



MSPC Newsletter



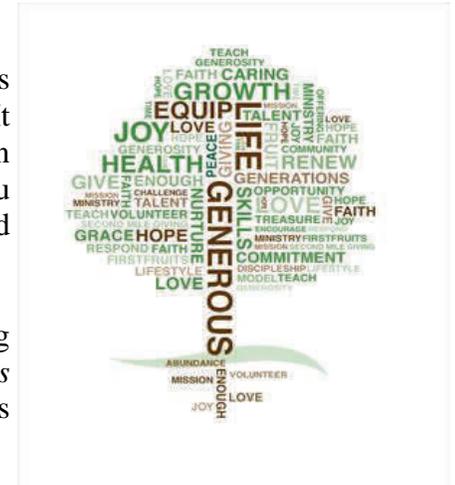
November 2011

Saints Alive! Living Generously: A Message from Pastor Rachel

Dear Saints of Mountain Shadows,

Yes, you *are* saints! Don't deny it! That doesn't mean you're flawless. It means that God has created you; God redeems you; God sustains you—in Christ. It means that you live in the Spirit, as a community of believers. The Christian philosopher Soren Kierkegaard said, "God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say. Yes, to be sure, but God does what is still more wonderful: God makes saints out of sinners."

Does "saints" and "sinners" language make you cringe? If so, try on this wording for size: *God changes lives. God transforms people. God heals us. God makes us new.* To be a saint is to be a member of the human community that is transformed, renewed and enlivened by God.



When you receive letters from Mountain Shadows' Stewardship Ministry Team, think about how God works through our church. The theme for Stewardship 2012 is **Saints Alive! Living Generously**. The theme is inspired by the following verses from the Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth (16:1-2, New Revised Standard Version): *Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come.*

Here's a different translation of the same scripture (Contemporary English Version): *When you collect money for God's people, I want you to do exactly what I told the churches in Galatia to do. That is, each Sunday each of you must put aside part of what you have earned. If you do this, you won't have to take up a collection when I come.*

The message is clear. God's people are saints, alive in Christ. When Mountain Shadows Church collects money for the saints, we practice the same faithful generosity that Paul taught to the churches of the New Testament. We give a generous portion of our financial means so that God's people will be served by the work of the church.

Some people think it's distasteful to talk about religion and money in the same breath. I don't think so. The more honest and straightforward we can be about the financial dimensions of ministry, the more responsibly we can steward the money availed to us by God's grace.

Ministry is the work of sharing God's goodness. Ministry costs money. I pray that each saint of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church will live generously into the challenge of Stewardship 2012. By financially investing in our church's ministry in the coming year, we will glorify God and support God's people. I can think of no better use for our money.

Yours in the lively goodness of God,

Pastor Rachel



Notes from the Director of Music

The next few months this section of the Oracle will consist of musical “Did You Knows...” For example did you ever wonder where that hymn originated that we sing every week or who is that person sitting up there in the choir area? Some of your questions will be answered shortly!

Did You Know the hymn “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” is actually the last stanza of three other hymns, written by Thomas Ken? Thomas wrote three hymns in 1674 for Winchester College, a school for boys. He wanted to encourage the boys to have devotional habits. He wrote one hymn for morning, one for bedtime and the third hymn for midnight if they were still awake. At that time, English hymns had not been written. Only the Psalms were sung in public! Thomas told the boys to sing the hymns only in the privacy of their rooms!

Here’s the other **Did You Know** right here at MSPC...**Judi & Skip Brauns** are a retired software engineer and [retired] elementary ELL teacher, married for 46 years. They have sung together in church choirs for about 37 years. Judi started singing in church choirs when she was eight. She credits her Welsh heritage and her grandfather who said, "If one truly sings to the glory of God, the music should be heard outside the building." Skip played piano starting at age 4 and later organ for many years. Music has always been an important part of worship for both of them and so they hope that singing in the choir contributes to the worship experience of others.

