Missions Are the Lifeblood of Celebration of Life  

from Judy

Although it has never been a large church, Celebration of Life (CoL) Presbyterian Church’s intense commitment to social justice, peacemaking and ministry is well known locally, regionally and nationally within the Presbyterian Church USA, particularly for its mission to the needy, homeless and mentally ill. In 2006 the Florence Iversen Kraft Award was given to honor the life and ministries of COL. Writing about this national honor from the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA), Jack C. Robertson said the following:

Social justice, peacemaking and ministry to others have been the defining words and deeds for Celebration of Life Presbyterian Church since its organization in 1974. This has been a continuing story of unconditional, abiding love for all of God’s children, but especially for those on the margins of society: persons affected by serious mental illness; migrant workers, refugees from oppression, and other strangers in their community; the needy poor; women and children who are victims of abuse and domestic violence; the destitute homeless; those who are ill, poorly clothed and hungry; and persons rejected and oppressed by the larger society. Deliberately and intentionally, CoL has sought out and implemented ministries of social justice, mercy, compassion, peacemaking and reconciliation. In their own words, “We are called by God to be a congregation that welcomes and fully values all persons. We want to be there for the whole world, not just for ourselves.”

A More Light Church, CoL has been involved in the Sanctuary Movement, the Border Ministry and Border Links. Before her death in 2004, Elder Rosemarie Wallace would regularly go around with blankets over her arms, searching for homeless persons who needed protection from winter’s cold. For many years the congregation of CoL collected food and money to help support the ministries of Guadalupe Presbyterian Church, an Hispanic congregation providing a food bank and clinic services for poor migrants.

Guadalupe Presbyterian Becomes Our Sister Church

From the Mission Fair I attended February 12, 2011, for representatives of churches in Grand Canyon Presbytery, came the overture approved at Presbytery March 10, 2012, encouraging every member church to establish contact and form a Mission Partnership with a racially ethnic church. Since CoL had been helping Guadalupe Presbyterian Church (Guadalupe PC) as one of its primary missions for years, it was the most natural choice to become our “sister” church. The proposal was approved by the officers of both congregations, and members of CoL began visiting Guadalupe PC to learn more about how we could share in their ministries of love.

CoL Joins Guadalupe’s Ministry of Love and Social Justice

CoL continues to collect non-perishable food items (see article on page 7) and blankets during the winter for Guadalupe PC to distribute to poor families, homeless and transients. This summer bottled water donated by CoL is being given to both Guadalupe PC for children in Sunday School and for daily food bags for homeless and

(Continued on page 7)
Calendar Highlights

- **Sunday, July 31**
  10:00 a.m. - Worship, Rev. Bev Phillips preaching
  11:15 a.m. - Fellowship

- **Monday, August 1**
  6:45 p.m. - Deacons’ meeting

- **Sunday, August 7**
  10:00 a.m. - Worship, with Holy Communion, Rev. Kimberly Murman preaching
  *Guadalupe Food Bank items collected*
  11:15 a.m. - Fellowship, **last names A-D** asked to bring a snack to share
  11:30 a.m. - Nominating Committee meeting

- **Monday, August 8**
  7:00 p.m. - Session meeting

- **Sunday, August 14**
  10:00 a.m. - Worship, Rev. Bev Phillips preaching
  11:15 a.m. - Fellowship, **last names E-L** asked to bring a snack to share

- **Saturday, August 20**
  8:30 a.m. - Hygiene Kit Packing Party, packing 160 kits!

