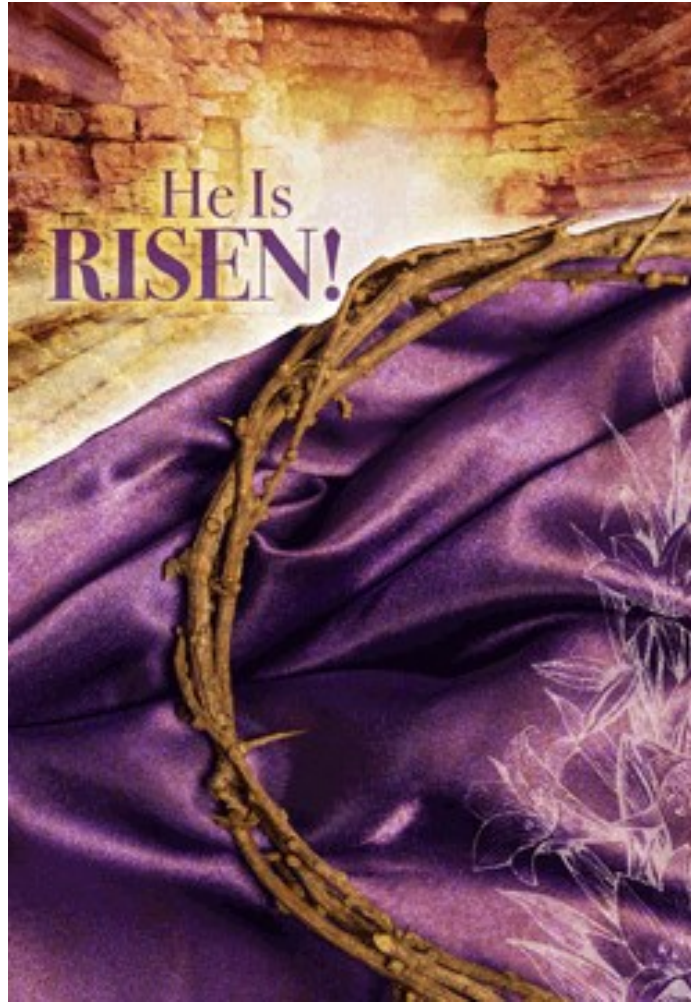


Palm West Alive

March 2024



The joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*



Pastoral Staff:

Jim Powell, Senior Pastor

pastorjim@palmwestchurch.org

Brian Thomas, Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care

pastorbrian@palmwestchurch.org

Joseph Place, Minister of Music and Media

pastorjoe@palmwestchurch.org

Gwendy Joysen, Director of Modern Worship

gwendy@palmwestchurch.org

Office Staff:

Joyce Sopilnick, Church Administrator

admin@palmwestchurch.org

Peg Rideout, Connections Coordinator

connections@palmwestchurch.org

Worship With Us In Person

Sundays

Traditional Worship

9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Modern Worship

10:30 a.m. in Hoover Hall

Livestream at 9:00 a.m.

(on the website/app)

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday

8:00 am—4:00 pm

Closed for lunch 12:00 pm—1:00 pm

Fridays

8:00 am—2:00 pm

Phone: 623-546-2980

Fax: 623-546-9977

General Church Email:

staff@palmwestchurch.org

Website: www.palmwestchurch.org

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Pastor Jim, Discovering PWCC:, Baptism Class, pages 3, 4
- ◆ Pastor Joe, Oasis Project, page 5
- ◆ Lenten/Easter Cantata, page 6
- ◆ Connection Coordinator, Fellowship Dinner, Women's Fellowship, page 7
- ◆ Education, page 8
- ◆ Sermon Series, Intercessory Prayer, Prayer Requests, page 9
- ◆ Quilt & Sew, New Members, GriefShare, page 10
- ◆ Women's Connection, Courtneys Creations, Coloring Fellowship, Fellowship Games, page 11
- ◆ March Meetings, Leadership Meeting, pages 12, 13
- ◆ Missions, page 14
- ◆ Hope Bags, page 15

PWCC Leaders

VLT Chair, Gary Lanning

Secretary VLT, Finance, Joyce Westlund

Treasurer, Chuck Crandall

Education, Shari Goldade

Hospitality, Carol Graf

Media, Jim Burroughs

Missions, Phil Burdick

Property, Terry Brafford

Worship, Kristine Seemiller/Rob Hilkemeier

**Articles for the April newsletter should
be submitted to the office by**

**March 14. Thank You.
admin@palmwestchurch.org**

Pastor Jim Powell

Senior Pastor



Congregational Plans for 2025 Sabbatical

As most of you are aware, PWCC is applying for Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal Grant. This would enable me to take an all-expense paid sabbatical break during the summer of 2025. Yet, even as I leave, a big part of this grant is congregational health and symmetry while I'm gone. So I thought I would share with you what we are planning for PWCC while I'm gone. These ideas are based on our two group brainstorming sessions that were held in January.