Why not join us Thursdays from 3:45-5:15pm for choir rehearsals? You could also be one of us sitting in the choir area every Sunday! Charmain Piane Dame

SESSION

The monthly session meeting on Sept 29 was quite different than others. The business part of the meeting was short and to the point. The majority of the meeting – 1 hour and 35 minutes - was spent with 3 visitors from Presbytery de Cristo. Rev. Mary Harris, our liaison to Presbytery de Cristo’s Committee on Ministry and two other members of the COM, the Rev. John Johnson, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Florence and Elder Pete Vogel, who attends First Presbyterian Church in Casa Grande. The purpose of their triennial visit is to “touch base” with the churches that are served by Presbytery de Cristo and offer their insight and expertise to help local churches do ministry in a positive, efficient manner. It is also a chance for the session elders and a deacon representative to share thoughts, feelings and realities about their church/congregation. After a very enlightening and discerning session meeting in August, the Session of MSPC shared the following as some of what we are **celebrating**:

- Hospitality for all ages
- Paying down our debt – we’re generous to the community
- We love our new church sign
- The deacons are active and effective
- Solid worship attendance
- Our office manager is very capable and competent
- Solid & consistent ministry w/Pastor Rachel
- Improved communications (See our newsletter, *The ORACLE* and the MSPC website)



Some **challenges** that we face:

- Need for numerical, membership growth
- Need to raise our visibility in the community
- Establishing a new Christian Community Building Ministry
- Strengthen the evangelism & invitation ministries by MSPC members
- Developing more members as ministry volunteers

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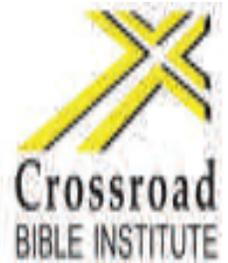
Our hopes for MSPC's future include, but are not limited to:

- Continued numerical growth
- Continued stability in ministry
- Formation of a youth ministry
- Genuine responsiveness to new needs; updating ourselves
- Facilities expansion
- Deepened prayerfulness & spirituality

All who are committed to Mountain Shadows' mission to be centered in Christ, caring for community are encouraged to participate in developing Mountain Shadows' gifts, meeting our challenges, and pursuing our hopes, all with God's help. *Shawne Cryderman*

DEACONS

For several years, Sherwin and I have worked with Crossroad Bible Institute, a ministry to prisoners. The students do correspondence Bible lessons designed to help them grow in their relationship with Christ and to prepare them for successful reentry. We correct the lessons, add comments and write a full page letter to the student.



James R., my student for four years, wrote in tiny neat print, filling each answer space chock-full. James challenged my assumptions, made me think, and sometimes laugh at his honesty and directness. I missed our "conversations" when he finished the courses.

Chris S. lived in a crowded California prison. Often sent to "the hole" when the racial gangs got out of control, he had an incredible faith and trust despite his living conditions. I was never sure what role he played in the riots. We take the students' comments at face value; it's nearly impossible for us to envision their day-to-day lives. But their letters convince us that our encouragement, love and prayers for them in Christ's name helps them in a hard place.

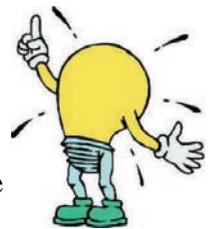
If this is a ministry that appeals to you, see us or check the Crossroad website at www.crossroadbible.org.

Karen Koopmans

MINISTRY TEAMS

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Ah Ha Experiences

Here are some insights I gained from participating in the Adult Faith Formation programs offered here at Mountain Shadows.



From the recent Lord's Prayer series, one participant shared that "Thy will be done" is reminding us it's "Thy will," not "My will." Making the world as God wants it is not always an abstraction or future happening. It could be something quite close by, that I could help to a better outcome. Oops! I just asked God to tell me to do something that I may not be comfortable doing.

