



Tortolita
Presbyterian Church
Love Grow Serve Impact

The Desert Dove

June/July 2011

10710 N. Thornydale Rd. Tucson, AZ 85742 520-572-1210 www.tortolita.org

A Word From Our Pastor

Love Wins

by Rev. Jon Ashley

Its not very often that a book comes along that has the potential to change the way people think and live. Rob Bell's compelling *New York Times* bestseller, *Love Wins*, may be such a book. Featured recently on the cover of *Time* magazine, Bell's book stretches the traditional thinking about heaven, hell, and what it takes to get there (or is it here?).

During the month of June, we will be reflecting in worship on some of the ideas and theology raised by *Love Wins*, with an emphasis on what the Bible says about such issues. I hope you will come with an open mind, yet want to say in advance that I do not intend to always wrap things up in a nice package with a pretty bow in this sermon series. Rather, I encourage you to think, pray, discuss, and connect the dots yourself.

I also invite you to read Bell's book (available for purchase for \$12/copy from the church office, or on www.amazon.com). And if you'd like to engage in some conversation over coffee with others, join me on any Wednesday night in June at Cutter's Point Coffee (on Thornydale, just north of Orange Grove) for the **Theological Swap Meet** — a safe atmosphere to ask questions, share ideas, and wrestle with what you believe. The doors open around 8:40 p.m. and we'll swap ideas from 9-10 p.m. For more info, search "Theological Swap Meet" on facebook.

But again, you can also explore these issues more deeply through individual study and reflection, in a Life Group, or around the dinner table with family and friends. My hope and prayer is that you will meet Jesus and discover the unshakable truth...

...that love wins.

Jon

Messages about **Heaven,**
Hell, and the fate of every
person who ever lived

June 5 *The When and Where of Heaven* (Luke 18:18-30)
June 12 *The Who and Why of Hell* (Luke 16:19-31)
June 19 *The Now and Forever of Eternity* (John 3:1-21)
June 26 *The Freedom and Finality of Love* (Romans 8:28-38)

LOVE WINS.

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Children's Ministry (K-5)

UPKIDZ Journey

Sundays, 10:20-11:10 a.m.
*Don't miss this fun time of worship,
fellowship & Bible stories*



VBS

June 13-17

Youth Ministry (6th-12th)



Bible by the
Pool Parties
June 8 & July 6

Castles & Coasters

June 24-25 \$20 plus meals

Breakers Water Park

Miss a Sunday?

Audio of weekly sermons
may be heard online at

www.tortolita.org

Session Notes

by Sue Van Allen, Clerk of Session

The Tortolita Session has been very active in providing prayerful and dedicated leadership. Here are some of the highlights:

At our regular Session Meeting held on April 21, 2011, we:

- approved a **Discernment Covenant** as written at our Elder/Deacon Retreat.
- met with **Keith Franklin** of Vista Restoration. Keith is an Elder at St. Andrew's and has been in the disaster recovery & restoration business since 1983. Keith provided us with an overview of the fire damage and what our next steps would be. In regards to repairing Ironwood Hall, Session voted to make Bob Chester the Project Manager.

At our Special Session Meeting held on April 28, 2011, we:

- met with **David Conger**, our Insurance Agent and Keith Franklin of Vista Restoration. They gave us an update, and answered our many questions. Session voted to accept Vista Restoration's contract to repair Ironwood Hall. We also voted to make Esther the Contents Replacement Manager and authorize her to approve expenditures to replace items in accordance with the Contents Replacement List.
- voted to create a **Fire Recovery Fund** separate from the money received from the insurance company and set up a pay pal account on the website (this would be for money sent in from other churches or people who have seen the article in the Explorer). This money must be used on the campus for replacement or renovation upgrades, improvements to the building and contents.
- voted to use a portion of the extra expenses allowance to allow for overtime pay to expedite completion of the building renovation.
- **celebrated** that our Session Minutes and Church Registers were presented to the Presbytery for review on March 26, 2011, and were approved without exception.

