

in this issue >>>

Habitat Happenings

Wheel Help/Duet News

How Presbyterians Do Evangelism

Special Events

Annual Congregational Meeting



A Ministry of Palo Cristi Presbyterian Church: Where God's welcoming love is shared with everyone.

January 2012

sandprints

Mark Your Calendar >>>

Sunday, January 1

Scripture Focus: Psalm 103, John 8:1-11

Theme: God's Call, a Holy Adventure

Rev. Al Gephart, preaching

To what do you hear God calling you and Palo Cristi in 2012?

Sunday, January 8

Scripture Focus: Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11

Theme: Called to Renewal

Congregational Renewal of Baptism

Sunday, January 15

Scripture Focus: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:43-51

Theme: Good Anxiety

Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders

Sunday, January 22

Scripture Focus: Amos 5:18-24; Mark 1:14-20

Theme: Following the Call Ain't That Easy

Joining Presbyterians in Celebrating the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, January 29

Our focus this week turns to Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association and our long history of caring about the needs of all kinds of people. Rev. Trina Zelle, the National Organizer and Executive Director and our own Joan Fenton, Co-Moderator of Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence will create and lead a wonderful worship experience for us.

Meditating on Time

For everything there are seasons, and time for every matter under heaven:

What season was this past year for you? How would you describe it?

time to be born, *What was born for you this year?*
and time to die; *What loss did you experience?*
time to plant, *Did you start something new last year?*
and time to pluck up what is planted; *What stopped working?*
time to kill, *Did you intentionally create an end to something?*
and time to heal; *What healing took place last year?*
time to break down, *Perhaps there were moments of simplifying life?*
and time to build up; *Or maybe life needed more last year?*
time to weep, *For what did you shed tears last year?*
and time to laugh; *About what did you laugh?*
time to mourn, *Did you allow yourself to grieve?*
and time to dance; *Did you allow yourself to dance?*
time to throw away stones, *Did you forgive last year?*
and time to gather stones together; *Gathered any love, friends, hobbies?*
time to embrace, *Have you expressed love?*
and time to refrain from embracing; *Have you given yourself time alone?*
time to seek, *Have you pursued your dreams, your hopes, your questions?*
and time to lose; *Did you find yourself saying, "it is what it is?"*
time to keep, *Was this a year where you saved? What did you save?*
and time to throw away; *Or was it a season of spending and giving?*
time to tear, *Have things broken apart this past year?*
and time to sew; *Have you had chances to mend brokenness?*
time to keep silence, *Did your year have ample silence?*
and time to speak; *Or what it filled with words, conversation, others?*
time to love, *Who and what have you cherished this year?*
and time to hate; *Who and what enrages you to action?*
time for war, *Was there unrest?*
and time for peace. *Was there wholeness, or a sense of completeness?*

Peace be with you this New Year!

Rev. Beth Scibienski is the pastor Community Presbyterian Church in Kendall Park, NJ. She practices yoga, plays the guitar and blogs at chasealltheclouds.com. Invited by Pastor Debra, she is happy to share her church's New Year's reflection with us.

Habitat Happenings

The poor financial environment has finally affected Habitat. Due to the worsening financial crisis many churches have stopped supporting Habitat, but not small churches as you would suspect. The East Valley Presbyterian Coalition lost two big churches – University and Valley. Although the cost to build a home is about the same, the small churches continue to pledge although their pledges have been reduced. A similar occurrence has affected our Corporate sponsors. For our 2012 house there are one Corporate Sponsor and 3 Church Coalition Sponsors, where there are normally one of each. This means that the number of workdays the Presbyterian Coalition gets are reduced by half.

Our house is located at 1509 W. Grove Street in Phoenix. We are building it for Dora Cavazos, a disabled single mother, who has lived in an apartment for 24 years. Her neighborhood is unsafe and her rent, along with the surrounding crime, continues to increase. Dora wants to own her own home so she can sit outside and enjoy reading a book or watch her grandchildren play in the yard.