- **Sunday, August 21**
  10:00 a.m. - Worship, Rev. Kimberly Murman preaching
  11:15 a.m. - Fellowship, **last names M-O** asked to bring a snack to share

- **Sunday, August 28**
  10:00 a.m. - Worship, Rev. Bev Phillips preaching
  11:15 a.m. - Fellowship, **last names P-Z** asked to bring a snack to share
  11:30 a.m. - Evangelism Committee mtg

- **Thursday, September 1**
  Midnight - Newsletter Deadline

- **Sunday, September 4**
  8:30 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal
  10:00 a.m. - Worship, with Holy Communion, Rev. Kimberly Murman preaching
  *Guadalupe Food Bank items collected*
  11:15 a.m. - Fellowship, **last names A-D** asked to bring a snack to share

- **Sunday, September 11**
  **INGATHERING SUNDAY**
  **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME**
  8:30 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal
  10:00 a.m. - Worship
  10:40 a.m. - Sunday School
  11:15 a.m. - Fellowship, **last names E-L** asked to bring a snack to share

---

**A STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET**

In the midst of summer it is worth remembering that God commands us to rest so our bodies and minds can be refreshed, which then enables us to get back to work. Rest is neither the end nor the goal. Rather, rest is a pit stop we enter and leave so we can get back on track to do what God has called us to do. We must rest so we can better work.

As we think about the need for vacation it is important to keep this in mind -- rest fits us for service. This means our vacations should give our minds and bodies a break from our normal workload. If vacations are too short, too busy, or too stressful, it defeats the whole point of vacation. If we work, we must rest. And if we rest, we are ready to work.

-- Joe Thorn, lead pastor of Redeemer Fellowship, St. Charles, Illinois
“How Can We Keep From Singing?”

Choir rehearsals will soon begin. If you are already a member of the choir, or if you enjoy singing and would like to become a member, dust off your vocal cords and join us. Our first rehearsal is on September 4th, and we plan to sing during worship on September 11th.

Remember, it is not necessary to be able to read music; you can learn by rote. We welcome everyone and would love to have some new voices.

News from the Session

Session is continuing to gather information to choose a gap Interim Pastor, someone who will be here for several months. This will allow session time to look for a Stated Supply Pastor who will have a year-to-year contract, similar to what CoL had with Shelly for the past eleven years.

We are replacing the two smaller air conditioning units that cool the office and the kitchen. It will cost over $1,000 to keep them running (not to mention they are 14 years old and still use Freon). We will be using some Reserve and Memorial Funds to pay for them. The replacement cost will be about $10,500.

Offering the Power of Urgent Prayer to COL Members, Friends

Many times during this past year prayers for Col. members, their family, friends and other loved ones have been needed at times other than in the Sunday Prayer Circle. These requests have usually resulted in texts or calls to a small group of people asking for immediate prayers for a particular person or persons needing support and strength to face a mental, physical and/or emotional crisis.

Sometimes the person requesting the prayers is not comfortable asking for prayers of a personal nature in the CoL Prayer Circle and would rather not share his or her request with the entire congregation. In such a case, group prayers have been asked only of those the person knows and believes will respond immediately and confidentially.

The ministry of a deacon, as set forth in Scripture, is one of “compassion, witness and service,” as the “pastoral care unit” of the church, along with the pastor. With our church in transition and no pastor to turn to, the deacons of CoL are now tasked to respond to personal cares and concerns of our congregation.

On May 2, 2016, the Board of Deacons voted to establish an Urgent Prayer Chain, similar to the one active in the church several years ago, but using current methods of transmission to respond to the increasing number of special prayer requests.

If you or those close to you need urgent prayers day or night, call or text 480-234-0582. Leave a message stating your name, the name of the person prayers are for and your prayer request. The chain administrator (Judy) will contact all members of the Urgent Prayer Chain so they can respond with prayers immediately, as requested. Information imparted through a prayer request is kept confidential, unless the person requesting the prayers informs the administrator otherwise.

Especially now, with Celebration of Life seeking a new pastor, the Urgent Prayer Chain is a compassionate, personal, unifying gift offered to all members and friends who believe in the power of prayer.
Dear Friends at CoL,

Thank you so much for your very generous gift toward my retirement! I am once again humbled by your generosity. And thank you for dancing with me on my last Sunday with you and for making it such a memorable day.

We hope things are progressing well in your search for your next pastor. Ken and I have been searching for a new church community to call home. We just enjoyed a week-long visit from two of our daughters and two grandsons and we're still recovering!

