

Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2023

From the Gap Interim Pastor

Once again the calendar brings us to November and November brings us to Thanksgiving. "What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me?" asks the psalmist. And then he answers his own question: "I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving." On almost every page of the Scriptures we are told to give thanks. God's people are to be thanks-giving people.

Think of the gifts we have received. Our life is a gift from God. Salvation through Jesus Christ is a gift from God. The presence of the Spirit is a gift from God. Whatever talents, ability, or achievements we have are gifts from God. Everyone and everything that makes our lives richer are gifts from God. In times of disappointment or loss or grief, we know the gift of God's presence. Our Presbyterian forebear John Calvin said, "Gratitude is the chief exercise of godliness." Thanksgiving should be a habit so deeply rooted in our lives that it comes naturally to us to be grateful and to express our gratitude to God.

When we lived in New England, someone told me this story. There was once a Vermont farmer, a quiet man, not given to much conversation. One evening as he and his wife sat on the front porch, it occurred to him how very much his wife meant to him. For forty-four years they had lived together. She was a kind person, cheerful, a hard worker, a loving mother and grandmother, a shrewd businesswoman, and a pretty good cook. As they sat there together in the silence the farmer was strangely overcome with gratitude. "Wife," he said, "You are such a good woman that sometimes I can hardly keep from telling you so."

As we come to Thanksgiving 2023 we have yet another opportunity to reflect on how grateful we are, and to tell God so. Even in these perilous times when the future seems uncertain, our faith calls us to give thanks. So what shall we return to the Lord for all the bounty we have received? "In all things give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Mary



Join in Celebrating Our November Birthdays

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

November 3: Carol Hullihen
 November 5: Pat Harris
 November 5: Christina Suarez
 November 6: Emma Page
 November 6: Oliver Page
 November 8: Gary Mandile
 November 9: Courtney Diamond
 November 14: Sally Haskins
 November 14: Sandy Snyder

November 14: Janis Bladine
 November 15: Mackenzie Kaup
 November 16: Neal Vandenburg
 November 16: Cleve Lynch
 November 22: Songa Watelaninwa
 November 23: Ron Reifsnider
November 26: May Tansley
 November 29: Molly Lawson

*May Tansley, a longtime member of Orangewood, will celebrate her **96th birthday** on November 26th. She and her husband Glenn (98 years) have recently moved into hospice care at Tangelo Grove, **101 W. Glendale Ave, Phoenix AZ 85021.***

Please help May have a very Happy Birthday by sending her a card or a note.



These Guys!!

What would we do without Bob and Joe??

We wouldn't be able to view or hear the worship service from the comfort of our home.

We'd have trouble hearing the beautiful sounds from our choirs.

We'd likely miss the punch line of a story told within the sermon.

We'd not be able to listen to a beautiful duet from Cindy and Chuck a second and third time.

Bob Wells and Joe Miller: We appreciate you!

Upcoming Events

Presbytery Meeting	Nov 4	Tree Decorating	Dec 2
Thanksgiving Meal	Nov 19	Caroling at the Beatitudes	Dec 6
Write Christmas Cards	Nov 29	Service Worship event	Dec 13
		Grace Lutheran	
		Pancakes for the Homeless	Dec 17

Not every upcoming event will be listed here. The Plumline will include Special Events and Worship Services that include the entire congregation.. Please check the mid-week messages and/or Sunday Bulletin Announcements for group gatherings.

