Philadelphia area. *The story goes that my mother saw a sign with that name on it, either near the doctor's office or the hospital. She also wanted a name that did not easily convert into a nickname, but life has a way of creating them anyway.*



Because I was slender, family sometimes called me Leanie Bean or just Bean. And a few family members called me Doll or Doll Doll---it was "close" to Darlene, I guess. Darlene lived with her sister Laraine and parents through her high school years in the house where her Dad had been born. Growing up in a Philly neighborhood and moving to the Philadelphia suburbs after high school was like moving to a foreign country.

Darlene graduated with a bachelor's degree from Drexel University, also in Philadelphia. *I started out as an interior design major and quickly realized I had no talent. Switched to home economics education. Other than doing my student teaching, I never taught school. During her working years, Darlene worked mostly in administrative support positions. She survived mergers and downsizing. In her 50 years of employment, she worked for just three companies.*

Darlene moved to Phoenix in December 2021 and lives with her sister, who had moved here in the late 70s. It was time to grow old together. Darlene described the coolest thing she has done since moving to Phoenix. *I sang at Center Court at the Footprint Center. It was for the Phoenix Mercury's home opener. Wyclef Jean was the half time entertainment and I was part of a 200 voice choir (The Sum) that accompanied him. We did Bob Marley's song, One Love. There was a write up in the newspaper about the opportunity (one of the reasons I love newspapers). I applied on line never thinking I would be chosen and lo and behold got an email that I was picked. I think they were looking for all shapes, sizes, colors, ages, etc. It was a hoot!*



Darlene found Orangewood by looking at nearby Presbyterian churches on the internet. Orangewood is a similar size to the church she belonged to in Springfield, PA. The form of worship was familiar. *It is important to me that it is a Presbyterian Church, USA not a PCA. It's close to where I live now and being new to the 'neighborhood', easy to get to. My parents and grandparents were Presbyterians and the 'greats' were Scots' Presbyterians from Scotland and Northern Ireland. It's in my genes. I can't be anything else.*

When asked about her faith, Darlene responded: *I know the Lord as the Supreme physician and that He watches over me. In 1999 I was diagnosed with rectal cancer. I had surgery, chemo and radiation. In 2001 it metastasized to the liver. I had a liver resection and chemo. In January 2002 I was diagnosed with a bowel obstruction. I was in and out of the hospital and had several bowel resections. I was finally released from the hospital in November 2002 and have never spent a night in the hospital since. I have not had a recurrence of cancer and am here to tell the tale. No one would have bet on me. The Lord wasn't ready for me.*

I asked Darlene "Which members of your family, who are no longer living, would you most like to dine with?" She told me it would be her paternal grandparents, who died before she was born. She had been told that Grandma Sara was pretty difficult, but she wanted to find out for herself if that was true.

When asked "Which dead famous person(s) she'd most enjoy dining with, she thought and thought—and then came up with Ben Franklin and Gwen Ifill. I'd love to attend that dinner!!

If you haven't read the full version of the Plumblin interview with Bhan Ruot, who was in the Spotlight last month, it's on the Orangewood website, under Connect/Library or take this link:

[Peter Bhan Ruot Story.pdf \(unite-production.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://unite-production.s3.amazonaws.com/Peter_Bhan_Ruot_Story.pdf)

Farewell to Ken and Lori Page

Members of the three Orangewood congregations, colleagues, and friends gathered in Page Hall on September 15th to honor and say farewell to Ken and Lori Page, after Ken's 17 years as Orangewood's Pastor. Those speaking in recognition of Ken included Brent Upson, Rev. Brad Munroe, Rev. Tully Fletcher, Addi Case, Selemani Mtendjwa, Rev. Gale Watkins, and Keith Kerber. We heard recollections of Ken's faith, ministry, compassion, persistence, and sense of humor. The Pages were presented with a bound memory book, featuring photos of their 17 years, including the party. Guests and others contributed written remembrances and messages to the Pages prior to and during the evening that were added to the book.

We were delighted to see Tully, his wife Natalia, and their 4 year old daughter Eleanor, who traveled to Phoenix from Georgia to pay their respects to the Pages.

