

Palm Leaf

Church of the Palms

June/July 2017

Connect with God, find community, make a difference!
We are an Open and Affirming church—You are welcome here!



July

Pastor Paul Whitlock



I started June 1, 2016 at The Palms. It has been one year - which is equal to: 12 months; 365 days; 8,760 hours; 525,600 minutes; or 31,536,000 seconds! There have been 42 sermons by me, some by Judy, some by Jim, and some by Debby. There were hundreds of meetings and thousands of "hello's". We have laughed, cried, thought, planned, tried, succeeded, failed, smiled, sang, and prayed. We have gathered for holy communion. Time, talent and treasure have been shared. We experienced changes in the church staff - an increase in Jim's role, the retirement of Judy Green-Davis, and the welcoming of Debby Stinton. The air conditioning has mostly worked. Two rummage sales expanded our ministry opportunities. The landscape was maintained. Pets were blessed. A Palm Leaf informed while Paul at the Palms entertained. A member was baptized. A bible study group was anointed. The constitution and bylaws were edited and edited and edited some more before finally being approved. Benches were installed and a fountain sprung forth with life again. Prayer quilts and flowers blessed those in need. Butterflies filled the sanctuary! Visits to homebound, hospital patients, and rehab centers lifted the spirits of many. New members joined us. Death stole away a few. Cacti were planted. Social media was expanded. A website was given a face lift. Our church sign informed those stopped at 103rd and Boswell. Trips were taken to experience new cultures and groups came to visit us. Bread was broken - fellowship was extended. Popcorn was consumed while movies were watched. A patio was poured. There was an increase of mission dollars sent locally, nationally, and globally. People who had been ostracized were provided with an extravagant welcome! Toes were stepped on, challenges extended. Worship provided divine moments in which the angels themselves seemed to be singing and/or playing. An installation occurred. Breakfasts were tasty and informative. New officers were installed while some moved on to other opportunities. You were you, and I was me, and together we were a rainbow of God's beloved children - The Church of the Palms!

Shalom, Paul

New Member of the

HART PANTRY BOARD of DIRECTORS



The Board of Directors of the Hart Pantry met on May 9th and we are so pleased to welcome Jan Eckstein to our Board. Jan comes to us from Church of the Palms, Sun City. She is presently the Chairperson of their Board of Missions and Outreach and as such has been working closely with HART PANTRY as they are major contributors to our mission. Jan is a native of Iowa but has been living in Arizona in Sun City for the past 17 years. She is a retired Special Education teacher after 31 years of service and we are so pleased she has accepted our invitation to the HART PANTRY family. This brings our board to 7 members.

Back to School Needs List:

- Backpacks
- Calculators
- Rulers
- Compass and protractor kits
- 3 ring binders (1 1\2 inch minimum)
- Composition books
- Pens, pencils, colored pencils, sharpeners, erasers
- Assignment/calendar books
- Single and multiple subject notebooks
- Pocket folders
- Glue sticks
- Highlighters
- Scotch tape
- Tissue packs and wipes
- Reusable water bottles
- Men's ankle socks medium, large extended sizes
- Women's socks shoe sizes up to 10
- Gift cards for Walmart or Target
- Men's/women's deodorants

Backpacks to be packed by the hart team from a consortium of churches the end of July. Sent to schools in time for opening of schools in August.

Bring your purchased items to church and put them in the Hart Pantry back to school bin. These donations are tax deductible.

June/July Food Items Needed

- Apple Sauce cups or fruit cups
- Vegetable cups
- Fruit juice packs like 100% Capri Sun juice
- Carnation Instant Breakfast (packets)

**Please!
Have all School
Supply Donations in
by
July 24th**

**Hart Pantry
Collecting Goal:
100 Backpacks**



*August Water Drive for
Children First Academy*

Children First Academy is a church in Phoenix that serves homeless and extremely low income students. A fleet of buses picks up students from shelters and temporary housing units throughout the greater Phoenix area. Often, students are on the busses for extended periods of time. The school, which we support through our Board of Mission and Outreach, has requested our help by providing bottled water to give to students for their ride on the bus to and from school. The busses are not air conditioned so it is important that students stay hydrated. The water drive will be held on August 6th and 13th. You can help by providing a case of bottled water or donating cash, which the Board of Mission and Outreach will use to purchase cases of water. Watch for announcements in the Sunday Bulletin during July and August.

Thank you for your help!