Earlier this year, I read a quote attributed to Eugene Peterson, author of "The Message" Bible, defining worship as:

"---the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God. Worship is the time and place we assign for deliberate attentiveness to God – not because he's confined to time and space, but because our self importance is so insidiously relentless that if we don't deliberately interrupt ourselves regularly, we have no chance of attending to him at all---"

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ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Ah Ha Experiences

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This quote is worth reading each time I worship. In this world of information overload and multi-tasking I need to better focus myself on God at these special times.

Whether these particular examples grab you as they did me is not as important as what special insights you could have as you study and share your faith in one of our programs. Check The Oracle or your weekly Bulletin and join us in one of the variety of learning opportunities. *George Gregg*

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Feasting on the Word Sunday Morning Bible Study for Adults



Many thanks and blessings to Joyce Hopson and Tom Schmidt, who co-facilitated October's Sunday morning sessions. In November, join facilitator Dennis Nelson and other friends in faith as the Feasting on the Word series continues. It is a Bible study series based on the Sunday lectionary scripture readings selected to be read and heard during worship in many churches including ours. The learning format is interactive, exploratory and welcoming, and drop-ins are encouraged to attend along with regulars. Come Feast on the Word! *Pastor Rachel*

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Blessings on Our Church Librarian!!!

Mountain Shadows member Patti Albaugh has been devoting great care and energy to revitalizing the Mountain Shadows Church Library. We are tremendously fortunate to have an academic and a writer such as Patti bringing her wisdom and diligence to this resource in our church. Take a moment to thank Patti for her efforts, and to learn about the ways that she is helping Mountain Shadows to live up to our Reformed faith Tradition's ways of loving God with our whole minds. Thanks are due as well to Irene Camp, Patti's helper. *Pastor Rachel*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: A Prayer for Mountain Shadows' Ministries with Children & Youth

God our Holy Parent,

To many you are known as Father, to some you are known as Mother, and all people, of every generation, are your beloved children. We seek your wisdom and provisions for our church's children and their families, and for the senior adults of our congregation.

Watch over the Sunday School students. Equip their teachers with energy, insight and patience. Make our nursery a safe and nurturing place, with loving, dedicated volunteers. Encourage the parents who also work outside their homes. Help parents meet the many challenges of raising children and providing for their families.

May our church be a community of support and sustenance for mothers, fathers, and kids. May they encounter your life-giving Spirit in the midst of Mountain Shadows. Protect Jade Brown as she gives birth and brings a new child into our church family. May Jade, her baby, and her loved ones find only acceptance and kindness among us. Help us, loving Lord, to be a church that supports and celebrates young families. Guide those who have the gifts for nurturing children to join our efforts to raise Christian kids.

You know our needs, O God. We need people to commit themselves to our ongoing ministries with children. We need team members with a passion for Christian education and a willingness to serve. We need to grant Sabbath rest to those volunteers who have given countless hours to kids.

Assist us, O God. Energize and inspire us, so we will never have to turn away a young family, or fail to share Christ's love with a little girl or boy. In the name of Jesus, who said, "Let the children come to me," we pray, and we await your answer. Amen. *Pastor Rachel*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Caring for Our Children

Now that it is a bit cooler, you will notice the children of our church enjoying our playground. We thank you, Mountain Shadows, for your care and dedication to the youngest Christians in our church. Thank you. *Cassi Fraley*



Evangelism & Communication

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:10-11



The story of God's intervention onto this planet for us we call the Gospel. Gospel simply means "Good News." Each of the four accounts of the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the Bible found in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are called Gospels. They are the records of this good news. They are the sharing of eye witnesses and secondary witnesses to Jesus Christ. And when we come into vital contact with Jesus Christ through this Gospel, amazing things happen in our lives.

In short, the Gospel shows us that God loves us and cares for us. In Christ, God has come to reconnect us with God, with ourselves, with one another. What God has done for us, He calls us to share with others. Jesus calls us to go fishing for people. Like those disciples in the boat that day, we are called to drop everything we are doing and go out into the deep waters and put our nets down anticipating a catch. Evangelism is a personal commitment to share the Good News about our relationship with Jesus Christ. *Dan Linegar*

FACILITIES: Memorial Garden Planning

A new significant addition to Mountain Shadows is in the works. We are proceeding with the implementation of designing and creating a Memorial Garden, with a Columbarium (a place to preserve cremains) on church grounds.

