

First Presbyterian NEWS

January 2021

Volume 22 Issue 1

A Message From Pastor Paul

So what do you say about the year 2020?

"Good riddance!"

How about, "Don't let the door hit you on the way out!"

I've got one: "I don't want to hear anything political for at least three years!"

Good luck with that!

What a trying time for ourselves and our nation can do is to make us all the more grateful for what we have. Maybe even for some of those things we take for granted.

2020 saw us expand our online presence more than we would have imagined. Ending the second decade of the 21st Century we find ourselves much more in tune with different ways of doing things. Staying in touch with loved ones, especially those far away, may become more important to us because we have to be intentional about it.

Who knows what 2021 will bring? I hear there may be flying cars.

I have heard other predictions, too.

Following the trend of the last global pandemic, the Spanish Flu, the United States experienced an economic expansion never seen before. It was called "The Roaring 20's." Will the 2020's roar this time?

The website *trendsetter* predicts pastels as the color for 2021 (which is a little vague and cheating, if you ask me), as well as designer masks.

As vaccination picks up in time for summer, expect parks and public places to explode with crowds. On the other hand, I have heard that once people pick up the practice of wearing masks (as in Asia), a lot of them do not like to let go, designer or otherwise.

My favorite quote from the Princess Bride?

Fezzik: "Why do you wear a mask? Were you burned by acid or something?"

Man in Black: "Oh, no. It's just that they are terribly comfortable. I think everyone will be wearing them in the future."

What I know is that the challenges we faced in 2020 will strengthen the determination of our family at First Presbyterian to show Christ's love to each other and to the world, beginning right here in Casa Grande. No part of that is going to change.

What do you say about a year like 2020? How about, "Dear God, thank you for all I have. Forgive me when I take it for granted. Keep my loved ones safe in 2021." Amen.

P.S. thanks for the flying cars.



January Anniversaries

- 15. Larry and Evelyn Rucas
- 24. Ron and Jan Poe



Next Newsletter Deadline:

January 15

Please submit typewritten articles to the church office or to fpccasagrande@gmail.com.

January Birthdays

- 1. Edwin Burnett, Marge Jantz
- 2. Travis Bott
- 3. Louise Fairbanks
- 5. Virginia Bender, Lydia Glenn, Carl Heinle, Karen Heinle
- 6. Elizabeth Elgin, Bill Stanick, Ida Storey
- 7. Sue Jahns
- 11. Darlene Antrobus, Chan Stiles, Peter Vogel
- 13. Nancy Powell
- 14. Harley Farar
- 17. Lydia Tate, Natalia Tate
- 19. Nathaniel Atiba-Davies
- 20. Mark Braybrooks
- 23. Janice Poe, Dean Waibel
- 24. Bobbie Antholz
- 25. Richard White
- 26. Nancy Sliver
- 31. Nancy Hancock, Sandy Morin



Deacon Spotlight

Pamela Walton

Parish Gre—Hog



With the exception of living in Sacramento for four years after graduating from ASU, Pam has lived her entire life in Casa Grande. As a CG native, she is rightfully proud of the fact that, in addition to her parents, she, her husband, and all of their four children graduated from Casa Grande Union High School. Pam is a life-long Presbyterian who originally attended the old Rock Church where she was actively involved in the youth group coordinated by Keith and Mickey Carlton. Staying at Montlure, the Presbyterian Church Camp in Greer, was often part of her summer schedule and the place that Pam established her relationship with the Lord. Pam was an elementary school teacher for 37 years, retiring 14 years ago. Since then, she has taught Sunday School, helped with Vacation Bible School, and also coordinated Angel Tree. Family is very important to Pam and her husband, Chuck, and they regularly enjoy time with their six grandchildren. This is her fourth time being a Deacon and Pam is happy to serve the Lord, her church, and her parishioners.



Church History

Rev Benjamin Henry Freye
1924-1925

Rev. Benjamin Henry Freye was born to Henry B. and Matilda (Kern) Freye in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on September 9, 1887. He was one of seven children, including Samuel Philip (1882-), Walter Martin (1885-), David William (1888-1996), Oscar Alex (1890-), George Harris (1896-), and Julia (Freye) Wilker (1900-1969). The family moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 1897. Benjamin Freye returned to Wisconsin to attend Carroll College in Waukesha, where he studied theology and was eventually ordained a Presbyterian minister. In 1908, he married Lillie Mary Busse (1887-1979) and the couple had one daughter, Harriet Lillian (1918-1996).

