

January, 2020



THE PALM LEAF

Church of The Palms,
EST 1969
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Embracing the Future

A Letter from Paul

20/20 VISION IN 2020



“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Proverbs 29:18a

It seems appropriate that we begin the 2020 year talking about vision. It’s a new day, a new year, and a new decade. So, I ask, how’s our vision in 2020? Do we have 20/20 vision? (Pun intended.) Or, do we need a corrective lens?

I don’t have perfect vision, but I can see some things that lie ahead of us as a congregation. We will be a church under construction – literally! With the blessings of estate gifts from 2019, we will be doing some necessary updates including new doors for the narthex and King Hall entrances. What exactly they will look like, I don’t know, but I hear them knocking and see them opening up in our future.

I don’t have perfect vision, but I can see a change in the sanctuary and music. A new organ is slated to be installed soon. The new organ will mean we will have organ music for another generation of church goers. It will have the capability of being played in the normal spot as well as being moved toward the chancel area.

I don’t have perfect vision, but I can see the expansion of our Mission and Outreach programs. It’s too early for me to bring this into focus, but it just might include an area for a washer and dryer and possibly showers. It could bring more storage space for us, as well.

All of this and much, much more is made possible by legacy gifts from our members as well as the time, talent, and treasure of our current congregation.

While my vision is not perfect, I do know that it is a great time to be a part of The Church of the Palms. I’m glad to be your Senior Pastor.

Shalom, Paul



As we come to the close of 2019, it is time to reflect on the 50th Anniversary year of Church of the Palms. There were so many wonderful moments throughout the year. The special events that were sponsored by the Anniversary Committee lead by Sandy Znetko reached out and included our congregation, our guests, the community, and individuals from the past and current dignitaries from the Southwest Conference. I am sure that there will be details about the activities in Sandy's year-end report.

There were so many other high points throughout the year lead by our various committees and boards. Our Social Justice team is creating good things for many. Church of the Palms was courageous enough to endorse and participate in the I-HELP program. Our Mission and Outreach has certainly reached out and grown. Our Care Team has become a cohesive force in the ministry of our members. Our Service Project Craft Group created delightful and practical gifts that were distributed year round. Carol Reynolds created a beautiful banner celebrating the year, and Judy Jondahl created a fabulous quilt highlighting changes within the church and on the church campus. (She takes blood pressure, too.)

The educational and spiritual growth opportunities are tremendous. Lifelong Learning, Cosmic Christians, Fellowship Breakfasts and Inchworms are just a few of the programs available.

A special mention needs to go to Max Klinkenborg and his team for the concept and construction of the labyrinths. The Peace Pole handmade by Dawn Delaney is a masterpiece centerpiece. The labyrinths have been used many times as a church and many more by members of the community when they have felt called. That was the goal, and I think it was accomplished in fine manner. Our sanctuary now displays a handmade lighted stained glass cross thanks to the talents of Eona Schulz, Jeff Scruggs, and Pastor Jim Alexander. Thanks to several generous donors, COTP will have a new organ in January 2020. How exciting that will be for Elaine and our ever-growing choir.

Our membership grew nearly every month. We baked cookies, ate cookies, drank tea, roasted and served turkeys and pies, and watched movies. We drank coffee, dunked a pastor or two but not in the coffee. We even ate with sharks! Let's not forget the tons of rummage that have become such a big part of our church. It continues to get better and better with each sale. Thank you John Durbin and crew.

This is all just a tip of our Sun City iceberg. We are part of the climate change but in a very good way. I encourage everyone to read the year-end reports of all of our boards and committees. We so appreciate all of our members that make them run and those that pitch in when they can. The talents of this church are to be admired. Even those that can't physically participate certainly support in prayer. That is just as important if not more.

Can you tell that I love my church?
Jeff Scruggs, Moderator- 2019

Splinters from The Boards and Other Groups

The idea of this piece is that you can read quickly what is happening in our various boards and groups – if you want more details, contact the specific group or the church office.

- Our new organ for the sanctuary has been ordered and we are looking forward to the installation this month.
- Our Thanksgiving meal was a success! Thank you to Wendy Whitlock who organized it and to all who helped us show an extravagant welcome. 230 people ate with us. 112 take home meals were provided. 342 total meals were served. Plus, leftovers fed our I-HELP clients and volunteers and provided a tasty treat after worship that next Sunday.
- 50th Anniversary T-shirts and polo shirts are available at discount prices.
- Our response to the gift cards for Hart Pantry was amazing. Thank you to all who donated.
- The Board of Trustees is receiving bids to replace the doors in the narthex (from the parking lot into the sanctuary and the 103rd side, plus doors from the parking lot into the King Hall/Kitchen area.
- The Social Justice Team announced our I-HELP program has begun with great success! The ministry was expanded to two nights a week while a search continues for other faith organizations to take that second night.
- Our I-HELP team is also working with the trustees to figure out where we can install a shower plus a washer and dryer. It's not too late to volunteer to provide food, be a monitor, or provide supplies.
- The Treasurer reported that we had a positive cash flow of \$7K through November—that's great considering we had unexpected bills with our air handlers.
- If you haven't turned in a pledge card and a time and talent survey, please do so asap. The Council approved the preliminary 2020 budget of \$318,700. The budget will go to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting on January 25th at 9:00 am.