She has worked for a cleaning company for over 20 years, and due to her disability is restricted to light janitorial work. In her spare time she enjoys caring for her grandchildren and watching comedies.

Dora learned about Habitat through a friend who is currently a Habitat homeowner. Being disabled, she never thought it would be possible for her to own a



home and is grateful to her sponsors for giving her "a gift of love."

Our workdays are listed below, so please save the dates and let Mitch Liswith [m_liswith@msn.com] know if you will be able to help build on Saturday:

February 25 - Drywall

April 28 - Punch List

Wheel Help

Having drivers available to drive a person to our Sunday worship may not seem like a big deal, but it is. For many, worship that is shared in a community is more meaningful, and whether temporarily or more long term, the Wheel Help drivers are available. And as for drivers, the more, the merrier!



In its own way, Wheel Help is also an example of a trend that promotes an alternative to the traditional transportation model of "One-Person-In-One-Car". Just the other day, Costco had a book on sale titled, Bird on Fire: Lessons from the World's Least Sustainable City by Andrew Ross. (Also available on Amazon.) Guess what city Mr. Ross is writing about ... yep, it's Phoenix.

Transportation options is becoming a hot topic in Phoenix (no pun intended .. really!). Note these two events in February:

On February 10, the West Valley Human Services Alliance will be hosting a free conference in Goodyear ... and the conference title is, "Transportation for the Underserved". Although the conference is in Goodyear, the content should be relevant no matter where you live in the Valley. Here is a link to this group: www.wvhsa.acfbci.org/ Go to "Links" on the left and click "Transportation for the Underserved Summit". Then click "Save-The-Date-Flyer" (in the upper-center of the page) to get more info.

This past year, MAG (Maricopa Association of Governments) conducted a study to see how local governments can be more effective in serving the needs of people 60 years and older; some of us in Palo Cristi Presbyterian Church participated in that study. One of the themes that arose from the various interviews and focus groups was the need for improved transportation. MAG is offering a free conference to present their findings about transportation solutions and other themes on February 15, 2012 at the Phoenix Convention Center. The actual title of the conference is "Planning for the Next 100 Years", but I think immediate solutions will be covered too.

Until our next time in Sandprints, ask yourself, "Who could use a little Wheel Help?" I have a suggestion for an answer to that question; call or email me or leave a message for me at our church office at 602-955-6080.

--- submitted by Louise Pelissier, Wheel Help Coordinator

Help Wanted >>>

Family Promise Coming Up

Thanks so much to all of you who helped make our November hosting such a wonderful experience for our Family Promise guests. Our next host dates are: Sunday evening, February 19-Sunday morning, February 26. Here are some things we will need: Overnight hosts, Dinner "chefs", Set-Up help (2-19 after worship), Clean-Up help (2/26 at 7:00 a.m.), transportation for the beds on 2/26. Contact the Office at (602) 955-6080 or Mitra Khazai for more information.

Wheel Help Needs Drivers

Our own congregation members benefit so much from the help of others among us who have offered to drive them to worship or other Palo Cristi events. Can you help? Contact Louise Pelessier or the Church Office if you can offer your services.

Sunday Sign Ups

Don't forget to check the sign up clipboards on the patio or in the office (during the week) We need your help with the following:

- Receiving the Offering
- Greeting Worshipers
- Bringing Snacks for Coffee Hour
- Preparing and Serving Coffee Hour
- Working in the Nursery
- Contact the Office for more info.



Duet Matters ...

Duet asked me to relay this message to Palo Cristi Presbyterian Church: from getting groceries and rides to the doctor, to health promotion activities and support groups, Duet offers free-of-charge help so people in need do not have to face life's challenges alone. Volunteer service and support allows Duet to help growing numbers of homebound adults, caregivers, faith community nurses, and grandparents raising grandchildren. To volunteer, request help, or donate, call 602-274-5022 or visit www.duetaz.org. We appreciate you!

