

Palm West Alive

September 2021



Answers

*Answers to prayers come in various ways,
sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days.
And some take years to fully unfold
the harvest of love and blessings they hold.*

*Answers to prayers come in various forms,
sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms.
Some blossom early, and some blossom late,
but each one will flower — have faith and wait!*

—Helen Inwood, His Mysterious Ways

Pastoral Staff:

Jim Powell, Senior Pastor
pastorjim@palmwestchurch.org

Peter Kyhn, Associate Pastor of
Worship, Music and Discipleship
pastorpeter@palmwestchurch.org

Brian Thomas, Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care
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September

Worship With Us In Person

Sundays

10:00 am

OR

Live Stream at 10:00 am

(on the website)

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Closed for lunch 12:00 pm—12:30 pm

Fridays

8:00 am—1:00 pm

Phone: 623-546-2980

Fax: 623-546-9977

General Church Email:

staff@palmwestchurch.org

Website: www.palmwestchurch.org

**The Deadline for the October
Palm West *Alive* will be :**



PWCC Leaders

VLT Chair, John Sproule

Moderator, Gini Baker

Treasurer, Chuck Crandall

Financial Secretary, Joyce Westlund

Clerk, Jan Cooper

Education, Dena Martin

Hospitality, Diane Koziol

Media, Jim Burroughs

Missions, Claudia Burr

Worship, Pat Royer/Dave Balzer

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Pastor Jim Powell
Senior Pastor

Gratitude and Compassion



“Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.”

Hebrews 13:3

Like most of you, I was shocked by the images I saw on television that have been taking place in Afghanistan. Americans being stranded and, in some cases, beaten by the Taliban. The explosion that killed 13 Americans. Afghan citizens, leaving everything they had behind and running with only a bag of their possessions, desperately trying to flee the country. A mother handing her baby over a barbed wire fence to a US soldier so her child could have a better life. And unbelievably, individuals, some of whom lost their lives, trying to grab a hold of airplanes that were taking off in order to escape.

Obviously, the situation in Afghanistan is a big ball of yarn, which has a long history and is quite complicated. I have no answers, nor is it my intention to discuss or debate the political elements behind what has, and what is taking place. Yet, I am moved by what I’m seeing.

As I read through the Gospel of Mark, and process what is taking place on the ground in Afghanistan, I find my heart wavering between two primary emotions. One, is gratitude. The fact that I live in the United States of America with freedom, liberty, and opportunities that many in the world will never have. Even though our nation has its flaws, and is going through a very tumultuous time with a variety of tense and divisive social issues, I am once again reminded of how thankful I am to live in this great nation. We are truly blessed to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. And to have so many people willing to risk their lives in order to protect our freedom.

Beyond gratitude, the second emotion that rises up inside of me is compassion. A deep sense of empathy and sadness for the Afghan people who are trapped in such a horrific situation. This past week I’ve had interactions with two close friends who have direct connections to Afghanistan. One has a church that supports missionaries and Christian families that live within the country. He told me that one of the primary prayer requests that the Afghan Christians were sharing was for strength and courage to maintain their testimony and to die with dignity if necessary. The other friend I have works for a global Christian ministry that focuses on refugees around the globe. He shared with me how dire the situation is, and how ministries like his, are preparing for a wave of refugees that they are incapable of fully serving.

As I said earlier, I don’t have any answers. But what I do know, is that watching the events in Afghanistan is good opportunity for me to offer a prayer of gratitude for the life I have in America. It’s also a good reminder that God calls us to a life of compassion. Not just for myself and those close to me, but for all people. God so loved the world that he sent his one and only Son (John 3:16). Therefore, as followers of Christ, we are called to empathize, care, and serve all people, everywhere, in the name of Jesus (Matthew 25:35-40).

Pastor Peter Kyhn
Assoc. Pastor of Worship, Music & Discipleship



You've probably heard the news by now: Peter Kyhn, Associate Pastor for Worship, Music, and Discipleship is retiring from his ministry position here at Palm West Community Church at the end of 2021.

Yes, it's true. After forty years of full-time vocational ministry (nearly 11 years of that career here at PWCC), it's time for me to shift my focus and routine while I still have a few years of good health, strong body, and a somewhat sound mind.

Thank you for the many kind words of encouragement you shared with me, remembrances of times we shared together, advice about how to navigate my future, and even "I didn't know you were that old!"

