



Thunderbird West Congregational News



Alyssa Brittan

Alyssa has been a proud member of Elite Dance Academy, for 3 years now and has developed quite a passion for this art. She was 5 years old when she started attending Elite, and after approximately 6 months, she was asked, by the director, to audition for the dance company. The auditions are open to students that are 7 years and older with a minimum of 2 years dance experience. The Director had to be reminded that Alyssa was 5 going on 6, and had only 6 months dance experience. Despite these facts, she insisted on having Alyssa audition for the company. Alyssa became part of the dance company and to date is the youngest member the “performing group” has ever let in.

As a part of the dance company, Alyssa has had many unique opportunities to compete and train at different dance conventions and competitions all over the valley, performing routines in jazz, tap, ballet, and hip hop. She has performed at an Arizona Diamondbacks baseball game, a Phoenix Suns basketball game, and most recently competed her very first solo jazz dance, entitled “Show Off”. Alyssa was awarded 1st in her group, and 3rd overall in the elementary division. In July, her dance company was asked to perform at a Dance Day at Disneyland in California and she had an absolutely wonderful time.

Alyssa’s other hobbies include spending time with her family, pets and friends. Any new kid that she meets is instantly referred to as “a new best friend.” She is a lover of all animals, but her favorite is her Siamese cat “Fluke” aka “Cosmo Kitty,” who insists on following her around like a puppy and sleeping on her bed. Alyssa loves going to movies, out to eat and of course shopping! She started 3rd grade this year, and loves her new teacher! In spite of the fact that she spends 4-5 days per week attending dance lessons, Alyssa has managed to maintain very good grades, and is at the top of her class in math, spelling and especially reading. Alyssa is a special little spirit and a wonderful member of the Thunderbird West Congregation.

Pastor's Corner

At this time of the year we find ourselves enthusiastically looking forward to our winter visitors coming back. A lot of work has gone into preparing the summer services, classes were available for all ages and our attendance from May through July was higher than the same thirteen Sundays last year. Even though we have had a good summer, it doesn't mean that we don't need every one back. I will be happy when as many of us as possible are together again. We have a busy and fun fall season planned. The fellowship and worship that we will experience together can help to make our faith stronger and give us the opportunity to be there for each other.

If you are in Arizona during the monsoon season, its possible to experience a monsoon - and we did on Thursday evening July 29. As you know, Vicki and I have moved and we've spent the last several weeks working to get settled in. We seem to be very adept at moving in July and many times we mentioned, "It sure would be nice if it rained a nice steady rain for a few days and cooled things down some." Well, we got an answer to our wish, but it wasn't the slow steady rain we were hoping for. Instead, it was a few days worth of wind and rain in a few minutes. There are two pretty good size mesquite trees in our backyard and when the wind and rain were in their most muscular stages, I began to worry about them falling on the house. Driving around later, I did see many trees that had been uprooted and some moved several feet from where their root ball was pulled out of the ground.



A friend in Sun City lost a large Saguaro cactus. Fortunately it fell parallel to his house and didn't do any damage. It was, however, sad to see this large magnificent cactus toppled so easily. It is true that there were 75 mph wind gusts experienced in the area, but the fact is, there was not much root in the ground to hold it up.

This served to remind me of how fragile a state we can find ourselves in if we don't have the support of a close knit family both at home and at church. Sometimes it can be tough for us when our lives become difficult and we need support. Other times we need to give support and encouragement.

As we strive to mature in the faith, we can become overconfident because our faith hasn't been tested. We would be in a much more precarious condition if we did not have friends who could understand and help. Our ability to withstand the storms may be weak because our faith may not have a strong foundation. Most in the Thunderbird West congregation are veterans. Others have relatively little experience and will have to look to friends and family for support. The author of the parable of the "Sower," writes about how some can have roots in the faith, but these roots are so shallow that new life can find no depth of sustenance and, "When trouble or persecution arises...immediately they fall away." (Mark 4:17). If we are alone, this can happen. When there are other members of the body of Christ with us we may fall, but we don't have to fall away. Thank God for the fellowship of the congregation.

Mike

PASTORAL CARE

Many have indicated they have enjoyed the "Fishers of Men" summer program. We will continue this activity through August. There are only a few names left up on the net so please fish and respond to the fish you catch. We will put all the fish back up on the net for one more fishing expedition.

Fall Programs:

It is our plan to have a "Shape Up For the Holidays" weight loss group, to meet once a week from Oct 15th through Dec.15th. Days and time are to be determined.