NOTES FROM THE



BOARD OF WORSHIP AND FINE ARTS

**Dine With the
Sharks at Dillon's
Restaurant by the
Wildlife Zoo
Saturday, June 24th
Bus leaves at 10:30 a.m.
(Sign-up Sheet is out)**



**Summer Movies: 1PM
July 13th,
"Manchester By The Sea"
August 10th ,
"The Iron Lady"
September 7th
"Ruthless People"**



Many thanks to Judy Beal and the Board of Worship and Fine Arts for organizing this great tour.



May's adventure trip took 22 of us to the historic home of the Wrigley Museum, atop a 100 ft. knoll in Phoenix. The exceptionally high viewpoint had grand vistas of downtown Phoenix and nearby views of the Biltmore Hotel and Camelback Mountain. Wm. Wrigley Jr., the chewing gum-magnate, built



the winter house, his 5th and last house, completed in 1932.

Spanish Colonial style predominates with embellishments expressing sentiment to his wife, Ada. Our music highlight took place in the largest of the 24 rooms in the house. We heard a player piano,(a grand) whirl the roll of Rhapsody in Blue played by the composer, George Gershwin, himself. Our tour guide took us all about the house and also pointed out halls of historic letters and pictures of guests of Wrigley's and the second owners, the Hormel family. One viewer's secret envy: the house came with rooms and porches to view sunrises and sunsets!

Join us on Saturday, June 24th when we dine with the Sharks at Dillon's Restaurant by the Wildlife Zoo.

Living the Questions

Your Board of Lifelong Learning presents "Living the Questions 2.0": An Introduction to Progressive Christianity" a weekly program starting May 1, 2017 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. hosted by Debby Stinton, Assistant Pastor. The program will be offered for approximately 12 weeks. This DVD series was written and produced by Jeff Procter-Murphy and David Felton, United Methodist Pastors. "Living the Question" is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. LtQ creates an environment where participants not only interact with one another in exploring the best of today's theological thought, but together strive to explore what's next for Christianity." Let's do some God-talk!

June 5th – Restoring Relationships & The Prophetic Jesus

June 12th – Evil, Suffering & A God of Love, plus The Myth of Redemptive Violence

June 19th – Practicing Resurrection & Debunking the Rapture

June 26th – Reclaiming the World

July 10th – A Kingdom with Walls & Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision

July 17th – Incarnation: Divinely Human & Prayer: Intimacy with God

July 24th – Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry & Creative Transformation

July 31st - Embracing Mystery

Author's notes

It was so great to be back home again, performing at the Palms Breakfast on May 9th. The response from those in attendance was so heartwarming. Tom Bell and I were both thrilled by your deep interest and overwhelming reaction to our work. We have been performing together for a little over two years now and this was the most highly rewarding experience we've ever encountered. Thanks to George, Bonnie and Carolyn for providing a wonderful meal, Debi Martin for her kind work in planning this event and to all of you for your attendance and warm response. Love and blessings,
Jack Evans





DEBBY'S CORNER

Happy June and July! Welcome to my new corner of the newsletter to share what's happening as Pastoral Assistant. As you already may know, I have been participating in Worship and have been given the opportunity to preach when there is a 5th Sunday in a month, therefore my next preaching gig is July 2nd . What may not be clear is my "job" responsibilities. I was brought on staff to help with "Women's Issues", Pastoral Care needs, and to assist in New Member Orientation, plus whatever else comes up. You may see me bouncing around at the Rummage Sale or leading classes, which are my "volunteer" activities, but are also great opportunities to get to know all the wonderful folks here at The Church of the Palms.

I have been involved with establishing the Singles Ministry with Linda Wilson and had the opportunity to attend the Southwest Conference Annual Meeting as a delegate and Member in Discernment. I have loved getting to know more and more folks, and look forward to getting to know more. If you have a need to chat, please let me know. I am here for you.

Blessings, Debby

Let us Make You a Memory!

Have you seen the pillow on the event table in the narthex? When someone passes away, it is great to have a visual reminder of them - something that brings back pleasant memories as you walk by and notice it. A memory Pillow is a great and practical reminder.

Give us the shirt or blouse of the loved one who has passed on and the Service Project Craft Group will make it into a pillow. What a great gift for a friend who has lost a loved one - or for your children who have lost a parent. And for yourself.



See Carol Reynolds or come by the BR where we meet each Wed from 9 - 11. We'd love to make a pillow for you.