The two most asked questions I get are: "What are you going to do with your time?" and "Is Christine retiring also?"

To the second question, no. Christine is not retiring. She has an active accompanying and performing life so she will continue with her duties at the Congregational Church of Sun City, as accompanist of the West Valley Chorale, and as the choral accompanist at Glendale Community College.

To the first question (what am I going to do with all this new-found free time?), the answer is - all kinds of stuff. As many of you know I am an active baritone singer with the West Valley Chorale, trombonist with Bones Southwest, and substitute trombonist with Lenny King's *Swing Kings*. I am also a stained-glass artist with a small home studio in "my half" of the garage. Plus, I love to garden, read history and biographies, and follow several wooden boat building channels on YouTube. There's working out at my neighborhood CrossFit gym and solving my daily Sudoku. A more important mission will be assisting in the care for our three local grandchildren, along with having a freer schedule to visit in Wisconsin our two granddaughters (and their parents!) and to travel to L.A. to visit with our bass playing son.

Life is a constant string of ever-changing details. Most of you know the feelings of deciding to stop doing the big details that you've done most your life. But as Fred Rogers ("Mr. Rogers") wrote, "Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." An ending is a new beginning. That is as true for you as it is for me. God will abundantly provide new leadership for worship, music, and media, which will mark a new beginning of moving ahead into God's bright future for this marvelous congregation.

I'm not done yet. We have much ministry to accomplish between now and the first of the year.

Blessings in Jesus' name,
Peter Kyhn

Pastor Brian Thomas
Assoc. Pastor of Pastoral Care

Small Groups

We are working to launch several new small groups this Fall. If you are interested in joining (or leading) a small group, you can sign up online via the Palm West website or you will be able to sign up at church at the end of September. Stay tuned for details!



Pastoral Assistance Team

If you have a caring and compassionate heart, our Pastoral Assistance Team (PAT) might be right for you! The PAT assists our pastors by actively caring for our Palm West Church Family through visits and phone calls to connect with and encourage those who are facing challenges in life. We will hold a training session for new PAT members on October 18th. For more info or to RSVP for this, give me a shout at 717-682-4566 or pastor-brian@palmwestchurch.org

Treasurer
 Chuck Crandall

Finance Report Thru July 2021

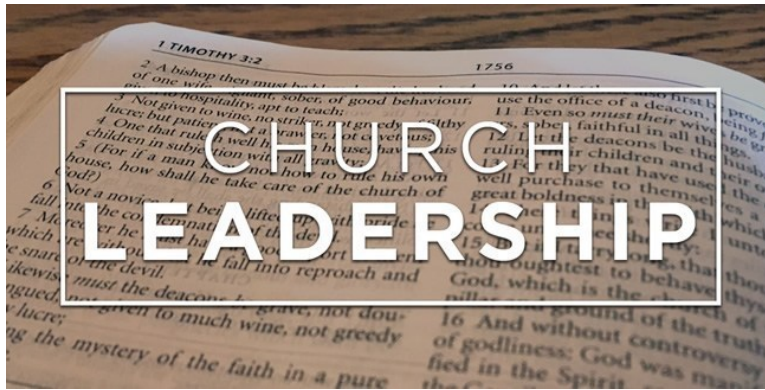
Revenue	Actual	Budget
General Fund Offering	\$ 484,064	\$ 472,500
Interest & Other Income	\$ 13,589	\$ 7,909
12% Missions Allocation	\$ (58,088)	\$ (56,700)
Total Income	\$ 439,565	\$ 423,709

Expenses		
Salaries & Compensation	\$ 252,367	\$ 263,166
Benefits	\$ 57,189	\$ 65,990
Administration	\$ 17,137	\$ 18,725
Ministries	\$ 52,143	\$ 67,555
Provision for Capital R&R Fund	\$ 14,583	\$ 14,583
Total Expenses	\$ 393,419	\$ 430,019

Net Ordinary Income	\$ 46,146	\$ (6,310)
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Vision Leadership Team

John Sproule, Chair



Vision Leadership Team (VLT) annual position posting opportunities for 2022:

Each year about this time, the VLT accepts applications to fill the upcoming opening positions, effective every January.

This year, Judie Amen and Bruce Dubberstein will be rotating off our VLT after four years of successfully serving on the VLT. **So, we will be selecting two full-time members to assume their respective positions.**

To learn more about this important volunteer opportunity, simply contact by text, email, or phone call to any of the current team members, listed below. During this initial contact, they will provide you answers and insights to your questions and this IMPORTANT volunteer opportunity.