Blessings to you all -
Shelly

Join COL and the Mental Health Guild in Helping Arizona Vets

Celebration of Life is partnering with the Mental Health Guild on a second project. Victory Place in south Phoenix provides permanent housing for 235 formerly homeless veterans. Thirty of the apartments are designated for veterans who were not only homeless, but suffer with serious mental illnesses. These apartments are furnished with the basics – table, chairs, beds, etc. However, they do not have all the items that make an apartment a home. A list of the kind of items that they need has been provided, but they can probably use anything that you may have used (or would use) in your own home. If you have household items that you no longer need, or if you see any inexpensive items at a garage sale, bring them to church, notify Marlin, and we'll get them to Victory Place.

Of course, with the help of Community Bridges, Inc, the Mental Health Guild, and Dobson High HEROS, we're still packing hygiene kits for the homeless seriously mentally ill. Bring in your travel toiletries, gently used shirts, and other items and join us on the third Saturday morning of the month for a fun time helping with this project.

ITEMS NEEDED BY VETS

- DISHES, PANS, GLASSES, PITCHERS, UTENSILS
- TOWELS, SHEETS (single & double), BLANKETS, PILLOWS, PILLOW CASES
- HYGIENE ITEMS, RAZORS & BLADES
- SHOWER CURTAIN, BATH RUGS, BATH & HAND TOWELS, WASH CLOTHS
- DESK EQUIPMENT, OFFICE SUPPLIES, STAPLER, RULER, YARD STICK, SCOTCH TAPE, HAMMER & NAILS, SCREWDRIVER, MEASURING TAPE
- PICTURES FOR WALLS, AFGHANS, THROW PILLOWS
- BOOKS, MAGAZINES, TELEPHONE, COMPUTER (laptops), ELECTRONIC GAMES

Jonah & Emilio Attend 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

On Sunday, July 17th, Emilio and Jonah received a blessing from Kimberly as they started their journey to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT), a gathering every three years for high school-age youth from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Celebration of Life contributed funds to help Emilio and Jonah attend the 2016 Triennium, planned around the theme "GO."

The opening worship service for this five-day event at Purdue University was described as a "multi-media frenzy that rivaled a rock concert in atmosphere and decibels." The entire event was upbeat, at times raucous, as 4,400 students and over 300 adult volunteers and staff explored what happens after Triennium, how in those 'GO' moments "God calls them to transform their lives and, as a result, help change the world."

Special funds collected from PYT participants on July 20th will help support the project to make storm-resistant classrooms from discarded shipping containers for students at the National Heroes Institute in the Philippines, as well as churches and public spaces. Serving as shelters these converted containers can save lives during natural disasters.
Re-enroll in Fry’s Community Rewards Program August 1

You may recall that not too long ago Fry’s suspended its Community Rewards program. Well, guess what! It’s back!

You may begin re-enrolling in the 2016-2017 Fry’s Community Rewards program beginning August 1, 2016!

HOW TO RE-ENROLL

1. Click here or go to their website, www.FrysCommunityRewards.com
2. Click on ‘Sign In’ near the top of the screen.
3. Enter your email and password, click on ‘Sign in.’
4. Click on your name (top right hand corner), under ‘Account Summary’ scroll down to “Community Rewards.”
5. Click on ‘Edit’ under Community Rewards.
6. Under Find Your Organization: Enter the NPO number (COL’s is 91408) or the name of organization, then select ‘Search.’
7. Under ‘Select Your Organization,’ click on the circle next to your organization.
8. Click on ‘Enroll.’

If you have re-enrolled correctly, you should see a green box with ‘Your enrollment in the Community Rewards Program has been updated. Thank you for participating!’ You will also see the information listed under ‘Community Rewards’ on your Account Summary page.

Pastoral Care This Summer

The Revs. Terry Palmer and Jen Frazier of Gilbert Presbyterian Church will be available to provide pastoral care in the event of hospitalization or other types of crises. They can be reached at the church at (480) 892-6753.

Rev. Kimberly Murman will be available should you or your family receive hospital care at any of the Banner facilities.