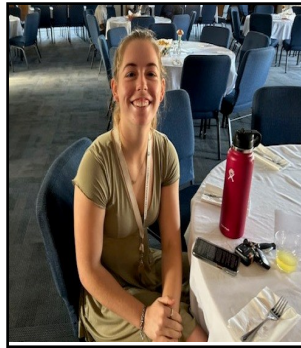
Following the tributes Bob Wells presented a montage of videos, some featuring both Ken and Tully, and Ken's accapella rendition of *Give Me Jesus*. The video highlight was a disagreement between Ken and Tully which was settled with a basketball free throw contest. While Ken was impressive with his shot that ricocheted off the Rocky Point trailer, it was Tully, whose ball travelled many miles while bouncing off the sites of our mission partners, who scored with nothing but net.

The Upson family, led by Chef Brent, and ably supported by his wife Diana, children Liz and John, and daughter in law Ariel Hanna, prepared and served a tasty Mexican buffet. The OAF also provided several traditional African dishes, including fufu!!

We thank Mighty Addi Case for setting up all of the tables and chairs and also thank those who assisted Addi in taking down the tables and chairs.

The evening closed with words of gratitude from Pastor Ken and a standing ovation from the attendees. We wish Ken and Lori all the best.....wherever God leads.





Photos taken by
Barbara Digges and Phebe Packer

Session Notes

Following are highlights from the September 19, 2023 Session Meeting

- ◆ Annual meeting date set for Sunday, October 15th.
- ◆ Pastor Nominating Committee for Interim Pastor appointed, subject to members agreement to serve.
- ◆ Treasurer's Report:
 - * Member Income: \$403,679 (95% of Budget)
 - * Total Income: \$522,507 (97.8% of Budget)
 - * Expenses: \$512,696 (96% of Budget)
 - * Net: \$9,810 (Positive)
- Planning is underway for hosting the Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, November 4, 2023.
- Brent Upson reported on the status of pastoral candidate Sammi Innanen, who is under the care of Orangewood. Sammi has completed seminary and is currently completing practical study as a hospital chaplain with the US Army. Once Sammi has a call, installation and ordination can be scheduled and this is expected to occur in the next few months.
- Approval was given for the job description for the Director of Children's Church prepared by Brent Upson, who is currently serving as temporary chair of Personnel in the absence of Ron Carmichael.
- New Committee Chairpersons:
 - * Becky Cederquist will chair the Worship Committee in the upcoming year.
 - * Judy Proffitt will chair the Congregational Life Committee in the upcoming year.
 - * Brent Upson will chair the Committee for Children and Youth.
- Joseph Lavi reported that 3 new families have begun attending OAF services and 2 new babies have been born. Joseph would like to schedule new member education and baptism for 6 people in the coming months.
- Thanksgiving Dinner is planned for the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving.
- Facilities Committee is investigating a new electronic sign for the front of the church.
- Session approved the budget for 2023-24. Bob Wells will publish the budget prior to the Annual Meeting.
- Session is forming a committee of an equal number of members from the OAF and the Mother church to meet regularly to continue to clarify the relationship between the congregations and facilitate communication.
- Description of Interim Pastor Process and first issue of the Mid-Week Messenger have been distributed.

Pastoral Care

Deacons

Care Teams

It has been quite a while since you've heard from the Deacon/Care teams so we want to give you an update. Although there are only a few of us, God continues to help us in our ministry of care and compassion to the congregation. Cards are being sent, phone calls and visits are being made, and home communion is being served to those who cannot come to church

Anita Shipley sends out the Pastoral Care Notes weekly. That list is compiled with the help of the Pastor and the Deacons.

Doris Lawson and Joe Miller are responsible for the Prayer Chain. If you would like your name or the name of a family member or friend to be included on the Prayer Chain, contact Doris or Joe or one of the Deacons or a Care Team member.

When the office isn't staffed or if you are concerned that your message hasn't been received, you can call me (Becky Cederquist 623-363-4509) or Dennis Daniel (480-614-8328) and we will coordinate a response.

In order to assist those in need in our congregation, we need your financial assistance. We are not included in the OPC budget.

- The next Stated Session Meeting will be on October 17th 2023 at 6:30 pm by Zoom meeting and/or in person in Room 11 of the Wright Center.

Mission Committee

World Communion Sunday, October 1 – This is also the day when we receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, which is one of the four special offerings collected each year by our denomination. Twenty five percent of the Peace Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. The committee has selected Abounding Service, a non-profit that offers English language classes and citizenship classes to refugees, to receive our share of this year's offering.

Nourish Phoenix – Monday, October 23, is the date for our next group volunteer trip to Nourish Phoenix (fka ICM Food & Clothing Bank). We will meet at the church at 8:00 AM, carpool to their location, and are usually back at the church by noon. Please sign up on the patio if you plan on joining us for this activity. They can use more volunteers!