Also, if there is someone that you believe would serve well in this role, we encourage you to reach out to that person to confirm his or her willingness to serve and then submit their name for consideration as well.

By September 10th , please call any one of our current VLT members.

Judie Amen 303-886-1554

Bruce Duberstein 623-933-6833

Gary Lanning 602-540-9875

Rebecca Oaks 602689-2263

Jerry Rouse 623-289-7677

Jimmy Smith 928-899-8230

John Sproule 615-864-6338

It is our church policy to have our new VLT members confirmed and presented to our congregation during our PWCC Annual Report meeting in November. **To meet this time schedule, you will need to contact one of our VLT members listed above by no later than Friday, September 10th .**

God Bless,

John Sproule,

VLT Chair

We Would Appreciate Your Prayers Throughout this Process AND...
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CALL!!

Moderator Gini Baker

Seasons change and bring choices and opportunities. We are all looking forward to the fall, the beauty of the coolness in the desert and the rejoining of acquaintances and friends. As you know lot's is happening within PWCC as we continue to define our role in the community, honor our mission, and promote God's work! Now is a time to read the communications from the church; review the church website at least weekly for updates; and look at where you would like to get involved in the ministries.

There will be a Diaconate meeting **open to all the church** members and attenders September 14th, 9am Hoover Hall . The goal is to bring together leaders and soon to be leaders to discuss and plan for the fall activities. Your input and energy are needed so join us for this gathering. This will be a time of updates and plans with details and time to ask questions. Remember that a church is only as active and strong it's members and attenders.

As we enter this next phase of change let us reflect on some of the guidance from those who have gone before us. Here are some thoughts from Ron Edmondson, Pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, also a Church Consultant, Church Revitalizer, Church Planter, and Author. (RonEdmondson.com)

Try not to be the church down the street. Our VLT has been reviewing the resources of our Christian Community. Where does PWCC fit and what are the gaps in community programs for the faith community.

Try not to oppose the old. Encourage the new. The old got us to where we are today. It's not bad. In fact, at one time it was very good - the best. The old was once new. The new is simply where the most energy is at currently and someday it will be old.

Celebrate history. People were there years ago, building the church where we serve today. PWCC is planning an exciting Christmas time get together to reflect on our past and plan for our future. Stay tuned for more details!

Many times, information overcomes objection. Pastor Jim, the staff and John Sproule (VLT lead) are available for questions. They have done an amazing job of providing updates.

Change is uncomfortable for everyone. And it's very exciting! Again, the pastors and the staff are constantly giving information and reassurance.

The best supporters are often silent. If you are part of this silent group, reach out and let the team know they are doing a good job of moving PWCC forward. Lots of folks here at PWCC give lots of hours of their time and talents – appreciate them – and join them!

God is faithful. You knew that one, right? Somehow, just when you need it most, God seems to send an encourager. Awesome.

It's going to be a great autumn season! For those of you who have been gone for the summer, welcome back. For those of you who stayed in AZ for the summer, thanks for your service to the church community.

TWO SERVICES

BEGINNING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

On Sunday, October 3 we will return to two worship services.

Join us at 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m..

Education

Dena Martin, Chair

Fall Sunday Morning Bible Study

Beginning Sunday, September 5 at 9:00 a.m. Bob Wilber will begin a new Bible Study:

“Promised Land”

Experience the Bible in Historical Context by Ray Vander Laan.

Meeting in in Hoover Hall.

For more information call Bob at 859-621-0709

Women’s Bible Study

Alice Paluch

Women’s Bible Study will begin on Thursday, September 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hoover Hall. We will begin a four week study of Ruth. All are welcome!

Men’s Bible Study

Dave Witt

We meet from 8:30 am—9:30 am in the Hoover Hall classroom.

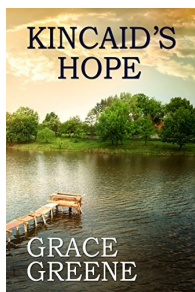
Jimmy Smith will begin a five week series on Romans on Monday, September 13. We will also stream the sessions interactively using Zoom.

Contact the church office with any questions.

Book Review

Bev Crandall

KINCAID’S HOPE - by Grace Greene



Beth Kincaid is suddenly laid off from the job she had for the last ten years and she’s sad, angry, and confused. Where does she go from here? Maude Henry, who raised both Beth and her brother as small children after a car accident killed their parents, lived in Preston and she may be her only hope for the time being. Maude had always been her refuge, a calming influence in times of trouble, so Beth packs and hits the road.

