

First Presbyterian NEWS

May 2021

Volume 22 Issue 5

Let me begin by wishing us all a Happy Quasquicentennial. If you don't know what that is, we might also consider that our 125th Birthday. Here is a song to help you commemorate: (sing to whatever tune comes to you): This is your Birthday song. It isn't very long. Hey!

So, Happy Birthday to us! Starting on May 5th we will be observing a six-month (or so) long celebration for our One hundred and twenty-five years of ministry in Casa Grande by the First Presbyterian Church, culminating with our Heritage Sunday in November. Isn't it just about time we started to celebrate?

On May 5th we will have a dinner celebration. We are inviting all who choose to attend to the Family Life Center (where we can really spread out). The Pork Tenderloin has already been purchased, and a Cinco de Mayo flair will start us out on a good note. Keynote speaker on that evening (beginning at 5 p.m.) will be Associate Pastor Bill Heinle, who will give us a capsule view of the history of our church. If this turns out to be a "welcome back" celebration for us as we come back from social distancing, that would be O.K., too.

Just think how differently that history has played out over the past year than any other year in our church. We now have an online presence we would never have guessed at before. We have weekly online devotions and Facebook Live broadcasts of our Sunday morning Traditional worship service. Most meetings now are offered both live and via Zoom. Some of those changes will no doubt stay, and others fade as we find our new equilibrium.¹

Our one hundred and twenty-fifth birthday isn't the only landmark we will observe this year. There will be anniversaries, birthdays, and yes, even memorial services. There will be solemnity on September 11, 2021. Our Christian walk together will continue, albeit differently, but that is the case with many things in life. Change, we discover, is one of only two constants in our world that can be counted on. The other is the love of Jesus.

It's a little bit like the Reformation. The Reformers decided the old way of doing things was not working for them anymore, so they took a step away from the way things had always been. We see that all the time in our world today, too. The difference is this: the Presbyterian model has always been, "Reformed and always reforming, according to Scripture."

How often we forget the last three words! We weep for our world and even our own denomination when we forget those words.

I am hoping that this summer we will be able to preach and teach on how important scripture is to our faith walk and how we can apply it to our everyday lives.

Somebody needs to let me know if they can find out what metal or gemstone is represented by one hundred and twenty-five years because I couldn't find one for our Quasquicentennial. Therefore I choose to think of it as our 30th, 45th, and 50th anniversaries all put together (30+45+50=125). So bring out your Pearls, Sapphires, and your Gold, because we are going to have a party!

Pastor Paul



¹ I hesitate to call it a "new normal" because of a discussion I had with someone last year. They said they thought we would snap back to a place like we had been before soon after the virus starts to decline. I was reminded of the opposite after waiting for an hour in a TSA line, something that rarely happened before 9/11, but seems to be the new paradigm today.

May Anniversaries

12. Larry and Jackie Shinn
15. Jim and Kay Mokma
18. Mike and Mary Sue Beers
19. Dean and Orma Waibel
20. Roger and Charlotte Duckett
21. Johnny and Jean Gomez, Les
and Marilyn Hehr
27. Steve and Ronny Douglass
28. Denny and Marcey Honodel,
Dick and Nancy Powell



May Birthdays

2. Kelsey Pickett
3. Roger Duckett, Keith Mook
4. Mark Vanderheyden
6. Jacquelynne Brumley
12. Jackson Ideen
15. Michael McNutt
16. Dorothy Jean Foster
17. Janell Heinle, Judy Manns,
Gene Moffett
19. June Graber
22. Helen Frazey
24. Cindy Ellis
28. Vicky Hedrick, Judy Kitching
30. Pat Chambers, Barbara Hogsett



Next Newsletter Deadline: May 15

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

Church Family News

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Mary Dryden, who passed away on April 6, and John Glenn, who passed away on April 12.

Church History

On May 3, 2021 we will reach a milestone. First Presbyterian Church of Casa Grande will be 125 years old! Leading up to that event, we will offer biographical sketches of the pastors who have served FPC over that period.

