



The Call Newsletter  
 Christ Presbyterian Church  
 December 2018 - Volume 18 / Issue 12

PRACTICING REST IN A SEASON OF RUSH

Our Vision

To know Christ and to make Christ known, by developing disciples in meaningful community and doing the work of Christ in our neighborhood and world.

Our Mission

We will be a church:  
**Of, By and For God's people.**

Our Focus

- +Worship
- +Education
- +Nurture
- +Outreach

Our Slogan

Growing in Christ as He teaches us to serve.

Rev. Dr. Tony Stiff  
 Rev. Brett Everett  
 Rev. Mike Shirey

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

- 1 Neely Memorial  
Advent Workshop/Santa Picture
- 8 Old-Fashion Christmas Concert
- 15 Popejoy Memorial  
Bloom Event
- 25/26 Merry Christmas —  
Office Closed

Every Advent season I create space in my life to slow down so I can pray and reflect upon a special prayer written by Henri Nouwen. Nouwen was a famous Catholic priest in the late twentieth century. He became one of the most widely read Christian authors during his lifetime, publishing over forty books, while he served as a professor at both Yale and Harvard. In his retirement Nouwen became a 'struggling' disability care provider at a L'Arche Fellowship home in Ontario, Canada, called Daybreak. In his memoirs Nouwen often confessed that he received far more from those he cared for than he provided them, which his colleagues at Daybreak regularly attested to.

Nouwen learned over his many years as he traveled all over the world, as a lecturer and well-loved author, the truth about how the rushed paces of our modern lives pull us away from having the time to love God, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbors well. Nouwen believed the greatest gift a person can receive is to be reminded they are the beloved of God in Christ. That in His Son, God the Father adopts you and now delights to call you son or daughter. Because of your adoption in Christ, the Spirit comes and makes His home in your harried modern life and gives you rest.

As we enter this season of Advent, I want to encourage you to create space in your lives to reflect on this Advent prayer from Henri Nouwen. Consider using it to practice rest in this season of rush.

*Rev. Dr. Tony Stiff*

*Lord Jesus.*

*Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for  
Christmas.*

*We who have so much to do,  
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.*

*We who are anxious over many things,  
look forward to your coming among us.*

*We who are blessed in so many ways,  
long for the complete joy of your Kingdom.*

*We whose hearts are heavy,  
seek the joy of your presence.*

*We are your people,  
walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.*

*To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus! Come!"  
Amen.*

# Associate Pastor...

## "SQUEEZING" CHRIST INTO CHRISTMAS

Picking out the tree...laughing at dad's "Charlie Brown" tree selection... trimming and adorning the tree and saguaro with popcorn and "family-treasured" ornaments... hanging the stockings... making Christmas cookies... sending out Christmas cards, emails and JibJabs®... reminding family members back east that you won't be shoveling snow on Christmas day or thawing out water pipes... attending Christmas programs at your children's schools... shopping at 5 AM... watching other shoppers engage in fist fights at 5:01 AM over a \$5 item... watching *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Elf*, and *Christmas Story* umpteen times... hanging icicle lights inside and out... workplace Christmas parties... more workplace Christmas parties... indigestion from food consumed at workplace Christmas parties... making Christmas dinner... hanging the mistletoe... pondering who will trap you under the mistletoe... taking down the mistletoe... singing Christmas carols at a care center... cashing in the Christmas bonus from your boss for a free Big Mac at McDonald's... writing a wish list for Santa Claus... making threats about Santa not visiting "bad" boys and girls... listening for reindeer on the rooftop... finishing up college finals... attending chilly school soccer games, visits to rarely seen family members... hiding gifts from snooping children... wrapping gifts... last minute shopping for that "hard to buy for" person on the list... Christmas Eve Service at the church... decking the Halls... apologizing to the Hall family for unnecessary violence against them (What does "Decking the halls" mean anyway?)... boycotting the phrase "Grandma got run over by a reindeer" from all family conversation within earshot of Grandma... opening Advent calendar "doors"... drinking favorite teachers... spending the account... waiting in long lines... elephants have to do with the snow angels in the AZ dirt... neighbor's party because he visiting Christmas Lane... making your children while they scream lap... airport headaches... the family cat from the fallen adorning the tree for a second a family cat... buying a more whom you thought would spend paper than on his gift for you... drippings from the candlelight spreading Christmas cheer... hour Wal-Mart availability... baby's first Christmas 1:30, 2:31, 3:32, 4:43, and time to open presents... playing your gifts came in... setting up Rudolph and Santa out of the lump of coal for that difficult child or spouse... catching dad watching football games in the electronics' section when he was supposed to be shopping for mom... wishing you were at work rather than the mall... eating Christmas cookies... pulling tinsel out of the vacuum's belt and pickup brush... smelling the sweet pine aroma from the Christmas tree (Or from the Christmas tree scented spray!)... spending hours wondering whether everyone liked their gifts and why snow is white... celebrating with the entire family under one roof... making three point shots into the "big" garbage bag with wadded up wrapping paper... burning your mouth on the chestnuts roasted on an open fire... "cotton ball" snowball fights... skiing at Jackson Hole... visiting the emergency room for treatment of skiing-related injuries... hanging up received Christmas cards... allowing your children to open one gift on Christmas Eve... playing the "best rock ever" in the school Christmas pageant... taking back the Xbox because "he really wanted the PlayStation"... catching some much-needed "Zs" after a busy holiday season... tearing down the tree... one last laugh at dad's "Charlie Brown" tree... placing the Christmas decorations in the attic... promising the HOA the icicle lights would come down soon... wondering where Christmas went, but glad it only comes once a year... wishing it all could be much simpler than what it is... knowing that you have unintentionally squeezed Christ out of Christmas again...

