



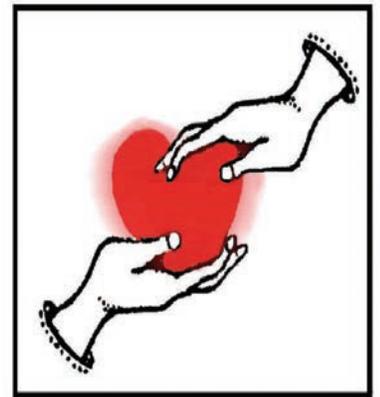
**March 2012**

## **They Will Be Comforted**

It's been a challenging time for many in the Mountain Shadows family of faith. On Ash Wednesday, we began Lent by remembering that *from dust we came, and to dust we shall we return*. The cruciform ashes that mark our foreheads on Ash Wednesday are not fatalistic, but they do remind us that we are vulnerable mortals, whose lives are in the hands of God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

The recent deaths of beloved Mountain Shadows members, and other signs of our human fragility, have caused some of us to experience pain and sorrow. At various times, we all need to know the truth of Jesus' words: *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted* (Matthew 5:4).

**Are you mourning a loss? Has someone close to you recently died? Have you experienced a setback, a disappointment, a series of discouragements? *You shall be comforted.***



**If you need Christian comforting for any reason at all, I invite you to join with me and other friends in faith at Mountain Shadows Church for a ministry mini-series called *Blessed Are We*: Wednesdays, March 7, 14 and 21, 2:00-3:30 p.m.**

Men and Women are equally encouraged to attend. The tone will be informal, safe, conversational, and prayerful. It will simply be a time when we can talk together, bear each other's burdens, and hear a word of hope. It's amazing what blessings we can find when we gather in faith among kindred spirits. Blessed are we! Because ours is a God of steadfast loving kindness, we will be comforted, indeed.

Yours in faith,

*Pastor Rachel*

**P.S. Looking for additional spiritual sustenance on your Lenten journey? Please sign up to attend Mountain Shadows' Lenten Retreat: *Just As I Am*, Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Details on page 8 of this newsletter.**



## Notes from the Director of Music

And so the musical “Did You Knows...” continue again this month with interesting facts about a popular Hymn and choir member facts!

**Did You Know** the hymn “The Old Rugged Cross” was written in 1913 by George Bennard. George was born in Youngstown, Ohio, but his father, a coal miner, moved the family to Iowa. George came to know Christ through the ministry of the Salvation Army. He wanted to study theology and become a minister. The early death of his father left him caring and supporting his mother and sisters at the young age of sixteen. Eventually his obligations lessened and he was able to move to Chicago where he began ministry with the Salvation Army. Later he was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church and became a traveling evangelist. George realized he needed to better understand the power of the Cross of Christ. While he was praying the scripture John 3:16, the words left the printed page and came to life in his mind’s eye. The theme of “The Old Rugged Cross” came to him. George carried the words with him for months trying to finish his masterpiece. He’d sing the hymn at his meetings, with great feeling and expression. He didn’t have a trained voice, but his audiences were always moved.

**Did You Know that Pete Theune and Sherry Gregg** love to sing? Check out their stories!

**Pete** is an AZ 'snowbird' and found his way to Mountain Shadows about eight years ago (along with his wife, Judy). Home is in Michigan but they have found themselves to be at home at Mountain Shadows when in AZ. They think Pastor Rachel and the people are gracious, curious, and kind. He’s always enjoyed choral singing and decided to give our MSPC Choir a try. Pete has found the music inviting, occasionally challenging, and the choir members have become his friends. The fellowship that comes with being part of the choir is a primary reason for his continuing to sing. As quoted from Pete, “Thanks Sherwin and Cliff for singing into my ear and keeping me relatively in pitch.”

**Sherry** asks, “Why am I in the choir?” Here is her response. When she was nine, she started taking piano lessons and continued through high school. By seventh grade Sherry wanted to be in the band, so she took up the clarinet which she played in the marching band in high school. Then Sherry started playing alto sax. That was so much fun, that she took bassoon lessons and played in the high school orchestra, as well as the Northwest Symphony in Chicago. She took harmony lessons and wrote and arranged music for her high school variety shows. Somewhere in between, she took drum lessons, but was an absolute failure. In college, only men could play in the band. If Sherry had known that before she enrolled, she would have chosen a different school!