Thanks to our nurses we will continue with the "Blood Pressure Checks once a month.

We would like to establish "Small Groups" for six weeks Oct. 9th through Nov.13th. We are in process of getting a committee together to determine the particulars. If you have some ideas please let us know.

We know that the Holidays are a difficult time for those who have lost loved ones, so we are planning a "Remembrance Service" during the Holidays to give remembrance to our loved ones that have passed away. Nov. 14th is a tentative date. This will be an evening program with refreshments following.

Since we no longer have prayer service we would like to establish "Prayer Partners". This would be a program you would sign up for.

We look forward to these activities for the fall and hope for your support in these endeavors.

Diane Sloan & Lee Swick, Pastoral Care



Yesterday is history
 Tomorrow a mystery
 Today is a gift
 That's why it's called the present!

- Pastor:**
Mike Alexander
 623-556-5084
- Counselors:**
Judy Bradish
 602-938-6029
Dan Edwards
 623-975-2450
Jared Ingram
 623-974-3099
- Sustained Duties**
Financial/Book Steward & Recorder
Carrol McCans
 623-975-8317
- Historian:**
Ruth Anderson
 623-975-2924
- Congregation Secretary**
Eldora Engebretson
 623-566-9299
- Commissioners:**
Christian Education:
Mike Alexander
 623-556-5084
- Communication:**
Newsletter & Website
Eldora Engebretson
Bulletins
Madelyn Edwards
 623-975-2450
- Facilities Committee:**
Eldora Engebretson
 623-566-9299
- Leadership & Outreach:**
Bob Ballew
 623-584-9835
- Pastoral Care:**
Diane Sloan
 623-561-0135
Lee Swick
 623-825-2508
- Special Events:**
Dan Edwards
 623-975-2450
- Webmaster:**
Paris Featherstone
 623-299-4214
- Worship:**
Mike Alexander
 623-556-5084
- Youth:**
Donna Greenwalt
 602-536-3204

Health Ministries Report



A few months ago the congregation was asked to participate in a Health survey. Sharon Davis collected all the surveys and a brief description of your interest are as follows: When asked what topics you are interested in, the top 3 are: Loss and Grief, Coping and Stress and Life transitions. When asked about what would be helpful for our church community, transportation to hospitals and doctors was #1, friendly visitors and respite care and telephone health network were all tied for 2nd.

When asked about classes that would be of interest to you, 'Health and Spirituality, stress and aging issues. When asked about your health Concerns pertaining to future risk for yourself or a loved one your #1 concern is "Eating Patterns". Lastly, when asked about support groups that would interest you in, the #1 answer was weight control and 2nd is exercise for seniors and 3rd was diabetes.

Don't forget that blood pressure checks are the third Sunday of the month before and after church.

We are in the process of planning programs for the fall and winter.

Diane Sloan

Greeters

I have been requesting Greeters to "Welcome to the House of the Lord" or "Welcome to God's House" all who enter the church on Sunday mornings. One young girl responded by first looking at the artist's picture of Jesus. She hesitated for a few moments and then said, "I know that."

Thanks to all who have been so generous in the stewardship of "Greeting". If you would like to assist please don't hesitate to call me.

We don't remove our shoes when entering the "Sanctuary", but I remember that was done by some (at their request) while I was helping at the "Kirtland House of the Lord". We didn't allow sock feet while climbing the 66 steps at that location because of possible slipping hazards -- but perhaps.... we all should slow down as we contemplate entry into our dedicated environment???

With love and prayers -- always, Irene Clark

A HOUSE IS MADE OF WALLS AND BEAMS
A HOME IS BUILT WITH LOVE AND DREAMS.

Cherish Yesterday Dream Tomorrow
Live Today & Love forever



Live and savor every moment... Life is not a dress rehearsal!

Spectacular

Spectacular. It's the only word that even comes close to describing the experience.

Spectacular. It's the feeling you get when the people around you accept you, just the way you are.

Spectacular. It's the sight of someone reaching out to help another in need, half way across the world.

Spectacular. Is the way everything sounds, and moves, and feels when your around people who love you, with out knowing you.

Spectacular. It's that odd sense of belonging, with a group of total strangers.

Spectacular. It's that moment when you realize... your never alone.

Spectacular. It's life changing.