### No one has to miss the reality of Christmas!

*"...she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the Inn." (Luke 2:7)*

In the midst of your busy "holiday" schedule, will you make room in the "Inn of your heart" for the true miracle of Christmas? Don't be like the Innkeeper, for he was one of the many who missed Christmas!

### Great News!!! God is with us!!!

*"...they will call him **Immanuel** - which means, 'God with us.'" (Matt. 1:23)*

During this Christmas season, make an encounter with Christ your first priority. My prayer is that you would truly cherish this holy season and be filled with the contagious joy of knowing Christ! In the spirit of Advent, come Lord Jesus, come! Pastor Brett

eggnog... getting gifts for your last penny of your Christmas wondering what white Christmas season... making crashing the brought in snow... weird faces at on Santa's removing tree... time... realizing you don't have expensive gift for that person more money on wrapping burning your finger on wax Christmas Eve service... praising God for twenty four Christmas Eve parties... making unforgettable... waking up at 5:35am and asking mom if it's with the cardboard boxes that the Nativity figurines... taking manger scene... purchasing a



## CREDO IN PICTURES

In the last month, the students and youth leaders of Credo Youth Ministries took some time to serve our community, as well as to express gratitude, to our faithful God for all His amazing and generous provisions. By way of service projects, our middle school tweens and teens packed knitted hats for Knitting for the Needy (CPC member Jan Shaffer) as part of their "Middle School Night" festivities. Our high school students and confirmands packed homeless kits on High School Night. These kits will be distributed by CPC member, Daniel Enzi, as he seeks to establish meaningful relationships with the homeless of the west valley through prayer, Scripture and encouragement. Between the two events, all the hats and homeless bags were prayed over, and our youth had the chance to meet those persons who passionately lead these impactful ministries.

Service projects were just the beginning, however! There was also time for devotions and lots of fun! On Sundays, November 4 and 18, our students participated in a "Pizza and Play" event (Video and Board Game Competition) as well as our annual "T-Day Extravaganza." The latter featured numerous themed games including "Stuff the Turkey," "Apple Paring," "Gobble, Gobble, Shoot," "Turkey Trounce," and "Harvest Helpers."



**Attention Parents:** It's that time of year again when your Credo student will be coming home with the annual 2019 Credo Parent-Student Information Request Packet. Please fill these out and return them promptly to ensure that your student won't miss out on any of the fun in 2019.



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*You are cordially invited to discover anew what really happened when "God touched this planet!"*

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### WHAT?

Pastor Brett will be offering a 4-week, video Bible study that follows pastor/author Adam Hamilton as he travels in Israel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The study will feature a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus through a creative balance of historical information, archaeological data, a personal look at some of the stories surrounding Christ's birth, and of course, some meaningful group discussion!

### WHO?

This study is intended to be intergenerational and is open to all tweens, teens and adults.

### WHEN?

TWO ADVENT SEASON OFFERINGS...

Remaining Wednesdays- 12/5, 12/12, 12/19 from 10:00-11:00am or 6:30-7:30pm

### WHERE?

Room 204a in the Education Building

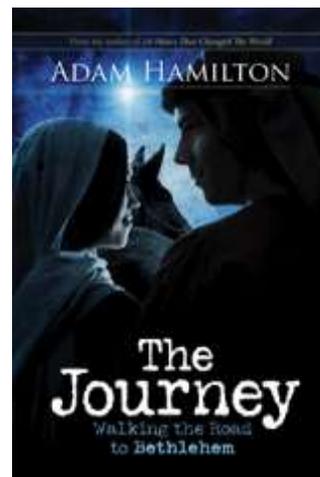
### COST?

There is no cost to attend.  
Child care is not provided.

### RSVP?

Though not required, it will help ensure adequate seating and handouts.

