

Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2024

Dear Friends—

Worshiping and serving with you all for the past few months has been God's gift to me. George and I have felt so welcome at Orangewood and are thankful for the friendships we have made here. We take our leave of Orangewood with grateful hearts.

I am grateful to our wonderful staff for their skill and dedication as they do the work of organizing and teaching and planning. I am grateful to our Session for their commitment to serving Jesus Christ and his church with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. I am grateful for partnerships in ministry with the Orangewood African Fellowship and the South Sudanese New Life Fellowship. I am grateful to our musicians and liturgists and deacons and committee members and volunteers who care for our campus and all who gather here, and who lead us in ministry and mission beyond this place. I am grateful to all of you who have supported and encouraged and prayed for me while I have served as your gap interim pastor.

I thank you for the lovely farewell reception this past Sunday and your kind words and well wishes. And I am deeply touched by your very generous gift. George and I will hold you in our hearts as Pastor Sue Marie comes to share the ministry with you in the days ahead. Know that we will be remembering you with fondness and praying for you with confidence that God will continue the good work he has begun at Orangewood.

Blessings—

Mary

Prayer

God of wisdom and grace, we know that you saw our distress and sent our sister Mary to share your spirit among us in these difficult months. May she carry in her heart forever our thanks and good wishes. As she goes from us to share her many gifts with others. Keep her safe and ever in your light. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



Although we don't know what the future holds, we know Who holds the future!

Join in Celebrating Our February Birthdays

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

February 5 Jackie Collier
February 6 Ernest Workman
February 8 Russ Seideman
February 9 Drew DeBenedetti
February 11 Phebe Packer
February 12 Rick Hunter
February 16 Lynda Rychener



February 20 Kathryn Rasmussen
February 24 Daniel Lippman
February 24 Mitra Khazai-Swartz
February 25 Anita Shipley *
February 25 Kaydie Marshall
February 27 Catherine Witte
February 27 Eric Hiser

* **BIG** Birthday!

As you know, the **Rev. Dr. Sue Marie Baskette** is joining Orangewood as our Interim Pastor. Here are a few additional tidbits about her:

She prefers being called Sue Marie.

She has relocated to Phoenix and has found housing nearby where she can bike to Orangewood along the canal.

She has two cats.

She loves the outdoors, biking and hiking.

She plays handbells and looks forward to joining the Orangepealers.

Sue Marie starts at Orangewood on Thursday February 1 and will lead our worship service next Sunday, February 4th. Please join us in the Wright Center after the morning service for a reception to welcome Pastor Sue Marie to Orangewood.



Upcoming Events and Services

February 1st	Sue Marie starts at Orangewood
February 4th	Reception for Sue Marie after the morning service
February 11th	Souper Bowl of Caring
February 13th	Pancake Supper, 5-7 pm, Page Hall
February 14th	Ash Wednesday Service, Noon
March 28th	Maundy Thursday Service
March 29th	Good Friday Service
March 31	Sunrise Service, Orangewood Patio
March 31	Buffet Fundraiser for Honduras
March 31	Easter Sunday Service



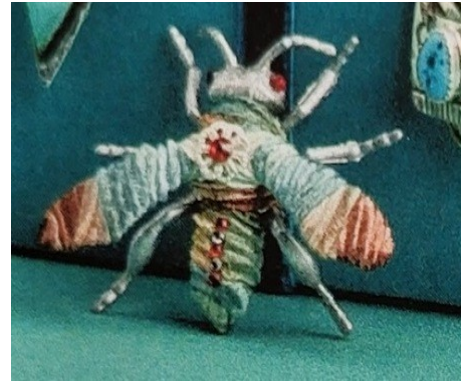
Please check the Midweek Messages and Bulletins for details, including times, on these and other events.