Rev Richard C Palmer 1944-1945



Rev. Richard C. Palmer

In June of 1944, the Casa Grande Dispatch reports: New Pastor Assumes Duties Here with the Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Richard C. Palmer, formerly pastor of the Community Church of Tombstone has accepted a call to a pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of this city. The Rev. Mr. Palmer began his work in Casa Grande on June 1, and the family is occupying the manse. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have two children, Richard James, two years old, and Judith Grace who is one month old. Mr. Palmer is a native of Centralia, Washington and is a graduate of Seattle Pacific College, Seattle, Washington and McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago Illinois. Mrs. Palmer is a graduate of the Thornton Township Junior College, Harvey, Illinois and Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Chicago, Ill. The Rev. Mr. Palmer succeeds The Rev. Alexander Muirden who resigned this pastorate on September 1 this past year, to accept a call to a pastorate in California. Since that time, the pulpit has been filled by visiting ministers. Services at the local church are held regularly Sunday morning at 11 A. M. Rev. Richard C Palmer was formally installed as pastor on August 2, 1944. April 14, 1945 there was a community memorial service held in the memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Session voted to request the congregation concur in the request of Rev. Palmer to dissolve the pastoral relationship on August 8th and was passed by the congregation on August 26, 1945. The pulpit was declared officially vacant on September 9, 1945 by elder Grady Thurman. In December of 1952, Rev. Palmer became the pastor at Florence and stayed there until March 1954. He enrolled at Arizona State University where he received a master's degree in Education, whereupon he moved to Tucson to teach in the Sunnyside Unified School District. From 1964 to 1971, Mr. Palmer served part time as Chaplain for the U. S. Bureau of Prisons. He retired from his teaching position in 1980 and was elected to the Sunnyside Board of Education where he served until shortly before his death.



Missions and Outreach

COMPASSION SUNDAY

On Sunday, April 25, Sandee Rugg has volunteered to organize and hold a Compassion Sunday at First Presbyterian Church. Compassion Sunday is an annual event sponsored by Compassion International that connects Christ followers with children living in poverty across the globe. It provides a unique opportunity for church members to put their faith into action by sponsoring a child and partnering with the global church to share the hope of Jesus. Following each service, members of the congregation will have the opportunity to sign up to sponsor a child.

As you travel this summer or shop at the Dollar Store, the missions team would appreciate any hygiene items you may collect. We need soaps, toothpaste, brushes, combs, razors, shampoo, etc. to fill bags for the homeless. A list of suggested items is available in the church parlor.

We are the hands and feet of Jesus!

Seeds of Hope



We hope you can join us for **National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 6**. We will be doing the car rally event like we did last year. We had 104 cars last year and hope to have 150 this year! Come out and show our community how we need prayer in all aspects of our lives every day.

Thank you to everyone who supported us on **Arizona Gives Day** April 6. Your efforts helped us raise \$62,937, which gave us an additional \$2500 in bonus money. Out of 998 state agencies involved, we finished in seventh place. Praise God! It was also great seeing many of our church members at Boston's that night. Our church is amazing in its support. THANK YOU!

If you haven't seen the garden in a while, come by and take a look. Lots of different vegetables are going to be ready soon. Pergola was painted and we were blessed with two benches in memory of Dick Whittington. Check out Pastor Pauls' rose bushes. They look fantastic!

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



Montlure Day Camp

We are happy to announce that Montlure Day Camp will be held here the week of June 14—18. Camp is for children **entering** first through sixth grades. The cost is \$100 per camper. For families with two or more children registering, it is \$100 for the first camper and \$75 for the second. Due to COVID19 camp requirements, there will be restrictions in place. Families will be responsible for providing a sack lunch, the church will provide drinks and a snack. You may register at Montlure.org. After registering, you may apply for a scholarship. Scholarship forms will be available in the church office.



