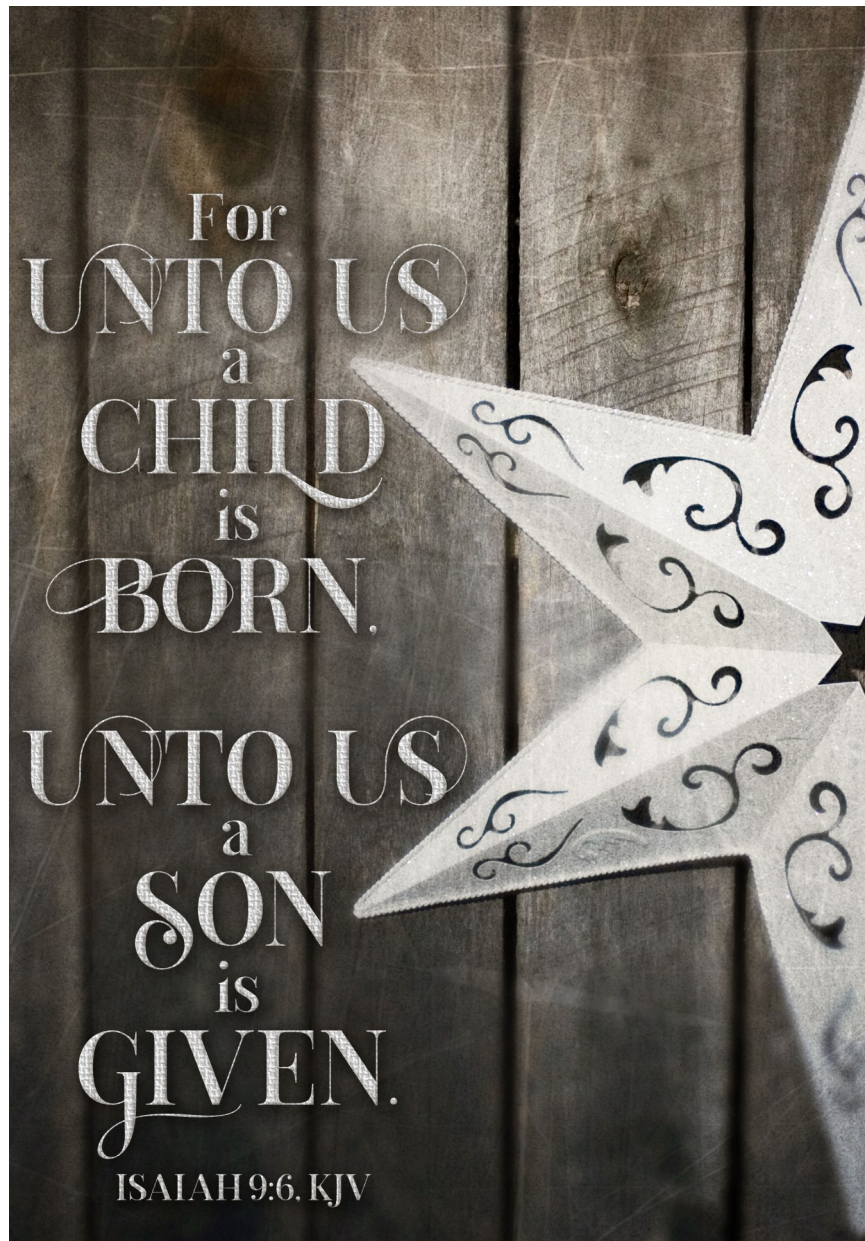


Palm West Alive

December 2021



The greatest gift-giver

When we give each other Christmas presents in [God's] name, let us remember that he has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans — and all that lives and moves upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused. And to save us from our own foolishness, from all our sins, he came down to earth and gave us himself.

