



# The Desert Dove

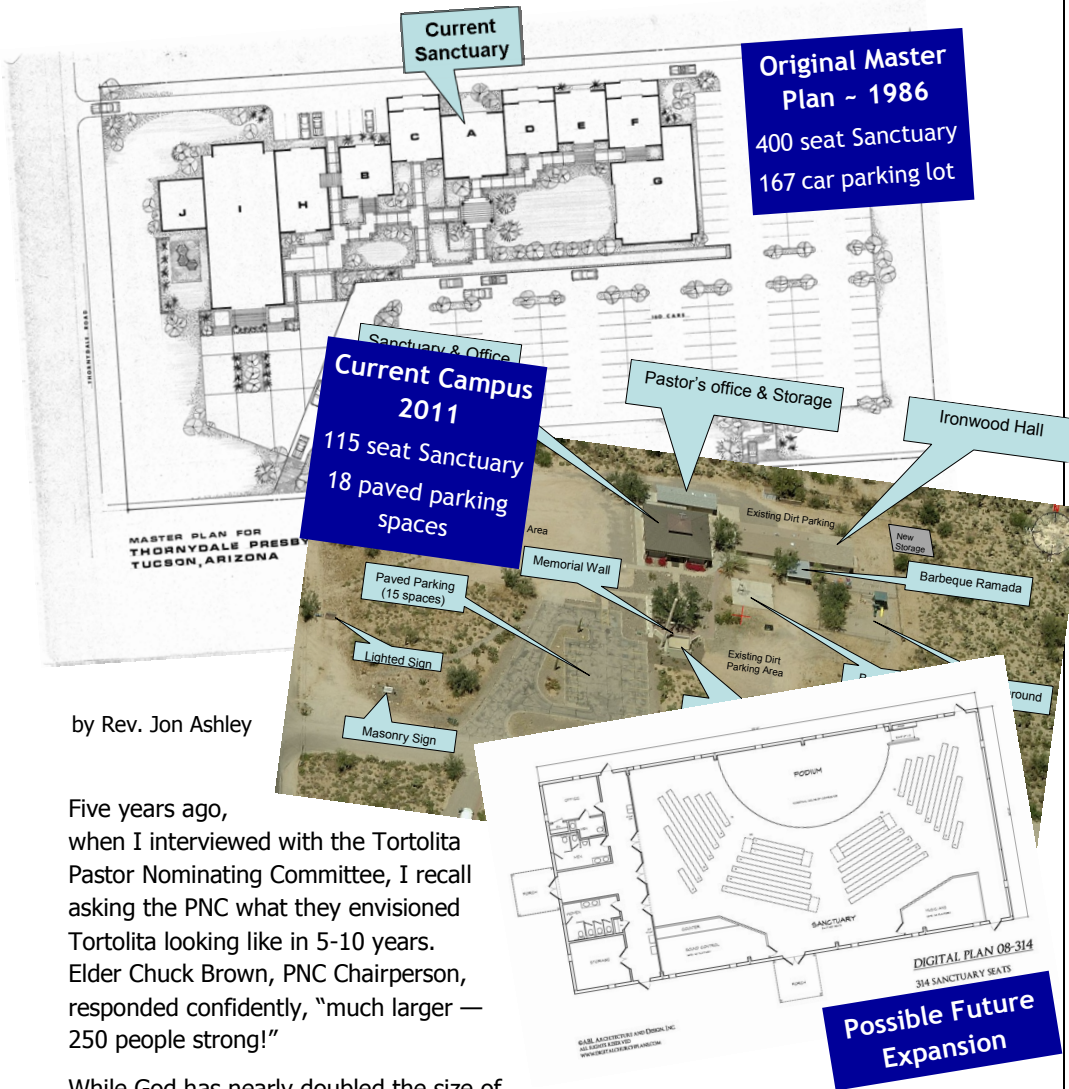
**Tortolita**  
Presbyterian Church  
Love Grow Serve Impact

Spring 2011 Issue

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## Coming Up on 25 Years & Counting!



by Rev. Jon Ashley

Five years ago, when I interviewed with the Tortolita Pastor Nominating Committee, I recall asking the PNC what they envisioned Tortolita looking like in 5-10 years. Elder Chuck Brown, PNC Chairperson, responded confidently, "much larger — 250 people strong!"

While God has nearly doubled the size of our church family since 2006 (from 59 to 117 members, we face significant facility limitations and financial challenges that must be overcome if we hope to fulfill our vision of growing God's Kingdom and the church. Therefore, as we approach our 25 Year Anniversary, with the encouragement of the presbytery, the Session has formed a Campus Expansion Task Force (CETF) to pursue the possibility of partnering with Living Hope Community Church to expand our campus and outreach through shared ministry, a larger worship space, and adequate parking.