ANNUAL MEETING



.....THE ONE YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

9:00 AM on January 25th In the Sanctuary



Mark your calendar and get ready for our next Church of the Palms mouthwatering epicurean event. We will be having another world-famous chili cookoff on Sunday, January 12th in King Hall following our Sunday Service. Please look for sign-up sheets on the opportunity table in the Narthex.

You may sign up to bring chili (limit 12 chefs) just plan to attend and enjoy a wonderful chili lunch. You may also sign up to bring corn bread or your favorite chili side dish.

Proceeds go to support the ministries of our church.

2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 20th through January 25th

Mark your calendar and please plan on attending one or more of the Week of Prayer services during the week of January 20th.

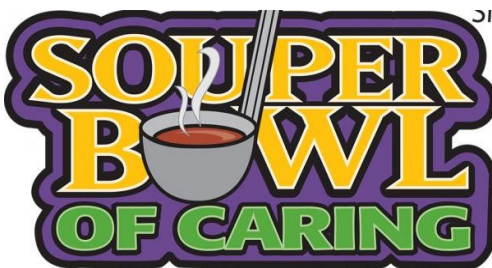
The presentation theme this year is: ***“They Showed Us Unusual Kindness”*** Acts 28:2. The emphasis this year is on all churches demonstrating “unusual kindnesses” to each other and as one to the world in need.

The Schedule for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is as follows (first church listed is the host church, second church is the supporting church):

Monday (20 th)	First Presbyterian w/ St Christopher’s
Tuesday (21 st)	United Church of Sun City w/ Faith Presbyterian
Wednesday (22 nd)	St Elizabeth Seton w/ Church of the Palms
Thursday (23 rd)	All Saints of the Desert w/ St Joachim & St Anne
Friday (24 th)	First United Methodist w/ Shepherd of the Desert

Week of Prayer services are from 12:00 to 1:00 each day, with the service lasting from 12:00 to 12:30 and fellowship lunch from 12:30 until 1:00.

Look for additional details in Sunday bulletins as the Week of Prayer approaches. If you have questions, please contact Pat & John Durbin.



Each January we bring soup (Ramen, cans, etc.) to church to donate to the Valley View Food Bank.

Our sister congregation, United Church of Sun City, also does this and has challenged us to see who can bring the most soup. A silver ladle goes to the winning congregation.

Let's claim our prize!

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Judy Beal. She passed away Monday, December 16, 2019. She died peacefully surrounded by her children. The family would like to thank every one who went by to say their goodbyes. A Celebration of Life for Judy will be Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary at The Palms. A reception will follow.





GET INVOLVED IN 2020

The Church of the Palms offers so many options. There are volunteer opportunities, classes, committees and more. Whether you want to learn, lead or just be involved, you can do it here. You can find information in the bulletin, The Palm Leaf and on the bulletin boards in the hallway leading to King Hall.

Saving lives starts with your heart!

**Blood Pressure Checks
January 12th after Worship.
Sign Up on the Sheet in the Narthex.**

**Put a reminder on your calendar for the
2nd Sunday of each month to have your
blood
pressure checked.**



"I'm going to take your blood pressure, so try to relax and not think about what a high reading might mean for your chances of living a long, healthy life."

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

Meet with others that know what you are going through.

**The Neuropathy Support Group meets on
January 9th at 10:00 am
in the Boardroom.**

SERVICE PROJECT CRAFT GROUP

WELCOME 2020!!

- Treat yourself to something NEW at our craft tables in King Hall. Don't see the color or size you like? Let us know - we can probably fulfill your wish .
- Make room in your craft closet at home by donating scraps of yarn (golf ball size or larger, all textures) and material (any amount, for quilt squares) or other craft supplies to the Service Project Craft Group.
- Enjoy a NEW experience by joining us on Wed mornings to do whatever craft you enjoy as we enjoy your friendship.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Lynn Jacobson	January 2	Chris Bauknecht	January 3
Michael Benzing	January 3	Ruby Butterweck	January 3
Charline Hunt	January 3	Pam Clark	January 9
Kurt Hofmann	January 9	Susan Hershberger	January 10
Carol Reynolds	January 10	Ruth Lampi	January 11
Amy Alves	January 12	Ruth Skaar	January 13
Frank Bauknecht	January 21	Richard Crapo	January 21
Sandy Krueger	January 21	Ruth Gross	January 24
Elaine Klauser	January 27	Don Oelke	January 27

Dysart Community Center and The Church of the Palms

The Church of the Palms has a partnership with the Dysart Community Center. Here are ways you can help:

February "Giving tree" for After School Kids

Open your hearts for the kids. There are 200+ children in the After School Kids Club that are sometimes without socks and underwear. A giving tree will be in the narthex in February filled with suggestions of sizes on pink and blue hearts. Take one or as many hearts as you can to help. Bring the items back to the church.

