

First Presbyterian NEWS

November 2020

Volume 21 Issue 11

I have good news and I have bad news. Bad news first: I spilled my coffee on my keyboard this morning. Good news: it's all under control.

Good news: we're starting to worship in person again!

Bad news: we still have to social distance and wear masks.

Good news: we are saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Bad news: still no singing.

Good news: we're going to be singing November 1st on the Patio!

Some enterprising members of 1st Pres (led by Elizabeth) has decided enough is enough and we're going to sing some hymns. Outside. Masked up. Six feet apart.



Elizabeth's enthusiasm is great, as you can sense in her announcement that Bill will share Sunday morning: **Do you love to sing and miss raising a joyful noise on Sunday morning? Do you revel in the amazing feeling of worshipping through music with other people? This is not an attempt to get you to join the choir - sadly, because of the Covid-19 virus, that is not possible yet. But we do want to get together safely and raise some praises to God, and we want YOU to join us. Sunday, November 1st at 10:00, join us outside (either in the Memorial Garden or the patio - we'll decide soon)! We will have hymnals, a talented and lovely accompanist (June Graber) and a talented and handsome songleader (Dick Bradley). The goal is to sing, to worship together through music, and to do it in a socially distant manner. Please bring your mask, ideas of what you'd like to sing (Amazing Grace? The Old Rugged Cross? In the Garden? Here I Am Lord?), and the desire to praise the Lord! We will sing until it's time for the 10:30 service.**

Pastor Paul again:

I am not tired of saying it: there is a lot going on this week at 1st Presbyterian, where we might be entering in to one of our most important seasons since I have arrived here: Stewardship Season 2020!

The challenge of the virus will be upon our hearts this Stewardship season, no doubt. As you receive your pledge cards next week in the mail, be thinking and praying how we can best serve God in Casa Grande moving forward. A mention of Stewardship would not be complete without a sincere note of thanks from myself, your church staff, Session and Deacons for your faithfulness throughout this troubling time. You have made ongoing ministry possible at our church. Thank you!

Knowing your pledge by Dedication Sunday (November 22) will help your Session decide what we can endeavor¹ for the next year. I have such high hopes for 2021 and the future we shall share at 1st Presbyterian. Join us as together we chart our course.

God bless,

Pastor Paul

¹ There used to be a church by that name in Casa Grande, I believe. Just like then, God has a bright and busy future laid out ahead for us.

November Anniversaries

- 10. Bill and Janell Heinle
- 15. Steve and Cindy Schaider
- 20. Jim and Judy Manns
- 22. Eric and Kitty Bertness
- 24. Jerry and Joan Jessen
- 29. Nathaniel and Dinah Atiba-Davies
- 30. Jack and Mary Dryden



November Birthdays

- 1. Marlene Grentzer
- 4. Judy Lebbs
- 6. Bev Helming, Dick Hoort
- 8. McKenna Powell
- 10. Mark Apodaca
- 12. Karen Lloyd
- 15. Ken Davenport
- 18. Karen Vanderheyden
- 19. Marci Benge
- 21. Faye Farar
- 24. Brad Dean
- 28. Liana Ferri, Jacquelyn Shinn
- 30. John Glenn, Jerry Storey



Next Newsletter Deadline:
November 15

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

Deacon Spotlight

Richard and Barbara Bradley (Parish Mar—OI)



Like many other members of First Presbyterian Church, both Dick and Barb have lived and worked other places. Dick was born in Loveland, Colorado while Barb originates from Long Island, New York. They met at church in Denver and married in 1956 before Dick was drafted and sent to Germany. Barb joined him there where they lived in Regensburg and added their daughter, Beth, to the family. After serving in Germany, the family relocated to Denver where Dick worked for Elcar Fence Company—retiring as V.P. During those years, Barb was an R.N. in several hospitals before later retiring as a school nurse. Their sons, Bruce and Brett, were born in 1959 and 1963 respectively. After retirement, they spent six years volunteering with Hard Hats for Christ (HHFC) helping to build churches and church additions as well as two years spent at their Youth Haven Desert Ranch. The Bradleys lived at Val Vista RV Park for many years before eventually putting down more permanent roots by buying a house here in Casa Grande. Dick has previously served as both a Deacon and member of the Session as well as singing in the choir here at First Presbyterian Church. In addition to their three children, the Bradleys have several grandchildren and one great grandchild—all of whom live in either Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, or Wyoming.