COL to Participate in the Rainbows Festival in Mid-October

On Saturday and Sunday, October 15th and 16th, Celebration of Life will participate for the second year in the Phoenix Rainbows Festival. The festival will be held at Heritage Square Park, 115 N 6th Street in Phoenix, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. both days.

The annual Rainbows Festival & Street Fair is a celebration of the diversity of the LGBTQ community. Each year, the festival draws a crowd of over 25,000 friends, families, and allies. The Rainbows Festival is the second largest LGBTQ event in the state of Arizona, second only to the Phoenix Pride Festival.

The annual Rainbows Festival is a free event open to the public. It hosts nearly 150 exhibitors and sponsors throughout the two-day event and boasts two stages filled with entertainment throughout the weekend.

Volunteers will be needed to help set up COL’s booth Friday night, staff the booth Saturday and Sunday, and break it down Sunday evening. More information and signup sheets will be posted in early October. If you have any questions, please contact Linda.
A Ghost Ranch Presentation Summary

As a volunteer Ghost Ranch Ambassador, I came to Celebration of Life in July to talk about Ghost Ranch. A northern New Mexico conference and retreat center owned by the Presbyterian Church, Ghost Ranch is nestled in one of the most beautiful and sacred landscapes in my world. Classes, workshops, museums, hikes, trail rides and so many more ways to commune with natural and spiritual wonders are offered in this rustic high desert setting with adobe lodges and worship spaces. On the table near COL’s front door are flyers about the many opportunities at Ghost Ranch for those of you who want to check out The Magic Place.

I’ve been lucky to go there many times in many years, most recently leading private retreats on mindful expression and meditative movement. Years ago I also attended classes on ceramics and astronomy, seminars on Navajo culture and mystery writing by Tony Hillerman, and peacemaking and Plowshares activism by Dan Berrigan, sometimes bringing our kids to join in the Ghost Ranch children’s activities program. Even earlier, I worked on the Ghost Ranch College Staff, taking kids on adventures while their parents attended classes, and I’ve even washed dishes in the Dining Hall.

My first trip to Ghost Ranch was when I was 16 years old: an Illinois family on vacation to the American Southwest. My Presbyterian minister parents had our sights set on Ghost Ranch, where they wanted to take part in a worship music workshop led by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh. That wonderful songwriting team shared one of their songs with us that summer, which I shared with you during worship to convey the deepest essence of Ghost Ranch. They told us the song was written for, and dedicated to, Ghost Ranch.

The notes inscribed on the sheet music for “Child of Earth and Sky” say the lyrics were inspired by Navajo poetry and Psalm 8. The hand drum I used to accompany the song comes from the Taos Pueblo, also in northern New Mexico.

"Child of Earth and Sky"
by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh

I, a child of the earth,
from the dust I had my birth.
In earth’s beauty grew to stand,
walk in peace upon the land.
And when I die, in the ground my heart will lie.
I love the earth like a jumping deer,
like the pine tree on the hill,
like the bison on the plain.
And my feet dance with the splashing rain.

O, Great Spirit, here am I,
child of the earth and child of the sky.
I, a child of the sky, born with Spirit wings to fly.
Winds and visions make me strong.
Sun and moon both hear my song.
And when I die, may my spirit rise up high.
I love the sky like a soaring dove,
like a storm cloud in the wind,
like an eagle flying far.
And my heart sings with the morning star.

God of earth, God of sky,
O, Great Spirit, who am I?
Who am I that I should know
all this glory where I go?
Here till I die, till my days and nights pass by,
I lift my praise for the world I love,
offer music of my heart,
care for everything I see:
holly mountain, eagle, deer and tree.
Dancing on the earth and singing to the sky.

Thank you for the chance to share the inspiration of this place and this song. For more information, click on https://www.ghostranch.org, or call Cindi Glidden-Tracey (602) 617-0357 or watch the video at https://vimeo.com/170235377.

