



May 2012

May You Bloom in May

The flower for the month of May is the Lily of the Valley. Consider some fragrant, floral imagery from Scripture, in which God describes the flourishing of faithful people:

*I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily,
he shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon.*

*His shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive tree,
and his fragrance like that of Lebanon.*

*They shall again live beneath my shadow,
they shall flourish as a garden;
they shall blossom like the vine,
their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon. (Hosea 14:4-7)*



I invite you to reflect on some questions pertinent to your flourishing in faith:

- Where are you experiencing spiritual “dew” that refreshes you?
- In what parts of your life are you blossoming? Where are you wilting?
- What causes you to feel securely rooted? Or uprooted?
- What helps you know you are God’s person, beautiful and fruitful?
- Why do you perhaps doubt your own goodness?
- Where do you feel parched?
- What might you do in May to partake of God’s renewing, nurturing grace?
- How does your own rootedness and flourishing serve as a blessing to others?
- Who might help you regain a sense of groundedness in God?
- How might you help others to grow and blossom in God’s sight?

Beginning May 14, I will take my annual study leave, to go and engage in one of the practices that cultivate my life in God. With my husband Ken, I will spend the latter half of the month in a place dear to us, writing, and walking on holy ground. In an article on writing as a spiritual practice, author and writer Rabbi Rami Shapiro says, *Remove your shoes; stand barefoot in the wilderness of God, the wilder-ness where God is met. If you stay with a spiritual practice long enough, it will knock your shoes off. Stay a bit longer and your socks disintegrate, and you are left barefoot on holy ground. And when you are—write that!*

I bid you a month of spiritual renewal. May you engage, or re-engage, in the practices that make you know the restorative, surprising presence of the Holy. May you dare to offer your finest gifts to others. Trust that God’s grace abounds. If you give away even your very best blooms, more will surely bud and blossom.

While I am away in the second half of May, those needing spiritual care may call the church at 520-825-7858 and be referred to faithful, ordained persons who can help. On May 20, Commissioned Lay Pastor Harriet Marsh will preach. On Pentecost, May 27, Spiritual Director Barbara Gray will preach. I know you will graciously welcome these gifted guests as they share God’s Word with our congregation.

Peace to you, and prayers for your flourishing,

Pastor Rachel



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 “In The Garden” was written in 1912 by C. Austin Miles? He was a pharmacist who began writing gospel songs after having a spiritual experience while meditating on his favorite Bible chapter. His hobby was photography. He found he could read his Bible while waiting for film to develop in his “dark room.” One afternoon in March of 1912, he read John 20, the story of the first Easter. Miles later said that as he read he seemed to be part of the scene. He could see a woman in white, holding back tears at the tomb. It was Mary. He saw John in a flowing robe looking at the tomb and then Peter who entered the tomb. As the three of them left the tomb, they turned and saw Jesus standing; so did Miles. He knew it was Jesus. He awakened in full light and was gripping his Bible. Under the inspiration of his vision, he wrote the words to the hymn and later that evening he wrote the music. The next time I sing or play that hymn, I will be thinking about that first Easter!

Did You Know that Shirley Calhoun loves to sing? Check out her story!

Shirley has sung in the Glencoe Union Church choir, Glencoe, Illinois, for many years and so enjoyed being a part of it. When Cal and Shirley attended Mountain Shadows and heard Kathryn Conner, not surprisingly, they joined the choir on the spot.

She feels music is an integral part of the worship service and to be able to participate as a choir member is very rewarding. According to Shirley, choir membership involves discipline - special practice 1 1/2 hours once a week, early practice on Sunday morning before the worship service, and attendance every Sunday. “And believe me, it's worth it!” she states.

A side-bar to being a member of the choir is the friendships that are made. According to Shirley, “We are a ‘family.’ We enjoy each other and respect each other. We have fun singing!”

Now that you are getting to know us better – why not try singing with us? Rehearsals are Thursdays from 3:45-5:15pm through the end of May.