—Sigrid Undset

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
pastorbrian@palmwestchurch.org

Office Staff:

Joyce Sopilnick, Church Administrator
admin@palmwestchurch.org

Joyce Davis, Accounting Clerk
accounting@palmwestchurch.org

Butch Wilcox, Facility Maintenance Technician
fmt@palmwestchurch.org



Worship With Us In Person

Sundays

9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

OR

Live Stream at 9:00 am
(on the website/app)

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 January
Palm West *Alive* is:**



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/Kristine Seemiller

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Prayer Requests, page 10
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Pastor Jim Powell

Senior Pastor

We Come in Peace



One of the more significant theme's around the birth of Jesus was that of peace. It was proclaimed by Isaiah the prophet when he predicted the future Messiah by calling him the Prince of Peace. When Jesus was born the angels proclaimed "peace on earth." Even today during the Christmas season we see cards, decorations, lights, and banners that proclaim the message of peace.

The theme of peace though is much larger than just Christmas and birth of Jesus. There are several hundred verses in the Bible that address this issue. Peace between people and groups. Peace between man and God. Peace within and around us. Yet, for as much as the Bible talks about the importance of peace, especially for Christians, it seems it is desperately lacking not only in the world but also in the church.

In 2013 I traveled to Africa for a summit with church leaders from around the globe. One day I was visiting with a leading minister from the country of South Sudan. Sudan Christians had been ravished from persecution from the Muslims in the north for several decades, but in 2011 they gained their independence, and South Sudan became their own country under Christian leadership and separated from the Islamic power base they had endured previously. As I talked to this church leader about the persecution he and other Christians faced, I then asked him the question, "I'm sure it's much better now isn't it?" The Pastor shook his head no, and said that nothing had really changed. I asked him to explain and he started to tell me about how once the Christians obtained their independence they began to fight for power among themselves. Tribes. Denominations. Geographical locations. They all began to fight for control of the country and as a result they began to turn on each other with the fervor and violence they had previously endured from the Muslims.

Everywhere we turn it seems there is a lack of peace. Watch the evening news and its story after story of people turning on each other in some of the most depressing and unbelievable of ways. Therefore, this Christmas season I'm going to do a series on the theme of peace. I'm be speaking about everything from what biblical peace really is, to the difference between being a peace-maker and a peace-keeper. I'll talk about having peace of heart and peace with God. Hopefully as a result, the peace that Jesus came to bring will be a little more real to us and in us.

*Thank
you*

The Powell family would like to thank everyone who took the time to give them a card and/or gift for Pastor's appreciation. It was truly overwhelming to read so many heartfelt notes of gratitude and to receive so many generous gifts.

We feel loved and blessed.

Thank you!

Pastor Peter Kyhn

Assoc. Pastor of Worship, Music & Discipleship



BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

Since the spring of 2011 it has been my great privilege and joy to serve our Lord with you here at Palm West Community Church. The music we have made together lifting our voices in prayer and praise to our loving God and the music that has been presented by our fantastic choir and the many soloists and ensembles has been Christ honoring and wonderful.

Every church pastor serves their congregation hoping that he or she is making a lasting difference in the lives of their congregation only to find that it has been the congregation who has changed the life of their pastor. That has been true for me. So many of you have shown me how to walk with God through the later years of life. You have demonstrated persistence in frustration, forbearance in irritation, and joy in trial. You have let the love of Jesus shine through you in so many acts of kindness and generosity.

My decision to retire was inspired in part by watching how much fun you all are having in your retirement. So, after forty-plus years of full-time vocational ministry I believe that it's my time to begin writing a new chapter of my life-story and to move out of the way of the next iteration of ministry here at PWCC.

"Church" is not a building, it's people and there are several who have had a significant impact on my time at Palm West. At my first meeting with then Pastor Bruce Schipul nearly eleven years ago I knew that PWCC is truly a "spiritual oasis in the desert." Imagine my utter surprise when I discovered that Judie and Dick Amen were members here – Judie and I served on a church staff in Denver, Colorado. Judi Brook was a tremendous help in my first few months. The talent of our musicians is stellar, and none greater than staff pianist Jan Kliever who always sets the highest bar of artistry and Christian servanthood. Joyce Sopilnick our church administrator has been the big sister I never had and, despite the teasing between us, she has been of tremendous help in keeping me on task and providing wise counsel.