(By: Jessie Dotson)

Spec is such an amazing wonderful experience that I will never be able to forget. It is so hard to describe spec because it is such an empowering amazing experience. This is what my friend wrote about spec and I think that she has put an image of the indescribable spec into the minds of others. At spec you never feel alone or left out. You always are welcome and loved, and the love that you feel while at spec is like no other love you will ever feel. It's always really, really hard to leave spec, and that love at the end of the week because you feel a little empty once it is gone. Spec is a once in a life time experience. Every year it is different, every year it is the same. At spec you can laugh, cry, rejoice, weep, pray, and love anyone and everyone who walks by. At spec you can tell anyone your deepest darkest secrets and they will help you no matter what, they won't ignore you or just simply say "I'm sorry" they reply how can I help, or I love you no matter what. In spec we don't just feel the love of everyone around you; you feel the love of God strongly everywhere you go. I thank each and every one of you for helping us with fundraisers and especially Donna Greenwalt, for organizing the fundraisers, making me able to experience this amazing life changing, loving, inspirational experience.

Amber Sloan



Fellowship & Games

Friday Game Night at TBW is still going strong. Some nights there may be thirty people there to play games while other nights we may only have eleven people joining in the competition. The one thing that is very noticeable is that no matter how many are there or what their age is they have a great time. Join us at the church on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 6:30 PM. There are games available for all ages so please bring the whole family and join in the fun and fellowship.

Eldora Engebretson

Community Outreach

24 AUGUST 2010 – Tuesday, 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM the church will be utilized as polling site in the Phelps Precinct, for the Primary Election. If you have any business that needs to be taken care of that day, you will need to contact our pastor, Mike Thanks for your co-operation
Eilene Speer, Community Outreach Commissioner

Thunderbird West (TBW) Congregation Facilities Committee

Goal: Proactively maintain and improve the TBW facility and grounds.

The committee would like everyone to look at the bulletin board by the kitchen to see the type of awnings we are looking at for two areas. We want to add awnings over the play area and to protect the front doors from the hot sun of summer.

The committee is also looking at surfaces for the play area that will be good for the children to play on.

We will be presenting our recommendations at the next business meeting for approval by the congregation.

Several people submitted Licensed and Insured contractors to members of the building committee. Thank you! They will be put on a list for future reference.

I Promise Myself - Emailed to me by a friend

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb my peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person I meet.
- To make all my friends feel that there is something worthwhile in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make my optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best and expect the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as I am about my own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful expression at all times and give a smile to every living creature I meet.
- To give so much time to improving myself that I have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.
- To think well of myself and to proclaim this fact to the world, not in loud words, but in great deeds.
- To live in the faith that the whole world is on my side, so long as I am true to the best is in me.



Joe & Shanna Nelson welcome Sebastian Alfred Nelson
 Born July 30 at 12:48 am, 5 weeks early but healthy as can be.
 A happy healthy baby took us a long time to have so we are truly blessed.

Christian Ed

From Dulcy Silverthorn, Christian Ed. Commissioner

September 5, is the start of a new year for our Church School here in Thunderbird West. We are using the newly recommended program, 'Seasons of the Spirit'. It is a lectionary-based resource created by an international team of writers and editors, representing several denominations. This resource invites us to explore the Bible and encourages us to experience the Christ together in our lives. It calls us to inclusiveness and nurtures faith by engaging the imagination through the Bible, science, technology and the arts. It sends us into our world to share and live out our faith. The classes are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Nursery, ages 2-5 | Diane Sloane, teacher |
| Primary, ages 6-8 | Ann Kennedy Clark and Heather Featherstone |
| Juniors, ages 9-11 | Sharon Davids and Sue Galvin |
| Jr-Sr High, ages 12-18 | Carol Nicholls |
| Adult Class | Lois Nelson |

Room assignments will be posted next week. Please join us with a renewed excitement for a new year. (If you know of anyone who needs a ride, let us know.)

Current Addresses

Hilda Bowman's address

Hilda Bowman
 5876 Whittemore Rd.
 Whittemore, Michigan 48770

Hilda celebrated her 90th birthday on July 31. You can call her at 989-756-5460

Kermit Kenneth Davids
4 September 1934 – 2 July 2010



Kermit was the first born son of Kenneth Davids and Minerva (Miller) Davids. He was a citizen of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Nation.

Kermit excelled in sports, puzzles, electrical engineering and computer design.

They Say that Life is what Happens

They say that life is what happens
while we're busy making other plans.

One minute we know exactly
where we're going,
then it's as if some mean-spirited
little gremlin
has ripped up the road map,
broken the compass,
and made off with the spark plugs
just for good measure.