ICM was founded 40 years ago. Nourish Phoenix held a reception in honor of that anniversary in late August. Some of us from OPC attended the reception. Orangewood was mentioned by their Executive Director in her remarks as one of the congregations that has supported their mission through the years.

Grace Lutheran – We serve pancakes to the homeless on the third Sunday morning of even numbered months. Our next breakfast there will be October 15, and we also need volunteers for this event! We meet at Grace Lutheran at 6:15, start the sausage, mix the pancake batter, put on the coffee, stir the Tang with a paddle and start flipping those flapjacks--there are tasks for everyone!! We begin serving at 7:30 and are out by 9 a.m.

An Invitation from the Presbyterian Women:

All the women who worship at Orangewood are invited to get together on Saturday, October 14th for an INDOOR PICNIC in Page Hall at 11:00. Reservations can be made on line: JMatt2222@aol.com or phone 602-216-9844. Bring a PICNIC side dish to share. After lunch there will be time for planning future meetings and tours, time for songs and prayers and time for laughter. Remember carpools are encouraged.

Mary/Martha Circle

The monthly women's Bible study meets the first Tuesday of each month from October through May in **Room 11 at 1:30**. On Tuesday, October 3, the focus will be an introduction to the 2023-2024 PW/ *Horizons* Bible study "Sacred Encounters--The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts". Study books will be available. Each month's study explores what the author calls "*one story in two parts*". Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope-filled.

Immerse Bible Study

Our new Bible study got off to a great start on September 10th with 17 participants. We are continuing every Sunday at 10:45 am for a 15-minute introduction and then breaking into two discussion groups, ending by noon. The initial program is the book titled "Beginnings" and covers the first five books of the Old Testament. Reading in this new format allows us to easily cover these books in the time allotted. We read the material during the week and then discuss it in our Sunday meetings. The remaining six meetings will be:

- Sunday, October 1
- Sunday, October 8
- Sunday, October 22
- Sunday, October 29
- Sunday, October 5
- Sunday October 12

You can join in any week!! You'll find us in Room 11 and there are still books available for \$5.

SAGES

The new season for Sages, Orangewood's senior fellowship group, kicks off on Tuesday, October 10th in Page Hall. Plan to arrive by 11:15; serving for lunch begins shortly after 11:30. The cost for the hearty homemade lunch remains \$4. If you would like to help with setting up the tables please arrive by 10:30. If you plan to attend, please let Jeanne Matt (602-216-9844) or the OPC office (602-944-1508) know. Jeanne will also be making her usual reminder calls. Let Jeanne or the office know if you need a ride.

We have a varied slate of presenters booked. For October, we will have a presentation by a representative of the AZ Attorney General's Office on scams and fraud, especially those that target seniors. In November we will be immersed in the history of the Civil War with a reenactment of a Union soldier. (Hey, that guy looks familiar!) December brings back a Sages tradition, a holiday presentation by the young ones from Creative Bridges preschool. The kiddos go all out for us, both in song and in costume.

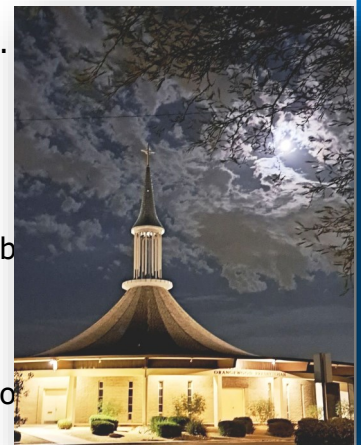
Jeanne Matt will continue with her clever and whimsical table centerpieces, often with a take-away item. Jackie Collier will be coordinating the kitchen crews. Barbara Digges will handle photos and write-up for the Plumline. And the Congregational Life committee will work together to book our programs.

We offer recognition and gratitude to Lynne and Bob Orf who have stepped aside after many years of service as our hostess and host of the Sages. We thank them for the countless ways they have led and supported Sages--we already miss them!!

Orangewood Facilities September Report

It's been a great finish to the summer as your facilities team is recovering from the heat and preparing for fall. Projects completed:

- Manse sale completed! A young family is renovating the house and will move in starting Oct. Say hello to the O'Neil family.
- Solar electricity system permits approved by APS. Last step is City of Phoenix approval. Our solar contractor continues to pay all our electric bills while we wait.
- Monsoon winds damaged our Page Hall roof; it was repaired.
- New door in Page Hall replaced and painted, led by Bob Jensen.
- New rolling security shutters have been installed in north and south education buildings paid by Creative Bridges Preschool.
- Security video system was repaired and expanded to cover more areas. Lead: Bob Wells.
- Termites detected in south ed building, exterminator treated the portion of the building attic where they were found. Thanks Kristi!
- Insurance board has started to provide discounted water detectors that alert us to a water leak. Will be buying the sensors to better protect our church.