It is said that the only constant in life is change. Change is inevitable; It's undeniable. You know; You experience it every day. God is present amidst change. He provides what we need, and often what we want. God has provided excellent pastoral leadership in Pastors Jim Powell and Brian Thomas. It has been my privilege to work with these fine men, albeit briefly. And He has provided Joe Place as your next Worship and Music Pastor. I am confident that you will embrace him and his family as you did me and mine.

It has been my pleasure and joy to have served our Lord with you these years. I am a better person and a better follower of Jesus because of you. These lyrics take on a new poignancy for me:

*Blest be the tie that binds / Our hearts in Christian love /
The fellowship of kindred minds / Is like to that above*

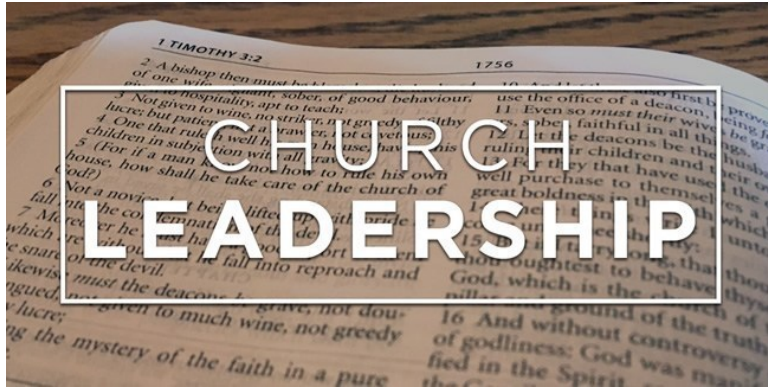
*When we asunder part / It gives us inward pain /
But we shall still be joined in heart / And know we'll meet again*

Blessings to you all in Jesus,

Peter Kyhn

Vision Leadership Team

John Sproule, Chair



The Annual Meeting Vote Results!

- Joyce Westlund and Bob Wilber were overwhelmingly approved by the membership to begin serving their respective four-year VLT term on January 1, 2022.
- The Palm West Community Church 2022 Budget was approved by 96% of those casting votes.

The Vision Leadership Team would like to thank the membership for your support as TOGETHER we strive to fulfill our church mission:

“Glorify God by Connecting People to Jesus and One Another”

John Sproule, 2022 VLT Chair



The church office will be closed from Friday, December 24 through Friday, December 31. We will re-open on Monday, January 3, 2022.

If you have an emergency please leave a message or contact one of the pastors.

Holidays: Do you really enjoy them?

Adapted from Author Jim Elliff, used with permission.



It might surprise you to know that not everyone loves the holidays.

There are those whose routine is severely interrupted, and they cannot wait for the days to return to normal. Though they may not say, “Bah, humbug,” they survive best in the routine of life. Others have religious scruples about holidays, such as the Puritans did so many years ago. They are concerned with connections and origin, as well as commercialization. Yet others are sad during holidays because of losses and loneliness, like the widowed, or someone whose family lives in far away places. Some realize that this may be the last holiday period they or their loved one will experience, and they wish it were not such a reminder that beloved family and friends will no longer be together.

It is important to ask yourself, “Do I really enjoy the holidays?” ***And if not, how can I make the best of them?***

First, realize that God didn’t require the holidays we celebrate. All this is man’s concoction. Nowhere in the Bible do we find the words, “Thou shalt celebrate the birth of Christ every December 25”. So, we don’t have to feel that a choice not to celebrate as everyone else does is a failure to love God. It simply isn’t so.