After that, she pretty much gave up music except for listening to classical music. One Sunday, many, many years later, she was sitting in the congregation and singing along. After church Katherine Connor, the choir director, coaxed her to give singing in the choir a whirl. Sherry had never sung before. And guess what? She has enjoyed singing more than any other thing she has taken up in her adult life!

Now that you are all getting to know us better – why not try singing with us? Rehearsals are Thursdays from 3:45-5:15pm. *Charmaine Piane Dame*

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## SESSION: February Meeting Highlights

Mountain Shadows’ 2012 Session Orientation was held on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 8. The meeting began with worship; a time was set aside to get-to-know-each other better; and David Raffety, our church treasurer, gave an informal report.

David Raffety was elected as treasurer to serve an additional year. Sue Hallchurch was elected as clerk of Session for 2012.

Also discussed was the Session meeting schedule as well as Presbytery de Cristo meeting attendance.

*Sue Hallchurch*

# DEACONS: One Deacons View: Just Who or What is a Deacon?



When first asked to consider serving as a deacon to Mountain Shadows' congregation, I had only a fuzzy notion of what the job entailed. There is no formal instruction. Talk about on-the-job training! I observed some deacons who appeared very outgoing in their outreach to parishioners and others who quietly made their contacts. A common denominator: all cared about the spiritual and physical welfare of others and desired to be a human link between parishioner and church. Learning how to serve in this manner has much to do with individual personality.

So, just what does this person do? First of all, this person is an outreach for Pastor Rachel. As much as she responds to phone calls, email, converses with congregants on Sundays and makes personal visits she is not able to call on each parishioner. Deacons provide that additional outreach to the members of our church. They might place phone calls, send notes, make visits to the members of their assigned mini-parish. The deacon then confidentially shares parishioner concerns and joys with Pastor Rachel to help her to know her congregation better. In this way each church member has more than one church contact. Parishioners are encouraged to call their deacon for assistance as needed. Communication should be two-way.

Are these people trying to pry into others lives? Are they an exclusive group? Absolutely not. But they are making contact to let parishioners know that their church is there for them, that there are people willing to give a hand, offer prayer, be that human link to church and pastor. They are charged with reaching out to parishioners; to listen.

But wait a minute. Isn't that what we all do? Whenever you respond to a friend or family member who needs comforting, assistance, a concerned ear; aren't you a deacon as well? Every one of us reaches out to others during the course of a day or week. We consider that act as just part of being a neighbor, friend, spouse, parent, child. That's just what deacons do. We just have a little title for our job description as church ambassadors. *Mary Ann Butler*

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## ADULT FAITH FORMATION: A Review of The Great Emergence by Phyllis Tickle

An exciting new book in our collection is *The Great Emergence* by Phyllis Tickle. The author combines history, causes of social upheaval, and current events to illustrate what she cites as an exciting future that lies ahead for the church. Tickle bases her conclusions on the patterns of change that occur in both religion and culture about every five hundred years. In more populist terms, she quotes Rev. Mark Dwyer who says “*about every five hundred years the Church feels compelled to hold a giant rummage sale.*”



As I began to read *The Great Emergence*, I was enthralled and strangely comforted by Tickle's analysis and theories. “Ah, so that's what is going on” and “What I'm feeling about the Church is OK because it's a normal process” were some of my reactions. On page twenty-seven, Tickle writes about the pain of change to tenets we hold dear:

*It is especially important to remember that no standing form of organized Christian faith has ever been destroyed by one of our semi-millennial eruptions. Instead, each simply has lost hegemony [influence] or pride of place to the new and not-yet-organized form that was birthing.*

So what are some of the forces of change? The chapter titles are revealing. The Great Reformation: A Prequel to Emergence is a heady and scholarly history lesson on church history and the impact on Christian doctrine. Questions of Re-formation: Darwin, Freud, and the Power of Myth (any Joseph Campbell fans out there?) addresses how the questions and products of the Twentieth Century have rocked our status quo. What is human consciousness? How can we live a devout life in one religion in a world of many religions? Einstein, the Automobile, and the Marginalizing of