This is an exciting time for our church. We need everyone's prayerful participation. Please consider how you may help.

P.S. Watch for more info on our 25th Anniversary Celebration!

In Christ,

Jon

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## Campus Expansion Task Force Action Steps

**Step 1 Conduct a Needs Analysis/ Feasibility Study** to evaluate the needs and resources of our church(es) and community through interviews, surveys, focus groups, demographic research, and possible shared ministry.

**Step 2 Create Campus Master Plan** Based on findings of Step 1, develop a Campus Master Plan that is inviting, friendly, attractive, and functional, to include a larger worship space, walkways, landscaping and more parking.

**Step 3 Coordinate CETF Task Teams in the development of a Campus Expansion Plan** including Program Development & Coordination, Construction, Finance, and Public Relations Teams. Volunteers needed!

**Step 4 Approval and Launch of Campus Expansion Plan** including capital campaign and building project.

**Step 5 Move In & Reach Out!** Grow God's Kingdom through expanded worship, fellowship, discipleship, mission & outreach ministries.

To help, contact Jim Trask, CETF Chair, at 520-730-9449 or jim@trasknet.com.

# 101 (BELONG) CLASS

## Belonging to Christ and the Church

On Saturday, Jan. 29, God brought three couples together to participate in Tortolita's 101 (Belong) Class: Becky and Scott Soulvie, Amy and Brian Peck, and Lillian and Aaron Gill. Facilitated by Pastor Jon and Elder Orland Worcester, the class is focused on what it means to belong to Christ and the Church. The next step is for the three couples to meet with the Session and then be received as new church members in worship on February 20, 2011. Please join in praising God for calling the Soulvie, Peck, and Gill families to be a part of our church family!

Amy & Brian Peck

Becky and Scott Soulvie

Lillian and Aaron Gill



## Would you like to be debt free?

Attend Financial Peace University and you will learn how ~  
FPU will give you the tools to become totally Debt Free!

Come to a

### FREE Preview Session

Sun., Feb. 27 at 11:30 a.m. or

Wed., March 2 at 6:15 p.m.

to learn more & order materials.

Weekly Wed. night FPU classes begin on March 16  
(6-8 p.m.) for a total of 13 weeks.

During this DVD-based class you will learn how to:

#### Get control of your money:

- \* Follow the step by step process for getting out of debt and staying out of debt
- \* Put together a monthly spending plan that really works
- \* Set financial goals and communicate about money

#### Stop struggling to make ends meet:

- \* Protect your family from life's emergencies
- \* Eliminate the stress that comes from financial problems
- \* Save and invest for your future

#### Tell your money what to do:

- \* Know what insurance to buy...and what to avoid
- \* Get great deals on things you buy
- \* Buy or sell a home the right way
- \* Plan for your retirement and make the right investment choices

The powerful videos and discussion format of FPU help participants learn and apply practical financial concepts that can change the way you live (note: you will not be asked to share your financial information with anyone else).

## Susan's Thoughts

by Susan Mathews

### WAITING FOR EASTER



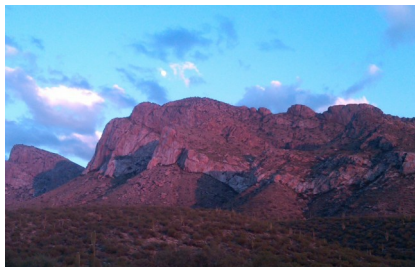
When I was growing up, my family was what my mother called "Christmas and Easter Catholics". I loved the strong feelings of faith and hope that surrounded those holidays. The decorations, the music, the special prayers, going to church; it was all so rich with ritual. I missed having a faith focus during the rest of the year.

As an adult, when I learned how to make Christ part of my everyday life, I found that I still felt somewhat of a spiritual lull after Christmas. Although I would say my prayers every morning and night, attend church on Sunday, and study my Bible, I felt as though I was waiting for Easter to bring renewed excitement to my faith. It was as though I needed all of the ceremony and hype as an external push to boost my faith. My spirituality was on hold. I was waiting for Easter to become spiritually whole again.

It is so easy to fall back into that spiritual lull after Christmas, with all of the storing of decorations, finding places for new things, getting the kids back on their routines. I find that I have to be mindful of getting myself back on my spiritual routine. It is so important for me to keep my Bible nearby and to read it regularly. When I feel stressed or overwhelmed, I need to remind myself that a moment of prayer is often the best remedy. I think this is the most important time of year for me to be a mindful Christian, nurturing my spiritual health.

Are you waiting for Easter?

Susan Mathews is a member of Tortolita and mother of six boys. She may be reached at [susanwrites124@hotmail.com](mailto:susanwrites124@hotmail.com)



## Come Together Tucson

Is a network of people seeking to help Tucson find peace, healing, and transformation, so we can be the community our children expect & deserve.