Second, if you are a person who loves routine or being busy, determine a good goal for your personal growth as a believer and work out a plan to tackle your goal during the holidays. You’ll accomplish something and that’s important for many of us. For instance, you may wish to read through a book of the Bible several times during the holiday period. Or you could discipline yourself to write email messages of encouragement to several friends you haven’t communicated with on that level for some time. Encouragement is good for any season. Don’t just bemoan the days; employ them.

Third, determine not to let your absence from loved ones or even your bias against the holiday time to affect your demeanor toward others. Rather, think through how you can do just the opposite. Overcome the dread of this holiday period with a new level of interest in others. It’s not about gifts, but love. The free time during holiday periods, if you have some, can afford you more opportunity to share that love. Rise above the doldrums.

Fourth, simplify. Some families decide not to give gifts at Christmas, or to give gifts that help others. A great resource is World Vision International, [Charity Gift Catalog | Gifts That Give Back | World Vision](#), or Food For The Hungry, [Clean Water - Give the Gift of Life - Food for the Hungry \(fh.org\)](#). The big deal is getting together with friends and/or family. Reach out to neighbors, friends, and church family to have a low stress potluck for Christmas. Have a great meal, play some games together, and generally have a beautiful day of stress-free fun. Who can beat that?

Or, if you are required to do some gift buying, think of ways to make it simple. I know that it is thoughtful to buy “just the right gift,” but realize that what you think is just the right often gets taken back to the store or shows up in next year’s garage sale. In certain (though not all) situations, cash in the envelope is OK. Don’t forget that you can stipulate its use, such as saying that it must be used for a getaway or a meal together, or you can even say, “Here’s \$50 to give to someone in need,” or even, “Here’s \$30 that must be used to take grandmother on a date!” This won’t always work, but it does sometimes. Or, you might say, “My gift to everyone this year is to take us all to get ice cream at _____.” Give an experience. Or some of you may find giving those family heirlooms away each year is an excellent choice. After all, you want them to go to the family. You might get the store to frame up copies of an early photograph or document to give out. Simplify and tone down expectations.

(continued)

Moderator

Gini Baker

(continued)

Finally, remember that it isn't so much the things you do as it is the person ***you are*** that is important. Whether you want to see this holiday period coming, or wish it weren't, you have a special opportunity ahead. If your contacts are reduced only to the person at the fast-food counter or that sometimes ungrateful extended family, or the stragglers left at the apartment complex, leave them a powerful image of a man or woman who loves Christ and overcomes difficulties and who isn't bitter or demanding. That's the best gift in anybody's book.

Merry Christmas!

Gini Baker and Family

Treasurer

Chuck Crandall

Finance Report Thru Oct 2021

Revenue	Actual	Budget
General Fund Offering	\$ 688,577	\$ 675,000
Interest & Other Income	\$ 20,615	\$ 11,296
12% Missions Allocation	\$ (82,629)	\$ (81,000)
Total Income	\$ 626,563	\$ 605,296

Expenses		
Salaries & Compensation	\$ 366,387	\$ 375,952
Benefits	\$ 79,770	\$ 94,271
Administration	\$ 25,076	\$ 26,750
Ministries	\$ 70,415	\$ 89,977
Provision for Capital R&R Fund	\$ 20,833	\$ 20,833
Total Expenses	\$ 562,481	\$ 607,783
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 64,082	\$ (2,487)

**THANK
YOU**

The family of Todd L Nagelson deeply appreciates the many cards and calls received at his recent passing. Your heart felt thoughts and soft words were many. A memorial service is planned in Pittsburgh with family in January.

December Sermons



We Come in Peace

Pastor Jim Powell

November 28—Peace On Earth

December 5—Peace Within

December 12—The Suffering of Jesus

December 19—The Resurrection of Jesus

***December 19, 3:00 p.m.
Church Christmas Dinner,
Briarwood Country Club***

Holy Land Tour 2023

Pastor Jim will be leading another tour of the Holy Land in February 2023. This will be an 11 day trip covering multiple locations where Jesus walked, talked, and taught.