When things get that messed up,
it would be easy to say "whatever"
and just sit down and quit.

But no matter how tempting that might
be,
we both know it's not your style.
You have the imagination it takes
to rethink your dream

and the courage to set off again—
whether it's down a detour
or a new road altogether.

The important thing is to keep going
at your own pace,
with rest stops whenever you need them
and pauses now & then
for scenic overlooks.

You're on your way,
even if it's not perfectly clear
just where you're headed.
Relax, look around you,
and enjoy the journey.
It's part of who you'll be
when you get there.

Myra Zirkle

Clarence Robert "Bob" Anderson



6 June 1937 – 2 July 2010

"Clarence Robert Anderson was a good man and he will be missed." That is the closest we can come to summing up his life with any degree of justice. Trying to capture with words the works of a lifetime is an impossible task, and perhaps the broad strokes are best. "He was a loving husband," "a great dad," "a wonderful uncle," "a funny grandpa"... "a great friend." All these things are true, and generations of stories will attest to them, but they are simple assessments made by those who bore witness of his life. These assessments come from the hard decisions, the struggles of life, the noble victories both silent and bold, and the joys of the values he embraced throughout his life.

A few months ago he sent this note to his son Bradd. My Testimony by Bob Anderson

I am a 2nd generation member of the Community of Christ. My oldest brother was invited by his closest friend to attend his church with him. My brother went and came home telling my Mom she should go and check the church out. So she took my brother and 3 of his sisters with her and a year later my Mom, brother and 3 sisters were baptized into the church we know now as the Community of Christ. This was in 1935. A few years later my other 2 brothers and I were baptized.

The church was only 3 blocks from our house. We were never asked if we "wanted" to go to church. We went without question. When my twin Bill and I were baptized there were 7 of us. I have had many excellent experiences since and have been blessed tremendously. I was active in Zion's League, the church choir, *attended the Sunday services and mid-week prayer service regularly. Many times the only young people at prayer service were my family.*

We attended Reunions in Nauvoo and Brush Creek. I had a job during my High School years and was not able to attend youth camp until my senior year. Our youth camp at Brush Creek was called "Camp La Da Sa." Youth from the Central Illinois and Southern Illinois attended this camp. Each year the campers voted on who would be the "honor Girl" and "Boy Camper." That year I was voted "Honor Boy camper of the week." What a surprise that was for me! I also served on the district youth committee.

I was out of High School 4 years before going to Graceland. I stayed back and helped my twin through Graceland. I went to Graceland for 1½ years. It was there I met my wife Ruth and I followed her to Independence, Mo. Where she was getting her R.N We were married May 12, 1963.

I attended Central Missouri State College for ½ year. In 1965 Ruth and I were involved in a serious auto accident, causing me to drop out of my college classes and go into the business world.

We were both active in church activities at the Beacon Heights congregation in Independence. I was the Cub Scout Master for the congregation. We had 33 cub scouts, 28 were from single parent families. I was also Pastor at Heritage House in Independence for 3 years.

At Beacon Heights I served as Associate Pastor for 2 different pastors. My job transferred our family to St. Joseph, Mo. We were active members of the 17th Street Congregation. I was active in the

Junior Achievement Program for youth, a member of the Rotary Club, the Sertoma Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1982 we moved back to Independence and raised our family there. I retired in 1997 after working for 27 years in the wholesale plumbing distributorship, where I served in various capacities from Office Manager to Sales Manager, and the last 22 years as Operations Manager for 2 of the larger companies in the Kansas City area.

After caring for my mother-in-law for 2 years and seeing our 3 kids through college, we felt we needed a major change in our lives and looked for another area in which to retire. We made the decision to come to Arizona in 1998.

This has been a very good move for Ruth and me. Throughout my life, the church has been very important in my life. We have been here at Thunderbird since moving here. I have volunteered for 5½ years on the Sun City West Sheriff's Posse, serving 3 of those years on the Board of Directors. Ruth and I really love it here at Thunderbird West. The Church has been a VERY positive influence in both our lives.

Bob was born in 1937. Like many of his generation, he valued Loyalty, Sacrifice, Dedication, Honor, Tradition, Dependability and Hard Work. He told his children, "If you work for someone, work for them." Once he gave his loyalty to a person, organization or cause, it never wavered. He was respectful of authority, a believer in patriotism and good citizenship, and found satisfaction in doing good works that no one would ever know about or know to attribute to him.