SPOTLIGHT

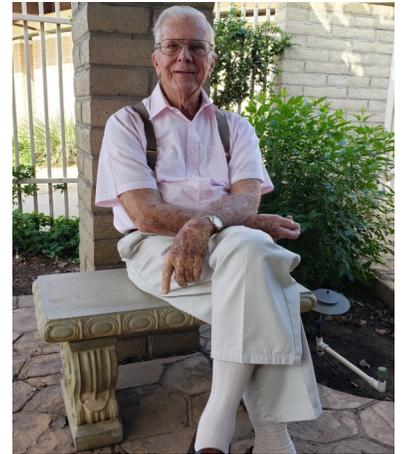
In the beginning there were three.....Three what??? Three Orangewood Geezers. These were the guys, mostly retired, who took care of small but important handyman tasks around the Orangewood campus. Bill Baker, Terry Frost, and Dave Harms were dubbed The Geezers by office Administrator Peggy Hagan. Peggy even got them t-shirts, lettered with *Geezer, Formerly a Stud Muffin*. Sadly, only Terry Frost survives to tell of the Geezers' many accomplishments.

Initially, the Geezers showed up at Orangewood just to putter around or perhaps to escape the Honey-Do list that awaited them at home. However, it wasn't long before some real projects were taken on—one of these was the Columbarium/Memorial Garden. Bob Page, patriarch of the Pages of Page Hall, wanted a suitable final resting place for his wife Joyce. The Geezers were joined by others in creating the Columbarium—Lyle Six did the engineering, Jim Digges installed the electrical, and Terry handled the plumbing. The cross was created and added by Bill Burke, while Terry and Sandy Frost constructed the fountain and tended the plants for many years.

Other Geezer projects including building cabinets and painting the interior of Page Hall, trimming the Lady Banks roses and vines around the perimeter of the property, the annual putting up of Christmas "attire" in the sanctuary, creating special effects for the Fall Festival, and building the sets that Bernale designed for Vacation Bible School. Cleaning leaves and debris from the buildings' gutters was a seasonal task each year. In fact, Terry continued to take care of this chore until last year when he was banned from climbing a ladder or going on the roof.

Two of Terry's most admired projects are several stained glass windows for Page Hall and the two rolling wooden cabinets for the handbells. The bell cabinets are lined in velveteen and there's a unique indented, labeled, precisely sized oval for each bell. Thus you can walk over to the cabinet and immediately pick up C#5, without having to hunt for it.

Now, it must be clear that there were and continue to be many others who have contributed their time and talents to creating, repairing, maintaining, and doing what needs to be done around the OPC campus on a daily basis----Dave Haskins, Bob Jenson, Joe and Edna Miller, Dan Sherwood, Brent Upson, and Bob Wells immediately come to mind. However, these folks are not officially Geezers, I'm told. Perhaps we should we come up with a name for them???



Do you know that Terry was a dentist for 33 years before he became a Geezer??



SAGES

The Sages gathered in Page Hall on October 10th after the summer break. We were delighted to welcome first-timers, Sandy and Terry Frost. Sandy remarked: Many years ago they'd decided to attend Sages when they became seniors. And now that they've moved into the Beatitudes, that time has come. We were tickled to welcome back Judy and Dan Lippman who took some time away from Sages due to health issues and moving; we also welcome home Luci Sherwood who has just returned from their annual stay in Oregon.



Judy Proffitt, who is heading up the Congregational Life committee, greeted the arrivals and welcomed us back together. In the kitchen were Jackie Collier, Carol Khazai, Gene Nix and Sandy Snyder. They served a hearty meal of lasagna, roasted veggies, tossed salad, bread, with a delicious chocolate sheet cake for dessert.



Our tables were made happier with Jeanne Matt's centerpieces—sunflowers in blue tin watering cans.

The speaker was Jillian Ashby, a coordinator with the AZ Attorney Generals' Office of Outreach and Education. Her presentation was packed with information on how to recognize and prevent fraud and scams. She left us with resource information on how to file consumer complaints, register for Do Not Call, and other useful practices.

Our November meeting will be Tuesday, November 14th. Plan to arrive by 11:15. Luncheon with dessert is \$4.00. Our November speaker is a Civil War Reenactor representing a private in the Union army. The soldier, dressed in uniform, will tell and show us what life was like for a soldier. Our reenactor is from among us, but I'm going to keep his identity a secret until it is closer to the date, because we all love surprises. Hope to see you at Sages in November!!