*continued on page 4*

## **ADULT FAITH FORMATION: A Review of The Great Emergence by Phyllis Tickle (con't)**

Grandma is a clearly written explanation of how Einstein's "special" Theory of Relativity changed how we look at things, life, and thought. The perception of the observer determines what is observed. So then come the questions of literalism and human interpretation. Is nothing absolute? And poor Grandma. She used to be the steady voice of tradition as the family gathered on the front porch after a fried chicken Sunday dinner. What did you learn in Sunday School today, Johnny? Because Grandma's commentary on the good, the bad and the ugly on the day's sermon, Biblical applications to the family life, and her eagle-eye observation on the Protestant code, she served as archivist and Biblical teacher. But the automobile gave families more options than a lazy afternoon on the porch; Grandma lost influence in proportion to how far from that porch her clan sought entertainment.

Tickle is considered a widely published and well researched religion scholar and editor, but not all are convinced that *The Great Emergence* is an accurate portrayal of change in the Church. Michael Krahn says that Tickle's book is more of "an impressionist painting than an accurate portrait." He complains that the book is too short (165 pages) to adequately treat such grand history. He also brings up the dilemma of a non-historian (like most of us) reading history and social science. Upon what do we base our agreement or disagreement with Tickle's theory and analysis? Hmmmm...Einstein's special Theory of Relativity rears its head in my thoughts.

Yet, I would not suggest that we don't read something because we don't have the background. I would say, read more! Tickle's book is thought-provoking, insightful, and necessary for addressing the changes, and resistant to change, that are and always will be part of our faith journey. A question left with me is will I be a victim, consumer, or agent of the re-formation?

May you be blessed by the knowledge, comfort, and provocation of reading,

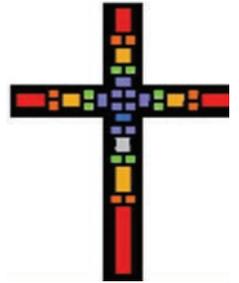
*Patti Albaugh*

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## **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING: A New Ministry Begins at the Beginning...**

The Christian Community Building Ministry Team (CCBMT) had its first meeting in February. An enthusiastic and diverse group gathered to share, discern, discuss and see where we are being led and what we are all about. A lengthy discussion was held. Many insights were expressed and affirmed.

One priority activity will be to coordinate/facilitate Sunday morning hospitality with the emphasis on *internal* Christian community building rather than *external*. CCBMT is a new ministry, reminiscent of the former Fellowship Committee in its coordination of food-inclusive events, but with a more intentional emphasis on providing ministries that bring people together.



**Possible** activities for CCBMT to consider coordinating and/or facilitating:

- Hats On! Ladies Luncheon - March 31
- Maundy Thursday Soup Supper – April 5
- Attending PrimeTime Players dress rehearsal, with proceeds going to reduce debt reduction – April 16
- Mardi Gras supper
- MSPC Birthday Celebration
- Holiday progressive dinners (or appetizers at church) with carol sing-along
- Coordination with PCM for providing support and assistance
- U of A Softball games
- Game afternoon – on a hot Sunday afternoon in the summer

CCB Team members will seek out congregants and guests and ask them to participate in activities or take on a particular project or activity. This new ministry team will meet again on **March 5, at 2:30 in room 3**. Anyone is welcome to join us! *Shawne Cryderman*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Linda's Learnings



You might think this title is misleading – who is learning and who is teaching? Well, frankly I hope that the children in my Sunday morning classes are doing both as I certainly am! We have learned to ‘hide God’s Word in our hearts’; we have learned what it means to say “Here I am” (**look for us as we sing and sign ‘Here I Am, Lord’ in worship on March 4<sup>th</sup>.**); we have learned that we ARE the light of the world and we have taught each other the value of sharing, loving, caring, and how all of these values will carry us through the school week and, yes, through the rest of our lives.