His children found he had a knack for being at the right place at the right time, usually when you least expected it. Whether you were broken down in a bad neighborhood or broken-hearted in a distant state, Dad would come riding over the hill to assist. He was a fearless protector of his children and a defender of the weak. Anyone who knew him knew his motto: "I always root for the underdog."

One thing he didn't abide was anyone who tried to bluster and intimidate their way through life. Whether at an office, a courtroom or a grade school playground, they didn't do well when they met Bob Anderson. With his outreached hand and reasonable manner, he stood solid as a rock and met them head on with the truth in his voice. As much as he loved the Hollywood tough guy movies, he had the maturity and character to play to his strengths. As a result, those who approached him mistaking good manners for a lack of resolve never left the meeting with the same perception.

Bob was a big believer in the potential of people, quick to reassure others of their self-worth and accepting people for who they are. "The past is a cancelled check in a future savings account," he once said. He didn't care where you'd come from, just where you were going. His high school class motto was "aim high and shoot straight," and he embraced that all his life. Bob liked harmony in his relationships with others, and used his talents as a peacemaker on many occasions.

As a grandfather he imparted priceless wisdom to his grandchildren. Examples include, "the more you stretch the taller you'll get" and "the more you cry the less you pee." He was very proud when his youngest granddaughter walked over to his picture at her daycare one day, pointed to it, and announced to everyone that that was "Papa." He was the first grandparent she had ever named.

After 73 years & 47 years of marriage, Bob has left behind him a legacy of a loving wife, successful healthy children including two daughters-in-law, and beautiful grandchildren (Olivia, Jacob and Ellery) with unlimited potential; close relationships with his brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews; and of being a proud member of his extended church family, here at Thunderbird West and around the world. He chose good friends, and found joy in their fellowship and company.

As Bob has moved on to the next phase of life, perhaps his best legacy is that he left his family equipped with all they need to succeed in his absence, and left the world a better place than he found it. But as stories are shared and memories are cherished, one common theme resonates: Clarence Robert Anderson was a good man, and he will be dearly missed.

Congratulations Clare & Katherine Ramey

Clare and Katherine Ramey celebrated their 58th Wedding Anniversary on 25 July. After church Kathy had lunch with Clare at the nursing home where he resides.



Kathy & Clare at Country Western Night



Kathy wore part of her wedding dress to church.

God is so Awesome!

God's order may be observed in the hatching of eggs.

For example:

- the eggs of the potato bug hatch in 7 days;
- those of the canary in 14 days;
- those of the barnyard hen in 21 days;
- the eggs of ducks and geese hatch in 28 days;
- those of the mallard in 35 days;
- The eggs of the parrot and the ostrich hatch in 42 days.

(Notice, they are all divisible by seven, the number of days in a week!)

"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass ... it's about caring and loving your relatives and friends while you can touch and see them, and they are still among us."

If you don't know GOD, don't make stupid remarks!!!

A United States Marine was taking some college courses between assignments. He had completed 20 missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist, and a member of the ACLU.



One day the professor shocked the class when he came in. He looked to the ceiling and flatly stated, "GOD, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform... I'll give you exactly 15 min." The lecture room fell silent. You could hear a pin drop. Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, "Here I am GOD, I'm still waiting."

It got down to the last couple of minutes when the Marine got out of his chair, went up to the professor, and cold-cocked him; knocking him off the platform. The professor was out cold.

The Marine went back to his seat and sat there, silently. The other students were shocked and stunned, and sat there looking on in silence. The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the Marine and asked, "What in the world is the matter with you? Why did you do that?"



The Marine calmly replied, "GOD was too busy today protecting America's soldiers who are protecting your right to say stupid stuff and act like an idiot. So He sent me."

The classroom erupted in cheers!



Puppy Size

This is one of the neatest stories you will ever hear. You will know precisely what this little girl is talking about at the end (you'll want to share this one with your loved ones and special friends)!

'Danielle keeps repeating it over and over again. We've been back to this animal shelter at least five times. It has been weeks now since we started all of this,' the mother told the volunteer.

'What is it she keeps asking for?' the volunteer asked.

'Puppy size!' replied the mother



'Well, we have plenty of puppies, if that's what she's looking for.' 'I know..... we have seen most of them,' the mom said in frustration...

Just then Danielle came walking into the office.

'Well, did you find one?' asked her mom.

'No, not this time,' Danielle said with sadness in her voice. 'Can we come back on the weekend?'