Join on **facebook** today

Search "Come Together Tucson" & click "Like"

## Nurses News

by Cheryl Larson, Deacon



### HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Did you know the most popular New Years Resolution? "I'll start my diet January 1st".

There are solid reasons to stop 'dieting' now..... You may lose muscle and regain fat once the diet is over—somehow the pounds return and mostly in the form of fat.

Yo-yo is a No-no. When weight is lost and gained back, muscle is lost and your metabolism is affected. Diets may be too drastic to maintain for any length of time...the grapefruit diet, the cabbage soup diet, no-carb, hi-carb, etc. Not healthy for mind or body. We all know these "diets", but the most important fact is most diets just do not focus on healthy eating for a lifetime.

Here are some healthy reminders we've all heard before\*:

- 1—Eat breakfast every day
- 2—Drink more water (8 - 8oz. glasses)
- 3—You do not have to clean your plate—did your grandmother tell you to think of the poor starving children in Europe?
- 4—Cut back on eating out, but if you do.....eat half and bring half home or split with someone at your table. When and if you eat out—try to order healthy. Many restaurants post their nutrition facts online. A good resource is a set of books "Eat This Not That".
- 5—Eat small frequent meals (healthy—not chips or candy).
- 6—Section off your plate: 1/2 filled with vegetables and/or fruit, 1/4 lean protein, 1/4 whole grain.
- 7—Shop the store's perimeter first, fruits and vegetables, then go to meats and proteins and finally breads and dairy. If you need canned foods, read labels to check sodium and sugar levels. Be sure to skip the snack, cookies and ready boxed meals. They may be highly processed and not nutritious.
- 8—Get more sleep. We all need at least 6 hours of sleep. Actually, studies say adequate sleep reduces desire for carbs and sweets.
- 9—Move! Exercise is essential. Any level of exercise will make a difference in your health and well being.
- 10—Good luck and GOOD HEALTH!

\* From *BodyBasics* Newsletter

## 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 highlights:

- As a follow up from the **Presbytery's Triennial Visit**, Rev. Ken Skodiak discussed with Pastor Jon that the Committee on Ministry is interested in, and concerned about, the future of Tortolita, especially in regards to financial challenges. Tortolita was formed nearly twenty-five years ago and is still struggling to become financially self sufficient. The committee would like to see us achieve all that we have been called to achieve and is making a friendly offer to work with us and help us think "outside-the-box" in order to fulfill our vision.
- Recognizing that the original vision of the Presbytery was to establish an impactful presence in our community (including a 400 seat Sanctuary on our campus), and that from Advent to Easter the past two years, our attendance has reached 85% capacity (a proven ceiling above which participation is impacted negatively), we need to plan for the future now. Therefore, the Session agreed to form a **Sanctuary Project Exploratory Task Force** to explore the possibility of partnering with Living Hope Community Church in shared ministry and in the construction of a new larger sanctuary building. At the recommendation of the SPETF, and in consultation with presbytery and LHCC leadership, a Campus Expansion Task Force was formed.
- Several months ago, the Session recommended affiliate member and Elder **Walt Dellow** as a candidate for Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLM) in Presbytery de Cristo, and since that time he has been going through a discernment process with the Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry. He is now certified as ready to receive a commission, and we join him in prayerfully exploring how God may be calling him to serve.
- In honor of a loved one, a generous member has offered a gift in the amount of \$5,000 to enclose and beautify the memorial wall area with desert landscaping. Plans for the **Memorial Wall Addition** are being developed and coordinated by the Buildings & Grounds Council.
- **Installation** of newly elected elders and deacons was held on January 23rd, including Elder Teal Reinhardt and Deacons Jen Ashley, Vanessa Brockman, Cheryl Larson, Danielle Brockman and Brandon Mathews. Elders Annette Trask and Sue Van Allen were also re-elected to serve another three-year term on Session.

## 2011 Session and Board of Deacons

### Our Elders

Frank DiCosola ('11)  
Roger Wallace ('11)  
Orland Worcester ('11)  
Dick Besemer ('12)  
Chuck Brown ('12)  
Bob Chester ('12)  
Teal Reinhardt ('13)  
Annette Trask ('13)  
Sue Van Allen ('13)

### Our Deacons

Cheryl Larson ('11)  
Sue Wallace ('11)  
Alicia Rowe ('12)  
Kathy Worcester ('12)  
Jen Ashley ('13)  
Vanessa Brockman ('13)  
Youth Deacons:  
Danielle Brockman ('11)  
Brandon Mathews ('11)

As we begin our new year, we welcome Teal Reinhardt as a new elder and we say a special thank you to Perry Cole for his 3 years of excellent service.