KNOT JUST KNITTERS (KJK) : This group has a lot of fun chatting, listening, solving the world's woes, and laughing . . . and *some* of us work on knitting, crocheting, and/or crafting projects as well. Some folks make knitted/crocheted hats and baby blankets that are sent to World Vision for distribution around the world, including the US. Some folks make projects for gifts or for sale at art shows. All of us are part of the fellowship of the group and we'd love to have you join us. We'll be meeting the third Wednesday evening of each month in the East Seminar Room of Page Hall at about 5:30pm (punctuality is not required!) until about 6:30pm. Any questions? Contact Jeannie Oosterwyk. Hope to see you Wednesday, February 21! .



Left: Happy KJKers. Anita Shipley, a regular, wasn't present for this photo. Anita is our "go to" when we've messed up a knitting project.

Right: This is a bee pin that Jan Cooper makes at KJK . Jan sells her pins on Etsy.



Happy Big Birthday, Bob!!

Family and friends gathered in the Wright Center on January 21st to celebrate Bob Wells' 90th birthday! Bob's true birthday was January 25th, but at his age, birthdays take several days to celebrate. Despite the chill, the attire du jour seems to have been Bermuda shorts. Bob collected a plethora of birthday cards as well as many hugs, handshakes, and well wishes. We love you Bob!!! ♥



We know **Louise Sedgwick** from her weekly children's messages in worship. Louise has years of experience in pastoral ministry with adults and children. And she has been married to our music director, Chuck Sedgwick, for over forty years. But did you know Louise is also an author and pastoral counselor? Louise's book *Lifted from Shame: Trauma to Redemption* is her account of how God's grace freed her of the shame she experienced from childhood trauma. And you can find her encouraging blog and podcasts at her website louisesedgwick.com

Editor's note: Please take a moment to check out Louise's beautiful and calming website. You definitely will find much to read (blogs) or listen to (podcasts) that will encourage you.

Sages

Days after their January gathering, the Sages were still raving about the marvelous luncheon of Persian cuisine that was presented by three generations of the same family— Carol Khazai, her daughter, Mitra Khazai-Swartz, and her grandson, Ethan Swartz.

Jeanne Matt's centerpieces, this time with a nautical theme, added class to the tables. Dennis Daniel provided assistance in the kitchen and led the clean-up afterwards.

Mitra announced our menu item by item, and the specific significance of each to her Persian culture. The day was special for the Khazai family, as they honored what would have been the 85th birthday of Carol's husband and Mitra's father.



Carol shared that grandson Ethan prepared the chicken kabobs. He cut the chicken into small pieces, marinated them, added the pieces to 35 skewers before grilling the kabobs. Carol's recipe for Chelow Saffron Steamed Rice is included later in this issue.

Our program was presented by Derek Oetken, who is Director of Health Promotion with the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA). Derek provided an overview of the services provided by AAA without charge to those 60 years and older. He focused on aspects of "successful aging" and told us about the health and wellness workshops and classes given by AAA. We hope to offer one more series of classes here at Orangewood.

You don't want to miss our next Sages meeting on Tuesday, February 14th. Our entertainment is a return performance by the male quartet The Associates. We love their harmonies, humor and interaction with the audience. The Associates are part of the larger A Capella Syndicate which rehearses and has performed at Orangewood.

Update: AAA will begin the *A Matter of Balance* classes in April. The goal of these classes is to improve balance and prevent falls by improving flexibility and strength. These classes will run for 1 hour for 8 weeks, beginning Monday April 8th @ 10 a.m. We will get the info to you via flyers and email.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Build Starts in Mid-February for the Ntiyamira Family

OPC has helped with building a new Habitat home in the spring of each year for about 20 years. This year's build will be for the Ntiyamira family. The location of the build will be South Central Phoenix. Anyone aged 16 or older can help. There are all kinds of tasks, whether or not you have construction experience. Please find more information at the Mission Table before or after service, or contact Dirk or Jeannie Oosterwyk.