The two women looked at each other, shook their heads and laughed

'You never know when we will get more dogs. Unfortunately, there's always a supply,' the volunteer said.

Danielle took her mother by the hand and headed to the door. 'Don't worry, I'll find one this weekend,' she said.

Over the next few days both Mom and Dad had long conversations with her. They both felt she was being too particular. 'It's this weekend or we're not looking any more,' Dad finally said in frustration.

'We don't want to hear anything more about puppy size, either,' Mom added.

Sure enough, they were the first ones in the shelter on Saturday morning . By now Danielle knew her way around, so she ran right for the section that housed the smaller dogs.

Tired of the routine, mom sat in the small waiting room at the end of the first row of cages. There was an observation window so you could see the animals during times when visitors weren't permitted.

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Danielle walked slowly from cage to cage, kneeling periodically to take a closer look. One by one the dogs were brought out and she held each one.

One by one she said, 'Sorry, but you're not the one.'

It was the last cage on this last day in search of the perfect pup. The volunteer opened the cage door and the child carefully picked up the dog and held it closely. This time she took a little longer.

'Mom, that's it! I found the right puppy! He's the one! I know it!' She screamed with joy. 'It's the puppy size!'

'But it's the same size as all the other puppies you held over the last few weeks,' Mom said.

'No not size... The sighs. When I held him in my arms, he sighed,' she said.

'Don't you remember? When I asked you one day what love is, you told me love depends on the sighs of your heart. The more you love, the bigger the sigh!'

The two women looked at each other for a moment. Mom didn't know whether to laugh or cry. As she stooped down to hug the child, she did a little of both.

'Mom, every time you hold me, I sigh. When you and Daddy come home from work and hug each other, you both sigh. I knew I would find the right puppy if it sighed when I held it in my arms,' she said. Then, holding the puppy up close to her face, she said, 'Mom, he loves me. I heard the sighs of his heart!'

Close your eyes for a moment and think about the love that makes you sigh. I not only find it in the arms of my loved ones, but in the caress of a sunset, the kiss of the moonlight and the gentle brush of cool air on a hot day. They are the sighs of God. Take the time to stop and listen; you will be surprised at what you hear. 'Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.'

I hope your life is filled with Sighs!!!

Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends! Life is too short and friends are too few.

Life is too short to wake up with regrets.

Love the people who treat you right and forget about the ones who don't.

PUSH - "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

A man was sleeping one night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared.

The Lord told the man He had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might.

So, this the man did, day after day. For many years he toiled from sunup to sundown, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all his might!

Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain. Since the man was showing discouragement, Satan decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind.

'You have been pushing against that rock for a long time and it hasn't moved.'

Thus, he gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man.

Satan said, 'Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough.'

That's what the weary man planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord.

'Lord,' he said, 'I have labored long and hard in Your Service, putting all my strength to do that which You have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?'

The Lord responded compassionately, 'My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed.'

'But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back shiny and brown; your hands are callused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard.'

'Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. True, you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be Obedient and to push and to exercise your Faith and trust in My Wisdom. That you have done.'

'Now I, my friend, will move the rock.'

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him.

By all means, exercise the Faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God Who moves the Mountains.

And remember to PUSH:

P = Pray

U = Until

S = Something

H = Happens

Women's Retreat, September 17-19, Focus on "Living in God's True Color and Glory"

The annual Women's Retreat, September 17-19, at Whispering Pines, is a story-telling retreat focusing on the "Shrek-style" theme "Living in God's True Color and Glory." There is pre-registration, women are invited to attend and register at the door. The cost is \$60. Dinner will be provided on Friday night so those attending can just start relaxing! Women are encouraged to wear a green shirt on Saturday and to bring a wrapped white elephant gift to play "Viola's Crazy Bingo" game. The event includes worship, naps, and "chocolate guaranteed." E-mail questions, prayer, financial, travel, or diet concerns to Andy Cole at wadcole1@cox.net.

Total Money Makeover Coming to Arizona

Dave Ramsey's "Total Money Makeover Live" event will be in Phoenix, Thursday, September 23, 6:00 - 9:30 p.m. at the Dodge Theater, 400 West Washington Street. We've set up a Community of Christ promotional code to get discounted passes, saving 40%. Go to the event registration web site at <http://www.daveramsey.com/live/home/> and use the code "COC." General admission passes are \$25 and VIP passes are \$51 (after the discount). For more information contact Teresa Duke, 800-844-6934, extension 119, or e-mail teresad@daveramsey.com. [Mike Hoffman](mailto:mike.hoffman@cofchrist.org) 480-280-8555 and [Diana Hansen](mailto:diana@thetucsonhansens.com) have tickets available for purchase at the discounted rate.