Charmaine Piane Dame

DEACONS: A Lifetime Collection of Good Advice

Most people cannot stand being told what to do -- even if “it’s for your own good.” I am one of those people. Yet every once in a while, I would hear or read something that I knew was worth remembering. I began making a diary of these little sayings:

1. Accept the fact that some days you’re the pigeon, and some days you’re the statue!
2. If you can’t be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
3. Feeling bad about not coming in first? Remember, the second mouse gets the cheese.
4. When everything is coming your way, you’re probably in the wrong lane!
5. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
6. Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
7. Drive carefully... it’s not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
8. You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
9. Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you will live.
10. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
11. If you wear glasses, don’t fall flat on your face into gravel – it scratches the lenses. (I made that one up.)
12. The early bird gets the worm – another good reason for sleeping late.
13. And last, but not least.... Save the earth! It’s the only planet we know of with chocolate.



Sherry Gregg

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Feasting on the Word Concludes for the Summer



The Sunday morning adult Bible study series, Feasting on the Word, ran fruitfully from October through April. Congregant-facilitators engaged dedicated participants in this lectionary-based series. For the first time in our history Mountain Shadows offered *weekly* Bible study for men and women. Watch for future announcements of short-term Adult Faith Formation programs this summer.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Montlure Presbyterian Church Camp

SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER! HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR CAMP YET? With the summer fast approaching, camp is just around the corner! Plans are well underway for another great summer of camp. Montlure wants you to be part of the fun! The programs this summer have something for everyone—outrageous games, creative worship, new friends, campfires and conversations that will help you discover what God has done and is doing in your life. Camps can fill early so register today! To register for camp visit www.montlure.org and download a registration form to mail or simply register today. *Cassi Fraley*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Sunday School News

The children of MSPC have had a variety of lessons in the past few weeks. First of all, we were joined by a contingency of children from around the world one Sunday, and this was very fascinating to me as the teacher as well as to the kids in the class. One boy from Egypt had a lot of insight and he very charmingly shared with us as we discussed 'do unto others.' Differing cultural exposure is an amazingly positive chance for a lesson and we, indeed, took advantage of that opportunity.

On yet another Sunday we were gifted with the presence of a child in the care of our own Cassi Fraley. This young lady, blind and unable to even write her name, was a very positive force in our class as the other children were able to observe so many differences and to recognize blessings in their own lives. The learning opportunities afforded to us by the presence of a diverse group of visitors, the diversity in the home lives of our 'regulars,' the addition of my own daughter as one of my helpers, have all lent themselves to breaking down misconceptions and preconceived notions about others. It has been a joy to point this out to the children and then welcome their questions and observations.

The Easter season is such a blessed time in our faith and we have dealt with serious issues as well as creating projects for our young people to share with their parents. We decided to offer two Sunday school classes on Easter Sunday so that the 'early birds' could enjoy worship while their children were treated to an Easter egg hunt, the Resurrection story, as well as completion of a project involving a photo of each child to share with parents, friends, and/or extended family members. We signed and sang 'Here I Am, Lord' at the beginning of worship and for the benediction as we joined our adults for communion. The adults at MSPC are a very welcoming community for our children. We are blessed! Christ is risen, indeed! *Linda Lazzeroni*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Sunday FUNday!



MSPC is pleased to announce a summer program for our children - Sunday FUNday! Through the summer months, while many of us are on vacation and our children are out of school, we will continue to offer Christian—oriented childcare during adult worship. Linda and Jezzica Lazzeroni are working out details to ensure safe and enjoyable activities for our children so that their parents may attend worship. While this is not our

usual Sunday School program, it is still a great place for children to work on their faith through crafts, stories, music, and age-appropriate videos.

We do need a few volunteers during the weeks that Linda is guest speaker at various venues, and while Jezzica is on tour. Will you please offer an hour, **just ONE hour**, during the summer months? If there were just 8 people offering one hour each, we believe the vacant spots would be filled. What an opportunity for **YOU** to get to know the younger generation at MSPC! *Linda Lazzeroni*, llazzeroni@msn.com.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: I Spy With My Little Eye! VBS 2012!