STEADFAST HOPE:
THE PALESTINIAN QUEST FOR A JUST PEACE
Beth Moore

Earlier this year, I volunteered to facilitate a series of sessions for interested Church of the Palms members to learn about the conflict in the Holy Land. Twenty of us met for five times, and using a resource called Steadfast Hope (created by the Presbyterian Church's



Israel-Palestine Mission Network) we began to increase our understandings of what has happened in that part of the world since 1948 with the founding of the state of Israel.

We sought to understand the narratives that Palestinian and Israeli peoples have for the same historical events. There were words we didn't know — like Nakba (Arabic for catastrophe and

the name that Palestinians give to the events of 1948 during which 750,000 of them were forced to flee their homes because of violence directed against them by Jewish military groups seeking to secure the land for what would become the state of Israel).

In an accompanying video we heard Israeli and American Jews share their perspectives on what has happened over the years, and the threat that they believe the current occupation of the West Bank by Israel poses to the soul of the Jewish people, and the lives of the Palestinians — both Christian and Muslim — who live there. We also explored Christian Zionism and the role that many in the US Christian community have played in supporting Israeli taking of all the land of Ancient Judea and Samaria.

In the news we hear predominantly about the violent attacks by Palestinians on Israelis. We did not know of the non-violent resistance in which most Palestinians are engaged: trying to live in peace on land that has been in their family for generations.

We found ourselves frequently asking the questions: Why haven't we heard these stories? We talked about how we might share some of the things we learned with our wider community. This brief article is an initial attempt to do this. On the second

Sunday in June, we will have some printed materials on the background of this conflict available at the table selling Equal Exchange products . We hope you'll stop by and pick up a copy, and speak with one of the individuals who participated in the study. There is

a copy of Steadfast Hope in the Church library. We plan to continue our educational efforts over this next year as part of the work of the new Social Justice Team at The Church of the Palms.

Singles and Solos Game-Fellowship Days & Hours:
First Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM to 12:30pm
and the Third Wednesday of each month from 11:30am to 2:00pm.

Greetings all! Our Singles Group here at Church of the Palms invites all you "Solos" to come and socialize, play games, and be in fellowship too. Debby Stinton is an example of a "solo," she is married, but her husband works and does not do the social things she likes to do.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 3rd from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 and Wednesday, June 21st from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. We socialize and play games. Bring yourself, a snack to share, a favorite game, and always invite a friend! We are trying something new on these dates as well – meeting at the church at 7:30 am and carpooling to Arrowhead Mall to Walk & Talk from 8:00 to 9:00 am and then stop for some coffee, or sit at Starbucks and watch the rest of us walk the mall.



June field trip: [Tuesday, June 13th](#) We are trying out the "Angry Crab Shack" located on 75th Ave. and Cactus for some socializing and dinner. We'll carpool from church at 3:30 p.m. Menu available at www.angrycrabshack.com. They do have vegetarian options!

Looking forward to July: Game days at the church will be Saturday, July 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, July 19, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. And if walking in June was a success, then we'll do it again in July.



July field trip: [Friday, July 14th](#). Lee Lee's Oriental Market located at 75th Ave. and Cactus. Shopping, sightseeing of all the unique foods this store has and lunch at one of their cafes. We will carpool from the church leaving at 10:30 a.m.

Barbara Arnold has donated a "Wii" to the Singles and Solos Group and we will be planning "Wii" game days in the future. If you have ever played, you know this is a great activity. Especially the bowling! Anyone interested please let us know. For more info regarding any of these events, contact Debby Stinton [623-977-8359](tel:623-977-8359), or reply to our church secretary, Debi Martin, who will also assist with questions.

The Ecumenical Renewal Retreat XIV

September 5 - 8 of 2017

Chapel Rock Conference Center, Prescott, Arizona



Church of the Palms is the primary sponsor for this year's retreat which will focus on: "Our Worship Music thru the Ages"! On Wednesday Rabbi Nina Perlmutter will lead the retreat and present the music from the Jewish tradition. On Thursday Jim Alexander will lead us in a look at the traditional and contemporary music from the Christian perspective. Mary Whitlock will lead us in Retreat Hymns throughout the retreat.

The Retreat includes 3 nights lodging, 3 dinners, 3 breakfasts, and 2 lunches. The food is fantastic! Our featured presenters are well respected members of their church and temple communities.