Upon her arrival, she is met with the news of Maude’s sudden death happening just weeks before, leaving her house and belongings to Beth. Now she has a house but no job, no friends, nobody. The future looks like an ocean of uncertain waves circling about her with no shore in sight.

Sometime in the night she hears strange sounds, nothing like she has been accustomed to in the city and creeping to the window, she sees strangers walking through the back yard. What is she supposed to do when there was no security guard? Grabbing an afghan on the sofa she bravely waits for dawn to investigate.

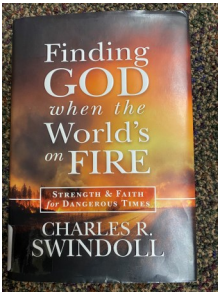
The first thing she sees across the river is someone who looks vaguely familiar as he walks down the pier, although she hadn’t been in Preston for more than a decade. She decides to locate the sheriff’s office reporting the trespassers from the previous night. She also hopes to find some answers to questions about her former guardian at the same time, and to decide what to do about her inheritance. She’d saved a little money, but it wouldn’t go far.

Meanwhile, a “high-roller” company had been approaching Preston secretly as a possible location for a Disneyland-type giant amusement park. Beth is now the owner of some property in question as well as extensive acreage which had belonged to her grandfather.

This makes good summer reading, and as a bonus, is in large print in our own church library.

Book Review

Dorcas Van Horn



Finding God when the World's on Fire **Strength and Faith for Dangerous Times** By Charles Swindoll

Charles Swindoll wrote this book in 2016 when all the world was learning of the ISIS terrorists and their destroying ways. Swindoll likens ISIS (and our personal troubles) to a forest fire. It can start out small and grow to an out-of-control conflagration. Swindoll brings to our attention the comfort found in the Psalms. When David wrote Psalm 11, he was in danger of losing his life. David claimed refuge in the Lord. He remembers God is on the throne in heaven. Psalms 46 and 91 are also sighted for their comforting words.

Fighting a forest fire requires planning and decisive action. The same true for fighting ISIS or any “terror” that we might face. (Think disease, family squabbles, business down turns.) Dr. Swindoll says know your enemy. Peter’s letters point clearly to the enemy, Satan himself. Our culture is currently designed to draw us away from God and our refuge instead of pointing us to Him.

“My task is to equip you, point you to the truth, and prepare you for what is ahead in the struggle” says Charles Swindoll. He wrote this book to counter our current culture.

In his little book of only 105 pages Swindoll show us how not to succumb to the enemy. It is a quick read that deserves a re-read for its everlasting truths.

Memorial Service

There will be a Memorial Service for Don Thompson on Wednesday, September 15 at 2:00 p.m.

A reception will follow in Hoover Hall with a meal.



Save the Date!!



Palm West Community Church
Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 19, 3:00—7:00 p.m.
Briarwood Country Club

September Sermons



Just Jesus: The Gospel According to Mark

Pastor Jim Powell

September 5 - The Power of Jesus

Scripture: Mark Chapter 5

September 12—The Empowerment of Jesus

Scripture: Mark Chapter 6

September 19—The Teachings of Jesus

Scripture: Mark Chapter 7

September 26—The Paradox of Jesus

Scripture: Mark Chapter 8

On Wednesday, September 29th, Pastor Jim will be conducting a Bible Study here at the church on the History and Context of the book of Mark. This series will look at a number of themes that help us to better understand the Gospel and complement the present sermon series. The Bible Study will be at 1 pm, here at Palm West. We are still unsure if it will be in the Sanctuary or Hoover Hall, but our intention is to be able to record the lessons and make them available online for those who can not attend.

History and Context in Mark's Gospel

A Bible Study led by Pastor Jim

History and Context in Mark's Gospel

Understanding the Author

The history and background on Mark the author and the audience he was writing to.

Persecution is a theme for a reason (8:34-38; 10:28-30; 13:9-13). Opposition (2:6; 3:6; 6:4; 8:11; 10:12; 12:13; 14:1,55; 15:11; 15:31-32)

Is it okay to Paraphrase?