Session Notes

- Plans confirmed for training, ordination and installation of new elders.
- Session confirmed the following committee chairs for the upcoming year:
 - ◆ Finance – Pete Ladigo
 - ◆ Mission – Gene Nix
 - ◆ Worship – Becky Cederquist
 - ◆ Congregational Life – Judy Proffitt
 - ◆ Personnel – Brent Upson
 - ◆ Children and Youth – Brent Upson
 - ◆ Clerk of Session – Phebe Packer
 - ◆ Nominating Committee – to be decided within Nominating Committee
 - ◆ Facilities – Bob Wells
- Other positions include:
 - ◆ OAF – Joseph Lavi
 - ◆ Treasurer – Bob Wells
- In-person attendance for worship services in September averaged 60 people.
- Session approved receiving Darlene Long into membership, pending receipt of letter of transfer.
- Finances are stable, as reported by Treasurer Bob Wells:
 - ◆ **Member Income:** \$17,265 (5.0%)
 - ◆ **Total Income:** \$24, 502 (5.0%)
 - ◆ **Expenses:** \$25,059 (5.0%)
 - ◆ **Net:** **-\$557.05**
- Presbytery Meeting at OPC is Saturday, November 4. Planning by Worship Committee and Congregational Life Committee underway.
- Session approved hiring Louise Sedgwick as the Director of Children’s Ministry effective Sept 24,2023.
- Worship and Mission Committees are planning two service worship events during Advent.
- Joseph Lavi reported the OAF has welcomed a new family from Zimbabwe. An upcoming baptism will utilize Bob Wells’ swimming pool.
- Session is considering new electronic signage for the 10th Street side of the church.
- Personnel is working on the job description for a youth leader for Grade 6 – College, as well as a plan for a youth program. Brent Upson is consulting with parents and will meet with youth.
- Session approved a request to hold a brunch fundraiser for Honduras in spring 2024.
- Session received a report from Christina Suarez about communication with members interested in contemporary service. She has spoken with people who used to attend and suggests that Worship Committee consider ways to include aspects into traditional service - not only music but also other aspects such as dance, art.
- Session will meet for an extended time on Saturday, November 18th to work on plans for OPC’s future.



Breakfast Out Bunch

Want to start your day with a hearty breakfast and great company??

Then join the *Breakfast Out Bunch* for their next gathering **Thursday, November 9th at 9 am** at the Moon Valley Café, 7th St & Thunderbird. Contact Anita Shipley to reserve your spot: ashipley2@cox.net or 602-503-9109. **All** are welcome—any age!

Mission Committee

Angel Tree This program gives the congregation an opportunity to purchase gifts for children whose parents are incarcerated. The gifts are wrapped and delivered to the children's caregivers with a message of love from their parents. Addi Case (our resident Angel Tree expert!) will be managing the program again this year. There are 43 kids signed up to receive our gifts. We'll provide more details as they become available.

Advent Worship Service Events There will be two events this year on Wednesday evenings:

- ◇ **December 6** – We will sing Christmas carols at the Beatitudes, and plan to have a short worship service there. This is a fun event and was well received last year.
- ◇ **December 13** – This event will be in Page Hall and will include a worship service, preparation of support packs for the homeless, and wrapping of the Angel Tree gifts.

Grace Lutheran We served over 190 meals at the Grace Lutheran pancake breakfast on October 15. This was an increase over the 100-140 guests we have been serving at the breakfasts in the recent past. We would love to get more folks involved in this project, as it has a high impact for the amount of time we spend. It is always enjoyable work, and we share good fellowship with each other and those we serve. Our next service is scheduled for **Dec. 17th**.

Rocky Point We are planning a house-building trip to Rocky Point over Veterans Day weekend, Nov. 9-12. Please keep our participants in your prayers for a safe and successful trip.

Alternative Giving We will again offer our congregation three opportunities for alternative giving this Advent season: Heifer Project, Honduras, and the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Information on all three will be available on the patio the first three Sundays of December.