At our May 19th Session Meeting, we:

- Discussed the church's purpose from *Starting New Initiatives: A Discernment Process*. We read and reflected on **John 20:19-23**.
- Voted to remove the east **nursery** wall as has been done in the UPKIDZ rooms, thus opening the total area to full view for attendant(s).
- **CETF Report**—The existing chairperson, Jim Trask, feels that God is leading him to become a member rather than serving as the Chairperson and the Secretary, Sue Van Allen has resigned from the task force due to family health concerns. A vote was passed to add new members of the CETF, pending their acceptance to serve. A special session dinner and meeting will be held on Monday, June 6th, 6-9 pm for the purpose of engaging in a consultation with Ralph Long, a consultant with Church Development Services.
- **Amendment 10-A** failed to pass in our Presbytery, but has been approved on a national level, meaning that each Session and Presbytery will now decide their own ordination standards. Session is monitoring this issue and developing a clear statement of our biblical ordination standards to be in place when the amendment takes effect July 10, 2011.

(Session Notes Continued)

- **Ironwood Hall Fire Recovery Effort** update:
 - The architect has taken the plans to Pima County & Mountain View Fire Marshall for permitting.
 - Contents list from the insurance company is in process.
 - Dispute between Vista Restoration and Ins. Co. regarding fire security alarm, electrical and total HVAC replacement has been resolved with no additional cost to us.
 - Estimated cost for code-required upgrades and improvements is estimated at \$8,000-\$10,000.
 - Buildings & Grounds and Session will hold an informal Focus Group on June 1 at 6:30 p.m. to give the congregation an opportunity to share ideas, ask questions and express any concerns.

Building & Grounds Council Ironwood Hall Renovation

By Bob Chester



Tortolita has a contract with Vista Restoration to renovate the building following the fire using funds from our insurance claim. Many items were negotiated and bids submitted, until the insurance company and the renovation contractor were in agreement. The removal of all damages is almost complete. A permit to begin construction is in the hands of Pima County and the fire marshal, and then we are on our way to new walls, windows, floors and furnishings to enjoy our fellowship hall once more.



Donate



To donate to the Fire Recovery Fund, please make checks payable to "Tortolita" marked "Fire", or donate online at **www.tortolita.org**.

As of May 29, we have received nearly \$7000 in donations to our Fire Recovery Fund, including generous gifts from:

- Northminster Presbyterian Church
- First Presbyterian Church of Florence
- Rev. Bill Evans
- Friends & family
- and many more!

Thank you to all who have given their time, talent, and treasure to this important fire recovery effort.



HELP! Complete PANDAmonium is coming to Tortolita Vacation Bible School!

Panda Mania is coming to Tortolita! We are excited to offer a FREE Vacation Bible School program this year filled with fun, games, food, and God's word. Please use the link on our website to sign up your kids, grandkids, friends, and neighbors. The program will be Jun 13-17. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm; the VBS program runs from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. In order to put on an excellent program for the kids, we are still in need of donated items and volunteers. The kids will be gathering personal care items for care packages to send to one of the recent disaster areas so please be on the watch for these things to send in for the kids to pack up. Please contact Vanessa Brockman 520-954-8924 for more information on registration, donations and volunteer opportunities.

Some of the Supplies Needed:

Cookies for the fellowship table
Wrapping paper
Silk plants (can be returned)

Items for care packages:

- soap
- combs
- small boxes of crayons
- Bible themed coloring books
- Hand wipes
- Mosquito repellent wipes
- Life savers

Volunteer Opportunities:

Crew guides

We will be having a Children's Ministry Meeting on Thursday, June 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Brockman residence if you would like to learn more about VBS.

We will have a VBS training meeting on Saturday, June 11th so volunteers can learn more about what they can expect the week of VBS. Please plan on attending if you have signed up, or if you are thinking about signing up. We can always use more Pandas!

Set up Sunday June 12 at noon

Mother/Daughter Bible Study

What Every Girl Should Know by: Myklyn Cox



GIRLS, HAVE YOU EVER ASKED YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS BEFORE?...

"They say that God loves everyone...but does that mean He truly loves *me*?"

"Is inner beauty *really* more important than outward beauty?"

"What does God think about relationships with boys?"

"*Who* has God created me to be?"