I see Duet as a RESOURCE for people we know. Duet provides the services listed above with dignity, integrity, and efficiency. And coming in February, Duet is hosting/presenting a conference titled, "The Impact of Faith on Mental and Physical Health" on Thursday, February 9, 8am-2pm at the Church

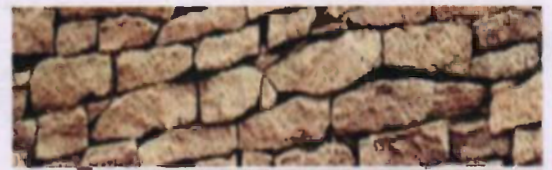
of the Beatitudes, 555 W. Glendale Avenue in Phoenix. Cost is \$60 before January 20; \$30 for students. Register with Duet online or by phone at the links noted in the previous paragraph. The presenter is Dr. Harold Koenig, a well-know expert in the field of spirituality, theology and health from Duke University Medical Center. Here is a link about him:
www.spiritualityandhealth.duke.edu/about/hkoenig/

As always, if you have any questions about Duet, feel free to call or email me or leave a message for me at our church office, 602-955-6080.

--- Louise Pelissier, Duet Liaison



Duet
Partners In Health & Aging



Looking for Passion!

"Our missions support every member of our congregation, address the most critical needs of our community and reach out to those who may be distant in miles but whose need is near."

*(Palo Cristi Presbyterian Church
2006 Mission Study)*

The Missional Connections team of Session (Hootie Redwine and Ann Lindner) are looking for passion—YOUR PASSION! We want to help follow where God has called you to go. If you have an idea about a project that will help us connect with the wider community or improve our fellowship here at Palo Cristi, make sure to let us know. In the meantime, there are a few immediate tasks that need to be done. We need your help with the following:

Agua Fria Food Bank: Keep those donations coming. Once a month, someone from Agua Fria comes to collect our offering. The need is great!

Heifer Project - The Ark has been filled! We were able to complete this project in two years. Watch for more opportunities for alternative gift-giving and other ways to support this important project. Thanks Nancy Dillon for her leadership and to everyone who made donations.

One Great Hour of Sharing offering was received on Palm Sunday. Through the generosity of this congregation, \$1,352.92 was raised.

The Pentecost Offering was received on Pentecost Sunday raising \$895.00.

Peacemaking Offering 2011: This offering was received on World Communion Sunday, October 2. Coincidentally, \$895.00 was raised for peacemaking programs.

The Christmas Joy offering was received on December 18th. To date, we have received \$810.00. This money goes to help retired church workers in need and to help support Presbyterian racial ethnic colleges.

Contact us if you have more ideas about how you would like to serve.

An Invitation >>>

How Presbyterians Evangelize

Lifestyle evangelism is a matter of speaking, inviting and receiving. We learn to speak about our Christian faith to others; to share what difference the presence of God and the support of the Christian community make in our lives, especially in times of suffering and transition. We tell others of the spiritual resources and guidance we find through prayer, Bible reading, worship and service.

An example: Ernie, a seminary student, mobilized colleagues to make and distribute peanut butter and jelly sandwiches (PBJ mission) to hungry people in Austin. Ernie looked each recipient in the eye and said, "Jesus loves you."

The most mature articulation of the Christian faith I have ever seen was my mother's during the 66 days between the discovery of her cancer and her death. Her love, joy, peace and confidence in God's plan in life and in death were a powerful testimony that touched many lives.

Many people around us are searching and hurting. After we articulate our faith to them, or if we simply cannot yet do that, we can *invite* people to attend a Bible study, a support group appropriate to their need, or a church service. While not all will accept our invitations, we will find that people are more spiritually hungry and open to receive them than we are to extend them.

Most people go to a church initially because they are invited, and many are simply waiting to receive an invitation. When people respond to our invitations or come to our churches on their own initiative, we must *receive* them in Jesus' name and way. From the moment visitors enter the church property, their ease in navigating the facilities, the way they are greeted, the understandability of the service, the relevance of the message, the response of people to them after the service, the follow-up calls, letters or visits — each is a positive or negative witness to the gospel.