This amazing photo of the Super Moon was taken by Mary Jane Gregory who lives across the street from OPC.

Orangewood has continued to support our community by hosting non-profit groups like Boy Scouts, choral groups, Bible Study fellowship, support groups etc. We do charge rent to groups to help support our campus. Total income from our lease with Creative Bridges, the Manse and community groups totaled \$85k from rents this year.

Thanks to our facilities committee for another month of great progress on our campus: Bob Jensen, Greg Harris, Joe Miller, Bob Wells, Kristi Parot, and Brent Upson.

Breakfast Out Bunch

Start your day with a hearty breakfast and great company. Join the *Breakfast Out Bunch* for their next gathering **Thursday, October 12 at 9 am** at the Moon Valley Café, 7th St & Thunderbird. Contact Anita Shipley to reserve your spot: ashibley2@cox.net or 602-503-9109

All are welcome. If you can't make it this time, join us November 9th--**we do this the 2nd Thursday of each month.**

Honduras Update

Orangewood is now working with 3 other churches on projects in Honduras – Orangewood in Arizona; First Presbyterian in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Unity Presbyterian in South Carolina; a UCC church near Minneapolis. We are collaborating on projects in the municipalities of Trinidad and Dulce Nombre. Here's an update based on a recent teleconference of the churches.

- 10 houses were completed in San Juan Planes (Trinidad) in July 2023. The community wants to build 10 more houses and our team agreed to request a proposal from them.
- In 2023, the team participated in a 10-home project in Dulce Nombre. This project has now reached 7-9 courses of block in all homes and is fully funded. Dulce Nombre would like to start a follow-on project for 10 more families. Orangewood agreed to provide funding for a group liaison to work with the municipal government. She will discuss accommodations for a 2024 trip.
- Orangewood's 2024 trip is planned for July 5-16. We are already checking on airline reservations and will start building our team soon. We plan to take on both house building and medical clinics as usual.

From **The Peace and Justice Network** **South Sudan, September 2023**



The Peace and Justice Network believes we can build community by learning about our sisters and brothers around the world. The other day I was talking with my good friend Gach Kur who is a leader in the South Sudanese New Life Presbyterian Fellowship that worships on the campus of Orangewood Presbyterian Church. He was telling me about the heartbreaking situation in South Sudan. He told me about a mother and her and two children who died of starvation in their own home. This situation is very personal to Gach because he has many family members still in Africa. But I started thinking – it should be personal to all of us. We are all one family. So I did a little research at the United Nations website and gathered some information to share with you. Click on the link below to read what I found out about what's going on and how we can help.

Multiple issues cause hardship and death among the people of South Sudan. First, there is ongoing brutal armed conflict. Since 2013 this conflict has claimed thousands of lives and driven millions of people from their homes. Currently there are two million people internally displaced within their own country. An additional two million have fled to reach safety in refugee camps in neighboring countries such as Ethiopia and Kenya. South Sudan hosts some 330,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries (mainly from Sudan). In addition, over 500,000 South Sudanese refugees have returned to the country since the signing of the Revitalized Peace Agreement in 2018.

Given all these factors, South Sudan's refugee crisis remains the largest in Africa but that is not the only problem for the people. South Sudan continues to be on the frontline of today's climate crisis and has been heavily impacted by flooding and insecurity.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is able to get needed support to the people, both within the country and in the refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya. Under the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR has built partnerships with governmental, humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors to provide multisectoral assistance. This includes protection, education and livelihood support to refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees and their hosting communities in seven states in South Sudan.

If you would like to contribute to the emergency fund that is bringing humanitarian relief you can do so at the UNHCR website for South Sudan.

<https://www.unhcr.org/us/emergencies/south-sudan-emergency>

by Phebe Packer

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The *Plumblin*, a monthly newsletter of Orangewood Presbyterian Church, contains information for members and friends. If you would like to receive this publication via e-mail (pdf file), contact the office. Issues are also posted on the Orangewood website. **The deadline for the November Plumblin is Saturday, October 21.**