In this 7 week study, moms and their daughters ages 10-13, will learn about a personal relationship with Jesus, physical and inner beauty, Godly friendships and role-models, talents and gifts, social graces, proper health, life skills, and relationships with boys.

To order the workbook, go to Whateverygirl.com and try have it for the first meeting. If you don't have it by then, come anyway!

We will meet at Tortolita Presbyterian Church (10710 N Thornydale Rd) on Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:00 starting June 7th. (We will not meet June 14th or July 5.) Snacks will be provided.

Contact Jen Ashley @ 495-9457 or jenashleyaz@yahoo.com to sign up or for more info.

~Looking forward to an awesome time together!~

Up Close: Cactus Crosses

by Esther L'Esperance



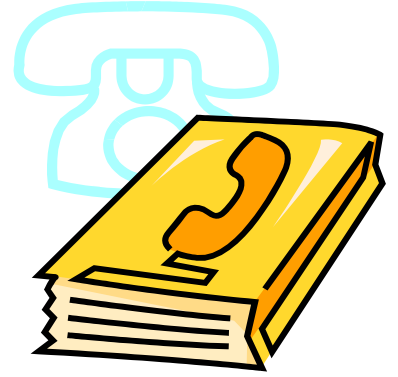
How many of you have noticed the wooden crosses displayed on the bookshelves at the back of the Sanctuary?

They are hand carved by our very own **John Stevens**, a long-time member of Tortolita Presbyterian Church.

John has been making, and donating, these crosses to our church for many years. The original crosses were created using the cactus ribs from a "cross-shaped" saguaro that had died on Tortolita's property. John also gives them to the San Xavier Mission, and they sell them in their gift shop.

John never charges for the crosses he makes. They are given with love for those that would like one. If you would like, please take one; and if you would like to give a thank you donation to benefit the youth fund, please place it in the container on the bookcase shelf.

Church Directory Update



The church office is preparing to distribute an updated Church Directory in the near future. If any members or friends have changed their mailing address, email, phone or cell phone numbers, please indicate below and return to the church office as soon as possible.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Cell _____

Birthdate(s) _____

Thanks, Office Staff Team



News From the Deacons

By Sue Wallace, Deacon Secretary

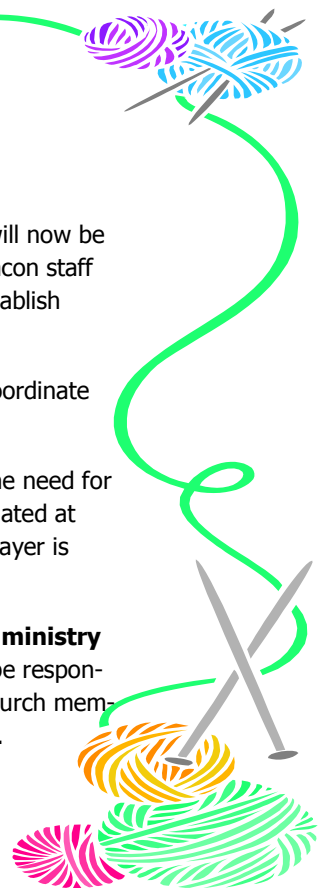
As part of the outreach and fellowship duties of your Deacons, church members will now be called on a monthly basis to inquire about any concerns and needs where the Deacon staff may be of assistance. This outreach is intended to enable church members to establish communication with the Deacon staff that serves them.

The Deacons are planning an **Arts & Crafts Fair/Fundraiser on Aug. 20**, to coordinate with Rally Sunday, which is Aug. 14. Details will follow.

The Deacons will be formulating a **prayer chain** for members to call on should the need for congregational prayer arise, such as medical emergencies, etc. A list will be circulated at Sunday services on which members can add their names to be contacted when prayer is requested.

Working with the Health Ministry and Presbyterian Women, a new **prayer shawl ministry** is being established. Once a prayer shawl has been requested, the Deacons will be responsible for delivering the shawl. In addition, the Deacons will be part of teaching church members to knit so that there will be a supply of prayer shawls and hats when needed.

Home communion was enjoyed with Nita Davisson.