Meet the future Habitat homeowners: Originally from Rwanda, Issa has been in the United States since 2007 and Nadia, originally from the Congo, was able to join her husband in 2010 after being apart for three years. The couple met in a refugee camp in Uganda, were married in a civil ceremony, and once reunited in the States, they were married in the mosque. Issa has worked at a senior living community, for the past twelve years where he is currently an Assistant Director, working for the environmental services department fixing equipment and conducting projects. Nadia works in the home managing the household and caring for their young family.

Issa and Nadia currently live in a three-bedroom apartment with their five children ages two through fourteen. Despite the rent being affordable, the neighborhood is not safe. The family has been approached by drug dealers, their apartment manager was attacked by trespassers, and there are homeless people sleeping in the stairwells. Issa and Nadia desperately want a safe environment for their children to live and grow up in, where they could play outside, and their daughter would not have to share a room with one of her brothers. When they learned about Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona from friends who had recently moved into their own Habitat home, Issa and Nadia knew they needed to learn more and after doing some research decided to apply.

The Ntiyamira family enjoys traveling to surrounding states to visit national parks. Their new home will allow them the opportunity to spend time outdoors where Nadia can indulge her love for gardening and Issa can share his love of playing soccer with his children. For the family, working with Habitat and having a place to call home "will change our lives".



**Issa, Nadia, and children:
Kadhim, Warida, Naqi,
Jibril, & Ayman**

An Invitation from OPC Presbyterian Women

Saturday, February 3 bring your friends and come to the Pot Luck Luncheon/Meeting in Page Hall at 11:00 am. Orangewood Presbyterian Women are focusing on our environment this season which prompted the theme of **Re-use** for this meeting. **Re-use** motivates creative women in the congregation to knit, crochet, use a reusable cup, quilt, repurpose and recycle every day at home and at Orangewood. Besides the displays and conversations there will be a table where those coming can highlight an item that they feel helps the environment. Reservations will be taken on the patio.

Queries? Contact **Jeanne Matt 602-216-9844**

Calendar setting

Mary/Martha Bible study circle meets at from **1-3 pm February 6 in Room 11**. This month's scripture focuses on Luke 17:11-21. Joan Fenton is this month's discussion leader. All are welcome. The study of Luke/Acts "Sacred Encounters" continues through May.

Save **Saturday March 2** for an OPW meeting (and lunch) with speaker from Arizona Interfaith Power and Light at 11:00 am in Page Hall.

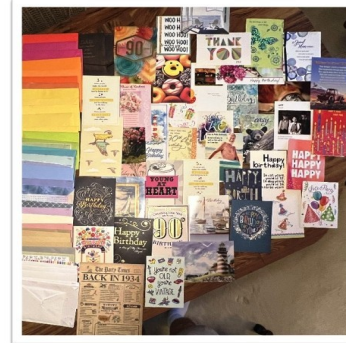
Saturday April 13 the Annual gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Grand Canyon Presbytery will be at Orangewood from 8:30-3:00. There will be lots of opportunities to help with hosting more than 70 women.

Thank you to Bob Orf and Kristi Parot for the photos they took for this issue.



Thank you

To the Orangewood family, thank you for participating with me in the celebration of my 90th birthday. The after-service reception was a surprise (I had an Inkling) with so many folks joining in the celebration. A "tip of the hat" to those providing the birthday cakes and drinks. Upon exit I was given a shopping bag of birthday cards to open on my birthday.



On my birthday I did just that. I sat and opened cards. Unlike Bob's usual casual behavior with greeting cards, I read each card along with many hand written comments. In all there were over 35 cards. As I read them I laid them out separately on a table. As I progressed, I noticed that the envelopes themselves seemed to be providing their own celebratory message in the form of a rainbow.