Church History

Rev Norman Riley Curtis 1917-1922



Rev NR Curtis

Records of the church prior to 1917 are scant. It is anybody's guess as to what happened to them. Perhaps they were carried off by an overzealous former pastor in the hopes of safeguarding them, or they may have been recorded in a book of insufficient integrity to withstand the ravages of time. Whatever the case, the survival of the records we do have seems to correspond with the arrival of Rev. Norman R. Curtis. He was the first installed pastor of the Casa Grande church, and he was described as very Presbyterian. Up until this time there was not much competition from other Protestant denominations in town. The church was sometimes referred to as Union Church, because so many from other denominational backgrounds worshipped there. After the arrival of Pastor Curtis, the church started to become known as First Presbyterian Church.



The Little White Church

Session records of 1919 outline a five-year plan endorsed by Rev. Curtis and the elders. It was called the New Era Program and it called for raising \$10,000 from the membership and borrowing another \$10,000 for the purpose of building a new church building. The church would acquire land on the northern edge of town at the north end of Sacaton Street. A new manse was built on the property and the pastor's family moved in the end of June 1921. In 1925, the congregation had 82 members and pledged \$6707 for the building fund. A loan was received from the Home Mission Board and the following year a contract was let for the sanctuary and ground was broken March 13, 1926. The church sanctuary was designed by architect Robert Orr of Los Angeles and constructed by Michael Sullivan, a Catholic stonemason, who built several residences and commercial buildings in Casa Grande. FPC also made plans for a church building in Toltec and the addition of a community pastor. The Toltec Church was established in May of 1919 in the new Toltec Hotel, but by 1922 the boom in the area had dwindled enough to close the church. Michael Curtis, a grandson of Rev. Curtis wrote a story that appeared in the centennial celebration book stating, "Rev. Curtis was born in Illinois and in time married Lucy Gray. They moved to Pueblo, CO. and traveled as a missionary appointment for the Presbyterian Church to Mescalero, in New Mexico, in 1913. Rev. Curtis ministered to the Apache Indians in Mescalero. Those Indians at that time included Naiche (1856-1919), who was the youngest son of Cochise and the actual chief of the Geronimo led Apache clan. Others who lived on the reservation at Mescalero were famous war chiefs of Geronimo such as Sanspear and Chato. Rev. Curtis' son, Francis Curtis, remembered the Indians receiving tainted beef as food and the children being blinded by lack of treatment for disease. Rev. Curtis ministered to the Apaches for two years, then moved on to Tucson and Casa Grande. The family arrived in Casa Grande in 1917."



Rev. Curtis and Naiche

Francis Curtis' earliest recollections of his father's Presbyterian Church services in Casa Grande was a particularly significant event involving the death of a baby. According to Francis Curtis, the parents of a child named Booker T. Washington, who resided at the Trekell Ranch, came to First Presbyterian Church because their baby had died. They wanted the baby buried by Rev. Curtis from the church. This was after World War I, and apparently some church elders

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felt that a colored baby should not be buried out of the First Presbyterian Church. Rev. Curtis, at a Sunday service from the lectern, advised there would be a burial for Booker T. Washington from the First Presbyterian Church at 2:00 in the afternoon and that "all good Presbyterians should attend." The Presbyterians apparently turned out and the baby was buried with appropriate ceremony. Rev. Curtis was on the statewide Presbytery Governing Board for the Presbyterian Church. He apparently filed charges against the dissenting elders before resigning as pastor of the church.

The family moved to Maricopa and homesteaded 640 acres before moving to the west of Phoenix and then to Monrovia, CA. Rev. Curtis died in Oklahoma in 1952. Francis Curtis returned to Casa Grande and lived here until his death in 1993. Rev. Norman Riley Curtis died in Allen Oklahoma in 1953.



Missions

Mission accomplished! Your donations for the Navajo people were delivered on October 6 to Fort Defiance on the reservation by Uriel Nelson and Vicki Cooper. Their SUVs were filled with hundreds of food items, baby clothes, blankets, hand sanitizers, and hygiene products. Nurse Mechelle and her husband, who both work at the hospital, know the Navajo people and will deliver the gifts to the most needy families in the Fort Defiance area. Everything was greatly appreciated. Thank you good and faithful servants for your generosity!

Samaritan's Purse Operation Shoebox is underway. Judy Kitching has 100 shoeboxes to be filled with coloring books, crayons, pencils, and other small toys to be sent to boys and girls overseas for Christmas. When you have filled the box, return it to the church before November 15. If you need a member of the missions team to shop for you, we will be happy to help.