To RSVP, please call the Church Office at (623) 882-0721 or email [info@cpcgoodyear.org](mailto:info@cpcgoodyear.org)



*Pastor Brett*

## Music Ministry...

### NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the holiday season approaches, here are must dates to add to your calendar:

Sunday, December 2 at 1:00 p.m. – *I Am Family Uganda Children's Choir* will perform a joyful and colorful concert to benefit the Uganda Adopt a Child Program. We hosted them several years ago, and your response to this talent-filled choir was "bring them back soon." So, we have. Invite friends and family and especially children to this heart-warming event.

Saturday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m. – the CPC Music Department invites you to *An Old-Fashioned Christmas* featuring the Chancel Choir, Praise Ringers, Praise Team, Readers' Theater, Youth and Children's Choirs, soloists, and you, the congregation. Come enjoy festive holiday music and sing your favorite carols.

Friday and Saturday, January 11 and 12 at 7:00 in the Atrium. The secret event that I have teased you with

for the past several months can finally be revealed. The CPC Chancel Choir, guest soloist and professional orchestra will present a fully staged production of the opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, the magical tale of a young shepherd boy and his encounter with the three kings. Friday night will be an open dress rehearsal. As an outreach to the community we are inviting local school students and teachers to attend. Families with children may want to attend Friday night as there will be an opportunity to visit with the singers and instrumentalists. The Saturday night performance is for you, your family and friends. The event is free and open to the public. I have loved and conducted this opera for sixty years. This special production is my gift to **you, my way of saying “thank you” to this wonderful church family which has been so welcoming and supportive of me.**

So please come to these special musical events. I guarantee you will be filled with the spirit of this most joyous and blessed season.

Can I hear an “Amen” to that?

*David Wilson,  
Director of Music*



## Nurture and Equipping Ministry...

### WHAT DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE?

The next New Member Class will be Sunday, February 24, 2019. A light lunch is provided and, if needed, childcare. New members will be welcomed on Sunday, March 10th, at the service of their choice. Please indicate your interest in participating in the class by completing the Welcome card in the chairback on Sunday or calling the office at 623-882-0721. Also, feel free to attend the class if you just want more information about CPC. There is no pressure to become a member on the day you attend class.



# Deacon Ministry...

Charisma Luat Guese – Care Community #4

I was born in the Philippines and migrated to the US with my mom when I was six months old. I grew up in Chicago and lived there for 38 years. I was a true local girl, going to school in Chicago's North Side (not the suburbs!) until I graduated college. After undergrad, I went to Marquette University Dental School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I got my DDS degree in 1999. Upon graduation, I went back to Chicago and practiced there for 13 years. It was also in Chicago where I reconnected with my childhood friend, Neil. In God's time, we eventually married in 2009, 30 years after first meeting him. In 2010, our son Joshua was born. We eventually grew tired of shoveling snow and the below zero winters, so when an opportunity came to me to practice in AZ, we decided to take a leap of faith and move to Goodyear in 2012. I am currently practicing at Aesthetic Dentistry of Glendale, which is in the heart of the downtown Glendale area.

After searching for two years for a church home, we finally found CPC and it has been a tremendous blessing to be part of the church. I am currently the Vice Moderator for the Deacon Board. Besides my Deacon duties, I serve on the Worship Team (piano and vocals) and lead the Bloom Ministry. I am also part of the Pastor Nominating Committee. Next year, I will be taking over for Judy Harding as Deacon Moderator. Our family is thankful to God for leading us to CPC and for the relationships we have formed with our fellow covenant partners.

The coffee hour schedule for December is as follows:

December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Michael Santel	Group 1	powerofprayer7364@icloud.com
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Holli Bishop	Group 3	hollibishop07@gmail.com
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Stacy Spetter	Group 2	sspetter@aol.com
December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Charisma Guese	Group 4	charisma.luat@gmail.com
December 30 <sup>th</sup>	Cathy Yordy	Group 17	bobcat57@cox.net

*The kitchen usage policy has been posted in the kitchen. Please read and follow the common-sense guidelines when using the kitchen and pantry. THANK YOU!*

## BARGAIN BOARD!

Look for the Deacon sponsored Bargain Bulletin Board hanging in the breezeway advertising household items for sale or give away/donation (no pets, vehicles or business cards/ads). Please use the cards in the plastic envelope attached to the bulletin board to indicate the details of the item(s)

**for sale/donation along with the seller's contact information. Buyers will contact the seller to work out the details of the sale and arrange pick-up.**

Postings will remain on the board for 30 days and may be reposted for an additional 30 days, if needed.

Please contact Shirley Castor with questions – phone: 308-340-0512 or email bobshirl@cox.net



*Judy Harding  
Moderator – Board of Deacons*

# Mission & Outreach Ministry...

## TRUNK OR TREAT

Our 2018 Trunk or Treat was a huge success with over 750 in attendance. The hot air balloon was a major attraction, as were all the trunks, costumes, games, and food. What a great autumn outreach to our community! Thank you to all who helped make this a special event!