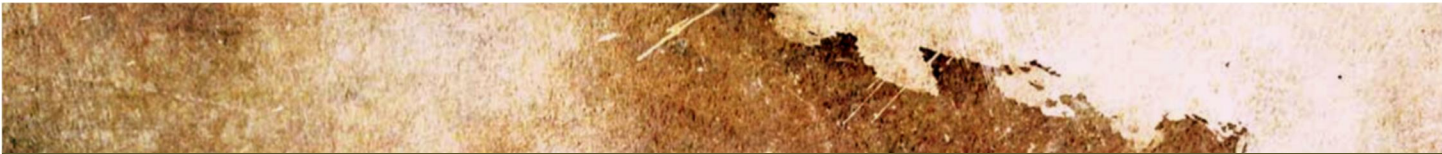
Casa Grande Bulletin April 5, 1924

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Benjamin H. Freye, Pastor of Clayton Community Presbyterian Church, of Denver, will preach at the Casa Grande Presbyterian Church, at 11:00 am and 7:30 pm Sunday, April 6. Rev. Freye comes to Casa Grande from a large congregation with the view of becoming a pastor of the church here, and we are desirous that members and friends come out and hear him. EXTRA MUSIC! Come! Come! Come!

After serving at Clayton Community Presbyterian Church, Denver, he was installed as pastor of First Presbyterian CG on May 22, 1924. Rev. Freye moved to the city with his wife and little daughter, Harriett. A reception was held at the home of Elder J.B. Steere that was attended by representatives of all the city's churches. Rev. Freye stated that he was very pleased to take over the church here and do all in his power to further its progress. In the Saturday, May 31, 1924 edition of the *Casa Grande Dispatch*, the following was reported, "The Presbyterian Church will conduct the Sunday evening services during the summer on its new building site near the manse and grade school. There "Open-Air" services will begin Sunday night, June 1, at 8:00. You will want to join in the singing but be sure to hear Rev BH Freye on 'One God and One Mediator.'" In January of 1925, Rev. Freye had the sad duty of officiating at the funeral of Billy Lipphardt, a young boy who died from the effects of cerebral meningitis. Plans were made to raise the funds needed to build a new church building. The Presbyterian Women's Auxiliary would pledge \$300 by selling turkey dinners throughout the 25 months of the drive for the new church building. Rev. Freye left March 23, 1925 to accept a call from First Presbyterian Church, Peoria. In April, Rev. John Blue was back to help fill the pulpit for a month ending on Easter Sunday. Rev. Barrows of Tucson, Rev. Cory of Benson, Rev. Hunter of Florence, and others helped keep the church going until a new pastor could be called in September of 1925.

The Freye family later moved to Denver, Colorado, where Benjamin Freye was influential in creating a local cathedral. In 1935, the family returned to Phoenix, where Benjamin Freye served as pastor of the Aurora Community Church. He also served as the State Supervising Chaplain of the Civilian Conservation Corps at the rank of Captain and as the servicemen's secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association. Benjamin Freye died of heart disease in Phoenix on March 2, 1945.



Missions

I don't think God meant for us to thank him only for the blessings that enrich our lives, but also to thank the people responsible for the little things that make our lives here on earth more pleasant.

Sometimes an expression of gratitude can make all the difference in the world to people who desperately need to know that they count, that we value them—that their actions, no matter how small, are appreciated. Some examples come to mind: the overworked clerk trying to help a long line of impatient shoppers, the poll worker spending days and nights working to count ballots, or nurses and doctors risking their lives trying to save too many COVID patients. And close to home, congregation members who purchase gifts for children of parents who are incarcerated, donate food for the Navajo people or donate laundry money and soap for the homeless and needy.

Scientists, who in the past have generally disregarded the role of thankfulness, have now discovered that gratitude is one of the most powerful human emotions, and can literally make people live longer, happier lives. The idea is to recognize the people you are thankful for, consider what your life would be like without the things you enjoy, and be intentionally grateful for them. And then take it a step further and express your gratitude.

Research has found that those who are grateful on a regular basis are healthier mentally and physically. It's like going to the gym—you have to make it a habit. Living gratefully doesn't come naturally—it's a discipline we have to consider important enough to adopt. Like having a daily quiet time or flossing your teeth. Grateful people sleep better, are physically more active, and have lower blood pressure. So there are perks to a lifestyle of gratitude. Isn't it terrific that psychology is finally catching on to what the Bible has told us for centuries?