First impressions are determinative. Do visitors feel welcomed? Do they feel that we are a warm, inclusive community or a closed, exclusive clique? Especially when people are different in any way from the majority, do they feel accepted? After all, when we receive the "least of these," we receive Jesus Christ.

Excerpt from: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/today/evangelism/>



Make Plans to Attend a Day With Author Phyllis Tickle Hosted by Grand Canyon and DeCristo Presbyteries February 4 at Mission Del Sol in Tempe

"The Great Emergence, whatever else it is or may become, is first and foremost the product of a recurrent pattern in Christian affairs. There is considerable benefit to all of us in exposing the presence of that pattern to public view. For one thing, seeing it allows those of us who are living through the current upheaval to more accurately evaluate and more wisely address the changes that seem at times almost to be swamping our ship. For another – and this often feels more important at a personal level – discovering and exposing pattern can greatly diminish our sense, either corporately or individually, that somehow, 'This mess must be our/my fault. It must be because of something we/I did somewhere back along the way.' That simply is not true in the grand details, though it may be in some of the more minor, enabling ones. Guilt is neither appropriate, justified, or productive, in other words, when one comes to consider prayerfully and faithfully the Great Emergence. And there is no better way to shed the weight of it than by looking with clear eyes and informed minds at what has got us to this place." [From *The Great Emergence* by Phyllis Tickle, pg. 41-42.]

Leading through times of change can be challenging. What are helpful ways to shepherd through the present into the future?

Come hear Phyllis Thickle speak to this and more on February 4, 2012, from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church in Tempe. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch. See presbytery website for registration form:

www.pbygandcanyon.org/documents/090111RegistrationForm.pdf

6th Annual Musical Extravaganza— Salute to African American Composers

Southminster Presbyterian Church invites you to join them on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 2:00 pm at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at South Mountain Community College.

This musical extravaganza kicks off Black History month for all ages with entertainment and fun. The program will consist of a wide range of instrumental and vocal music including classical, gospel, jazz, their Children's Choir and The Karen Scott Band.

Among the extraordinary local talent featured is Isola Jones, internationally recognized as an extraordinary mezzo soprano. Within two years of her professional debut in the Verdi Requiem with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Jones made her Metropolitan Opera debut in the role of Olga in Eugene Onegin. Since then she has sung more than 500 performances as a leading artist at "The Met," paired with such international artists as Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, Leontyne Price, and Joan Sutherland. As adjunct Voice instructor at South Mountain Community College, Ms.

Jones has a vested interest in the South Mountain community.

Also appearing on stage will be the smooth sounds of Jimmie McElroy, a local favorite who will present a special tribute to Rev. Dr. George B. Brooks, Sr., founding pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church. The audience will also enjoy music by the Karen Scott Band, the Southminster youth performing "The Lord's Prayer" as liturgical dance from the musical *Sarafina*, and other musicians and vocalists in this Prelude to Black History Month.

The proceeds will benefit Southminster Presbyterian Church programs, including Youth Ministries and Outreach Programs. The Extravaganza promises to provide a gratifying experience to all in attendance. Tickets are available now: \$40 for Adults and \$15 for Students (with ID) and children.

There are flyers posted on the bulletin boards on the patio with more information. Contact Vikki Greene at Southminster, 602-276-2582, for tickets and more information.

Farewell, Patti!
You will be missed.