A commissioning ceremony immediately prior to the start of the sabbatical. This will be a time of corporate dedication, blessing Pastor Jim and prayerfully sending him out into this adventure of experiencing God's presence and renewal. At the same time, this will be a commissioning for the church family also as we enter our own adventure of experiencing God's presence and renewal in everyday life in Sun City West, Arizona.

Pastor Jim will read several books during his sabbatical. The church family will be invited to read one of these same titles, *Letters by A Modern Mystic* by Frank Laubach. This is one man's story of how he developed a growing sense of God's presence. This title is quite appropriate for our senior congregation as an expanding sense of God's presence, congregation is not only foundational to all of life, but especially a key part of aging well with grace.

During the sabbatical, Pastor Jim will seek to submit brief YouTube updates that capture what he's seen, done, and experienced. As well as insights or reflection points that he's been pondering (to invite the church family to reflect on the same thing). Any prayer requests or prayer prompts. The church family will be invited to subscribe to Jim's YouTube channel to receive these updates.

Before departing, Pastor Jim will give the Palm West Intercessory Prayer Team a list of specific items to pray for while he's away. Additionally, any prayer requests or prayer prompts shared via YouTube updates will be forwarded to this Prayer Team so that they can intercede directly for any pressing needs.

During Pastor Jim's first section of his break, the focus will be on Being Present in Retreat. During this time, he will be hiking the Camino de Santiago in Spain. During this time, Palm West Community Church will share in this same focus in these ways: Engage with a Sunday morning sermon series on seeing and reflecting on God's presence amongst the events of everyday life, seeking God, intimacy with God, and knowing Him at a deeper level. Offer a weekly prayer gathering of Lectio Divina prayer. This contemplative, reflective prayer provides an opportunity for the church family to develop a listening posture before God as they seek deeper intimacy with Him, something Pastor Jim desires to engage in this portion of his sabbatical. We will view the movie *The Way* about the Camino de Santiago and the pilgrimage experience. Take a day trip to a local retreat center or take a hike/walk together at a local recreation center or mountain park to appreciate the pilgrimage journey that Pastor Jim is on.

To share in Pastor Jim's 2nd sabbatical focus of Being Present in Recreation/Activity, he will be taking his boys to hike the Grand Canyon and then raft down the Colorado River. The church family will be invited to: Engage with a Sunday morning sermon series on reflecting on God and seeing Him and how He's moving through the events of life. Offer teaching on the prayer of Examen. This holistic, all-of-life prayer is an accessible means by which to see God's constant action and presence in everyday life. View a movie about the Grand Canyon where Pastor Jim will spend time in this portion of his sabbatical.

(continued)

Pastor Jim Powell

Senior Pastor

(continued)

To Share in Pastor Jim's 3rd focus of Being Present in Relationships, he will be taking a 3-week RV trip with his wife up the west coast. The church family will be invited to: Engage with a Sunday morning sermon series on being fully present in our own relationships and community. A presence that is enabled as we seek God and anchor our identity in Him. This is needed especially as we face life's transitions and pursue deeper intentionality in those closest to us. Gather to view the movie RV, a comedy about the misadventures that can come with RV travel.

A celebration of Pastor Jim's return to Palm West Community Church. There will be two parts to this: Pastor Jim will share the highlights and life-giving experiences from this sabbatical. But also, the church family will share their own highlights and life-giving experiences as they sought after God, learned to reflect and better see God in everyday life, and how knowing His presence has empowered them to be more present in their own relationships as they strive to love others with Christ's love.

In all of the above activities, Pastor Brian will be serving as Pastor Jim's fill-in as Lead Pastor. He will be preaching approximately 50% of the sermons and we will be inviting quality outside speakers to share the other weeks.