For more information, brochures and registration forms are available in the office. If you register use the code: Powell23. You can also find more information online at:

<https://ittworld.com/tours/11-day-holy-land-tour-package/>



Hope!

A Gospel Christmas Celebration

*Combined PWCC & Congregational Church Choirs,
Instrumental ensemble, and More!*

A joyful presentation of the Christmas message

Sunday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m.



Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Christian Readers Book Club

Gini Baker

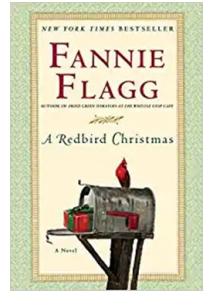
1st Thursday of Month, 1:00pm to 2:30pm, Worship Center Classroom

This is an awesome group. Read the book and join us for a great time of discussion and fellowship!!

December 2nd Book: *A Redbird Christmas*, Fannie Flagg

With the same incomparable style and warm, inviting voice that have made her beloved by millions of readers far and wide, *New York Times* bestselling author Fannie Flagg has written an enchanting Christmas story of faith and hope for all ages that is sure to become a classic.

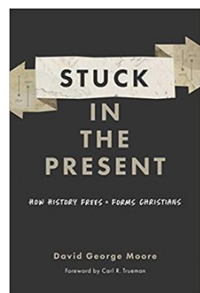
Deep in the southernmost part of Alabama, along the banks of a lazy winding river, lies the sleepy little community known as Lost River, a place that time itself seems to have forgotten. After a startling diagnosis from his doctor, Oswald T. Campbell leaves behind the cold and damp of the oncoming Chicago winter to spend what he believes will be his last Christmas in the warm and welcoming town of Lost River. There he meets the postman who delivers mail by boat, the store owner who nurses a broken heart, the ladies of the Mystic Order of the Royal Polka Dots Secret Society, who do clandestine good works. And he meets a little redbird named Jack, who is at the center of this tale of a magical Christmas when something so amazing happened that those who witnessed it have never forgotten it. Once you experience the wonder, you too will never forget *A Redbird Christmas*.



January 6th Book: *Stuck in the Present*, Dave Moore

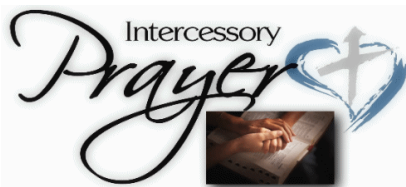
While the Bible is enough to take us to heaven, knowing history helps us live more wisely on our way.

George Orwell observed in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* that those who pay attention to history have the potential to influence the future. *Stuck in the Present* offers a grounding in historical consciousness that allows us to better navigate the daily bombardment of information. Amnesia about the past makes us vulnerable to the shackles of modern-day hucksters who try to convince us that the present is all that matters.



With wit and grace, Moore encourages readers to avoid common historical fallacies and better understand the significance of the past. Through interviews conducted with leading historians, Moore invites readers to better understand relevant topics like the living legacy of the Puritans, slavery and the Civil War, and the current struggles for Civil Rights. *Stuck in the Present* motivates readers to be lifelong learners of history. By doing so, we are enriched and better equipped to engage the complexities of our world.

For more info: Bev Crandall 623-584-9531



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.





Quilters Meeting

DECEMBER 10, FRIDAY 9:00 a.m.

QUILT & SEW MEETING

ALL SEWERS AND QUILTERS !

Come join us in the Hoover Hall Classroom for fun and fellowship if you are interested in sewing a child size quilt or blanket.

Fabric is provided!



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



The Fellowship is sailing again. Table games are back, folks are back, snacks are back, fun is back!

Join us in the Hoover Hall classroom the first and third Mondays at 2:00 p.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom

Dates: December 6 and 20 at 2:00 p.m.

Coloring Fellowship

Mark Your Calendar!