My next venture is to work with these children on techniques to reduce stress. We will do some simple yoga moves. I have a few yoga mats and some nice towels. As we stretch and meditate we will be incorporating the gifts of flexibility and healthy bodies and the responsibility we have to ourselves to maintain these gifts. Frankly, I don’t know where our hour goes on a Sunday morning and, with this having been written, I am going to suggest that some of you consider offering an hour or so every few months so that you can share the joy that IS Sunday school at MSPC every Sunday morning. *Linda Lazzeroni*

## EVANGELISM & COMMUNICATIONS: Website News



Visit our web site at [www.mountainshadowchurch.org](http://www.mountainshadowchurch.org) and see all the latest happenings at Mountain Shadows. We've added a "What's New" section to the home page that lets you quickly see all the recent news that's on the site. We are now keeping copies of sermons in audio , under the "Resources" tab for your listening pleasure. Click on the "News and Events" tab, go to the "New Members" tab and read information about our newest members. Thanks to Elder Gay Russell. She spends lots of time making sure the latest goings on in our church are available to you on our web site.

If you have news that should be shared, don't hesitate to send Gay an email, at [gaymruss@comcast.net](mailto:gaymruss@comcast.net). Bookmark our site as a favorite on your computer. There is always something new and interesting to learn. *Dan Linegar*

## FINANCE: Monthly Financial Report



Below is a financial summary of the Operating Budget showing the most recent month, year-to-date results, the year-to-date budget, and the prior year year-to-date results.

### Monthly Financial Report - Operating Budget

January 2012	2012			2011
	January Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Year-to-Date Actual
Regular Offerings	\$ 17,033	\$ 17,033	\$ 23,858	\$ 13,163
Other Income	<u>1,382</u>	<u>1,382</u>	<u>3,221</u>	<u>5,747</u>
Total Income	\$ 18,416	\$ 18,416	\$ 27,078	\$ 18,910
Total Expense	<u>\$ 19,882</u>	<u>\$ 19,882</u>	<u>\$ 26,871</u>	<u>\$ 20,641</u>
Income less Expense	\$ (1,466)	\$ (1,466)	\$ 207	\$ (1,731)

If you have questions about the Church’s finances, please contact Mike Penner at 825-2905, Moderator of the Finance Ministry Team, or David Raffety, Church Treasurer at 544-7397.

## FINANCE: Do You Like Money



Our Treasurer David Raffety will be completing his three-year commitment as Treasurer at the end of 2012. We are looking for someone willing to take over this important role at Mountain Shadows. A finance background is not necessary, but some experience with business accounting would be helpful. Weekly contributions are entered using a Microsoft Excel form. Please contact David Raffety if you have more questions about this position. *Dave Smith*

## GIFTING & STEWARDSHIP: Celebration Offering!

Do you have a special occasion coming up and can't think of what to buy that special someone? Why not make a contribution to Mountain Shadows in honor of the event? Special envelopes are available in the pew racks titled "Celebration Offering!" Simply write down your special occasion on the outside of your envelope along with any special instructions for how you would like your gift used and enclose your cash or check. We will include your special occasion in the appropriate bulletin under the listing of joys for the week. Now doesn't that sound better than a box of chocolates??? *Dave Smith*



Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Celebration	Designation
<input type="checkbox"/> Birthday	<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Anniversary	<input type="checkbox"/> Debt Reduction
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Ministry
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

## MEMBERSHIP: Membership Inquirer's Class & Luncheon

Hear Ye, Hear Ye...please join us on **Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30a.m.** for our Membership Inquirer's Class and Luncheon. We would love to share the good news with you about membership at Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church. **For more information, please contact Freja Cranston at 638-8980 or frejacr@gmail.com or sign up under the Ramada.**

*Freja Cranston*



## MISSIONS: Presbyterian Campus Ministry Outreach to Pima Community College

Come and be a part of the exciting new outreach to Pima Community College through Presbyterian Campus Ministry!

**What is needed?** Lunch for 12 people. There are two options:

- 1) Brown Bag Lunches -- with pre-made sandwiches, fruit, chips, dessert & a beverage; **OR**
- 2) Lunch Buffet -- items for students to serve themselves, including a sandwich or soup, side, dessert & beverages.