This would provide for the congregation the opportunity to have a place for final repose on church grounds. This has the advantage of staying with the church you care about, instead with a city property. It would make it easier for loved ones to visit and pay their respects.

It also would make planning for the future much easier. With a Garden/Columbarium on church grounds, you can make the decision for your burial with your loved ones and do it now. This is much better than leaving that to someone else, who would have to guess at what you would have wanted, in a time of having to make other quick decisions.

It would also take the financial worry away. By making the decision now and getting an agreement on the price, you can determine the cost now and take away the effects of inflation. It would also relieve the uncertainty that would otherwise be left to your loved ones in the future. A memorial service with interment on church grounds is also significantly less expensive than having a traditional service with a commercial institution.

As these plans and the design evolve, more information will be provided. **If you have any questions now, please contact Dean Gibbs at 219-8419.**



MEMBERSHIP: WELCOME NEW MOUNTAIN SHADOWS MEMBERS!



Sandra (Sandy) Evans: has three children, has lived overseas and here in the US. Has explored different cultures and religions in the last 60+ years and found Mountain Shadows Presbyterian where she felt immediately comfortable.

Katie Bug is a 2-1/2 year old rough coated Brussels Griffon who is from Belgium and was trained on Long Island last year and is my constant companion and assistant.

Mary Knape: Moved from Illinois to Arizona 1956. First marriage 52 years. One daughter. Worked at San Manuel newspaper and volunteered at San Manuel medical clinic. Served 6 Years as Elder & 3 years as Deacon at San Manuel Presbyterian Church. Married Hib June 29, 2002. Moved to Quail Ridge Estates in Catalina in 2007.



Hib Knape: Born in Arizona. Mechanical engineering Degree U of A. First marriage 42 years. 3 children. Worked in aerospace in California and Florida on the Apollo moon program. Also worked as an engineer at Magma Copper Co. in San Manuel. Served 6 years as Elder at San Manuel Presbyterian Church. Mary and I were married June 29, 2002. Moved to Quail Ridge Estates in Catalina in 2007.

MISSIONS: Presbyterian Campus Ministry 5th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

When: Friday November 4th from 5:30-6:30p.m.
Where: Christ Presbyterian Church, 6565 E. Broadway
Cost: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under



Come and see what PCM is all about and join other Christians. For information on donations for the silent auction or tickets to the dinner, **contact Jayne Raffety at 544-7397 or jmraffety@comcast.net.** All proceeds benefit the Students and their Spring Break Mission trip!

MISSIONS: The Progressive Dinner is Upon Us!



It may seem early, but it is time to start thinking of the church Progressive Dinner, to be held this year on **Sunday, December 6th**. This has been a very successful event in the past, which gets everyone together for good food and great fellowship.

For those of you who are new to this, we will gather in one house for appetizers and conversation, disperse to other houses in groups of eight to ten for dinner and then all gather up again at one place for dessert and Christmas carols.

We will be asking for one family to host the appetizers, one for the desserts and a number of homes for the main course.

This is a wonderful way to get to know all the people in the church and to get into the true spirit of the season of Christ's birth.

Sign-up sheets will appear under the Ramada shortly and there will be more details to follow. A small committee is needed, for one meeting, to select menu and to set up logistics. If you have questions and/or willing to be on this one-meeting-committee, contact Judi Brauns at 825-9655.

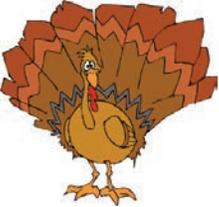
MISSIONS: Listening Session



Here at MSPC our motto *Centered in Christ, Caring for Community* embodies the gathering and sending concept. More evidence of our belief in the gathering and sending principle is in the final sentence in our Sunday Order of Worship. "The worship has ended. The service begins."