Thank you again. I celebrated my birthday with a very happy, joyful, and contented heart. Bob

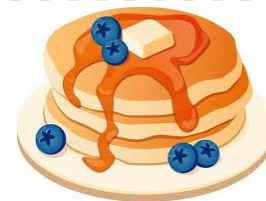
2023 Alternative Giving. OPC's commitment to multiple programs showed in the generous donations that poured in during our Alternative Giving season in 2023. You may have heard the numbers already – now here is some information about what your gifts will be supporting.

- **Presbyterian Giving (\$615).** Donors specified the following gifts: sewing machine(s), emergency life pack, heating fuel for refugees, jerry cans.
- **Heifer (\$1,570).** Donors specified the following animals and programs this year: honeybees; shares of goats, sheep, pigs, fish, and heifers; flocks of chicks; hope baskets; a food basket; share of garden seeds; share of milk menagerie; "where most needed".
- **Honduras Scholarships (\$4,920).** These funds will support scholarship programs for students to continue in school beyond the sixth grade. There are currently active programs in Trinidad and in multiple communities near Copan Ruinas. In 2024 we will explore starting a program in Dulce Nombre where we are currently working with the community in building houses.
- **Christmas Joy Offering (\$2,208.72).** This offering is one of the four PC/USA annual offerings which enable us to join with churches across the county to support large projects and programs. The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and funds to develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Breakfast Out Bunch

If you didn't get your fill of pancakes at our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, then join the *Breakfast Out Bunch* for their next gathering **Thursday, February 15 @ 9 am** at the Moon Valley Café, 7th St & Thunderbird.

Contact Anita Shipley to confirm your spot: ashipley2@cox.net or 602-503-9109.



Session Notes

- Attendance averaged 74 adults in November 2023 and 61 adults in December 2023.
- The Clerk received correspondence from Rev. Ken Page that he started his new position on December 1, 2023.
- Ordination and installation ceremony for Jackson Nduwimana and Judy Proffitt was held during worship service on November 26, 2023.
- The session approved a motion to hold a called meeting of the congregation on April 14 at 10:30 am to elect elders for 2025. The Nominating Committee will be talking with prospective members in the next two months. Brent Upson was elected as Moderator of the Nominating Committee. Other members of the committee are Jackie Collier, Jeanne Matt, Luci Sherwood, and Becky Cederquist.
- Treasurer's Report:
 - **Member Income:** \$124,126 (34%)
 - **Total Income:** \$165,104 (32%)
 - **Expenses:** \$158,050 (31%)
 - **Net:** \$7,054
- Bob Wells reported he has submitted Per Capita for 2024 to Presbytery. The Treasurer will inform OAF of their share of Per Capita due to Presbytery.
- Becky Cederquist reported that a list of members are being called. Congregational Care is discussing how to help care givers, possibly by establishing a Care team for this.
- There will be a Presbytery Meeting January 27 at Church of the Master in Mesa and by Zoom. Gene Nix will attend and Rev. Saylor will contact Bob Orf about attending.
- Update on candidacy of Addi Case for GA in July 2024. (Brent Upson) Addi was unanimously approved by Presbytery of Grand Canyon to serve as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (non-voting but advises committees on issues). Presbytery pays expenses.
- Session affirmed its commitment to participate in a joint Maundy Thursday service at Central Presbyterian on March 28th.
- Rev. Saylor reported that the Board of Pensions is initiating a new way of determining medical/pension costs beginning January 2025. Costs will no longer be based on a straight percentage of effective salary. Costs will be adjusted based on whether insurance is for an individual, individual and spouse, or family.
- Session approved a motion to thank Rev Mary Saylor for her steady and encouraging leadership as Gap Interim Pastor.
- Session approved a motion to have an audio professional review the sound system in the Sanctuary.
- Session approved a motion establishing communion dates for the year.
- Bob Wells reported on progress on the solar system and the new electronic signage.
- Brent Upson distributed a revised job description for Director of Children's Ministry. Session approved a motion to adopt this job description with a revision in the scope and pay for the position. Session also approved a motion to hire Addi Case as the Children's Ministry Assistant and a motion to hire Sam Simpson as video technician to run the slides during the Sunday service.
- Brent Upson has met with Jackson Nduwimana to discuss youth programs. OAF does not currently have a consistent weekly program. Brent reported it is not clear how to move forward with that group. We will go forward with quarterly joint events with OPC and OAF youth. We need to agree on our future program and understand needs of OAF before moving forward with job description of Youth Leader.
- Brainstorming teams established at 12/02/23 called meeting. Meetings to take place in February for report at next session meeting.
- South Sudanese congregation has requested a joint service.
- The next Stated Session Meeting is Thursday, February 22nd 6 pm by Zoom and/or in person Rm 11, Wright Center.