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all who packed Shoeboxes for this year's Operation Christmas Child. As of the printing of the article, we turned in 236 boxes from the congregation plus 50 from our MOPS group. A few more may come in this week. We are still hoping to reach our goal of 300. I will report the final total next month.

## HAITI MISSION TRIP

The Travel Team for the 2019 Haiti trip has grown to 19. They are meeting monthly to make preparations. All the rest of us are the Home Team. Our primary job is to keep praying for all of our sponsored children, the village of Los Aguas, the Food for Hungry staff, and all the details concerning this trip. In addition we need to support the fundraisers that the Traveling Team is planning.

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

We have a packing session scheduled at the Mesa Center on January 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:30. We have reserved places for 20 volunteers. We want both adults and youth to participate. There is a student-to-adult ratio required. For safety reasons, children under the age of 5 are not allowed. Grades K-2: 1 student to 1 adult, Grades 3-6: 3 students to 1 adult, Grades 7-9: 4 students to 1 adult, and Grades 10-12: 5 students to 1 adult. If you would like to participate please contact either Sydney Roosa or Pastor Brett.

## CHRISTMAS JUG

Christmas is fast approaching. Please help us fill the jug with your extra change, or even greenbacks. Our Credo Youth will select families that are in need and distribute the collected funds later this month.

## DAYS FOR GIRLS

We're turning periods into pathways. Days for Girls Surprise Chapter increases access to menstrual care and education by providing washable feminine hygiene solutions to impoverished women who had previously gone without feminine hygiene products. This enables them to live with independence. Join CPC on the second Saturday of each month in 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in room 203 to prepare sustainable **feminine hygiene kits to be distributed to mission teams. Can't make Saturdays but would like to help,** contact Leissa Gashler at leissa@cox.net.

## PICK YOUR PASSION

Remember that we are always looking for donations of various items each month. Place your donations in the appropriate labeled bins in the hall way off the atrium. There is always need for non-perishable food item for **the Agua Fria Food Bank. The Food Bank no longer accepts egg cartons, so please don't bring them.** Agua Fria also accepts clothing donations and there is a bin for that.

- \* Heavenly Hygiene Kits: items needed are soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo and conditioner
- \* Days for Girls: items needed are gallon-size Ziploc® freezer bags, girls panties sizes 10-14, travel soaps, safety pins, terry cloth washcloths, and 100% cotton cloth remnants in solids or prints
- \* Agua Fria Food Bank: items collected all year long are canned goods and non-perishables

\* Clothing bin: please place items for the Knitting for the Needy in this bin

Sydney Roosa  
Elder – Mission & Outreach

## Specialized Ministries...

### MEN OF I.A.M.

**December 8<sup>th</sup> Program** – Join us at 8 a.m. in the Atrium for a special program led by our own **Pastor Tony!** His topic will be Millennials As Mosaics – The textured world of 21<sup>st</sup> century young adults.



We will once again be serving our traditional Steak & Eggs breakfast! Tickets are on sale during fellowship coffee hour to give us an idea how many steaks to buy.



*Bonus: Those men wishing to stay afterwards for a few minutes can see a drone demo on the patio.*



**Warming Oven** – The Men of I.A.M. have purchased a Warming Oven for the church. This photo shows it in use for the Veterans Day Breakfast. It works great!

Speaking of the Veterans Day Breakfast, thanks to Tony Madrid for his efforts – especially arranging for a great speaker on short notice.



**2019 Program** – We have chosen the book, *Life of Christ*, as the basis of our Bible Study in 2019.



**Feed the Youth** – The Men of I.A.M. feed the youth on the second Sunday evening of each month at 6 p.m. in Room 209. This a great chance to meet and chat with members of our youth group. Contact John Reichard for further info.

For further information, please contact:



*John Reichard, President*  
623-512-0238  
[bassncd53@gmail.com](mailto:bassncd53@gmail.com)



*Scott Phillips, Secretary*  
623-340-9158  
[sphillipsaz@cox.net](mailto:sphillipsaz@cox.net)

# Loss of a Spouse

Church Initiative has developed a two-**hour seminar called, "Loss of a Spouse"**. As the title implies, this is intended for those who are grieving the recent loss of a spouse.

We will offer this on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to Noon.

We will advertise this throughout the West Valley.

Please invite anyone you know who would benefit from this Caring Ministry. Contact Carol Phillips so we will know how many to expect.



**Bloom:** Holiday in Bloom event is Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> in Atrium from 1 – 2:30 p.m. Our speaker will be Jessica Stiff.

**Not to be outdone...** If the Men of IAM are having Pastor Tony and steak, we'll have Jessica and cookies!!! *SEE article elsewhere in this issue.*



*For more Information, contact  
Carol Phillips,  
623-340-9205 or [cphillips02@cox.net](mailto:cphillips02@cox.net)*

*Carol Phillips  
Elder, Specialized Ministries*

*L.A.F.*

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

L.A.F. will be meeting on December 18th at the Golden Corral located on the corner of Dysart and Van Buren at 1:00 p.m.