Mark often references the OT, but rarely does he quote a verse exactly. He often mixes various verses into a single quotation. 1:11 (Is 42:1; Ps 2:7). 1:2-3 (Mal 3:1; Ex 23:20; Is 40:3). 11:1-11 (Zac 9:9; Ps 118:25-26). 11:17 (Is 56:7; Jer 7:11). 12:1-12 (Is 5:1-2; Ps 118:22-23). 14:62 (Dan 7:13; Ps 110:1).

On Uncleanliness and Blood

The issue of uncleanliness was a big one for 1st century Jews. This deeper context of this helps highlight a shocking story in Mark 5.

Was Jesus being Rude

Mark 7 tells a story of an encounter between Jesus and a foreign woman. The story troubles some due to the harshness of Jesus. But a better historical understanding reveals that Jesus wasn't nearly as rude as we may think.

On Following

A common theme in Mark is to talk about the way, path, or Road. Understanding the OT brings deeper meaning to these verses and this theme. 1:2-3; 2:23; 6:8; 8:3,27; 9:33-34; 10:17,32,46-52; 11:8; 12:14.

What's the Big Deal

Jesus was once asked a simple question about taxes. His answer was simple. But understanding the context makes the true brilliance of his answer come alive.

On this Rock

In Chapter 8, Peter declares Jesus the Messiah. This confession was a watershed moment. But the context over this occurred brings even more significance and questions to what was said.

The Passover

It's easy for Christians to celebrate communion without fully understanding the context of the Last Supper. A better understanding the Passover feast brings deeper meaning to communion.

Repetition and Redundancy

The theme of 3's. Rhythms of writing and sharing stories in order to make them more memorable. Mark's main concern was to remember the stories pointing to Jesus. Over emphasis on details can sometimes cause us to miss the main thing.



Announcing the Fall Session of Griefshare!

After a long, hot summer which has been filled with grief for so many, Griefshare offers help along the road to a new beginning without a loved one in our lives. No matter the time distance between the loss and the present, the struggles are real. The counsel and companionship of others who are also walking this journey has proven to be a tremendous benefit. The 13 week course includes videos of respected pastors and counselors knowledgeable in grief recovery to give professional insight. This is a Christ-centered ministry designed to bring us all closer to the only One who provides the peace, comfort, and direction needed in a very confusing and possibly overwhelming time. All are welcome, Palm West members and neighborhood friends, free of charge.

Meetings are held every Tuesday 10:00-11:30 a.m., and will begin September 21 in the choir room. Please call the office to register.

Blessings,

Bob and Joyce Davis, Facilitators

Community Bible Study Begins



COMMUNITY
BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, September 15, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m..

If you have any questions please contact Joyce Westlund at
pjwest71@gmail.com.

Discovering PWCC!

Join us on Thursday, September 16, at 1:00 pm in the Hoover Hall classroom.

This is a newcomer's class taught by Pastor Jim, designed to help you meet other people and learn more about our church.

You can contact the church office to sign up, or for more information.



Quilters Meeting

Do you like to sew? Would you be interested in making a child size quilt or fleece blanket? Please come and join us:

Date: Friday, September 3, 2021

Time: 9:00 am—11:30 am

Place: Hoover Hall classroom



Coffee and Conversation Women's Connection



Please join us on Monday mornings 10:00—11:00 a.m. in Hoover Hall classroom for an informal time of fellowship.

We discuss a different topic each week and have fun sharing and getting to know each other. Bring your own drink. For questions call the church office.

Fellowship Games

Searching for a friendly group and Christian atmosphere around a relaxing table game? Look no further. Meet people, make new friends, share interests, stretch your brain. We play Mexican train and are open to other games.

Join us on the first and third Mondays (except for holidays) of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom

Date: September 20, 2:00 p.m.



Coloring Fellowship

Join us for Coloring Fellowship on September 28, (the 4th Tuesday) with an emphasis on Fellowship. We have supplies if you want to color and need supplies. All are welcome.



Details:

Date: September 28, 2021

Time: 10:00—11:30 a.m.

(you don't have to stay the whole time)

Place: Hoover Hall

We hope to see you there,

Deborah Phillips and Mary Beth Tyson

Thank you

Dear Church Family,

There are not enough words to express how thankful I am for the outpouring of love shown to me during my husband Sal's passing.

My family was so touched by the support given to me. Thank you for the calls, cards, food, kind words and donations in his name..

A special thank you to our dear Pastors and our very faithful Joyce.