Angel Tree is another local charity sponsored by our church. This year our congregation will provide gifts to fifty (50) children who have a parent who is incarcerated. Tags will be placed on the Christmas tree at both services so that congregation members may choose a name and purchase a special gift requested by the parent. Since we will not have a party this year due to COVID 19, families will pick up the gifts at the church on specific days and times in December.

November 11 will be our final Laundry Love session for the year. Volunteers are needed to work from 3:00 to 5:00 or 5:00 to 7:00 on Wednesday afternoon. Contact Pauline Pickett to volunteer.

The missions team has postponed the annual rummage sale until March, 2021.

If you have extra yarn and want to put it to good use, please label it and drop it off at the church office for Pauline. It will be used to make blankets for the homeless.

Seeds of Hope

We are planning for the “to go only” **Thanksgiving Meal** coming up on **Thursday Nov 26**. The plan is to prepare and package out of the FLC and hand out the meals thru the Elks Lodge parking lot. If you are interested in helping out sometime that week, please let us know. We are in need of the basics again this year. Potatoes (150 #’s), celery, onion, roasting pans, and things that help us serve over 300 that day!

Please keep our 3rd annual 5K walk / run on **Saturday, January 9, 2021** on your calendar. We hope and pray things have returned somewhat 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. Hope to see you there!

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



Session Notes

We served 93 people Holy Communion this month. November 1 will be the next opportunity to participate in communion; you may do so from your home.

Our Executive Board will meet October 29 to work on the 2021 budget.

Please turn in annual reports to Heather McNutt by January 14. Please pray for our Commissions and Teaching Elders as they vote on the 2020 Vision Task Force issues for our presbytery.

Sunday School was discussed and will be delayed for the near future.

Veteran’s Day will be celebrated in Worship on November 8.

Seeds of Hope Harvest Celebration will be on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 8.

Stewardship Sunday is Nov. 22.

All Elders of Session commended Pastor Paul for his positive and persistent leadership during this Pandemic.

A Note of Thanks

A note of Thanks does not seem adequate for all the many kind words and thoughts that have come our way. At first, we had to move into an Assisted Living facility where help was available and then, last spring, Dick's health started on a down hill slide. He passed away on June 27. I so, so appreciate all the cards, the phone calls, and the encouragement I have received from our church family. You are the best!

Beverly Helming (Whittington)



Women's Ministry

November 17 at 10:00 am in Room 17

We will be having a guest speaker and discussing our Senior Single Ladies Brunch. Invite a friend to our meeting. We hope to see you there!

Women's
Ministry

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>1</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	<u>2</u> 8:00 Walking Group 10:30 Prayer Group 5:30 Bell Choir	<u>3</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:30 40 Days of Prayer 3:30 Worship Team	<u>4</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir	<u>5</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 8:00 Walking Group	<u>6</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>7</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>8</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship 4:00 Harvest Party	<u>9</u> 8:00 Walking Group 10:30 Prayer Group Missions Team	<u>10</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 9:00 Staff Meeting	<u>11</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<u>12</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 8:00 Walking Group 4:30 pm Deacons	<u>13</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>14</u> 6:45 AA 8:30 Montlure Board 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>15</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	<u>16</u> 8:00 Walking Group 10:30 Prayer Group 5:30 Bell Choir	<u>17</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Women's Ministry	<u>18</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir	<u>19</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 8:00 Walking Group 3:00 Session	<u>20</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>21</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 8:00 Eye Openers Business Meeting 8:00 POW WOW 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>22</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	<u>23</u> 8:00 Walking Group 10:30 Prayer Group	<u>24</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 9:00 Staff Meeting	<u>25</u> 9:00 Little Ones's Montessori 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<u>26</u> THANKSGIVING— OFFICE CLOSED	<u>27</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>28</u> 6:45 AA 11:00 Jim Antholz Memorial Service 6:30 Al-Anon 6:30 AA
<u>29</u> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	<u>30</u> 8:00 Walking Group 10:30 Prayer Group 5:30 Bell Choir					



Set up your online giving today! Electronic funds transfer, credit card or debit cards are accepted. [Click here to get started](#) or contact Denny Honodel for assistance.

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	Kim Freyermuth, Susan Quintanar
Chancel Choir	June Graber
Choir Accompanist	Kim Freyermuth
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)

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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)

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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