Join us for Coloring Fellowship on December 21 (the 3rd Tuesday), 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. in Hoover Hall.

We have supplies if you want to color and need supplies.

All are welcome.

We hope to see you there,

Deborah Phillips and Mary Beth Tyson



December Meetings

Christian Readers Book Club

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

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

Tuesday, December 21	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall
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Community Bible Study

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15	9:30 am—11:30 am	Entire Campus
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Education

Monday, December 6	9:00 am—11:30 am	Worship Center classroom
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Fellowship Games

Mondays December 6, 13	2:00 pm—5:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Finance Meeting

Thursday, December 2	9:00 am—10:30 am	Choir Room
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GriefShare

Tuesdays, December 7, 14	10:00 am—11:30 am	Choir Room
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Handbells

Fridays, December 3, 10, 17	9:00 am—10:00 am	Choir Room
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Hope Bags

Friday, December 3	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall
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Intercessory Prayer Gathering

Tuesdays, December 7, 14, 21	11:00 am—12:00 noon	Worship Center classroom
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Missions

Monday, December 13	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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PAT Training

Wednesday, December 15	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Choir Room
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Prayer Gathering

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

Friday, December 10	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Stretching Class

Fridays, December 3, 10, 17	1:00 pm—2:00 pm	Hoover Hall
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VLТ

Tuesday, December 14	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
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Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, December 2, 9, 16	9:30 am—11:00 am	Hoover Hall
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Women's Connection

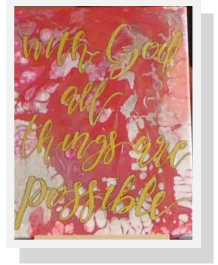
Mondays, December 6, 13, 20	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
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Hope Bags Claudia Smith



PDC Artwalk

Saturday was the perfect day for the PDC ARTWALK. Seven folks from PWCC attended this event, and the testimonies of the kids who had been Human Trafficked were heartwarming. They spoke openly about what their lives were like prior to coming to PDC, and then gave their testimony of how Jesus has changed their heart and their life. One of the victims sang two songs he had written, and some of the words were forgiving his captives. Here are a few pictures of some of their art work which symbolizes their feelings.



The black shirts that each one wore indicated they no longer are for sale under Satan's power. We were so blessed by the PDC ministry in helping these victims turn their lives around and giving them HOPE.



PDC just opened another satellite center in Albuquerque. What a wonderful mission for PWCC to continue supporting, as they are bringing so many women and children to the saving grace of Jesus. Look for a painting by human trafficked in Hoover Hall.

NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES—PARENTING POR VITA



Felipa and her family are recipients of NM, and she gives back as a volunteer. Every week she donates her time and talents to strengthen NM community. She finds love and support for herself and her family on NM campus. Her youngest son is finding his purpose in God's plan at the Monday nights Kids Life, and Summer Camp programs. Her daughter is a recipient of the Wayne & Kit Danley Scholarship and will be the first in her family to attend college.

Dolores Retana, Director of Parenting Por Vita, has developed a neighborhood program. She has lessons plans, and meets with several women in their backyard. They enjoy coffee and treats as they study the Bible and discuss their growth in their Christian walk.

Look for **Upcoming Tours** of PDC, NM and PRM in the near future. NM is arranging a bus for 12 in which they will pick us up and bring us back. Several tours will be after the first of the year, barring any restrictions placed on them by COVID. Watch for more information and sign-up sheets.

The Hope Bag Team wishes to thank you for your support of the "Item of the Month" program. In this month of December we need 50 boxes of colored size chalk 12 pack.
(Not sidewalk chalk)

Please place these boxes in the "Red Bins" inside the narthex of the Sanctuary and inside Hoover Hall.



If you have questions about the Hope Bag Ministry, please call Claudia 623-933-3054.