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Mike's Meanderings

Tuesday was my first opportunity to have my vote count as a citizen of Arizona. While I'm grateful to have the right to participate in elections, I'm glad it's over. I realize that negative ads get attention and evidently influence voters, but I do not like them. I quickly get tired of repeat ads about the "sins" of candidates, of exaggerated statements, and automated phone calls. I could not work from the office at Phoenix Central Tuesday since only persons associated with working the election were allowed in the building; a small price to pay for Phoenix Central's willingness to contribute to civic duty. However, when I drove up to the church on Wednesday morning I was once more reminded of the downside of an election. Across the front lawn of the church were 18 signs left by campaign workers from both parties supporting a handful of candidates... left to be cleaned up by someone else. That may be the real message of the political process in our day and time.

As a reminder, Nancy and I will be flying to Nashville Thursday to attend Ryan's (our future son-in-law) graduation from diesel mechanic school on Friday. It will be the first time since their engagement that both families will be together. Ryan and Whitney have made plans which include trying on wedding gowns and taking a "duck" tour of Nashville. This is so "them." On the night of their senior prom, while dressed in tux and gown, the young couple went four-wheeling (at least no mud was involved). We look forward to our vacation time with them. We will be back in Arizona on Sunday night.

May God bless you this week as you count down the days to our next election or your next vacation.

Mike Hoffman - Arizona USA Mission Center President

2009 Auditor's Report

To: Members of the Arizona Thunderbird West Congregation – Community of Christ

From: Arizona Thunderbird West Congregation Auditors:
 Max Laudeman
 Judy Bradish

Subject: 2009 Review of AZ Thunderbird West Support, Revenue & Expenditures Report

Date: 30 April 2010

In accordance with our elected offices, we have completed our review of the accompanying cash-basis Support, Revenue & Expenditures Reports for the year ending 31 Dec 2009 for the operating and building funds. This was not an audit performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards; however, the procedures which were performed were in accordance with the Audit Procedures of the Arizona Mission Center of the Community of Christ. See reports below and on pages.

**THUNDERBIRD WEST CONGREGATION
 BUILDING FUND
 STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE & EXPENDITURES
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009**

	<u>Building Checking Acct</u>	<u>WC Investment Pool B</u>
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
SUPPORT		
Building Funds	\$4,936.63	
REVENUE		
Interest/ Earnings		\$1,089.22
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	<u>\$4,936.63</u>	<u>\$1,089.22</u>
EXPENDITURES		
	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$0.00	\$0.00
SUPPORT & REVENUE LESS EXPENDITURES	\$4,936.63	\$1,089.22

OPERATION FUND BALANCE SHEET FOR 2009

Beginning Balance 1/1/2009	\$10,923.74	\$20,806.81
Yearly Change	\$4,936.63	\$1,089.22
Transfers to/from World Church Pool A	<u>(\$5,000.00)</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/2009	\$10,860.37	\$26,896.03

**THUNDERBIRD WEST CONGREGATION
OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE & EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009**

	<u>Operating Checking Acct</u>	<u>WC Investment Pool A</u>
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
SUPPORT		
Congregation Ministries	\$35,962.30	
Herald in Every Home	\$183.00	
Local Outreach	\$30.00	
Graceland Matching Funds	\$1,000.00	
Christian Education	\$30.00	
Youth Ministries	\$730.00	
Reunion	\$10.00	
REVENUE		
Youth Projects	\$1,472.50	
Interest/ Earnings	\$12.00	\$8,091.46
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$39,429.80	\$8,091.46
EXPENDITURES		
Arizona Mission Center	\$3,000.00	
Administration (Pastor Exp.)	\$280.10	
Building Insurance	\$4,145.00	
Christian Education	\$478.11	
Church Cleaning	\$4,260.00	
Communications	\$548.44	
Copier	\$146.47	
Congregation Financial Officer	\$380.56	
Custodial Supplies	\$8.51	
Fellowship		
Graceland Matching Funds	\$2,000.00	
Leadership		
Maintenance/Upkeep	\$4,096.59	
Outreach	\$315.43	
Paper Products	\$250.70	
Pastoral Care	\$307.81	
Saints Herald (HIEH)	\$1,572.00	
Utilities	\$8,246.49	
Worship	\$2,662.78	
Yard and Weed Control	\$5,274.00	
Youth Ministries	\$1,237.09	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$39,210.08	\$0.00
SUPPORT & REVENUE LESS EXPENDITURES	\$219.72	\$8,091.46