The Mission & Outreach Ministry Team invites at least twelve (12) people to attend a listening session to share their vision of mission here at MSPC and those concrete mission activities that would inspire their involvement. *Joyce Hopson*

MISSIONS: It's Time! Thanksgiving Food Collection

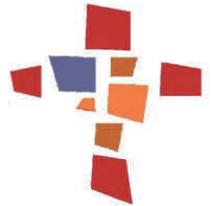


This year, our collection of holiday food will go to the Tri-Community Food Bank in Mammoth. Oracle, San Manuel and our other neighbors to the north are suffering greatly in this time of economic downturn. The food bank is constant need of replenishment and will need even more food during the holidays. There will be sign up-sheets for specific items under the Ramada. We plan to begin food collection on the first Sunday in November. **Collection will continue through November 20th.** Thank you for your caring. *Joyce Hopson*

Announcements

In Loving Memory...

We give thanks to God for life and life everlasting. A service of witness to the resurrection in memory of Mountain Shadows' member **Mae Cody**, Pamela Schultz's mother, will take place on **Sunday, November 20th at 4:00p.m. in the Sanctuary.** The service will be followed by a reception hosted by our Deacons.



Interfaith Community Services Job Openings

ICS Resource Center Manager, FT

Grant Funded Position

Overview of position: This position will develop and oversee activities of the ICS Resource Center including job search assistance, resume writing, financial literacy classes, networking opportunities, and other support services to help families move toward self-sufficiency and economic stability. This program emphasizes the use of volunteers as the primary service providers. This position will be located at **ICS main office on Ina Road, and** will also oversee the establishment of a new **Resource Center at ICS's Eastside office.**

ICS Resource Center Coordinator, PT

Grant Funded Position

Overview of position: This is a part-time position to develop and coordinate the activities of the ICS Resource Center including job search assistance, resume writing, financial literacy classes, networking opportunities, and other support services to help families move toward self-sufficiency and economic stability. This program emphasizes the use of volunteers as the primary service providers. **This position will be located at ICS's Eastside office.**

Resumes should be submitted to the Business Office at ICS, 2820 W. Ina Road, Tucson, AZ 85741. Or email to mshingler@icstucson.org. Please include salary requirements along with three professional references.

Positions are estimated to be filled mid-November 2011 or as soon as possible.

Highlights of Presbytery de Cristo's October 15 Meeting

- Worship and food provided by Korean Presbyterian Church of Tucson and Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship of Tucson
- Rev. Sue Westfall presented information on the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s New Form of Government
- Rev. Rachel Srubas and Elder Cassi Fraley presented "Church as a Safe Place: Protecting All God's Children"
- Colin Robeson was approved for ordination to ministry as an Army chaplain; Hilbert and Myra Schouten were commissioned to provide pastoral leadership to Papago United Presbyterian Church
- Thanks to Elder-Commissioners from Mountain Shadows, Joyce Hopson and Cassi Fraley, for their presence at the meeting



Aspiring Writers: Come Join Us!

The **Write On Group** reconvenes on **Monday, November 7, 2011 at 6:30p.m.** This group, in its current format, began on December 7, 2009. It meets monthly for 90 minutes in Room 3 of the multi-purpose building on the church campus. The size of the group varies with the ebb and flow of the seasons. A wide spectrum of writing interests are encompassed in the group, including short writings and essays, spiritual writing, poetry, faith sharing, short stories, children stories, memoirs and even full-fledged books.

Each member has the opportunity to share his/her writing at each session but it is not an absolute requirement. This depends on the writer's comfort level. The purpose of sharing is supportive, not critical. What is shared is confidential, honored within the group and not repeated outside without the writer's permission. All members and friends of MSPC are welcome.