You can expect to do some singing and some listening and lots of enjoying! Music is, at its essence, the sound of spirit. When created from the heart and with truth and pure intention, music is a spiritual expression of the most universal nature and the highest order. The spiritual nature of music cannot be defined by religion, culture or genre. Music precedes and transcends all of those frameworks. What a better way to spend the hot late summer days than to be in the beautiful cool pines of Prescott, listening to and singing spiritual sounds of Judeo-Christian music.

*Rabbi Nina Perlmutter
Rabbi Emerita, Congregation Lev Shalom,
Faculty Emeritus, Yavapai College*

*Jim Alexander
Church of the Palms,
Minister of Worship & Arts, Assistant Pastor*

*Mary Whitlock
Member Church of the Palms,
Retreat Organizer and Bible Study Leader*

For more information contact
Debby Stinton dstinton@thepalms.org or John Durbin jst4us21@cox.net

Sign up early to get your spot!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/3 Jeannette Reeves

6/4 Dan Kozlowski

6/6 Richard Nagel

6/7 Sylvia Masny

6/7 Joyce Stoffers

6/8 Edith Bentz

6/11 Tom Barnett

6/11 Don Zoss

6/11 Darwin Wille

6/13 Jack Curtis

6/15 Hazel Urquhart

6/19 Dale Andress

6/20 Georgia Deeds

6/21 Jerrold Rosebery

6/24 Lucille Clark

6/24 Corrine Weiss

6/30 Ramona Schenk

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/2 Gingi Ahokas

7/2 George Wall

7/3 Barbara Jacobson

7/4 Ron Lewton

7/5 Phyllis Short

7/8 Sue Plumb

7/10 Leni Rothschild

7/15 Richard Hudnall

7/16 Paul Clark

7/18 Molly Winegardner

7/20 Debby Stinton

7/21 Gordon Funck

7/22 Diana Shalzi

7/24 Carol Allen

7/25 Linda Rouches

7/26 Bruce Shrader

7/26 Dee Hagge

7/28 Jim Alexander

7/31 Doris Gott

Services in June/July

Lord's Day Service each week at 10 a.m.

Fellowship Time in King Hall at 11 a.m.

For bus pick-up:

Please Call The Mary Kennicott:

623-977-4225 or 623-977-8359



June 4: It is the Day of Pentecost! Pastor Paul will be preaching on Acts 2:1-21. Wear Red. I wonder what will happen to our butterflies?

June 11: "In the beginning..." You do not have to check your brain when you come to worship nor do you have to put down your faith when reading a scientific journal. Both are valid ways to interpret the creation story. Pastor Paul will be preaching.

Read Genesis 1 – 2:4a

June 18 – Jim Alexander's message for the day will be from Matthew 9:35 - 10:8. We should not be waiting for the BIG moments to share the hope we have in Christ. May we be ready to share the message of hope and grace "as we go."

June 25: Pastor Paul will be preaching. Come and hear Matthew 10:24-39. Family dynamics on vacation can be challenging!

July 2 – Debby Stinton: Debby will be using Matthew 10:40-42 "Giving and Receiving" Are we open enough to receive as well as we give?

July 9 – Jim Alexander: Romans 7:15-25 The message is one of encouragement. It is no longer I that liveth, but Christ that liveth in me!

July 16 Read Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. Pastor Paul will be preaching on the Holy Extravagance of God's Love.

July 23: Our job is not to judge! Focus on yourself and make sure you are the best you that you can be! Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. Pastor Paul will be preaching.

July 30: Pastor Paul will be preaching on Romans 8:26-39. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ! What about...? Nothing! How about...? Nothing!



Sunday, June 4th Pentecost Sunday



For Christians, Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost,

which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church." Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church was started. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it.

Thus Pentecost is the church's birthday.

On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon those followers of Jesus who had gathered together in Jerusalem. What happened on the first Pentecost continues to happen to Christians throughout the world today, though usually not in such a dramatic fashion. We rarely get a heavenly wind and tongues of fire anymore. Nevertheless, God pours out the Spirit upon all who put their faith in Jesus Christ and become his disciples.



James Clark, George Wall, Pastor Paul Whitlock and Debby Stinton

The UCC Annual Conference

The UCC Annual Conference was held May 4-6, 2017, in Albuquerque, N.M. Attending from the Church of the Palms were Pastor Paul Whitlock, Debby Stinton, George Wall and James Clark. Highlights included Bill Lyons being elected as the Conference Minister of the Southwest Conference UCC, Pastor Paul Whitlock was recognized as the new pastor for the Church of the Palms, Jim Alexander, Debby Stinton and Michael Whitlock being recognized as being Members in Discernment, and most notably, the Church of the Palms was given a Thank You certificate for being a 5 for 5 Congregation of the UCC in 2016 (funds support for several things).