**When is this needed?** **Wednesdays in March and April.** You can either stay and help serve lunch, or bring the lunch items to the Campus Christian Center. Lunch is served every Wednesday from **12:00-1:30pm.**

**To sign up,** please contact Rev. Ellen Dawson, Presbyterian Campus Minister, at pmarizona@gmail.com or 520-954-5931. Let her know the Wednesday you are available, your telephone number and/or email address, and that you are with Mt. Shadows. She will get back with you to confirm and make arrangements! *Rev. Ellen Dawson*



## MISSIONS: Alternative Give Marketplace of Hope

This is our third Marketplace event and I would like to remind you of how successful it has been in the past. You have been very generous in supporting this event. **Thank you!!!**

The first Gifts of Hope Alternative Gift Marketplace was an inspiring success. There were 191 gifts totaling \$2,465 to MSPC mission agencies. The organizations received the following amounts based on donor designations:

- Catalina Community Services \$440
- Frontera de Cristo \$285
- Presbyterian Worldwide Min. \$670
- Interfaith Community Services. \$200
- Just Trade Center \$155
- Kairos Prison Ministry \$205
- Presbyterian Campus Min. \$510

Last year was also a success with gifts totaling \$2,645. The organizations were:

- House of Neighborly Service \$440
- Catalina Community Services \$370
- Frontera de Cristo \$270
- Presbyterian Campus Ministry \$275
- Just Trade Center \$95
- Interfaith Community Services \$275
- Tri-Community Food Bank \$490
- Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship \$440



This year some of our old friends will be back, plus a new opportunity assist others will come on the scene. **Please make sure this event is on your calendar; plan to attend and do not forget your check book.** *Joyce Hopson*

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## WORSHIP & MUSIC: Worship Guests and Special Themes in March

- **Sunday, March 4**, Sunday School Lead Teacher Linda Lazzeroni will present a moment for children's education, highlighting the Safe Church training to take place after worship that day. Following Holy Communion, children from Sunday School will sing a song for the congregation.
- **Sunday, March 11**, Pastor Rachel's good friend, Rev. Alex Hendrickson, pastor of Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church in Brodheads ville, PA, will co-lead worship with Rachel. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the Gifts of Hope Alternative Market following worship that day.
- **Sunday, March 18**, Ruling Elder Janet Rowe, Moderator of Presbytery de Cristo, will bring greetings from the presbytery and co-lead worship with Pastor Rachel. Friends of the church are encouraged to attend the Membership Inquirers' Lunch and class following worship.
- **Sunday, March 25**, MSPC congregant Sam Leeper will co-lead worship with Pastor Rachel and present reflections from his recent faith-sharing trip to Africa.



# Announcements

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Just as I Am

## A Lenten Retreat

For Men & Women of Mountain Shadows

Saturday, March 24, 2012 9:00-3:00

at the Campus Christian Center of the University of Arizona

715 North Park Avenue, between 6<sup>th</sup> St. & University Blvd.

Suggested Offering: \$20 per participant, payable to MSPC (sliding scale)

Sign up at Mountain Shadows or call (520) 825-7858 to register

The Retreat will include:

⌘ An Ethical Wills Workshop led by Patti Albaugh, Ph. D.

⌘ Worship with Music led by Rev. Ellen Dawson

⌘ Prayer and Conversation Groups facilitated by  
Rev. Rachel Srubas and Elder Dennis Nelson

⌘ A Delicious Lunch and Free Time/Creative Time



presents

# The Dining Room

by A. R. Gurney



*THE DINING ROOM*, nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1985, covers a span of 50 years, in which actors/actresses play 57 different roles. Individual stories merge into a single saga of family tensions, regrets illicit relationships and uncertain futures; some funny, some touching, some rueful.

MSPC congregants and guests are invited to the dress rehearsal on **Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm** in the MVCC ballroom. **Cost is \$15.00** per person, payable to MSPC treasurer, David Raffety. The money will be put toward the debt reduction campaign. A reception will be held immediately following the dress rehearsal at Mike and Sally Penner’s home in SaddleBrooke. Please plan to join us for this opportunity to see three of our own – Judi Brauns, Shawne Cryderman and Susan Sterling – as they perform. **For more information, please see David Raffety or Shawne Cryderman.**

## Maundy Thursday Soup Supper

Christian Community Building Ministry Team (CCBMT) will be sponsoring a Maundy Thursday Simple Soup Supper on **April 5** before worship. Congregants and guests are invited to join their brothers and sisters in Christ while partaking of a simple meal of soup, bread, grapes, water and lemonade. This Simple Soup Supper will take place **in rooms 2, 3, and 4 beginning at 6:00 pm**. The choir will be served at 5:30 pm. Various selections of soups will be served, with a vegetarian soup available. Please plan to attend this Lenten activity.