SPOTLIGHT

This issue we are focusing the spotlight on several of our working committees. These are the committees that bring us worship services, plan and present special events, support our neighbors, near and far, and lead and encourage our youth in building a strong, faith-based foundation. Each committee is looking for helpers, on an infrequent or regular basis or as a committee member. Ways to help and who to contact are included below.

Congregational Life

The mission of the Congregational Life Committee is to enhance the lives of OPC congregants and community friends, spiritually, socially, and physically outside of formal worship times and in conjunction with the mission and goals of the OPC.

In the coming months, we will continue to plan for and conduct Sages, Bible studies, receptions, congregational meals and other events. There are a multitude of ways you can help with the committee's activities--event specific tasks and/or as a member of the Congregational Life Committee. Let Judy Proffitt know if you're able to help us out. Thanks!!

Worship

The purpose of the committee is to provide an environment that is conducive to the corporate worship of our Lord, placing primary emphasis on public worship, while encouraging worship by individuals and families. The committee is responsible for Communion, Baptisms, and for the Sanctuary furnishings, such as the banners, candles, and flowers. The committee works closely with the Director of Music and the Pastor and provides seasonal decorations as needed, for example, poinsettias during Christmas. Currently the committee is planning services for Lent and Easter.

Fresh ideas are always welcome, so if you are interested in reading the lectionary during the service, ushering, singing in the choir or playing handbells, or using your gifts to support worship, talk to Becky Cederquist. We'd love for you to join us.

Mission

The Mission Committee endeavors to humbly serve our neighbors in the local community and worldwide through financial, physical, and spiritual support. We plan and communicate opportunities for members and friends of Orangewood to share the love of Christ with those who are in need. Our regular volunteer activities include going to NourishPhx monthly to work in the food pantry or sort clothing and providing a pancake breakfast quarterly to the unsheltered at Grace Lutheran Church. We also sponsor periodic giving opportunities, e.g. Undy Sunday, One Great Hour of Giving, OPC Can Nourish, etc. We lead and support mission trips to Honduras and Rocky Point. Contact Gene Nix to find out how you can help with OPC's mission work.

Deacons/Care Teams

The main purpose of the Deacons is compassionate care, witness, and service to the congregation. Due to the declining number of individuals willing or able to be Deacons, OPC has instituted Care Teams. A care team is a group of people who focus on a single service for the congregation, such as writing cards, making phone calls, visiting the sick and recently bereaved, ushering on Sunday, or scribing for the pastor. Anyone can be a member of a care team if they feel a calling to serve in a particular way. We are considering a care team to focus on caregivers. This might be a support group of caregivers who get together to discuss their problems or a group that can provide someone to give a caregiver some respite for a few hours. Your ideas are welcome! If you would like to suggest a way we can support the congregation, give Becky (623-363-4509) or Dennis (480-614-8328) a call.

Orangewood Children and Youth Program

Our Mission: To share God's love with children and youth, help them build a strong faith as a foundation to their life and to reach out to their neighbors as Jesus taught us all.