OPERATION FUND BALANCE SHEET FOR 2009

Beginning Balance 1/1/2009	\$25,588.14	\$50,543.12
Yearly Change	\$219.72	\$8,091.46
Transfers to/from World Church Pool A	(\$15,000.00)	\$15,000.00
Ending Balance 12/31/2009	<u>\$10,807.86</u>	<u>\$73,634.58</u>

September - October Schedule

September

5 - "Refresh My Heart in Christ"
 Communion Service
 P/P Mike Alexander
 Speaker Bob Ballew
 Pianist Brenda Jones
 Deaconing Vicki Alexander & Merilee DuFault
 PA Eldora Engebretson
 Greeters Larry & Beth Richardson
 Hall Monitor Ron Silverthorn

12 - "Rejoice! What Was Lost is Found"
 P/P Scott Sloan
 Speaker Paul Fisher
 Pianist Ruth Anderson
 Deaconing Ken & Awilda Thomas
 PA Kyle Brittan
 Greeters Clyde & Lee Swick
 Hall Monitor Alyce Wingard

19 - "Be Faithful in Little Things--Heritage Day"
 P/P Madelyn Edwards
 Speaker Diana Hansen
 Pianist Sue Galvin
 Deaconing Judy Bradish & Amber Sloan
 PA Vicki Alexander
 Greeters Carrol McCans
 Hall Monitor Dulcy Silverthorn

26 - "Be Generous & Ready to Share
 Baby Blessing"
 P/P Heather Featherstone & Carol Nicholls
 Speaker Carol Nicholls
 Pianist Ruth Anderson
 Deaconing Vicki Alexander & Kyle Brittan
 PA Tom Bradish
 Greeters & Leila Bierer
 Hall Monitor John or Judi Walton

Schedulers:
 Worship Mike Alexander
 Piano/Organ Heather Featherstone
 Choir, Solos & Choral Groups Connie Denton
 Deaconing & PA Eldora Engebretson
 Greeters Irene Clark
 Hall Monitor Judi Walton

Abbreviations:
 PA: Sound System P/P: Planner/Presider
 TBA: To Be Announced

October

3 - "Increase Our Faith"
 Communion Service
 P/P Chuck Lundeen
 Speaker Brenda Jones
 Pianist Ruth Anderson
 Deaconing Judy Bradish & Merilee DuFault
 PA Eldora Engebretson
 Greeters Dena Perrine
 Hall Monitor Dan Edwards

10 - "Rise & Go"
 P/P Mike Alexander
 Speaker Mike Hoffman
 Pianist Ruth Anderson
 Deaconing Kyle Brittan & Josh Greenwalt
 PA Vicki Alexander
 Greeters Dan & Madelyn Edwards
 Hall Monitor Leonard Speer

17 - "Pray Always – Ordination Service"
 P/P Lee Swick
 Speaker Lee Swick
 Pianist Ruth Anderson
 Deaconing Vicki Alexander & Evan Sloan
 PA Kyle Brittan
 Greeters Donna Hill & Shirley Carroll
 Hall Monitor Leila or Lloyd Bierer

24 - "Have Mercy on Me, a Sinner"
 P/P Jared & Wanda Ingram
 Speaker Jared & Wanda Ingram
 Pianist Ruth Anderson
 Deaconing Merilee DuFault & Carrol McCans
 PA Tom Bradish
 Greeters Jim & Sarah Walsh
 Hall Monitor Larry Richardson

31 - "Salvation Has Come"
 P/P Heather Featherstone
 Speaker Lois Nelson
 Pianist Ruth Anderson
 Deaconing Ken & Awilda Thomas
 PA Vicki Alexander
 Greeters Betty Sanderson
 Hall Monitor Sarah Walsh

Puffed Rice Candy

1	pkg	Puffed Rice (5 cups)
2	cups	white sugar
1	cup	boiling water
4	tsp	vinegar
6	Tbls	molasses
		Butter
1	tsp	salt

Let boil 5 minutes. Add 6 Tablespoons molasses and butter the size of a small egg. Let boil to soft ball stage. Add 1 teaspoon salt and puffed rice. Mix well and pour into buttered pans and cool.



Thunderbird West
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Glendale, Arizona 85306