The members of the mission team would like to express our gratitude to the congregation for all of your support this past year. In spite of all of the challenges of 2020, you have shared your time, talents, and money to help us achieve our stated mission "to be the hands and feet of Jesus." And we love you for it!



Seeds of Hope

Thank you to everyone for your financial support and for volunteering in our many different programs. As we close the year, there is another way you can support us and get an Arizona Tax Credit for yourselves! You can reduce the amount of tax owed to the state of Arizona dollar for dollar. The maximum amount continues to be \$400 for an individual and \$800 if you are filing jointly. A win, win for everyone!!

Please keep our 3rd annual 5K walk/run on **Saturday, January 9, 2021** on your calendar. We hope and pray things have returned somewhat to normal by then. A great way to start 2021 and maybe forget a little bit about 2020! This year, the race will be at Paul Mason Sports Complex. Early registration has started online. If we do have to cancel because of COVID, you will be able to get a full refund. Hope to see you there!

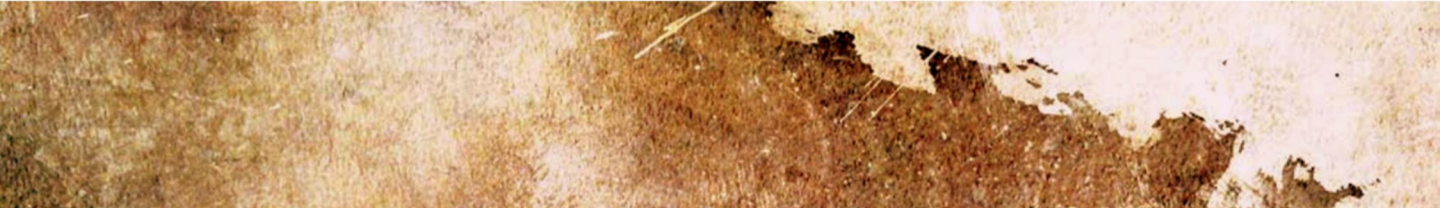


Our **annual dinner** will be quite different in **2021**. Our theme this year is “Choose Love.” It will be a redesigned event this year with our “dinner in a box.” A maximum of 200 tickets will be available, so don’t delay in purchasing them. What is inside the box? For \$50, you will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Creative Café (yum). In addition, you get a scratcher ticket with a 1 in 10 chance to win one of 20 prizes valued at \$50 or more. There will also be some other goodies in the box, including some of Sandy’s famous candy. A bound 7 x 7 report will highlight our participants, volunteers, and how we coped with the Virus while continuing our ministries in 2020. Tickets are on sale now. Boxes will be available the week of February 8 through 11. What a great idea for Valentine’s day on February 14!

For more information on these events or on any of our ministries, follow us on Facebook, our website www.seedsofhopeaz.com, or call our office at 836-6335.

Blessings to All,

Mark



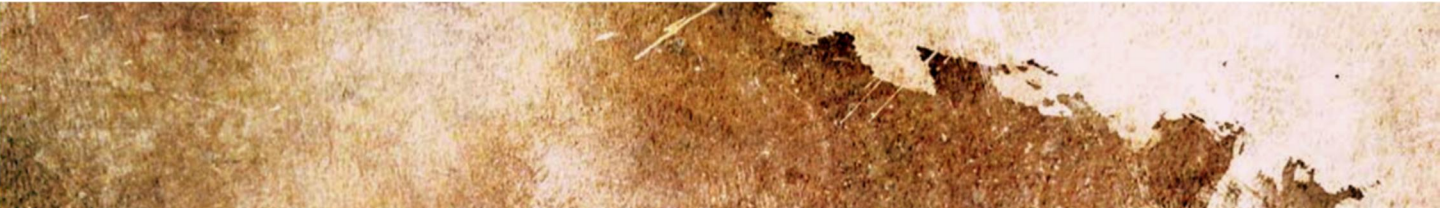
Women's Ministry

We will meet on January 19 at 10:00 am in Room 17. Dr. Perry of Villago Dental will be our guest speaker. He will be ready to answer any questions you have about dental procedures. It's time to put your thinking caps on and start writing down some questions. It will be a very informative time.

March 27 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm is our Tea Party. If you purchased a ticket last year, I have your name. In the event you did not purchase last year, see Renee Lovell for a ticket. They are \$15.00.