We will be celebrating Christmas by having everyone bring a gift. Spend no more than \$5.00 or some white elephant item from your house. We will draw the gifts by number and can be drawn by someone else if they like what you got. That can only be done twice, and it is locked down. Please come and join us. It's a way to meet and mix with others in your church. We have loads of fun.

*God Bless, Lovey*

## W.O.W.

All are welcome! Join us for a special Christmas Celebration on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in room 102.

**Readings about God's love** -love is a verb

Sing favorite carols

Reading – “*Trouble at the Inn*”, by Dina Donohue

Simple craft – glitter is a good thing

Closing – **Mary's Prayer**

Cookie exchange (each member brings 2 dozen favorite cookies to share. Bring a small container in which to take cookies home, and yes, you can also eat them at the meeting)

Merry Christmas to all. May God's love surround you.

*Line Sauer, Moderator 623-849-6402*

*Lil Kerswill, Secretary 602-999-1499*

## KNITTING FOR THE NEEDY

Credo middle school youth helped label and pack 140 handmade items for Christmas delivery to local and worldwide charities. Knit and crocheted items will go to Banner Estrella newborns, Project Linus blanket ministry, Youth Connection homeless teens, Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, and Operation Gratitude military servicemen and women.

If you would like to participate or learn more about this meaningful outreach yarn ministry, contact Jan Shaffer at [summoningstone@gmail.com](mailto:summoningstone@gmail.com).

*Jan Shaffer*



## BLOOM

The Bloom Ministry is inviting all CPC women to “Christmas in Bloom,” on Saturday, December 15, at 1 p.m. This is a great opportunity to have fellowship time with one other, meet new friends or catch up with those you haven't seen in awhile! Our featured guest speaker will be Jessica Stiff. Jessica has an amazing story to share with us. It is also our chance to formally welcome her into our church family, so please take this opportunity to meet and talk with her.

We will also be having a Cookie Exchange! If you have a yummy cookie recipe you'd like to share, please feel free to bring your cookies and recipes and take some home. Light refreshments, a hot cocoa/coffee bar, centerpiece auction, and raffle/door prizes are some of the things we have planned. Tickets are \$5. Hope to see you there! Bloom Where You're Planted!

CPC'S BLOOM MINISTRY PRESENTS  
**Christmas In Bloom**  
AN AFTERNOON OF FELLOWSHIP WITH THE WOMEN OF CPC-

<b>Cookie Exchange</b> YOU MADE THEM, NOW TRADE THEM! BRING A DOZEN COOKIES AND THE RECIPES TO EXCHANGE	<b>FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER:</b> <i>Jessica Stiff</i>	<i>Centerpiece Auction</i> <i>Raffle/Door Prizes</i> <i>Hot Cocoa Bar</i> <i>Light Refreshments</i>
<b>SATURDAY DECEMBER 15, 2018 1:00PM</b>		<b>TICKETS: \$5</b>
FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT CHARISMA DUESE CHRISMA.DUESE@GMAIL.COM		CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

# Children's & Family Ministry...

Greetings Christ Presbyterian Church! I'm Brandin Francabandera and I'm excited and honored to serve you as the new director of Children & Young Family Ministry. Throughout my career, I've spent over a decade leading youth and children's ministry. My wife, Laura, and I met in youth group as young teenagers and were high school sweethearts. We married in 2001 and spent the next four years at Simpson University in Redding, CA getting our undergraduate degrees (hers in History and mine in Bible and Theology). We took a couple years after college to explore and ended up living in the Phoenix Area (Fountain Hills and Scottsdale) while I went to the Motorcycle Mechanics Institute and graduated as a Harley technician. Our oldest son, Judah, was born in Scottsdale in 2007. We moved back home to Sacramento, CA right after he was born to take up leadership of the youth ministry program at Authentic Life Church in Auburn, CA. Our second son, Elijah, was born there in 2009.

In 2010, I felt the Lord calling me to further my education. I began my Masters in Theology at the Sacramento campus of Fuller Theological Seminary. In 2012, we moved to the main Fuller campus in downtown Pasadena to complete my program on site. We remained in Pasadena until I was called by Centerpoint Community Church in Roseville, CA as the Director of Jr. High Ministry. I led the Jr. High Ministry for two years while I completed my Masters.

After completing my MA in Theology at Fuller Seminary in 2015, God called my family and me to move to **Aberdeen, Scotland where I would pursue a second master's degree in theological ethics and begin a PhD in divinity researching Dietrich Bonhoeffer's use of Scripture in his theological ethic. We spent three amazing years in Scotland, visiting castles on the weekends and learning to love haggis. In February, Laura's dad passed away and we moved back to the states to be closer to family, search for ministry opportunities, and finish my PhD work.** Phoenix has always held a special place in our hearts, as this is where our family story really started. So we chose to make Goodyear our home. Laura is working as a librarian here in the West Valley and Judah and Elijah currently attend the Odyssey Preparatory Academy in Buckeye and are busy **making new friends and enjoying the sunshine (there wasn't much of that in Scotland).**

God has placed children and young families on my heart throughout my entire ministry and education. My desire is to see children and youth come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ so that they learn what it means to live as a follower of Jesus in every area of their lives.