In December we restarted the SR. High School youth program with a kickoff dinner of youth and parents. At the kickoff we developed the goals for what the youth and parents would like in OPC's youth program. A calendar of events has been organized around how the Bible teaches us ways to live in the modern world facing our youth. The group wants to stay involved in OPC's mission projects — pancake breakfasts, home building in Rocky Point and Honduras, angel tree and the upcoming Souper Bowl fund raiser.

Upcoming events: Feb 11th Souper bowl, **Feb 13th** ;Fat Tuesday pancake supper fund raiser for Youth program; **Feb 25th** discussion mtg on life crises and how to build resiliency in our lives; **Easter! March 31st** Sunrise service led by youth followed by Easter brunch raising funds for Honduras mission activities.

The **Children's Church** program continues to be a blessing with children ages 5 and up participating in worship with children's sermon developed and led by Louise Sedgwick. Louise has worked hard to mirror the message of the pastor's sermon with her version tailored to the children. We have found that the adults also really enjoy the message as a preview of the coming sermon and enjoy the interaction of the kids.



Farewell Reception for Mary Saylor



Chelo Steamed Saffron Rice

Recipe by **Maideh Mazda** from *In a Persian Kitchen*.

Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups rice - I used basmati rice.
1 1/2 tbsp salt
2 qts water

2 tbsp salt

1/2 cup butter (melted)
1/4 tsp saffron ground and dissolved in 3
tbsp hot water (optional) *

Method:

1. Wash rice three times in lukewarm water & then soak in cold water of which 1 1/2 tbsps of salt have been added. Use enough cold water to cover the rice. This rice should be soaked overnight (in a pinch, 1 or 2 hours' soaking will suffice).
2. Boil 2 cups of water to which 2 tbsps of salt have been added.
3. Pour off the water in which the rice has been soaked. Add rice to the boiling water & boil it for 10-15 minutes. (Stir rice with spoon once or twice to prevent the grains from sticking together.)
4. Pour the rice & water into a strainer & rinse with lukewarm water.
5. Put 1/3 of the melted butter into the bottom of the pot in which you have cooked the rice. Add 2 tbsps of water to the butter in the pot.
6. Take a spoonful of rice at a time & put it into the pot, distributing it evenly. Allow it to mount into a cone shape.
7. Pour the rest of the butter (& saffron, if using) over the rice, distributing it evenly.
8. Put paper towel over the pot. Cover & put 2 or 3 dish towels on the lid. Cook for 10-15 minutes on medium heat. Lower the temp & cook for 35-40 minutes on low heat.

Notes:

By putting dish towels over the lid, the rice will cook more evenly throughout.

If the rice is cooked at the right temperature, the rice will form a crust at the bottom of the pot which will become crisp & turn into golden brown, while the rest of the rice remains white. If desired, add more melted butter before serving.

When serving rice, put 2-3 tablespoons of rice in a dish & add to it 2 tbsps of saffron. Mix it well & decorate the chelo with this rice.

* Yes, saffron is expensive, but very little is needed for this recipe. Carol mentioned that she used just a "pinch" of saffron in the rice she made for 35 people at Sages. The small amount of saffron she bought cost less than \$7.

Orangewood Presbyterian Church
7321 N. 10th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85020

February

www.orangewood.info

2024

Orangewood Staff

Interim Pastor	Rev. Dr. Sue Marie Baskette
Director of Music	Dr. Charles N. Sedgwick
Office & Facilities Manager	Kristi Parot
secretary@opc.phxcoxmail.com	
Interim Director of Children's Ministry	Louise Sedgwick
Set-Up Assistant	Addison Case

Plumblin Contributors

Editor:	Barbara Digges
Proof Reader:	Becky Cederquist
Mailer:	Judy Proffitt

Orangewood Presbyterian Church
Phone: 602-944-1508
E-mail: secretary@opc.phxcoxmail.com
Website: www.orangewood.info
Become a Fan on Facebook

The *Plumblin*, the monthly newsletter of Orangewood Presbyterian Church, contains news and 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 March Plumblin is Wednesday, February 21st.**