English as a Second Language

Can you help teach English as a Second Language for adults? If you are interested in teaching a group, contact Joe Reyes or for one-to-one lessons contact Nancy Mueller. You can also contact Linda or Kurt Hofmann to assist with conversational English sessions.

Reading is FUNdamental

There are after school reading and game playing volunteer opportunities. They meet on Tuesdays January through March. The bus leaves church at 3:15 and returning by 5:00. Contact Jane Lane or Sharon Pitts

Time and good
friends are two
things that become
more valuable the
older you get.

WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM

WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Come join the women of
The Church of the Palms
as they get together for friendship and
sometimes for lunch or an outing.

In January we are meeting on the 8th and
22nd at 10:30 am in the Music Room.

JANUARY WORSHIP THEME

January 5:

Read Matthew 2:1-12. Sometimes, to do the work of Christmas, we must take another road. Pastor Paul will be preaching,

January 12:

The baptism of Jesus gives all of us pause to remember our baptism or at least those moments when we connected with the holy. Pastor Paul will be preaching. Read Matthew 3:13-17.

January 19:

The scripture of the day will be John 1:20-42. Have you noticed God working in and through you? How? Have you noticed God working in and through others? How? Pastor Jim will be encouraging us to notice, share and invite.

January 26:

Micha 6:8 is one of the most significant text in the entire bible. Pastor Paul will be preaching on doing Justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

JANUARY 14— 8:30 AM

KING HALL

Our program will feature John Perkes, who is the owner of Regency Mortuary and Cremations in Sun City. John is a graduate of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science in Pittsburgh PA. He began his career in Idaho prior to purchasing the Regency Mortuary in 2013. He is licensed in Arizona as a Funeral Director, Embalmer and Cremationist. His program will be about pre-arranging funerals and cremations.



January 24—9:00 am in the Boardroom

First Reformed: This 2018 movie, rated as one the year’s top 10 by the National Film Review Board and starring Ethan Hawke, tells the story of he pastor of a small church in upstate New York spirals out of control after a soul-shaking encounter with an unstable environmental activist and his pregnant wife.

JANUARY BOARD MEETINGS

- January 2**
1:00 PM Board of Worship & Fine Arts—Board Room
- January 13**
3:00 PM Board of Trustees—Board Room
- January 14**
1:00 PM Board of Finance—Board Room
3:00 PM Board of Stewards—King Hall
- January 15**
9:00 AM Board of Mission & Outreach—Chapel
10:00 AM Board of Evangelism & Growth—Chapel
- January 16**
10:00 AM Care Team—Board Room
- January 17**
9:00 AM Board of Life Long Learning—Board Room



The Legacy Continues...

Roy and Joyce Spaulding loved their church – The Church of the Palms! Our Thanksgiving Day Feast is named after Joyce Spaulding. Her giving spirit kept that tradition, started by Len Silvester and Liz Adler, on-going through many years. Her organizational skills were used in the office as well. Roy Spaulding gifted us with humor, singing, and friendly spirit. His presence in caring for others and positive attitude was a foundation upon which healing could occur.

In June this year, a gift of \$145,280.90 was received from the Roy and Joyce Spaulding estate. \$50,000 was used to help fund our new organ (to be installed early in 2020) and \$95,280.90 was used to create a Pastoral Care Endowment fund. Now, the legacy continues...

A second gift from the Spaulding estate has been received: \$130,986.51. It was designated for “Mission and Outreach.” We are now tasked with discerning how best to utilize this blessing. A final gift of \$15K to \$20K will come in June of 2020 when the estate is settled.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of these two people; their ministry at The Palms is a legacy to remember.

“I am still learning.”
Michelangelo

Age 87

LIFELONG LEARNING

We begin 2020 on January 6 with something new for our *Lifelong Learning Monday morning class* from 10 -11:30 am. Jim Yang-Hellewell will teach this class, “**The Challenge of Paul**,” beginning January 6.

The apostle Paul is the second most important figure in the history of Christianity. We arguably know more about the historical Paul than we do about the historical Jesus. Scholarly ink abounds. And you may already have an opinion. Join us for a DVD / discussion based class about this fascinating person. The DVD features the noted New Testament scholar, John Dominic Crossan.

Jim Yang-Hellewell is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (M.Div.) He has also studied at Boston College’s school of theology and Andover-Newton Theological Seminary. Jim chose to enter the field of social work and received a Master of Social Work degree from ASU. He practiced as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for over thirty years with a focus on child and family issues, particularly issues of family violence. An Episcopalian, Jim has become a friend of COTP, attends services frequently, and regularly attends our Cosmic Christian group. We welcome him now as teacher.

CLASS TIMES HAVE CHANGED

Living the Questions will now meet from
11:30 am to 1:00 pm on Monday



On January 7 *Inchworms*, *Cosmic Christians* and *Jump Start* will resume their regular meetings.

Inchworms continues to read and discuss *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong. *Cosmic Christians* continues with Krista Tippett’s book, *Becoming Wise*.