I am extremely excited to be a part of the church community here at CPC and I look forward to everything God is going to do as we all come together to accomplish His purposes. Thank you all for the warm welcome you have given me, and I look forward to serving with you!



## AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

An Old-Fashioned Christmas, a dynamic presentation of the music of the Christmas season, will be presented on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. **It will include the children presenting "At the Manger". All ages of children are invited to join in the fun.** There will be no extra rehearsals or costumes to make, because all the music and action will be taught in the Sunday School classes. For more information, contact Libbie Randels at: [libbier70@cox.net](mailto:libbier70@cox.net).

## Finance Team...

### 2018 Contribution Report

YTD Actual Income	\$690,933
YTD Actual Expenses	\$756,443
Surplus/Deficit	\$(65,511)

## Worship Ministry...

Did you know sermons are available on our Facebook page and website located at [www.cpcgoodyear.org](http://www.cpcgoodyear.org)?

If you prefer, please call the office or email [hollie@cpcgoodyear.org](mailto:hollie@cpcgoodyear.org) and a CD of the sermon can be made for you. The cost is \$3.00 per CD. If you are interested in an entire sermon series, we can put the sermon series on a USB drive. The cost is \$6.00.

## Session...

### UPDATE FROM CPC SESSION

Your Elders have been very active the past few weeks. On November 3<sup>rd</sup> the Elders and Pastor Brett attended an off-site Session retreat organized and facilitated by Pastor Tony. This intensive three hour gathering in one of the meeting rooms at the Pebble Creek resort gave your church leaders some detailed insight to the vision of our new Sr. Pastor has in mind for Christ Presbyterian Church. Pastor Tony outlined what our future could look like, why he feels that way, and the steps needed to get there. For the Elders this well-

organized retreat was very informative, interesting and exciting.  
Other actions taken include:

- **Acknowledged the hiring of Brandin Francabandera for the 'Director of Children and Family Ministry' position.**
- Approved the purchase of equipment that will allow CPC to have a live feed of our worship service sermons. This is important to allow guests, snowbirds and home bound people to participate in our worship.
- It was approved to allow T-Mobile to install a cell tower on the rear of our property. This action will result in substantial revenue.
- Elder are now using a new common form and format to prepare their monthly reports. The new report helps to streamline what information within each committee needs to be brought to Session.
- **Session approved for Uganda Children's Choir to perform on December 2nd at an appropriate time and for a love offering to be taken and a meal served following the concert to be funded via the Pastors Fund.**

*Jim Rains, Clerk of Session*

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Church Library** – There are lots of new books available in the library. Come and look! If you wish to read a book or two, please feel free to take them and return after you have finished. We currently do not have a way to check out books. **Please put the returns on the cart labeled "returns". There are several categories of books including a large section of fiction and children's books. There are also several jig-saw puzzles available. If you wish to donate any books or puzzles, please put them on the "returns" cart. For questions or comments, contact: Kay Kenney (kay\_kenney@outlook.com) or Kathleen Davidson (kequilterqueen@yahoo.com)**

**Church Photographer** – Do you have a passion for taking pictures? CPC is looking for individuals to be a part of the photography team. Please let the office know if you are interested in taking pictures at church events.

**Media Team Volunteers Needed** – We are looking to grow our Sunday morning Media Team. If you have previous experience on church media teams or have relevant experience and you would like to be considered, please contact our Media Director, John Merrill, [johnm@cpcgoodyear.org](mailto:johnm@cpcgoodyear.org).

## PROGRAMS

**Sunday Flower Donations Reminder** – If you would like to order flowers for the sanctuary, the sign-up sheet is in the office. Deadline is noon on the Wednesday preceding the Sunday you want them displayed and listed in the announcements. Arrangements *in honor of* or *in memory of* are \$40. Rosebuds for birth announcements are \$15 (twins \$18). You can place the money in your offering envelope and indicate under **"other"** or **pay in the office. There are many dates available in 2018! If you would like to take the flowers home after second service, please enjoy them. Returning the vase to the admin office is appreciated - CPC**



## LOVE ONE ANOTHER



St. Stephen's chose the Stephen Ministry in response to God's love and Jesus' command. "Love one another, even as I have loved you." Stephen Ministers answer this call in a special way by "being there" for people in crisis or people who need a Christian presence amid the struggles of life. Our pastor is not able to minister to every person who needs care. So, Stephen Ministers try to help this need, and everyone needs Christian care at some point in his or her life. No one is exempt from the struggles and problems of everyday living. By listening, being there, and ministering through Christian resources such as prayer, blessing, and sharing Scriptures, Stephen Ministers can help in a unique way. Prayer keeps the lines open between people and God. Praying **specifically and intentionally for needs brings spiritual strength to ministry.** That's why all Stephen Ministers pray daily for not only their own care receiver but also, they pray for each of the other Stephen Ministers and all their care receivers. We pray that their hearts will be opened to receive God's love and God's answers as He reveals them. We thank God for the healing that has taken place in our care receivers.