With much love,

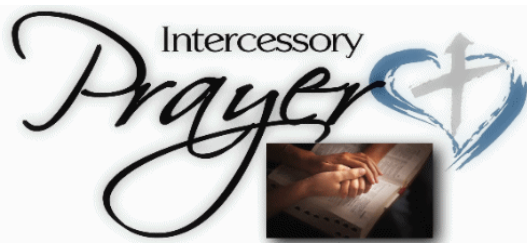
Ida Apria

Sincere thanks to my Palm West prayer warriors for my shoulder replacement surgery. While I am still undergoing therapy, I am happy to be playing organ again.

Marilyn Urbany

Thanks to all who sent prayers and cards to me during my knee surgery. I am so grateful, it was very caring and supportive.

Bette Pogorelc



The Intercessory Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 11:00 am. We will be using the Worship Center classroom in the back of the sanctuary.

Do you have a prayer request?

If so, email prayer@palmwestchurch.org
We'll get your request to our prayer team and include it on our daily email update.

Prayer is our most forceful weapon and we need to continue to rely on this privilege.



September Meetings

Office Closed, Monday, September 6 in Observance of Labor Day

Bible Study—History & Context in Mark's Gospel

Wednesday, September 29	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Worship Center
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Christian Readers Book Club

Thursdays, September 2	1:00 pm—2:30 pm	Worship Center classroom
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Choir

Thursdays, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	3:00 pm—4:30 pm	Choir Room
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Coloring Fellowship

Tuesday, September 28	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall
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Community Bible Study

Wednesdays, September 15, 22, 29	9:30 am—11:30 am	Entire Campus
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Discovering PWCC!

Thursday, September 16	1:00 pm—2:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Education

Monday, September 27	9:30 am—11:30 am	Worship Center classroom
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End of Life Matters

Wednesday, September 29	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Fellowship Games

Monday, September 20	2:00 pm—5:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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GriefShare

Tuesdays, September 21, 28	10:00 am—11:30 am	Choir Room
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Hope Bags

Friday, September 10	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall
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Intercessory Prayer Gathering

Tuesdays, September 7, 14, 21, 28	11:00 am—12:00 noon	Worship Center classroom
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Men's Bible Study

Mondays, September 13, 20, 27	8:30 am—9:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
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PAT

Tuesday, September 21	1:00 pm—2:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Prayer Gathering

Thursdays, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Choir Room
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Quilters Meeting

Friday, September 3	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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September Meetings

(continued)

Samaritans Purse

Monday, September 7 9:00 am—11:00 am Hoover Hall

Small Groups

New Leader Training— Monday, September 20, Wednesday, September 22

1:00 pm—3:00 pm Hoover Hall

Leaders Refresher Class—Monday, September 27, Tuesday, September 28

1:00 pm—3:00 pm Hoover Hall

Stephen Ministers

Monday, September 7 1:00 pm—3:00 pm Hoover Hall classroom

Stretching Class

Fridays, September 3, 10, 17, 24 10:00 am—11:00 am Hoover Hall//Choir Room

VLT

Tuesdays, September 7, 21 10:00 am—11:30 am Hoover Hall classroom

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, September 16, 23, 30 9:30 am—11:00 am Hoover Hall

Women's Connection

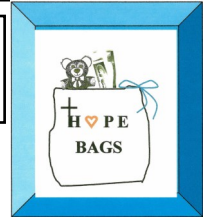
Mondays, September 13, 20, 27 10:00 am—11:30 am Hoover Hall classroom



**Our new website has our new online giving service.
Over the next 3 months we ask that you switch from
Vanco to Subsplash.
If you need assistance contact the church office.**

Hope Bags Claudia Smith

Thrive Open House



THRIVE has a new location: 14202 N. 73rd Ave., Peoria, AZ. What an amazing Open House that ten of PWCC members attended on May 27. One of the Aged-out-Foster people gave a moving testimony. This young man was in **35** Foster Homes. He heard about THRIVE, and came to them and asked to be part of the program. He was accepted, and now has two Associates degrees and has graduated from school to become a Hotshot Firefighter. Another victory for THRIVE's program.

We were given a tour of the many building facilities on the 26 acre campus, including the dorms, women's apartments (with children), cafeteria, warehouse and chapel. God is truly blessing this ministry.



Front row L to R: Carol Evans, Lucy & Larry Peek, Claudia Burr.
Back row L to R: John Burr, Claudia Smith, Dave Evans, David & Patty Sievwright, Jimmy Smith.