Prayer of the People Navajo Tradition:
As I walk the universe is walking with me. In beauty it walks before me, in beauty it walks behind me. In beauty it walks below me, in beauty it walks above me. Beauty is on every side. As I walk, I walk with Beauty.
Missions Are the Lifeblood

transients, and to Community Bridges for homeless mentally ill adults. Guadalupe also gets donated used clothing, kitchen items, toys and small appliances, as well as food left over from CoL’s Sunday Fellowship Time and various potlucks.

Each year Guadalupe PC has been giving over fifty children who attend their church (3rd grade through high school) school supplies they need as they return to school in August. With funds extremely limited, last year they were not able to give backpacks, the most expensive item, to all the children. So this year they reached out to CoL for help. Carolyn Lower, who teaches Sunday School at Guadalupe and spearheads their social justice missions, sent this email:

Judy, The start of the new school year is fast approaching. The stores are beginning to have their back to school sales. We are able to buy most supplies because of the sales, but we always fall short of the number of backpacks we need. If your church would be able to help out with a few it would be very much appreciated. We appreciate all the assistance your church has given to us in the past. We hesitate to ask for more, but I don’t want to disappoint some of children like we did last year. Thank you.

I told Carolyn I couldn’t guarantee any kind of response, especially with so many people gone in the summer. But, as usual, CoL did respond with characteristic generosity. Even the visiting minister brought in backpacks last Sunday. Carolyn picked them up Monday, and I received this note:

Judy, Once again I am overwhelmed by the generosity of Celebration of Life. I hesitated to ask for help with procuring enough backpacks for our school children, but I am glad I did. We needed 25 and we received 27. Your continued support is so very much appreciated. The children will receive them, along with school supplies, next Sunday. Again, thank you so much!

In the next few months you will learn more about our remarkable “sister” church, the missions CoL shares with Guadalupe Presbyterian Church, and the people who minister to the town of Guadalupe, one of the most needy areas in Maricopa County.

Guadalupe Food Pantry Items of Need for Food Boxes & Bags

Guadalupe Presbyterian Church hands out food boxes and daily food bags based on donations and current sale items. Food boxes are being given out as requested instead of just once a month.

Suggested Food Pantry Donations
- Canned Pasta, Mac & Cheese
- Canned Meat/Tuna
- Canned Fruit, Vegetables
- Rice, Pasta, Pasta Sauce
- Ramen Noodles, Soup, Saltines
- Dry and Canned Beans
- Peanut Butter (small jars), Jelly, Gelatin
- Pancake Mix (only water added)
- Cereal, Dry Milk (small boxes)
- Drink mixes (only water added)
- Cooking Oil

Every day food bags containing enough food for one person for one day are given to people living on the street. These food items need no preparation and can be eaten on the spot.

Food Bag Contents
- 1 Can of Vienna Sausages
- 10 Crackers/Single Serve
- 1-2 Granola Bars
- 4 Peanut Butter/ Jelly (single servings)
- 1 Can of Pasta (such as Beefaroni) with pop top lid
- 1 Tuna/ Single packages are best
- Bottle of Water
- Plastic Fork/Spoon/ Napkin
June & July in Pictures: Shelly’s Last Sunday
PW Dinner, Moe Open House, Pulpit Supply, Backpacks & Bottled Water, Montlure

Dear COL family,

Thank you for helping me to go to Mountlure Presbyterian Camp. It was an amazing experience. I loved learning about God's Messy love and kindness. We even had bible study under the stars! I got to see old friends and make new ones. It was fun! Even got to see deer and there was a firefly in my tent. I had an awesome time. Thanks again!

Love,
Katya
**August Birthdays**

- 4 Katy
- 18 Emilio
- 24 Beverly
- 26 Paulette

**Prayer Requests**

- For Kathryn
- For BJ
- For Chris
- For Ruth
- For Shelly
- For those who are on summer travels
- For teachers and students, maintenance workers and bus drivers as schools resume
- For those seeking political office, that their campaigns and political discourse reflect all that is good in us and them

**Visit Us on the Web and on Facebook**

www.celebration-of-life.org

https://www.facebook.com/celebration.of.life.pcusa

If we missed your birthday, we apologize! Please let Margaret or Melinda know the date so we can celebrate it with you the next time it comes around!