**"May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).**

So, we ask that you as members of the congregation pray especially for our Stephen Ministers. Prayer has done such wonderful things for this church. We know that this request will be honored; and they will feel the strength of your prayers.

*Arlene Aamot*  
*Stephen Leader/Awareness Coordinator*

## HOW CAN I RECEIVE THE PRAYER CHAIN PRAYERS??

Every so often, we receive the question, "How do I receive the Prayer Chain Prayers?" Well, we have made it very simple. Send an e-mail to our e-prayer address: [prayinghands@cox.net](mailto:prayinghands@cox.net), and indicate that you would like to be put on the Prayer Chain. There is only one requirement, and that is that you will pray for each prayer that you receive. Indicate that commitment in your e-mail.

Once you have sent your e-mail, you will join nearly 150 others who are a part of this Chain. This is how it works: When a prayer request is sent to the e-prayer address, that request is then forwarded to the Prayer Chain Team. Within minutes of its dispatch from prayinghands, Chain Team Members have begun praying. Join this powerful group of prayer partners and watch the power of God at work through such praying.

We encourage persons who submit prayers to remember to send an update so that the Prayer Chain Team knows the current need for prayer – it might have changed to PRAISE!!

**If you don't have e-mail**, you might have a friend who could send it to you or give it to you at church; perhaps someone could give you a phone call. Give your name to the office, and they will **forward it to the Prayer Chain to see if we can find a "match" for you** – a neighbor or someone in your area.

# Happy Birthday

2	Bobbie	Teague	18	Lindsey	Bell
3	Lillyan	Higgins		Dennis	Yaremchuk
	Katie	Hinds	19	Jarod	Haupt
	Line	Sauer		Angela	Robinson
	Kathleen	Yaremchuk	20	Pam	Bakker
4	Steve	Ouandji		Mitchell	Jackson
	Effie	Rosenberger		Belinda	Weishuff
	Jess	Stiff	21	Brian	Alvarez
5	Nick	Bell		Ivy	Jones
	Paul	Eagan		Stephanie	Merrill
7	Pat	Guy		John	Rice
	James	Smith		Heather	Smith
8	Lynn	Blomquist	22	Matilda	Rickard
	Heather	Everett		Norleen	Shelton
	Pete	Owuor	23	Rev. Vicki	Jackson
9	Milea	King	24	Beverly	Graham
	Laurie	Overson		Elaine	Ross
	Kathy	Rice	25	Linda	Voegele
10	Ande	Allen	26	Lacey	Markowski
	Cynthia	Carter		Daniela	Martinez
	Carson	Gray	28	Michael	Davidson
12	Rich	Heuseveldt		Shirley	Dickover
	Barbara	Murphy		Pat	Howard
13	Wendy	Neely	29	Lori	Gary
14	Arlys	Hippen		Allison	Pulchan
	Gene	Howard	30	Ray	Lewis
15	Juliana	Bonney	31	LuAnne	Donoho
	Jeremy	Merrill		Diane	French
	Giani	Rhodes		Sue	Honson
	Jim	Scoular		Bunny	Vesledahl
16	Bob	Bruce			
	Aubree	Frauenthiener			
17	Tom	Gill			