If you desire more information contact Cassi Fraley at 889-1223 or Joyce Hopson at 825-4853. **If you are interested please join us on November 7th.**



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Please join us for the continued thought provoking study of the Beatitudes on November 3rd & 10th. The study is from the Presbyterian Horizons Bible Study for this year. The author, Rev. Margaret Aymer, is an engaging author. The study includes an interactive CD with questions to discuss.

We will be meeting on the 1st & 2nd Thursday of each month at 2:30p.m. Study books are still available from Judy Hans for \$8.00. **For more information, call Judy Hans at 818-3285.**

ATTENTION WINTER VISITORS

If you are one of the many **winter visitors** that we have and are now back in this neck-of-the-woods, please contact the church office at 825-7858 and let Stacy know so that she can change your address and make sure you don't miss any of the good news!



VISIT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE AT
WWW.MOUNTAINSHADOWSCHURCH.ORG

Welcome Back Gathering for Winter Residents

Our annual gathering for returning winter residents will be held on **Wednesday, November 9th** at **4:00p.m.** at the church. This is a great opportunity



for those of you who have been away for several months over the summer to reconnect with your winter church home. We would like to invite all of our returning winter residents/snowbirds to participate. It will be an informal gathering with light refreshments served. Please sign up on the church Ramada or contact the church office at 825-7858 or office@mountainshadowchurch.org by **Sunday, November 6th**, to let us know you will be attending.



Thank you to all of Mountain Shadows for your ongoing support and prayers as I have taken classes to become a foster parent. I have finished my classes and, possibly, by the time you read this I will have a child living in my home. Thank you so much. *Cassi Fraley*

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

If you would like to donate fresh flowers for a service, **please call Lynn Parker, 818-3674.** Lynn will be arranging flowers, or you can order your own, for the Fall.



**JOIN US FOR
CHOIR PRACTICE
THURSDAYS @ 3:45p.m.**

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
ARE DUE**

NOVEMBER 15, 2011

Office Closed

Thursday, November 24
and
Friday, November 25

For the Thanksgiving Holiday



Monday—Thursday

8:30a.m.-1:30p.m.

CLOSED FRIDAY

Taizé Worship Schedule

Sunday @ 5:00p.m.



November 27th

December 11

PLEASE PRAY FOR....



Dave & Joyce Melchi

Traveling mercies for Joyce Hopson & Irene Camp on their mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico

Madeline & Boyd Bosma's daughters, Sue and Barbara, who struggle with breast cancer

Cassi Fraley's niece, April dealing with kidney and liver failure

Christian brothers & sisters in Iraq and for peace in the Middle East

Wendi Plenge's mother, Joan Hickok

Chalmer & Judy Hans while dealing with Chal's health issues

Mike & Linda Munro's grandson, serving in Afghanistan

All who struggle with health & wholeness

All who are unemployed and seeking work

Safe travel for our returning winter friends and members

Blessings on the journeys of faith of our confirmation students



November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			9:00AM ESL 3:00PM Special Session Meeting	2:30PM Women's Bible Study 3:45PM Choir 4:00PM Nominating	5:00PM PCM Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30AM Adult Bible Study 10:00AM Worship 11:00 Hospitality	1:30PM Membership 3:30PM E & C 6:30PM Write On!		9:00AM ESL 4:00PM WELCOME BACK WINTER VISITORS!	2:30PM Women's Bible Study 3:45PM Choir		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30AM Adult Bible Study 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Hospitality	4:00PM Adult Faith Formation		9:00AM ESL 4:00PM Gifting & Stewardship	3:45PM Choir		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30AM Adult Bible Study 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Hospitality 4:00PM Mae Cody	10:00AM Deacons	1:00PM Prayer's & Squares	9:00AM ESL	OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING		
27	28	29	30	Pastor Rachel will be away November 21 through December 1. If you need spiritual care during this time, contact Mountain Shadows Church at 520-825-7858 and you will be directed to an ordained person who can help you.		
8:30AM Adult bible Study 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Hospitality 5:00PM Taizé			9:00AM ESL			