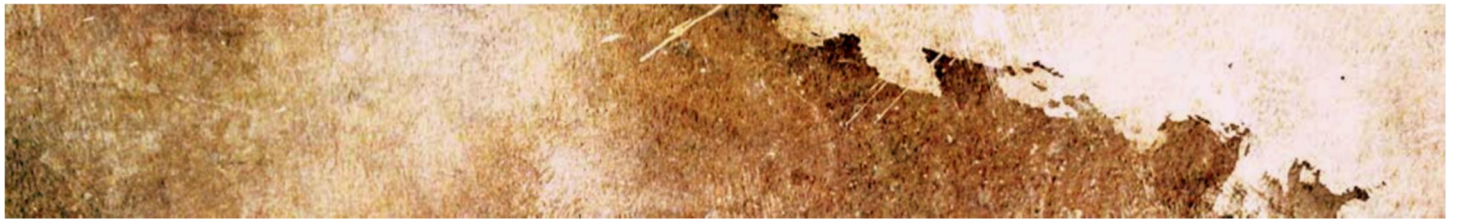
Personnel

We desperately need nursery attendants! Now that more of us are returning to in-person worship, we want to fully staff the nursery on Sunday mornings. Current hours are approximately 9:15 to 11:45 am. A genuine love for children as well as an early childhood background and experience are required. Pay is \$12.15 per hour. If you have questions or to obtain an application, please contact Heather in the office.

(Note: We also greatly need volunteers to help when we are short-staffed in the nursery. If you can step in occasionally, please contact Jean Gomez at gojean22@yahoo.com).

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<u>1</u> 6:45 AA 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>2</u> 9:00 Worship (Communion) 10:30 Worship (Communion)	<u>3</u> 8:00 Walking Group	<u>4</u> 12:00 Womens AA 3:00 Worship Team Meeting 6:30 5th-8th Grade Youth Group 6:30 Boy Scouts	<u>5</u> 2 2:00 Praise Band Rehearsal	<u>6</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 8:00 Walking Group 4:30 pm Deacons 6:00 Cub Scouts	<u>7</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>8</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 8:30 Montlure Board 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>9</u> HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	<u>10</u> 8:00 Walking Group 4:00 Missions	<u>11</u> 12:00 Womens AA 6:30 5th-8th Grade Youth Group 6:30 Boy Scouts	<u>12</u> 10:00 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Praise Band Rehearsal	<u>13</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 8:00 Walking Group 6:00 Cub Scouts	<u>14</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>15</u> 6:45 AA 8:00 Eye Openers Business Meeting 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>16</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	<u>17</u> 8:00 Walking Group	<u>18</u> 12:00 Womens AA 6:30 5th-8th Grade Youth Group 6:30 Boy Scouts	<u>19</u> 10:00 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Praise Band Rehearsal	<u>20</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 8:00 Walking Group 3:00 Session	<u>21</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>22</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 8:00 POW WOW 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>23</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship 3:00 Jim Sorensen Concert <u>30</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	<u>24</u> 8:00 Walking Group <u>31</u> 8:00 Walking Group	<u>25</u> 12:00 Womens AA 6:30 5th-8th Grade Youth Group	<u>26</u> 10:00 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Praise Band Rehearsal	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> 6:45 AA 6:30 AA 6:30 Al-Anon



The church office is
closed on Fridays.

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 Attendant	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
Youth Intern	Taylor-Ann Kirkbride

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

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Session

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James Pickett (Properties)

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Treasurer: Gary Ellis

Clerk of Session: Kay Svedjan

Deacon Parish Assignments

Betty Silguero

A-Bo

Anne Collis (Funerals, Meals, Transportation)

Bou-Cla

Janell Heinle (Recording Secretary)

Cle-El

Karen Morphew

Et-Gra

Pam Walton (Funerals)

Gre-Hog

Cathleen Rafferty (Awareness)

Hol-K

Sandy Morin

L-Man

Dick & Barb Bradley

Mar-Ol

Mary Jane Nichols (Funerals)

Or-Rem

Ric-Sl

Barb Hogsett (Meals)

Sm-T

John & Marlene Grentzer (Guest Services)

V-Z