SAVE THE DATES: JULY 30 - AUGUST 3

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be here before we know it. This year's theme is all about spying. Keep your eyes peeled and mark your calendar now. Watch for announcements regarding what will be needed - from empty toilet paper rolls to magnifying glasses to many other interesting things you may wish to donate! **MOST OF ALL - we need YOU!!** For more information please email Cassi Fraley at sassicassifraley@yahoo.com or Linda Lazzeroni at llazzeroni@msn.com.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Our New Nursery Care Worker/Sunday School Assistant



In the April Oracle, we began to introduce you to Jezzica Lazzeroni, the new nursery care provider/Sunday School assistant. Now let's get to know her better. Jezzica is a junior at Green Fields Country Day School/College Preparatory where she is very active in the arts and musical theater. Jezz is the daughter of Linda Lazzeroni, our Sunday School teacher, and is happy to be a part of MSPC. When she is not studying her AP Chemistry and Calculus, she can be seen and heard with her band, *Psyndicate*, where she is the lead singer and co-manager (her brother, John, is the keyboardist.) You might also find her singing at an assisted living home or on stage in performance with the drama department at Green Fields. Most of all, you will now find her at MSPC on Sunday mornings providing loving care for our youngest MSPC congregants! Welcome, Jezzica. If you wish you may email her a welcome at jelazzeroni@greenfields.org.

EVANGELISM & COMMUNICATIONS: April Food Drive

Mountain Shadows collected 685 pounds of food and \$35 in cash for the Catalina Community Services Food Bank on Sunday, April 15. Eleanor & Tom Geiger, along with Linda Linegar manned our table at Bashas' in Catalina. These special collections are in addition to the generous donations Mountain Shadows does on the first Sunday of every month. If you are interested in helping with these collections, please call me at 437-0990.

Dan Linegar



EVANGELISM & COMMUNICATIONS: Audio Sermons Now Online

Audio
sermons



*And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim Christ?
(Romans 10:14)*

God's Word, proclaimed and heard, is central to Christian worship. But not everyone can attend worship each Sunday. Now, thanks to the ministries of our Evangelism & Communications Ministry Team, and of our church's Office Manager, Stacy Rogers, Sunday sermons are recorded and uploaded to Mountain Shadows' website: www.mountainshadowchurch.org. Usually early within the week after a sermon is preached, the sermon is available on the website. Simply navigate to "Resources," click on "Sermons Audio" and proceed. Audio sermons now take the place of written sermon texts on the website.

FINANCE: Debt Reduction Campaign—An Update

In April, we made a \$6,000 payment on the principal of our land loan from the accumulated debt reduction offerings. This brings our debt reduction payments in 2012 to \$20,000. Since we started the 2011-2013 Debt Reduction Campaign, we have made a total of \$131,000 in principal payments on our land loan. The outstanding balance of the land loan is now below \$50,000. Halleluiah!!!



Did you know that our land loan interest rate is a half percent per month (or six percent per year)? With CDs only earning about a half percent *per year*, you can see that paying down our loan is a good investment. So every month early that we pay down the land loan is like investing in a CD that returns six percent per year. If you are planning to make a debt reduction offering later this year or next year and you can advance the time of your offering, you can save more interest cost for the church. Thank you for your faithful commitments to Mountain Shadows! *David Raffety*

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

March 2012	2012			2011
	March Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Year-to-Date Actual
Regular Offerings	\$ 14,228	\$ 45,853	\$ 65,376	\$ 47,579
Other Income	546	4,848	5,663	8,816
Total Income	\$ 14,774	\$ 50,701	\$ 71,039	\$ 56,395
Total Expense	\$ 18,181	\$ 61,257	\$ 65,504	\$ 62,822
Income less Expense	\$ (3,407)	\$ (10,557)	\$ 5,534	\$ (6,427)

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.