So this is the current plan that we have in place for the congregation to thrive while I am on my break. In the meantime, we would ask for your prayers as we prepare to submit the grant application in March. Also, if you have suggestions or questions about the above action plan, please feel free to forward those suggestions to myself, Pastor Brian, or Gary Lanning who is the current Chair of our Vision Leadership Team.

Sincerely,
Pastor Jim



Discovering PWCC!

Our next class will be:

Thursday, March 21, at 1:00 p.m.
in the Hoover Hall classroom.

This is a newcomer's class taught by Pastor Jim, designed to help you meet other people and learn more about our church.

You can contact the church office to sign up or for more information.

Baptism Class

Pastor Jim will have two classes on Sunday, March 24, after each service for those who are interested in being baptized.

10:00 a.m. in the Worship Center classroom
11:30 a.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom



Pastor Joseph Place
Minister of Music & Media

Join us for Music and Worship events in March as we journey through the seasons of Lent and Holy Week toward the resurrection!

On Sunday, March 17th at 5:00 PM our Oasis Project presents **Scott Smith and Friends** in a chamber recital with clarinet, piano, soprano voice and string quartet. You'll enjoy the music of Johannes Brahms, Ernesto Cavallini, W.A. Mozart, and Franz Schubert. This will be peaceful and refreshing. Don't miss it!



On Sunday, March 24th at 3:00 PM our Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra will present the Lenten/Easter cantata "Come to the Cross and Remember" by Pepper Choplin. Christ's journey to the cross is filled with images that serve as vivid reminders of His sacrificial love for us. These images are the centerpiece of *Come to the Cross and Remember*. You will want to bring your friends to this powerful worship experience!

Join us on Good Friday, March 29th at 3:00 PM as our Oasis Project gathers at the foot of the cross to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. This will be a brief and inspiring service of song, scripture and prayer.

Easter Sunday! He is risen! He is risen indeed! – Sunday, March 31 at 9:00 AM we will rejoice together in the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We will lift our voices together as our Chancel Choir and brass quintet inspire us to sing praise to God!

And one "sneak peek" into April! - Monday, April 15, 2024, 3:00 PM - The Oasis Project presents The Dave Len Scott Quartet - "Blessed Mix" (Jazz Quartet)

The Oasis Project at
Palm West Community Church
presents
Scott Smith and Friends
In Recital



Enjoy this wonderful chamber ensemble of clarinet, soprano voice, piano and string quartet playing the music of Johannes Brahms, Ernesto Cavallini, W.A. Mozart, and Franz Schubert.



Sunday, March 17, 2024
5:00 PM

palmwestchurch.org

13845 W. Stardust Blvd
Sun City West, AZ 85375

(A free-will offering will be received)



The Chancel Choir and
Chamber Orchestra of
Palm West Community Church
present

the Palms

The Bread
and Cup

The Flowers

Thirty Silver
Coins

COME *to the* CROSS
and
REMEMBER



the Robe

The Crown

The Nails

The Shroud

Pepper Choplin

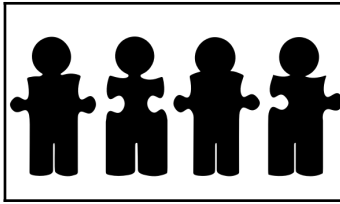
A Lenten/Easter Cantata
Sunday, March 24, 2024
3:00 PM

A Free-Will Offering will be
Received

palmwestchurch.org
13845 W. Stardust Blvd
Sun City West, AZ 85375

Connection Coordinator

Peg Rideout



Hey Newcomers - Let's Connect!

If you are new(er) to our church family and/or haven't had the opportunity to attend a "Meet, Eat and Greet" luncheon, consider yourself invited to the next gathering on Wednesday, March 13. This is a relaxed event that includes time to meet others in our church, make new friends and hear a little more from those in leadership. As the Connections Coordinator, I desire to support you as you learn more about what makes our church one of the best in our community! We want you to be all that the Lord desires, and Pastor Jim reminded us a couple weeks ago that it is NEVER too late to make a difference. Each of us has unique gifts and abilities that can be used for God and benefit others in ways we may not even imagine. If you are interested in attending the luncheon on March 13, please email me at connections@palmwestchurch.org or text/call me (317) 460-0576.