Missions

Village Missions

Linda Hall, Liaison



Amidst uncertain times in the United States and Canada, Village Missionaries are working hard to proclaim the Gospel. With a focus on the unity of believers, they continue to boldly proclaim the truth both in person and through livestreaming and social media in small towns and rural areas. They are rejoicing as the Gospel reaches people that do not attend church, and some partner churches have seen

their influence spread far beyond their community. Village missionaries are finding creative ways to connect with the next generation and introduce them to Jesus. Through the financial and prayer support of Palm West Community Church, Village Missions currently partners with 230 mission churches. This past year VM has added one new church/field, 13 new missionaries and 5 interns. At the 2021 Fall Candidate School in November, VM had 7 missionary candidates attend. Five U.S regional Staff Conferences in 2021 ministered to, encouraged and taught over 600 missionaries, spouses and their children to remind them they are not alone as they minister in isolated areas.



Village Missions Purpose:

“Village Missions partners with small country churches to help them thrive. We place spiritually qualified missionary pastors, at the invitation of the congregation. These missionary pastors serve in a full-time capacity, preaching the Word and loving the people. Village Missions supports the missionary and the church through prayer, in-person coaching, and financial and logistical assistance.”

To read amazing stories from the missionaries, visit www.villagemissions.org/blog

Christmas Sock Drive



Men's, Women's, Children's and Infant's sized socks for warming feet during the cold, winter months for the families in need and the homeless. Collection of socks will be December 5 and 12. Thank you for sharing your gifts with those who are less fortunate. To God be the glory and may we be blessed through our giving, love and devotion to Christ Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, the Messiah! Merry Christmas!

Missions

Operation Mobilization

Connie Mutton, Liason



Operation Mobilization or “OM” is an international missions organization which got its start in 1957 when George Verwer and a couple of college friends organized a summer outreach to Mexico. After graduating, George and his friends traveled to Spain, sharing the Gospel and distributing literature. By 1963, George and his small team realized that God’s plan was to mobilize His church to reach the nations. 2,000 Christians joined the summer outreach teams in Europe. At the same time, the first year-long teams moved into the Indian sub-continent and the Muslim world, committing themselves to reaching those who had never heard the Gospel.



In the mid 1960’s, work began in Communist Eastern Europe with teams smuggling in Bibles and small printing presses. About the same time, teams began distributing literature in Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Afghanistan & South Asia. In 1970 the OM Ships Ministry began, expanding OM’s reach around the globe, with the ability to visit thousands of the world’s port cities.

In 1989 over 7000 people joined the LOVE EUROPE Summer Outreach. Of that group, hundreds joined long-term and in 1991 OM began a focus on humanitarian relief, preaching a holistic gospel in response to the Gulf War. In 2007, OM celebrated 50 years of work and also appointed its first Asian International Director, Lawrence Tong. OM also adopted the current version of our mission statement: “We want to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached.”

By God’s grace, OM now has 5,000+ workers, representing more than 100 nationalities, serving in the OM family of ministries in over 120 countries, bringing God’s unchanging truth to literally millions every year.

Reaching the Muslim World has been one of OM’s priorities since the 1960’s and Palm West partners, with a couple on OM’s Near East Team that is responsible for ministry in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Jordan.

“Despite the hardships some of these nations have and are facing, God has been powerfully at work and we are seeing fruit among the Muslim population that wouldn’t have dreamed of it 20 years ago. The fruit amongst Syrian refugees has been particularly amazing and we pray we will seem similar in the other people groups we are working with as well. We are grateful for your prayers and partnership!” Note: Our missionaries live in a region of the world where persecution is real. Please pray for them and should you want details on their names and situation, please contact Connie Mutton, Missions Liaison.

Online Giving



If you would like to sign-up for Online giving, go to our website and follow the links.

If you need assistance contact the church office.

For those of you who are still giving online through Vanco please contact the church office for assistance to close your account and get instruction to sign on to Subsplash giving.



13845 W. Stardust Blvd.
Sun City West, AZ 85375