GIFTING & STEWARDSHIP: Special Offerings Received at Mountain Shadows



Joy Offering
\$1874



Gifts of Hope
\$3080



One Great Hour
\$3216



Per Capita
\$3216

The Mountain Shadows congregation is truly generous! *David Smith*

LEGACY: A Message from the Legacy Ministry

All of us are indebted to the past, to those who preceded us. We drink from wells we have not dug. We enjoy liberties we have not won. We share faith whose foundations we have not laid. At the same time, we are seeds of the future, for those who succeed us. We dream and envision and set things in motion. The outcome of our decisions will be known only to those whom we will not meet. We are called to partner in faith with those who have gone before us and to offer the best we have to give to those who follow.

Last month Legacy Ministry invited the members and friends of Mountain Shadows to discern and to pledge to Legacy Ministry. Have you had the time to review the materials? How to use your wealth is an important decision and one that takes time and careful consideration. If you have questions, please reach out to one of the Legacy Ministry Board members. If you need another copy of the materials, let us know. *David Raffety*

**BUILDING ON
OUR LEGACY**

MISSIONS: An Invitation to Make a Difference in the Lives of the Poor



What? Cross Street Ministries, Serving Tucson's Homeless

Where? Southside Presbyterian Church
317 W. 23rd St., Tucson

Why? This Faith-Based, Direct Service Program Needs
Presbyterian People-Power

What's In It For Me? In serving "the least of these," you serve Christ.

When? Sunday, May 6th, following worship, attend an informational presentation.

Then What? Sign up to help out. Bring your calendar to church on May 6th.

What If I Go Outside My Comfort Zone? God will go with you.

MISSIONS: Gifts of Hope Success!

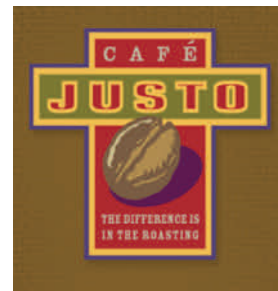
The 3rd annual Gifts of Hope – Alternative Gift Marketplace was fun! and a great success due to the generosity of all of YOU at Mountain Shadows! **39 gift forms were filled out, countless prayers were lifted, 219 gifts were designated, \$3080 raised, and "Gifts of Hope" were sent off to this year's eight gift recipients:**



- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance • Frontera de Cristo • House of Neighborly Service • Interfaith Community Services • Just Trade Center • Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship • Presbyterian Campus Ministry • Tri-Community Food Bank

MISSIONS: Have You Bought Your Just Coffee Today?

Last month, I promised to give you more reasons to buy Just Coffee. Remember, my first three reasons were: 1. The Coffee is Good. 2. You have a direct relationship with the grower. And 3. The coffee is fair trade plus, (meaning all profits remain with the growers cooperatives.)



Here are some additional reasons for buying this wonderful coffee:

- It decreases poverty. Coffee is a very labor intensive product. When a fair price is received for the coffee, children stay in school, mothers stay home to nurture their children and elders, and workers tend and harvest the crop. The cooperatives prevent a roller coaster price for coffee, and profits can be used for the benefit of all.
- The difference in the whole process is the roasting. The cooperatives, not speculators or exporters, roast and package the coffee. The real profits from this process can be equitably divided and used in the community.
- It is 100% USDA organic. This means no pesticides can be accumulated in any part of the process. Nor can pesticides be used in the vicinity as some of these products may seep into the coffee soil during rains. The cooperatives proudly display their 100% organic certification plaques.
- It is one answer to immigration. The workers in the cooperatives want to stay on their beautiful land and work in their coffee fields. Cooperatives pay a just, consistent wage that allows this dream to become reality.

Did you know? We are now selling a half and half blend in beans or ground. We have decaf in beans, ground, regular or dark roast. We have regular coffee in beans, ground, and regular or dark roast. Every package is one pound, and the roast is never more than two months old. (Usually much less than a month.)

Snowbirds: Be sure to carry some coffee with you to your northern home. How can you be without for so many weeks??

Drene Camp

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Wear RED on Pentecost, Sunday, May 27!