Peg Rideout

Connections Coordinator

Fellowship Dinner

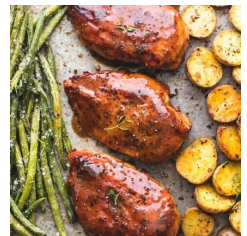
Carol Graf, Chair

Join us on Wednesday, March 20, 5:00 p.m. , Hoover Hall

We will be serving Apricot Chicken Breast, Roasted Mini Potatoes,
Green Beans and Rolls!

If you would like to help prepare in the kitchen, bring a dessert, help set-up or clean-up, check the boxes when you sign up to come to the dinner.

\$5.00 per person at the door!



Women's Fellowship Ministry

Pat Seaberg, Chair



Ladies you are invited to our **Baked Potato Luncheon** on Saturday, March 9 at 11:00 a.m., Hoover Hall. Our guest speaker will be Jane Colrud. She is an amazing lady and will share her testimony, *What God has done in her life, the miracles and blessings*.

Our luncheon will feature a baked potato bar with all the toppings to choose from. Dessert will be a delicious cheesecake.

Tickets will be on sale Sunday's February 25 and March 3. Cost is \$15.00. You won't want to miss it!

This year our **Ladies Spring Tea Event** will be Saturday, April 6 at 11:00 a.m. in Hoover Hall.

This is a special time for dressing up and wearing hats for fun. (optional not mandatory!) It will be a delightful event with the theme this year of "Bee All You Can Bee"

There will be a Fashion Show presented by Sher's. Special music included in the program. Beautiful decorations and a menu to "die" for. Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss the fun!

The cost will be \$20.00.

Education

Shari Goldade, Chair

Bible Study Opportunities

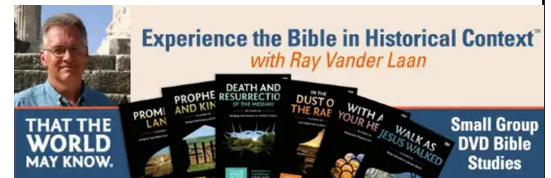
Sunday Morning—Bible Study Leader Bob Wilber is continuing with Ray Vander Laan's "That The World May Know" 10:30 a.m., in the Choir Room. The future studies will be: The Path of the Cross, Walking with God, The Mission of Jesus, The Clash of Kingdoms, and Cultures of Conflict.

For more information please call Bob 859-621-0709.

Men's Bible Study—We will have fellowship time with coffee and treats Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and begin our study at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room. Leader Dave Witt will continue the study of Epistle of John and Epistle of Peter. For more information Call Dave 602-741-4640.

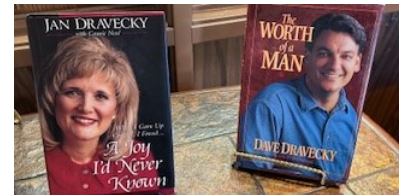
Women's Bible Study—Thursday's 9:30 a.m. in Hoover Hall Classroom. Refreshments will be available. Sara Dunn and Dorcas Van Horn will continue the series "Seamless".

All Palm West ladies are invited to attend. Friends of Palm West are welcome as well.



Library

What do the following names have in common? Hudson Taylor, Charles Spurgeon, Jim Elliot, Fanny Crosby.... All heroes of faith. When was the last time you read a biography of a person of faith? Our church library has many good biographies just waiting to be checked out. We have many new titles and series available as well. Stop in the library.



The January February and March Daily Bread is available at both services.

Christian Readers Book Club

1st Thursday's at 1:00 p.m. in the Worship Center Classroom

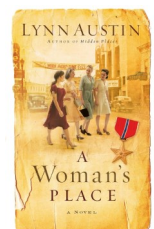
March — A Time to Bloom by Lauraine Snelling

April — A Woman's Place by Lynn Austin

These books are available in the church library.



Our group is open to all who love to read and enjoy good wholesome fellowship. For May, be prepared to give a 3-5 minute synopsis of one of your favorites.



Sermon Series
Pastor Jim Powell



Spiritual Formation

Feb 11th – March 24th

Spiritual Formation

March 3 The Hard Parts

Topic: Will focus on the theme of hardship and suffering, and how God uses that to form us and bring about growth.

Acts 10:28; Galatians 2:11-14

March 10 The Spiritual Pathways

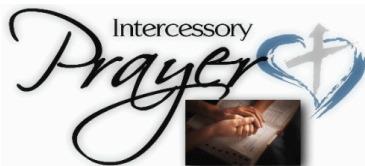
Scriptures: John 1:29-30

March 17 The Need for People

Scriptures: Various

March 24 The Role of Awareness

Scriptures: James 4:9; Psalm 51



The Intercessory Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. We will be using the Worship Center classroom in the back of the Sanctuary.

Do you have a prayer request?

If so, email prayer@palmwestchurch.org

We'll get your request to our prayer team and include it on our daily email update. Prayer is our most forceful weapon and we need to continue to rely on this privilege.





Quilt and Sew

Wilma Plett

Next Meeting—Friday, March 1, 10:00 a.m.

Hoover Hall classroom

Do you like to sew?

Then join us for fun and fellowship in making quilts and
blankets for children.

Fabric and instructions are provided!

New Members

On Sunday, February 18, Pastor Jim introduced new members:



Steve & Vicki Keating



Bonnie Eichstedt



John & Patty Dolder



Ronald Strnad & Carol Jewett



**Our photographers
Doug Allan &
Patty (Nap) O'Young**

Missing pictures of New Members

Dick & Myrna Sponhauer and Karen Kosmoski

GriefShare has begun the spring semester with new materials which have been well received by those returning. There is always room for more members if you or anyone you know has experienced the loss of a loved one. We meet in the choir room Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Bob and Joyce Davis, Facilitators

510-421-0220





Women's Connection

Ladies, join us for great conversation!

Join us on Monday afternoons from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Worship Center classroom for an informal time of fellowship. Each week someone will present a topic about a life experience to which everyone is invited to share their story. At times we groan for each other but mostly we laugh together. We look forward to welcoming new ladies into our fellowship! Small snacks and water provided. For questions call the church office.

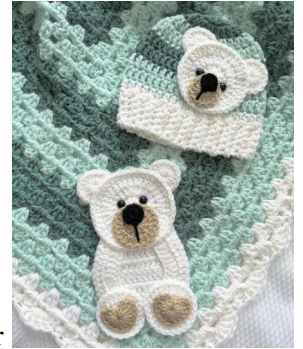
Courtneys Creations

Do you like to knit or crochet? Join ladies of Palm West Community Church who make baby items, i.e. booties, hats, sweaters or small blankets, for the "Choices Pregnancy Center" stores. "Choices" has four locations in the greater Phoenix area and has a wonderful program for pregnant women who need encouragement and items for their new babies.

Our next meeting will be March 1 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Worship Center classroom. We bring our items, share patterns and our passion for doing what we do.

If you are unable to attend a meeting, donations are being collected in the Palm West Church library.

QUESTIONS? Please call: Elaine Kleinsasser 605-360-0796 or Nancy Wright 509-675-6463, or find Nancy in the library on Sunday mornings.



Coloring Fellowship

Come join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

For the month of March we will be meeting on

March 12 & 26

10:00 a.m.— 11:30 a.m.

in the Hoover Hall classroom.

Lots of fellowship and a little coloring.

Bring family and friends. We have supplies to share.

Questions??? Contact Deborah Phillips Dodson or Mary Beth Tyson

Fellowship Games

Come and join us at Fellowship Games for a couple of hours of fun, finger snacks, and good fellowship.

We have a committed "Mexican Train" group and also welcome other games.

We meet the first and third Mondays in Hoover Hall classroom

2:00 p. m.— 4:30 p.m.

This month March 4 & 18.



March Meetings

AA/Alanon

Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom
Saturdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom

Baptism Class

Sunday, March 24,	10:00 am—10:30 pm	Worship Center classroom
	11:30 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom

CBS

Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27	9:30 am—11:30 am	Whole Campus
Wednesday, March 20—Breakfast	8:30 am—9:30 am	Hoover Hall

Christian Readers Book Club

Thursday, March 6	1:00 pm—2:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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Choir Practice

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28	3:00 pm—4:30 pm	Choir Room
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Coloring Fellowship

Tuesday's, March 12, 26	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
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Courtneys Creations

Friday, March 1	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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Discovering PWCC!

Thursday, March 21	:00 pm—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Easter Cantata

Sunday, March 24	3:00 pm	Sanctuary
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Education

Monday, March 4	9:00 am—10:00 am	Worship Center classroom
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Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday, March 20	5:00 pm—7:00 pm	Hoover Hall
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Fellowship Games

Monday's, March 4, 18	2:00 pm—4:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Formation Group

Mondays, March 4, 11, 18, 25	10:00 am—11:30 am	Worship Center classroom
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Good Friday Service

Friday, March 29	3:00 pm—4:00 pm	Sanctuary
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GriefShare

Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26	10:00 am—11:30 am	Choir Room
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Handbells

Fridays, March 1, 8, 22, 29	9:00 am—10:00 am	Sanctuary
No Handbells on March 15.		

Hope Bags

Friday, March 8	9:00 am—11:00 am	Hoover Hall classroom
Friday, March 15	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall/Hoover Hall classroom
Saturday, March 16	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall/Hoover Hall classroom
Friday, March 22 (Action Party)	10:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom

(continued)

Mission Moments

Phil Burdick, Chair

Reach Beyond

Phil Burdick, Liaison

Reach Beyond is very grateful for the long-term relationship they have had with Palm West Community Church. Reach Beyond is working in fifty different countries with VOICE and HANDS projects. The VOICE projects broadcast Evangelical programs through FM, shortwave, satellite and Internet radio into areas that are closed to missionaries openly sharing the Gospel. HANDS projects include building clean water wells, agriculture projects and medical caravans that open opportunities for sharing the Gospel.

Radio Light is one Reach Beyond ministry that broadcasts to a Central African community. Those holding strongly to non-Christian beliefs are encouraged that they can hear the Gospel broadcast in their own language. Every morning the Radio Light team broadcasts fifteen-minute dramas that address common cultural issues and Biblical teachings along with Christian music. Audiences love listening to these shows and have high praise from non-Christian listeners.

The team found effective ways to personally connect with their listeners by starting cooking classes for women at the radio station. The women took their recipes home and impressed their husbands with new meals. This has resulted in team members leading ten Bible studies in various villages with an average attendance of fifteen to twenty people. The powerful message of the Gospel is transforming lives.



Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Marge Arnold, Liaison

Fellowship of Christian Athletes is an organization of coaches and volunteers that is reaching students with the news of Jesus Christ. Palm West Church is financially committed to meeting the needs of the Northwest Valley under the direction of Matt Palmer. Palm West's contribution goes specifically for the purchase of Bibles which are given to the students. 1,452 Bibles were given to students of the Northwest Valley in 2023. (\$12.00 per Bible)

The valley is divided into five sections plus Arizona State University. The team leaders group has expanded from eight to twenty one this past year. Each team leader can have as many as ten location groups. FCA is meeting on 125 campuses in the valley. Statistics show 35% of students live in single parent households. 85% of the valley is unchurched.

This country's future is in the hands of our youth. One goal of the Northwest Valley's FCA is to place another 1,500 Bibles in the hands of our students. Praise the Lord for Christians who care about the souls of our young people and recognize the need to bring them to Christ.

Hope Bags

Claudia Smith



TIME TO CELEBRATE!!!

What a joyful and intense year our Hope Bag Team has enjoyed. All the many hours sewing bags and crocheting cords, working on the beautiful quilts, ordering necessary bulk items, counting and sorting the many donations from the Item of the Month program, inventorying the items and storing them in the proper section for the “filling of the bags” day! Whew, the Lord is truly giving all our team the energy and desire to complete the 1,550 Hope Bags and well over 600 quilts this year.

We would love to have you come on **March 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** to help us fill all these bags. This is a time of celebration, and you too can be part of this wonderful time of fellowship.



What a special way to serve the missions PWCC supports here in our own Valley. Mark your calendars for March 16 to help fill the Hope Bags and March 17 to enjoy the dedication at our Sunday service. You'll enjoy meeting the folks from the missions as they will attend the second service at 10:30 a.m. Following that service the missions will receive the Hope Bags and Quilts for the abused and underprivileged women and children.



God has blessed so many neighbors of PWCC through the twenty years we have been enjoying the Hope Bag and Quilt ministries. **You** are the hands of Jesus and the light to these missions.



If you have any questions about the Hope Bag Ministry,
please contact Claudia Smith 623-692-7911 or email mspuff42@gmail.com.



13845 W. Stardust Blvd.
Sun City West, AZ 85375