We will see you on January 19.

Women's
Ministry



Annual Reports

The Annual Report deadline is January 14. Ministry Leaders, please have all reports turned in to the church office by this date. They can be emailed to fpccasagrande@gmail.com. Please call Heather at (520) 836-5981 if you have any questions.

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<u>1</u> 6:45 Al- Anon	<u>2</u> 6:45 AA 8:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>3</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	<u>4</u> 8:00 Walking Group 10:30 Prayer Group	<u>5</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 9:00 Staff Meeting 3:30 Worship Team Meeting	<u>6</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori	<u>7</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 8:00 Walking Group 4:30 pm Deacons	<u>8</u> 6:45 Al-Anon	<u>9</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 8:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>10</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	<u>11</u> 8:00 Walking Group 10:30 Prayer Group	<u>12</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 9:00 Staff Meeting	<u>13</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 1:00 Missions Committee	<u>14</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 8:00 Walking Group 4:30 Deacons	<u>15</u> 6:45 Al-Anon NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<u>16</u> 6:45 AA 8:00 Eye Openers Business Meeting 8:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>17</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	<u>18</u> 8:00 Walking Group 10:30 Prayer Group	<u>19</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Women's Ministry	<u>20</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori	<u>21</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 8:00 Walking Group 3:00 Session	<u>22</u> 6:45 Al-Anon	<u>23</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 8:00 Overeaters Anonymous 8:00 POW WOW 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>24</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship <u>31</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	<u>25</u> 8:00 Walking Group 10:30 Prayer Group	<u>26</u> 9:00 Little Ones Montessori 9:00 Staff Meeting	<u>27</u> 9:00 Little Ones Montessori	<u>28</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 8:00 Walking Group	<u>29</u> 6:45 Al-Anon	<u>30</u> 6:45 AA 8:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA



Please make sure to clear all room use through the church office by calling (836-5981).

Vision Statement:

Belong to God and to each other
Believe God's word
Be more like Christ
Build a better community

Ministry Connection

Ministers: Whole Congregation

Associate Pastor	Bill Heinle
Bell Choir	Susan Quintanar
Chancel Choir	June Graber
Custodian	Harold Lovell
Grace Groups	Carol Adamavich
	Linda Irvin
Memorial Committee	Marcey Honodel
Men's Ministry	Rev. Paul Elgin
Nursery Attendants	Jasmin Diaz
	Alison Gomez
Office Manager	Heather McNutt
Organist/Pianist	Richard Hurley
Pastor	Rev. Paul Elgin
Seeds of Hope	Mark Vanderheyden
Sexton	Pete Vogel
Special Events Coord.	Renee Lovell
Stephen Ministry	Bill Heinle
Women's Bible Study	Donita Godwin
Women's Ministry	Renee Lovell

How To Reach Us

Phone: (520) 836-5981

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday

7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

(closed for lunch 12:30-1:30)

E-mail: fpccasagrande@gmail.com

pastorcgf@gmail.com

www.firstpresbyteriancasagrande.com

<https://www.facebook.com/>

[firstpresbyterianCG](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianCG)

Session

Eric Bertness (Finance)
Travis Bott (Properties)
Vicki Cooper (Missions)
Ronny Douglass (Personnel)
Jean Gomez (Christian Education)
Lester Hehr (Finance)
Denny Honodel (Finance)
Marge Jantz (Congregational Life)
Jim Morphew (Missions)
James Pickett (Properties)

ericbertness@hotmail.com
tlbaz@yahoo.com
vcooper9@centurylink.net
rwdouglass@cox.net
gojean22@yahoo.com
lmhehr@msn.com
denmar1455@yahoo.com
margejantz@gmail.com
jmorph1996@gmail.com
jamesp2305@gmail.com

Treasurer: Gary Ellis
Clerk of Session: Kay Svedjan

Deacon Parish Assignments

Betty Silguero	A-Bo
Anne Collis	Bou-Cla
Janell Heinle	Cle-El
Karen Morphew	Et-Gra
Pam Walton	Gre-Hog
Cathleen Rafferty (Awareness)	Hol-K
Sandy Morin	L-Man
Dick & Barb Bradley	Mar-Ol
Mary Jane Nichols	Or-Rem
Ron & Jan Poe	Ric-Sl
Barb Hogsett	Sm-T
John & Marlene Grentzer (Guest Services)	V-Z