Tortolita Happenings



www.tortolita.org

Birthdays and Anniversaries

June

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Dick & Dottie Besemer | 15 Barbara & Don Buchanan |
| 1 Cheryl & Dennis Larson | 16 Dillon Peck |
| 2 Hib Knappe | 17 Norm & Kathy Smith |
| 3 Blanche Lamb | 18 Art & Velda Fluellen |
| 5 Todd Dirkschneider | 19 Marlene & Henry Singer |
| 6 Bud Wicht | 20 Bud & Katie Wicht |
| 9 Chris Mathews | 21 John Stevens |
| 9 Cheryl Schmitt | 21 Lloyd Hatter |
| 12 Charlie Mathews | 24 Sue Wallace |
| 13 Harold Copenhaver | 24 Jim Brockman |
| 14 Lillian Gill | 29 Hib & Mary Knappe |
| 14 Fred & Karen Ahrens | 30 Hope Ashley |
| | 30 Ron & Sue Van Allen |
| | 30 Bob & Joan Drake |

July

- 5 Fred Ahrens
- 7 Joni & Frank Drake
- 10 Karen Ahrens
- 11 Mikaela Ashley
- 11 Michelle DiCosola
- 12 Nita Davisson
- 14 Norm Smith
- 7/14 Erik Olson
- 7/15 Ace Gogolin
- 7/31 Todd & Kathy Dirkschneider

Name Not Listed?

Fill out a **Church Directory Update** form (on p. 5) and we'll gladly add you to the list!

Upcoming Events

- June 8 faithbook Bible by the Pool Party, 6:30 p.m.
- June 13-17 UPKIDZ Vacation Bible School
5:30 p.m. Dinner, 6 pm PandaMonium!
- June 19 Father's Day Brunch, 11:30 a.m.
- June 24-25 faithbook Castles & Coasters Road Trip
7 p.m. Fri-10 p.m. Sat.
- July 6 faithbook Bible by the Pool Party, 6:30 p.m.
- July 16 faithbook Breakers Water Park,
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Aug. 13 UPKIDZ & faithbook Training
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Aug. 14 Rally Day Kickoff & Potluck
and IRONWOOD HALL GRAND OPENING!
- Aug. 17 Wednesday Night LIVE! Fall Kickoff
- Aug. 20 Deacons' Arts & Crafts Fair Fundraiser

Opportunities to Serve

The many ministries of Tortolita largely run on volunteer power, and we could use a few more horses! To help increase our HP (Holy Power) by volunteering to serve, simply contact any of the elders or deacons below:

Session Ministry Leaders

- Personnel, Frank DiCosola - 877-5024
- Outreach, Roger Wallace - 744-9443
- Worship/Fellowship, Orland Worcester - 204-6951
- Finance, Dick Besemer - 579-9092
- Personnel, Chuck Brown - 825-4732
- Building & Grounds, Bob Chester - 395-1249
- Missions, Teal Reinhardt - 269-3770
- Discipleship, Annette Trask - 730-9409
- Clerk of Session, Sue Van Allen - 245-1577

Deacon Ministry Leaders

- Moderator, Alicia Rowe- 797-8891
- Sue Wallace, Meals - 744-9443
- Cheryl Larson, Health Ministry & Home Communion-887-9733
- Jen Ashley, Cards - 495-9457
- Vanessa Brockman, Visitation - 954-8924
- Kathy Worcester, Transportation - 400-4797
- Youth Deacons: Danielle Brockman and
Brandon Mathews



Presbyterian Women

By Esther L'Esperance

The Presbyterian Women held their last meeting for the summer on April 14th, at Mary Sander's home.

We are looking for someone that would be willing to fill the Moderator's unexpired term. This would be for one year and run from August 2011 through May 2012.

If you sense God calling you serve in this important leadership position, please contact Secretary Cheryl Larson, at 887-9733 or Treasurer, Pat Chester, at 395-1249.

The Desert Dove is a publication of Tortolita Presbyterian Church, 10710 N. Thornydale Rd., Tucson, AZ 85742.
The submission deadline for the August Edition is June 23.
Please submit typewritten articles to the church office or email to tortolita@qwestoffice.net. Thank you!