George Wall



***Lydia Circle Luncheon
June 14th 11:30 a.m.***

***Join us at the
Jade Star Restaurant
10050 W Bell Rd #8, Sun City, AZ
We Would Love To See You There!***

Jack Evens and the Board of Life Long Learning Presents:

"Filmmakers of the 20th Century"

Every third Friday of the month, throughout the Summer our good friend Jack Evans will treat us to a film presentation in this series.



Friday, June 16th
Midnight in Paris

A 2011 fantasy comedy film written and directed by Woody Allen. Set in Paris, the film follows Gil Pender, a screenwriter, who is forced to confront the shortcomings of his relationship with his materialistic fiancée and their divergent goals, which become increasingly exaggerated as he travels back in time each night at midnight



Friday, July 21st
The Double Life of Veronique

The Double Life of Veronique is a 1991 French-Polish-Norwegian drama film directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski and starring Irène Jacob. Written by Kieslowski and Krzysztof Piesiewicz, the film explores the themes of identity, love, and human intuition through the characters of Weronika, a Polish choir soprano, and her double, Véronique, a French music teacher. The two women do not know each other, and yet they share a mysterious and emotional bond that transcends language and geography.



Art Show 2018

The Board of Worship and Fine Arts is giving you a years' notice of The Palms' Art Show.

In February of 2018 we will be featuring creative people in our own Congregation. We will host the show on Saturday with a Follow-up viewing on Sunday morning until noon. All Media are welcome. Space consideration in King Hall will determine size restrictions for Individual showings.

Look for more information on this popular event in early Fall 2017.

Get Your Creative Juices Flowing!

Judy Beal



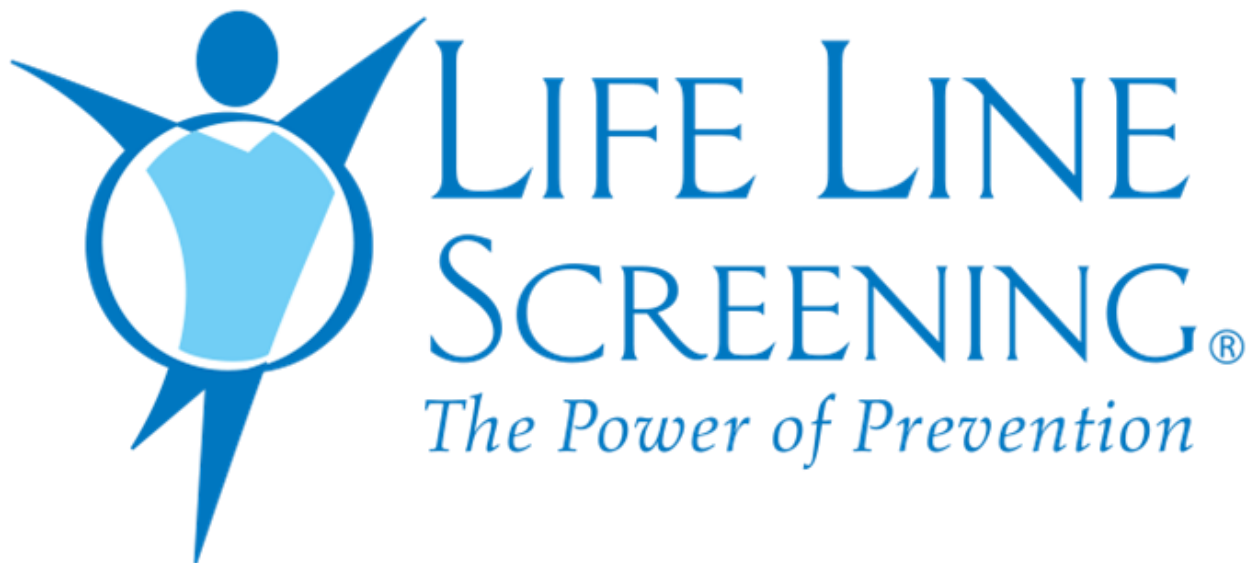
In Loving Memory



George and Janice Robertson

May 7th 2017 ~ May 18th 2017

Never to Part



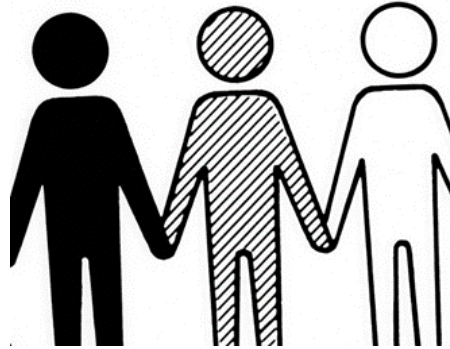
Life Line Screening

Monday, August 7th 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Church of the Palms on 8/7/2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount).