# Happy Anniversary

5	Leslie & Rod Bernsen	15	Jill & Lee Glauvitz
6	Danile & Holly Enzi	17	John & Janice Reichard
8	Michael & Kathleen Davidson	22	Floyd & Linda Voegele
	Gladys & Pete Owuor	24	Rich & Donna Heuseveldt
9	Bill & Anita Snook	28	Ron & Jackie Harris
12	Lawrence & Afua Annoh-Opong	31	Jim & Donna Staude
14	Larry & Carol Miller		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>DECEMBER 2018</h1>						
						1
						8a MOPS Santa Pictures 9a Communion Prep 9a Antioch Grace 9a Advent Workshop 10a Praise Team  11a Neely Memorial  5p Deacon Christmas Party
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Communion Observed</b> CCS 9/10:30a 9:00a Trad. WORSHIP Children's Church 10:30a Contemp. WORSHIP Elem. Church School  12p Ministerio Hispano  4p Confirmation 6p Youth Group  Antioch Grace Church Heritage Baptist Church	 10a GriefShare  6:30p Stephen Ministry Leadership  7p Women's Bible Study	8:30a GreatLeaps    6:30p DC&K, DivorceCare 6:30p Nominating Committee 7:30p Bell Choir	8:30a GreatLeaps 9a Sewing Guild 9:30a Stephen Ministry Supervisor Meeting 10a The Journey Bible Study  6:30p The Journey Bible Study  6:30p CREDO 7p Chancel Choir 	8a MOPS Meeting 8:30a GreatLeaps 9:30a Women's Bible Study  6:30p Stephen Ministry Supervisor Meeting 6:30p Journey of Peace 6:30p Warriors' Angels  7p Al-Anon 		8a Men of I AM 9a Men's Fellowship 9a Antioch Grace 10a W.O.I.W. 10a Praise Team  4p Old-Fashion Christmas
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
CCS 9/10:30a 9:00a Trad. WORSHIP Children's Church 10:30a Contemp. WORSHIP Elem. Church School 12p Haiti Team Meeting 12p Ministerio Hispano 1p Piano Recital 4p Confirmation 6p Youth Group  Antioch Grace Church Heritage Baptist Church	10a GriefShare    7p Women's Bible Study	8:30a GreatLeaps    6:30p DC&K, DivorceCare 6:30p Nominating Committee 7:30p Bell Choir	8:30a GreatLeaps 9a Sewing Guild 10a The Journey Bible Study  6:30p The Journey Bible Study  6:30p CREDO 7p Chancel Choir	8a MOPS Meeting 8:30a GreatLeaps 9:30a Women's Bible Study  6:30p Journey of Peace 6:30p Warriors' Angels  7p Al-Anon		9a Antioch Grace  10a Praise Team  11a Popejoy Memorial  1p Bloom Holiday Event
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
CCS 9/10:30a 9:00a Trad. WORSHIP Children's Church 10:30a Contemp. WORSHIP Elem. Church School 10a Sojourners 12p Ministerio Hispano 4:30p Presbiteros 6p Youth Group  Antioch Grace Church Heritage Baptist Church	<b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>  10a GriefShare   7p Women's Bible Study	11a Finance Team 1p LAF @ Golden Corral   6:30p DC&K, DivorceCare 6:30p Nominating Committee 7:30p Bell Choir	9a Sewing Guild 9:30a Stephen Ministry Supervisor Meeting 10a The Journey Bible Study 2:30p Worship Team Meeting  6:30p The Journey Bible Study 6:30p CREDO 7p Chancel Choir	9:30a Women's Bible Study  6:30p Journey of Peace 6:30p Warriors' Angels  7p Al-Anon	8a MOPS DGL & Steering  7p Antioch Youth Bible Study	9a Antioch Grace  10a Praise Team  
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
CCS 10:30a 9:00a Trad. WORSHIP Children's Church 10:30a Contemp. WORSHIP Elem. Church School 12p Ministerio Hispano  4p Confirmation 6p Youth Group  Antioch Grace Church Heritage Baptist Church	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b> 5p Contemporary & 7p Traditional	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		  6:30p Stephen Ministry Supervisor Meeting 6:30p Journey of Peace 6:30p Warriors' Angels  7p Al-Anon		9a Antioch Grace  10a Praise Team
30	31	NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED				

## OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

There are many opportunities to know Christ  
and to make Christ known at CPC.

MEN OF I.A.M. — Saturday, December 8th at 8:00 a.m.

W.O.W. — Saturday, December 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Center for Christian Studies (CCS)

The View From the Manager Part One — Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

**Women's Bible Study "Be Free"** — Mondays at 7:00 p.m. or  
Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

Advent Series — The Journey - Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. or 6:30p.m.

## STAFF

Rev. Dr. Tony Stiff  
*Senior Pastor*

Rev. Brett Everett  
*Associate Pastor*

Rev. Mike Shirey  
*Assistant Pastor*

Holli Bishop, *Office Coordinator*

Arlene Aamot, *Office Assistant*

January Espinoza, *Bookkeeper/Treasurer*

Dr. David Wilson  
*Director of Music*

Heidi Gray  
*Praise Team Worship Leader*

Vitaly Serebriakov  
*Pianist – Traditional*

Charisma Luat Guese  
*Pianist – Contemporary*

Christ Presbyterian Church (ECO)  
925 N Sarival Avenue  
Goodyear, AZ 85338  
623-882-0721

## ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### Sunday Worship Hours

Traditional	9:00 a.m.
Contemporary	10:30 a.m.

[www.info@cpcgoodyear.org](mailto:www.info@cpcgoodyear.org)

[www.prayinghands@cox.net](mailto:www.prayinghands@cox.net)

[www.cpcgoodyear.org](http://www.cpcgoodyear.org)



Your attitude should be the same as  
that of Christ Jesus: Who...made  
himself nothing, taking the very  
nature of a servant.

Philippians 2:5-7a



ECO — A COVENANT ORDER OF EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIANS