

THE EPISTLE

NOVEMBER 2016



VETERAN'S DAY

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 an armistice, a temporary cessation of hostilities between the Allied Nations

and Germany began. Although the Treaty of Versailles wouldn't be signed for another seven months November 11, 1918 is regarded as the end of the "Great War."

The first commemoration of Armistice Day was proclaimed by President Wilson on November 11, 1919 with these words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The United States Congress declared it a legal holiday in 1926, and in 1954, following the sacrifices made by soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen during World War II and the Korean Conflict, the name of the holiday was amended by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." November 11th is now a day we honor American veterans of all wars.

The veterans in our church family have always been active in the life of our community. They fill positions on our committees and task force groups. They volunteer their time in the maintenance of the church campus. They bless us with their service in worship and community events. They are men and women from all walks of life who, in many cases, were boys and girls when they answered the call in the service of the United States.

Marvin Moffit is a retired World War II Air Force veteran. He served on the board of trustees for many years, and over 20 years ago he began placing American flags on the wrought iron fence surrounding the Memorial Rose Garden to honor our veterans. Some of our most active volunteers, like Nancy Knight, Susi Rubendall, and Nancy Boyd have answered their country's call. Dave McWilliams serves with the Air National Guard and is currently deployed, away from his family and church. We keep him in our prayers and look forward to welcoming him home. These are just a few of the veterans in our church family, and we are thankful for them all.

As we head towards Thanksgiving a day to reflect on what we have to be grateful for, let us begin early and express our gratitude for our veterans: those who stand in the middle willing to love in the example of John 15:13, "No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends." (CEB)

To ALL OF YOU we say "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE."

"We are called to be a community of generosity and love where we invite others to join us in becoming disciples of Jesus Christ for the good of the world."

AT THE GATE

“There is always, always, ALWAYS something to be grateful for.”
--Author unknown

That is one of the quotes on my personal bulletin board in my office. It reminds me that—among other things—gratitude is not always easy to cultivate, and sometimes we have to work at it, especially if it is not habit to us. Like most work, though, there is a tangible benefit, and we are made the better for it.

This newsletter is dedicated to that most Christian virtue of gratitude and for all the reasons we have to be grateful: the ones that are easy to name, and those we have to work at.

When I was a child the day came my parents began to require us to pray at the dinner table with prayers that were more “grown-up” (meaning we could no longer get by with a speedy, blurred version of the old stand-by, “God is good; God is great” offering)... I remember this prayer I offered at the table, and which my mother cannot forget: “Lord, thank you for this food we are about to eat... except for the Lima beans. Amen.”

“Try again,” said my mother, her hands still holding onto mine, eyes still closed, head still bowed.

“...and thank you even for the Lima Beans... but I am still NOT eating them!”

Like I say, sometimes gratitude takes work. And God is still working on me!

Grace Happens,

Pastor Tony

P.S. I STILL hate Lima beans, but I do appreciate a grateful heart.



DEPARTMENT NEWS - She's baaaaaack!

Some of you may remember Tamara Swerline from when she began working here in 2013. Life happened and she moved on—for awhile. Well, she's back, but in another capacity. She is now serving as the Church Secretary, performing a variety of administrative functions.

Tamara is passionate about her faith and active in the new UMW Hadasah Circle, the Emmaus Community as well as the Kairos Outside Community. When you stop in the office, come say hello!

Contact Information

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Tamara Swerline

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Monday-Thursday
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UPCOMING SERMONS



November 6- All Saint's Day
Saying "Yes" to God: "Yes" Says the Spirit

Revelation 14:12-13

“Blessed are those who die in the Lord.” We will remember and honor our saints to whom we have had to say goodbye since last November.

November 13 - New Series
Like a Good Neighbor

Luke 10:25-37



What if Jesus really meant it: love your neighbor as yourself? What does that mean? What does it look like? Are we doing it?

November 20 - Like a Good Neighbor Part II
The Power of an Ask and an Interruption

Luke 8:43-48



Are we bold enough in our service to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to people who are bleeding and hurting?

November 27 - Advent: Light and Darkness
The Nightlight

II Timothy 1:3-14



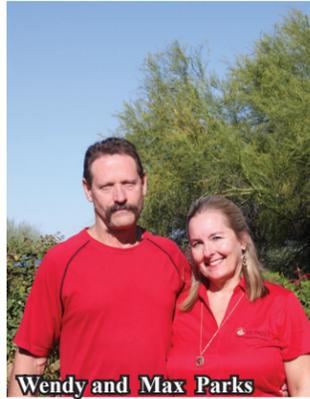
“For we are given a spirit of power, not timidity.” This Advent, we will explore light and darkness as we wait in anticipation for Christ's birth.

November 27 - The Hanging of the Greens
Special worship and fellowship event



Each year, the sights and sounds of Christmas greet us in church, in shopping malls, in the media, and in our own homes. This year, we want to be intentional in welcoming in the season with a tradition known as “The Hanging of the Greens.” We will gather for a fun inter-generational service where all can take part as we learn about the symbols of the Advent and Christmas season and prepare our Sanctuary for the coming of Christ. The service will be at 5:00 pm.

GRATITUDE GALLERY



Wendy and Max Parks

“We are thankful that we are able to live a loving, God-filled life with our kids, grand-kids, friends, and church family. As a couple, we are blessed to have each other to share all this together.”



Jack Fletcher

“I’m grateful for my family, my house, my Dad’s job and food.”



Violet and Clementine Dasse

“I am thankful for harp and music.”
-Violet Dasse

“I am thankful for friends and family.”
-Clementine Dasse



Aiden and Brendan Steele

“We are thankful for the people of the church, Sunday School, our house, food, water, space to run and play in, each other, our pet, and our parents.”
- Brendan and Aiden Steele



Dan, Jenny, Caitlin and Audrey Dessent

“We have so many blessings as a family that we are grateful for. Audrey (age 6) is grateful for “mommy snuggles”. Caitlin (age 10) says that she is thankful for her family, her cats, and her school. Jenny & Dan are grateful for all of the daily blessings that God has made possible--when we spend time with our girls (playing board games, eating dinner together, nighttime tuck-ins) we feel happiness, love, and God’s blessings.”



Bill Elliot

“I am grateful for...
-My family- 2 daughters 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.
-To be blessed with excellent health.
-My church, who is always there for me.
-My friends from my hometown in Illinois, Tucson and the military.
-Evening phone calls from my daughter in Michigan.”



Casey Myers

“Hello, my name is Casey Myers and I’m thankful for...
-A loving family that supports me when I get good grades.
-The church who gives us food during the holidays and breaks so that we have enough to eat.
-The church giving me a basketball scholarship to play with my friends and learn to play basketball.”



Claudia Ann Perry

“As we approach the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons, I think about all my blessings from God. I am thankful for my loving husband, my family, the many friends who love me like family. I thank God for the shelter and food He supplies. These are the secondary blessings of God. I am most grateful for the God who created me in His image, His son Jesus who died for my sins and for the comfort of the Holy Spirit. I am thankful for and comforted by the knowledge that I have a home in Heaven where I will spend eternity with God. These blessings are what give these seasons meaning for me.”



Benoni McKnight

“First, I’m thankful for Jesus and his unending and forgiving Grace which gives me the opportunity to work toward obtaining Eternal Life. I’m also thankful to open my eyes each morning to a beautiful day and have the ability to take care of my own daily needs such as bathing, dressing, and eating, as well as shopping, traveling, etc. Finally, I give thanks for the freedom to worship the God of my own choice, and I do enjoy the freedoms that come with living in these United States in 2016 with family and friends nearby.”



Ron and Ann Kellison

“We are grateful that we live in a country where we are free to make decisions for ourselves. This includes where we live, where we worship, and what we do for a living. Each of us has the power to determine our own destiny in life. This right was given to us by our ancestors who fought and died for our freedoms. We also need to remember the sacrifices that our military has suffered and appreciate what we have thanks to them. In this season of Thanksgiving, let us acknowledge what we have to be grateful for.”

GRATITUDE GALLERY (CONTINUED)



Kaylin Rogne

"I am most thankful for lots of things in my life. I am thankful for my family and friends. I am thankful for their caring generosity and love towards me for the past 15 years. I am thankful for my soccer team and that I even have family who would care to put me in after school activities. I am thankful for a good education and food on my table; it gives me a chance to be something great when I get older and to be big and strong. Thankfulness means something different to everybody, but this is what I am thankful for."



Martha Clarkson

"I am really thankful to be living in Tucson. I have been wanting to move here for the past two years. It has been a God-led move with Him driving...then on to St. Paul's. I am a joiner so I was blessed to become active on the Welcome and Photo Directory committees...and God also put Mary Harvey into my life. What a blessing she has been to me and what an example she is to others to be "blessed to be a blessing," and I found Jerry a great CPA in this deal as well! And then there is Sam's Stretching Class- what a fun place to come and stretch and tone and visit... here is another blessing. Also I had the privilege of joining St. Paul's on October 23rd...It truly does not get much better than this. I am also thankful to finally get started building on my new home. God sent me the right architect, so I could not be in better hands. Off on another adventure, I go... but truly thankful."



Jennie L. Dodd

"I have many wonderful thoughts of why I love being a member of St. Paul's and look forward to coming to church. The first thoughts are the friendly and caring people who attend our church, that I consider my church family. From being an usher and greeter at the 8:00 AM service, it means a lot to me to know that my presence is missed if I can't make a Sunday and later am asked if I am okay. The service starting with the Early Bird Choir singing traditional hymns, accompanied by the gifted piano playing of Brent is such sweet music. Followed by greeting each other and sharing joys and concerns are what made me mention my first thought. This all leads up to hearing Pastor Tony's sermons. Words can't adequately express how beautiful and inspirational the messages are that he gives in his sermons. I admire the fact that Pastor Tony doesn't just stand at the pulpit and read from notes. When I leave church, I have a good feeling about life and am reminded of God's love for us. St. Paul's United Methodist Church excels in the staff and programs they offer to the local community and surrounding areas. I am also thankful for the beautiful rose garden, where you can visit with loved ones who have made the journey home to be with God and Jesus."

A Note on Gratitude

A friend of mine talks about gratitude being a verb, an action word. When she takes action and serves others by listening, helping and caring about them; she experiences gratitude. By helping others, she is not worried about herself as her heart is turned outward. This is what sharing God's word looks like to me. When I share God's word by helping others, I always experience gratitude.... funny how that works.

I love November because it is a great time to not just think about gratitude but to act in gratitude. My prayer is this November you will experience the action of gratitude and will experience God's blessings on a much deeper level.

-Nancy Scott

Special Thanks

Thanks for all the get well cards. My next big date is October 18th when I see my surgeon and hope to get approval to start driving.
Thanks again,
Dan Pine

Condolences To...

Our condolences to Kay Slocum and family following the death of Gary on October 20th.

Our condolences to Patty Shepard and Cathy Robinson and their family following the death of their father, John Shepard on October 22st.

Gratitude Potluck Dinner and Musical Extravaganza II

For some of us, it's turkey and mashed potatoes. For others, it's pumpkin pie. And some people are really sold on green bean casserole. The sights and smells and tastes of Thanksgiving occupy some of our strongest memories of family, and we all have our favorite dish. St. Paul's has celebrated Thanksgiving many times as a church family. Though the event hasn't always taken place on the official Thursday holiday, it has been an opportunity to celebrate gratitude with people we love.



Last year, rather than calling it "Thanksgiving Dinner," we held our first annual Gratitude POTLUCK Dinner and Musical Extravaganza. It was a hit! We invited our community and neighborhood and showcased our musical talent. Guess what happened?? Over 300 people came to share a dish, listen to music and make new friends.

We are planning Round II on Wednesday, November 16 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Billy and Ann Still Life Center. Musical talents will include our Children's Choir, Youth Group, Early Bird Choir, the Uke-ters and Grace Multiplied plus a few more surprises!!

What can you do?

1. Plan to attend
2. Invite your friends and family
3. Bring a dish to share (a turkey, a side or a dessert)
4. Bring a grateful heart

Questions? Interested in volunteering at this event? Please contact Nancy Scott at 520.296.6149.

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WORSHIP SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 A.M.
Traditional

9:30 A.M.
Contemporary

11:00 A.M.
Traditional

SAVE THE DATES

HarpFusion Concert!

St. Paul's has presented the University of Arizona's HarpFusion in a concert celebrating the magic of the Christmas season for over a decade. This year, we are excited to welcome back this world-class ensemble for concerts December 11th, at 11:00 am and at 5:30 pm. They'll be joined by our own St. Paul's HarpChoir. You won't want to miss it!



- **Silent Auction - 11/6**
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm; Life Center
- **Kairos Outside Rummage Sale - 11/12**
7:00 am - 1:00 am; Brummet Hall
- **Gratitude Dinner - 11/16**
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm; Life Center
- **Hanging of the Greens - 11/27**
5:00 pm; Sanctuary
- **UMW Christmas Coffee - 12/6**
9:30 am; Brummet Hall
- **Pack-a-thon - 1/8/2017**
10:30 am; Life Center

For more details on upcoming events, visit
www.stpaulsumctucson.org.