All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

**SOCIAL
JUSTICE**



**SOCIAL
JUSTICE**

THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

The agenda for the newly formed Church of the Palms Social Justice Team is taking shape. At their recent planning retreat a mission statement and work plan were developed. The mission statement: "Working for Justice through Prayer, Action, Love, Ministry & Support (or Justice through the PALMS)", provides a place for all members of our congregation to participate if they wish. Your role might be prayer, or expressions of love, or financial/moral support, or ministry (writing, calling, emailing). But action is the key to our success!

This team, which is under the auspices of the Board of Mission and Outreach and received the full endorsement of the Church Council, currently has 12 full time active members and 3 seasonal/winter members. The team invites others who share a passion for social justice to join in our work. The justice issues which will be addressed in the near and extended future include LGBTQ equality, religious/racial appreciation and support, immigration/refugee assistance, criminal justice reform, and protection of our environment. Watch for information and opportunities to join in efforts to be the church and "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God" – Micah 6:8

Annual Summer Salad Spectacular

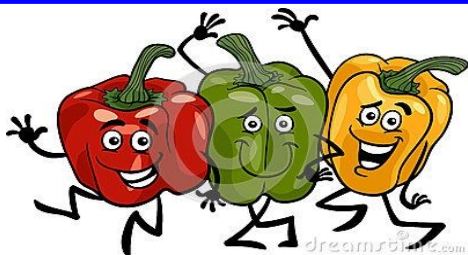


Sunday, July 16–King Hall

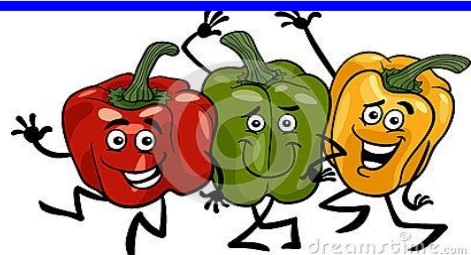
Super Summer Salad Spectacular July 16th

The Board of Evangelism is once again excited to announce the Church of the Palms Annual Supper Summer Salad Spectacular. We start with nice fresh crisp lettuce and then add all the diverse and wonderful ingredients that make a salad a SALAD. And the best part of the feast is that everyone contributes their favorite “fixin” to the salad. It might be olives, garbanzo beans, onions, mushrooms, raisins, etc.... You name it, you bring it, and we will put it in your plate. It is a wonderful way to enjoy a great meal with your Church of the Palms family friends and enjoy some good fellowship and perhaps hear some July patriotic music. Mark your calendar now for July 16th, and watch for announcements.

The “What we are Bring’n” sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex, toward the end of June and early July.



**Invite your
friends!**



If you use Facebook, you are invited to "like" Church of the Palms and become a friend of the church.

Photos from events and outings reposted there.

www.thepalms.org



- We offer:
- Sermon Gallery
 - Paul at the Palms
 - News and Events
 - The Palm Leaf Newsletter
 - Monthly Calendar
 - General Synod News
 - Photos
 - Welcome New Member Dates



The Church of the Palms
 14808 N. Boswell Boulevard,
 Sun City, AZ 85351
 Phone (623-977-8359)



Summer Office Hours: Monday-Fri. 8am-Noon
 Office e-mail: manager@thepalms.org
 Website: www.thepalms.org



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Drawn together by the Holy Spirit, we are a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church, joining faith and action.

In covenant with the church in all of its settings, we serve God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world as made manifest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"That they may all be one," Jesus, speaking in prayer. —John 17:21

Palm Leaf is a monthly newsletter from the Church of the Palms that makes it easy for you to keep up with opportunities, events, and friends at church.

Articles deadline: 15th of each month

You may submit an article or information for an article by:

Email (manager@thepalms.org)
 Phone (623-977-8359),
 Or drop it off at the church.

Office Staff:
 Pastor Paul Whitlock, Senior Minister
 Jim Alexander, Assistant Pastor
 Debby Stinton, Pastoral Assistant
 Deborah Martin, Secretary