Patti's new address:
Patti Shelton
375 Arthur Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71105-3237
patti.shelton3@gmail.com

Palo Cristi in the News

Little by little Palo Cristi is gaining visibility. Here are a few websites that have mentioned our church:

- *Grand Canyon Presbytery* <http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org>
- *Waymark lists Palo Cristi Presbyterian Church Peace Pole - Paradise Valley, AZ Image Gallery* <http://bit.ly/rTuYvZ>
- *Upbeat Spiritual Living by Kebba Buckley* <http://bit.ly/skyaNp>
- *Gay Affirming Churches in Arizona AZ* <http://bit.ly/toYlF>
- *Women's Community Connection* <http://bit.ly/sXM6eK>
- *PFLAG Phoenix: Local Churches & Religious Centers (Gay & Gay-Friendly)* <http://bit.ly/u6eD&J>
- *Phoenix New Times/Voice Places: Palo Cristi Presbyterian Church* <http://bit.ly/v0mLoj>



Don't forget to check out Palo Cristi's Facebook page, too! You can find it here: <http://on.fb.me/tZWuoz>

You can help! If you have a Facebook page or Twitter account, why not share Palo Cristi news. When you've been touched by a worship service, post it on your Facebook page. When you've had a great conversation with a friend at Palo Cristi, let your other friends know what a great place we are for making friends. You don't have to have use social media to do this. You can simply tell a friend what a blessing it is to be part of this congregation.



Birthdays

- 1/1 Diana Sommer
- 1/3 Ann West
- 1/4 Alice Niles
- Kathy Bonnell
- 1/6 Glenda Eaton
- Mary Muesegades
- 1/10 Ariel Gordon
- 1/12 Camille Sommer
- 1/13 Joan Fenton
- Jonathan Jackson
- 1/16 Grant Gordon
- 1/18 Susan Phelps
- 1/23 Louise Pelissier
- Natalie Pietracarlo

- 1/28 Dylan Swartz
- 1/31 Peggy Allaire
- Rebecca Argueta-Vogel
- Matthew Butterworth
- Pat Jasmann

Anniversaries

- 1/21 John and Iva Faulds

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 5

Agenda:

- Receive Annual Reports
- Learn about 2012 plans
- Receive Approved Budget
- Approve Pastor Debra's Terms of Call (salary package)





3535 E. Lincoln Dr.
 Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
 Phone—602-955-6080
 Fax—602-955-8729
 Email—office@palocristipres.org
 Web Site—www.palocristipres.org



Palo Cristi
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Postmaster:
 Address Change Service

Church Office hours:

Tue.-Fri. 10 am to 12:30 pm
 and 1:30 pm to 4 pm

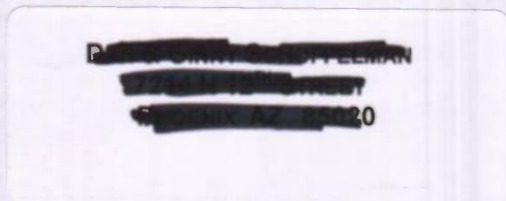
Pastor Debra's Drop-In Hours:

Tuesdays @ Mama Java's
 (36th and Indian School)
 8:30 to 11 am

Wednesdays @ PCPC
 1 to 3 pm

Thursdays @ PCPC
 11 am to 1 pm

Other times by appointment



Presbyterian Women Triennial
Ladies, Get Ready!!
 8502085135 0096 July 18-22, 2012



*final*thoughts...

As the Old Year Passes

As the old year passes
 we look back, reflect:
 times of joy and promise,
 times we'd best forget.
 God of the ages
 help us walk your way.
 Help us greet your future,
 seize tomorrow's day

As the old year passes
 sorrow wells within:
 loved ones no more 'round us,
 all that could have been.
 God of compassion
 heal each ailing heart.
 Guide us to your future
 where new life may start

As the old year passes
 we cry for our struggling
 world.
 Climate ever-changing,
 fighting too-often heard.
 God, you have called us
 to cherish all you give.
 Call us to your future
 where all in peace, might live

As the new year dawns now
 we would give you praise.
 Faithful God, come lead us
 onward in new ways.
 We'll love and serve you
 in the faith of Christ,
 in your Spirit's future;
 people of new life.

Words: David MacGregor © 2007
 Willow Publishing
 Music: Noel Nouvelet - TIS 382



**Happy
 New Year!
 May 2012
 be filled
 with many
 blessings!**