## Hats On! Ladies’ Luncheon

**Sat. March 31<sup>st</sup> 11:00am**

Oro Valley Market Place

Olive Garden Restaurant



Wear you finest, funniest, fanciest or just down-right cutest hat! We have FANTASTIC items to bid on during our Silent Auction. Proceeds will go to the Catalina Community Service’s ESL Program that meets at our church. There will be GLORIOUS prizes awarded for the most stunning, funny, delightful and special hats. OUTRAGEOUS (but perfectly “fitting”) ticket prizes will be given and everyone will go home with a special table favor! **Ticket sales will take place on Sundays, March 11, 18, and 25 after church. Cost is \$16.00** per lady which includes unlimited soup, salad, breadsticks, and beverage as well as the tip.



# WRITING IS FUN!!!

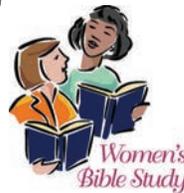
The next meeting of the Write-On Group will be held **Monday, March 5 at 6:30p.m.** in room 3. We had a lively discussion of "The Heart of the Matter" this month. Get a jump on your writing for the subject we picked for March; "The Children." It may take any kind of form you like—or be something all together different. You're the writers! See you in March. **April's meeting will be on Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30p.m.** Contact Cassi at 889-1223 for more information.

## Save the Date

Join Presbyterian Campus Ministry  
for "The Three Musketeers"  
at the Gaslight Theatre  
Sunday, April 29, 2012 @ 7:00p.m.  
Tickets are \$20 and will be available  
from Helen Wiens and Bill Pearsey.



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Women's Bible Study continues on March 1st & 8th at 2:30p.m. Even if you have not joined us in the past, please come and join us this month for study and prayer. **For more information, call Judy Hans at 818-3285.**

## Feasting on the Word Adult Bible Study

Every Sunday morning at 8:30a.m., in Room 3. **Drop-ins are welcome!**



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

### OFFICE HOURS



**Monday—Friday**  
**8:00 a.m.—Noon**



## Fresh Easter Lilies

Due to the advances in technology, we will have **FRESH** Easter lilies in the Sanctuary this Easter Sunday. The lilies have had their pollen removed.

**APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE  
DUE  
MARCH 15, 2012**

## Taizé Worship Schedule

Sunday @ 5:00p.m.



**March 4**  
**April 8**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR....

- Employment for family members
- Families going through divorce and counseling
- Renewed faith and love in family relationships
- Healing for Frisbie's daughter, Brenda
- Grace for dear friends facing financial and health issues
- Comfort for the grieving including Betty Barham and Joyce Melchi
- For fair immigration reform
- For peace in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria
- For our church's spiritual renewal during Lent

# March 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				2:30PM Women's Bible Study 3:45PM Choir	2:00PM Barham Memorial Service	No Men's Fellowship Resumes April 14th
8:30AM Adult Bible Study 10:00AM Worship 11:00PM Hospitality 11:30PM Safe Church 5:00PM Taizé	1:30PM Membership 2:30PM Christian Community Building 6:30PM Write On Group		9:00AM ESL 2:00PM Blessed Are We	2:30PM Women's Bible Study 3:45PM Choir		No Men's Fellowship Resumes April 14th
8:30AM Adult Bible Study 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Hospitality Alternative Gift Marketplace		3:00PM Legacy 4:00PM Gifting & Stewardship	9:00AM ESL 2:00PM Blessed Are We 4:00PM Evangelism & Comm.	3:45PM Choir		No Men's Fellowship Resumes April 14th
8:30AM Adult Bible Study 10:00AM Worship 11:30AM Inquirers' Class/Lunch 12:00PM Food Drive @ Bashas	10:00AM Deacons		9:00AM ESL 2:00PM Blessed Are We	3:45PM Choir		No Men's Fellowship Resumes April 14th
8:30AM Adult bible Study 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Hospitality		1:00PM Prayer's & Squares	9:00AM ESL 3:00PM Session	3:45PM Choir		No Men's Fellowship Resumes April 14th