Refurbished men's dorm room. Each person has their own room.



20,000 foot warehouse. PWCC has received a sincere Thank You for providing the funds for a used forklift to be used in this warehouse.

The "Item of the Month" for September is 8 pack crayons. We need 300 for the children's ministry.

Thank you for your overwhelming response to our "Item of the Month" showing our love for Christ through our giving to those at-risk women and children in Maricopa County.

We have new folks joining our Hope Bag Team and we welcome them into our fellowship. If you would like more information about Hope Bags, or have any questions, please call Claudia Smith: 623-933-3054

End of Life Matters

Fannalou Guggisberg

If you haven't already attended the End of Life Matters seminar, keep reading to find out why you should come.

As a chaplain/pastor, I've dealt with many families who were grieving the death of a loved one. For the first two or three weeks, they are usually experiencing shock and numbness. I myself have experienced this reality when I've lost family members. Numbness and shock are a natural response God gave us to protect our physical bodies from feeling the full force of the loss. Something akin to a fog engulfs us and prevents us from functioning normally. Time moves in slow motion. Many of us have trouble focusing or thinking clearly during this period. Individuals experience loss in unique ways, but this is a general response I've seen and felt time and again.

Because it's difficult for grieving persons to concentrate and/or even make decisions when they've lost a loved one, having in hand documents that were prepared ahead of time is immensely helpful. I'm talking about such things as wills, directions to physicians (a.k.a. "living wills" and durable medical powers of attorney), prepaid funeral plans, and funeral instructions so your family and loved ones know your full wishes after you are gone.

Writing down your wishes in advance saves your loved ones from the burden and stress of guessing what you wanted, or trying to remember what you verbally told them maybe years before. Complete instructions also help them locate all necessary records and information kept in your house and safe deposit box. All at a time when they may not be functioning normally due to grief. This is a real gift you can prepare and leave for them.

We call our seminar "End of Life Matters" because your end of life matters. Please give serious thought to signing up for this coming session. Couples are encouraged to come together, and singles, who also need to leave written instructions to be followed, should attend as well.

You will receive a comprehensive overview of all that's involved and each participant gets a planning document to take and complete. If you attended an earlier session, you don't need to come to this one, but please do finish filling out your planning document if you haven't already done so.

The next session is scheduled for Wednesday, September 29 at 1:30 pm in the Hoover Hall classroom. Led by Rev. Fannalou Guggisberg. If you wish to sign up contact the church office.



**The church office will be closed on
Monday, September 6
in Observance of Labor Day**

Missions

Samaritan's Purse

Dave Evans, Coordinator/Liaison



Donations for Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes will begin in October. May this be a blessed year for PWCC to fill boxes for Operation Christmas Child and the children in over 170 different countries around the world who will receive a filled box. Since 1993 over 188 million children have received a filled shoe box. We praise God for this and for all who have given through the years to accomplish this.

God bless you for giving to this important ministry at Samaritans Purse and God bless Samaritans Purse for the work they do. You have options for donating :

- ◆ Donate online (to save \$9 shipping cost per shoe box) at Samaritans Purse using the PWCC account
- ◆ at <https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/goal/view/8759b616-742b-4498-a1de-622280323b6c>
- ◆ Donate by check payable to PWCC for \$25 per box to be filled online at Samaritan's Purse by the Missions Committee
- ◆ Donate items to fill 176 boxes (available beginning September 12) that will be shipped to Samaritans Purse. Each box has a \$9 shipping charge that has to be sent with the shoe box. Items and filled boxes should be returned to the church no later than Sunday, November 7th.

WOW TOY DONATION

Don't forget to add a soccer ball or doll (an item with a little more value than a Dollar Tree item toy) !!



Bless you and thank you!

Missions

Voice of the Martyrs

Barb Barborak, Liaison

After leaders of the Akha tribe in Laos learned that three families had abandoned traditional Akha customs and religious culture to follow Jesus Christ, they pressured the families to leave their village. The leaders told the families they couldn't live in their village unless they renounced their "Jesus religion."

When the families refused to do so, village leaders loaded them and their belongings onto a truck, drove them out of the village and abandoned them on a plot of empty farmland. Authorities then destroyed the believers' homes.

Voice of the Martyrs helped the families find new housing and supported them with living expenses as they began to rebuild their lives. They also have been helping persecuted Christians in China find help. Your church donation has 12% of it set aside for missionary ministries such as this. THANK YOU!!!





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