The Season of Eastertide culminates in Pentecost, which falls this year on May 27. Hymnist Jane Parker Huber's lyric (number 128 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*) captures what occurred on the Day of Pentecost as depicted in Acts 2:1-11:



*On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
A band of Christ's disciples, to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
And tongues of fire a-glowing inspired each person there.*

God's Holy Spirit is made known not only in wind, fire, and charismatic spirituality, but also in subtle-but-surprising nudges from within, and in that unexpected sense of being led by which people of faith discover what next to do and say. Our capacity to trust in God and our desire to worship God are gifts of the Holy Spirit, who enlivens our faith. Celebrate the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit's inspiration of Christ's church, by wearing red to worship at Mountain Shadows on Sunday, May 27.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: USHERS NEEDED! IT'S EASY!!



On Sunday mornings, ushers do simple but important tasks to prepare our church sanctuary and welcome people and their offerings into the worship of God. **PLEASE HELP!** Contact Dave Donovan at 818-2322 and/or add your name to the usher sign-up sheet at church. **THANK YOU!**

Announcements



Over a year has passed since I began to bring my iPad to church every Sunday. It has an application (app) of the New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible. I found using an iPad helpful and satisfied my need for larger print.

I still get questions and an occasional announcement that a person has a new iPad or similar tablet. Now that I have begun to ferret about the app for more features, there are a lot of things I can do with the app to enrich my experience.

There are more features that are fun and informative, such as Search, Notes, Highlight and Dictionary.

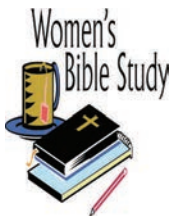
Search allows you to search one word, a phrase or more. There are search options that allow you to limit a search to just one of the Testaments or to law or history. There are twelve search filters all together.

Notes allow you to write marginal notes.

Highlight feature has 5 colors available and is not permanent and can be removed at any time.

Dictionary includes three different dictionaries of biblical terms available to search.

If you have questions about having or using the Holy Bible on your iPad, contact Carlton before or after the Sunday service at Mountain Shadows, or go to www.olivetree.com and find out how you can mobilize your Bible study on different kinds of smart phones or table computers. *Carlton Wiens*



Women's Bible Study continues on May 3 and May 10 at 2:30p.m. Please join us even if you have not been able to participate in the past. We will be continuing with lesson 8 of Confessing the Beatitudes by Margaret Aymer. Call Judy Hans at 818-3285.



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

OFFICE HOURS



**Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—Noon**

**JUNE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE
DUE**

MAY 15, 2012

Taizé Worship Schedule

Sunday @ 5:00p.m.



**May 13
June 3**

Thank you! Thank you! I recently was the recipient of a lovely quilt. The vibrant Southwest colors energized my vibe for living. Your prayers knotted my quilt with much love of which I am most appreciative. I am blessed. Thank you. May the MSPC family always continue to share their many gifts. Bob Singer is always delighted to receive visits and/or cards from you. Recently, the Saddlebrook men's quartet serenaded him. Two of our Eagle Scouts visited with him. Such love - - - it is appreciated. *Shirley Singer*



Looking for prayer requests? See your Sunday worship bulletin insert. Meanwhile, consider these words about prayer from the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA) :

Prayer is a conscious opening of the self to God, who initiates communion and communication with us. Prayer is receiving and responding, speaking and listening, waiting and acting in the presence of God. In prayer we respond to God in adoration, in thanksgiving, in confession, in supplication, in intercession, and in self-dedication. (W-5.4001)



May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1:00PM Prayer's & Squares	2 9:00AM ESL	3 2:30PM Women's Bible Study 3:45PM Choir	4	5 8:00AM Men's Fellowship
6 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Hospitality	7 1:30PM Membership	8	9 9:00AM ESL 3:00PM Session	10 2:30PM Women's Bible Study 3:45PM Choir	11	12 8:00AM Men's Fellowship
13 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Hospitality 5:00PM Taizé	14	15 4:00PM Gifting & Stewardship	16	17 3:45PM Choir	18	19 8:00AM Men's Fellowship
20 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Hospitality 12:00PM Food Drive @ Bashas	21 10:00AM Deacons	22 1:00PM Prayer's & Squares	23	24 3:45PM Choir	25	26 8:00AM Men's Fellowship
27 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Hospitality	28	29	30			