Nourish Phoenix Monday, November 27, 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. We are also looking for more volunteers for this event.

Mission Table Each Sunday morning, the Mission Table on the patio has information on many of the mission projects in which OPC participates, including sign-up sheets for volunteers to participate in our various projects.

KNOT JUST KNITTERS

We'll be meeting on Wednesday, November 8, from 5:30-6:30 pm in the East Seminar Room.

This group was started to make baby hats, sweaters and blankets for World Vision. Our last shipment to World Vision included **99 hats and 2 blankets**, adding to the existing numbers that **exceed 1,000**. We would love to have you join us for the fellowship of the group. You are welcome to work on a project for World Vision, or on any kind of project you wish to. If you have no project to work on, you can just visit with us! If you have questions, please contact Jeannie.



Congregational Life Committee

If you would like to help plan and support activities for our church community or would like to suggest an activity, please let us know. We have a place for you and welcome suggestions. You can call or text Judy Proffitt at 480 280-2050, or email her at jcproff@outlook.com. Current members of the committee can also be contacted. They are: Jackie Collier, Barb Digges, Phebe Packer, and Sandy Snyder.

Here is what we're working on:

1. We have made plans for accommodating the Presbytery Meeting being held at OPC on November 4. Planning included serving breakfast and lunch and recruiting volunteers to assist in supporting the activities of the day.
2. The **Plumline** is proving to be an excellent source of information thanks to our contributors and the dedication of editor, Barb Digges. For anyone wanting to contribute to the Plumline please submit your item by the twenty first of each month.
3. **SAGES** Volunteers have been designated for all food prep through May. (Thank you volunteers!) We have Programs planned through January and are looking for a volunteer to head this endeavor.
4. Our annual **Thanksgiving** meal has been planned for November 19 at 5:30PM in Page Hall.
5. Join us to **write Christmas cards** to our homebound and absent members on November 29, at 6:30PM, in Page Hall. We will have cookies and beverages to inspire you!
6. There will be a **tree decorating party** December 2, 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Bring all the family to enjoy decorating a beautiful tree and a having a cup of hot chocolate.
7. Rev Mary Saylor will be giving the **blessing for the Creative Bridges' Stone Soup Meal**, as well as providing details about the nursery and children's church held during our worship service.
8. A **reader's club** is being formed for anyone who would like to read to the Creative Bridges kids. If you are interested in sitting on a little chair or the floor to read a story, please call Judy Proffitt and we will get things organized together.
9. La Sienna senior living apartments' management is providing a **bus** for those interested in attending services at Orangewood. If you know someone living at La Sienna, let them know about the bus and invite them to Orangewood.

Orangewood Presbyterian Women

JOIN the exploration of Luke/Acts at the monthly Mary Martha Bible Study Circle. The Circle meets the first Tuesday each month through May as a time to explore the scriptures with other OPC women. COME to our next meeting November 7th in Room 11.

CELEBRATE a morning together from 10:00-12:00 on Saturday, November 18th in Page Hall. "Helping our Environment as Individuals and at Orangewood" was chosen as the year's focus at our October meeting.

PLAN now to go on the Capital Museum outing. We will gather at OPC's parking lot on **Tuesday, November 21 before 10:00**. To be part of a carpool, Email Jeannie Oosterwyk at jadmo@juno.com before November 15th. We will provide a lightweight wheel chair for anyone who requests one.



The South Sudanese New Life Presbyterian Fellowship (fka Nile Congregation) was one of several musical presenters at the recent cross-cultural ministry event held in Page Hall. This gathering featured International Peacemaker Angie Wuysang from Indonesia.

Other music presentations were provided by Betania Presbyterian Church (Phx-Hispanic), Va Ki United Presbyterian Church (Bapchule-Gila River Indian Community) and the Evangelical Arabic Fellowship (Phx). Each congregation prepared and served several traditional dishes.

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November

www.orangewood.info

2023

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The *Plumblin*, 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 Plumblin* is *Tuesday, November 21st*.**