Please pray for each of the elders and deacons in their ministry to our church. God has blessed each of us with particular gifts which we, with God's help, share with one another and with each of you as we help to grow God's Kingdom.

(Session Notes, continued)

- **An Annual Congregational Meeting** was held on January 23 to distribute annual reports and to vote on pastor compensation. A report from the Sanctuary Project Exploratory Task Force as also received and members were invited to prepare for, pray for, and participate in the work of the new Campus Expansion Task Force.
- A **101 (Belong) Membership Class** was held on January 29 with 6 attending.
- Pastor Jon, Annette Trask and Roger Wallace attended the **Presbytery de Cristo Annual Meeting** held at Christ Presbyterian Church on January 21-22.
- **Membership Update**

Session voted to remove two inactive members from the rolls and seven members to the inactive roll.

Tortolita mourned 4 deaths this past year: Ellen Allaire, Rebecca Hurley, Joyce Rockafeld and Nanette Turner.

We celebrated 6 baptisms this past year: Benjamin Thomas Buus, son of Simon & Tiffany Buus; Emily Elizabeth & Sara Elise Hall, daughters of Dave & June Hall; Drake James Blackstock, son of Mark & Tabitha Blackstock; Jordan Lea, son of Matthew & Rebecca Lea; Ashley McKenzie Swaney Hatter, daughter of Lloyd Hatter.

15 new members joined Tortolita in 2010: Mikaela Ashley, Richard Bellamy, Jim, Vanessa & Danielle Brockman, Shawn Buchanan, Michelle DiCosola, David and Sarah Hall, Dennis Larson, Brandon Mathews, Allen Otero, Teal Reinhardt, Steve & Cheryl Schmidt.

**Membership as of Dec. 31, 2010:** 111 members

## ***!WITH GOD'S HELP, WE DID IT!***

by Annette Trask, Elder

In August of last year your Session came to you, our congregation, with dire news of a serious deficit in our essential budget for the remaining 20 weeks of the year. We asked, what may have seemed a lot to some who were already suffering loss of income and rising costs, that each family find it in their hearts and pockets to give an additional \$10 per week for the remaining 20 weeks of 2010 = "The 20/10 Campaign."

And on top of this plea, we asked each and every one of you to participate in our upcoming fund raisers:

- "God's Light Theater" (What a truly wonderful evening of talent, fun, and fellowship!) and
- Fall Festival Craft and Rummage Sale (Wow! What a lot of hard work shared lovingly by so many for days.)

The proceeds from these fund raisers exceeded all estimated projections and gave the bonus of a sense of doing God's will as we lovingly worked side by side, filled with the hope and faith that can only come from the grace of the Father, the love of Jesus, and the joy of the Holy Spirit.

We didn't quite hit the \$11,400 goal of the "20/10 Campaign," (totals at the close of the year = \$9,131) but most importantly, we did finish the year in the black, with \$126 left over! And we've had more "20/10 Campaign" monies come in in this New Year!

Praise the Lord!



### **FILLING GOD'S HOUSE**

*With cheerful giving and confident hope in Christ, we can fill God's House!*

**Tortolita's 2011 Stewardship Team** would like to express our sincere thanks to the many families who faithfully participated in the 2011 Stewardship Campaign, *Filling God's House*.

Equipped with the knowledge of a **16% increase** in the total amount pledged and a 12% increase in the number of families who pledged for 2011 over 2010, Tortolita is positively positioned to move forward in pursuing our mission of growing God's Kingdom by loving God, serving people, and impacting our community with the love of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Service, Chuck Brown (chair), Betty Cole, Frank DiCosola, June Hall, Roger Wallace, Rev. Jon Ashley

## **Tortolita Blesses Four Families at Christmas**



by Vanessa Brockman, Deacon

In December, our church body was honored with the opportunity to bless four families, from the area, with much needed Christmas gifts. Thanks go out to all the members who participated in this event—it was a great success. Tortolita was able to provide a bounty of gifts to four very grateful families. Kids and adults decorated Christmas cookies during the WNL Christmas party, which were donated to families as well.

A group of children and youth from the WNL program delivered the gifts, and cookies. In addition to meeting the families, the group visited some of our less mobile church members with Christmas wishes.

The event was a great opportunity for the children and youth to reach out to the community, and the families were overjoyed by the kindness and blessings they received!

***Did you know*** over 80 families were provided food and gifts through the Gifts of Love program sponsored by Interfaith Community Services? Thanks to all who generously purchased gifts for the four families that Tortolita sponsored!



**The Presbyterian Women** had a very busy year. Many workshops were held during the year to prepare items for the Fall Craft Sales which were held in October and December. A Fall Tea was also held with over 40 ladies of all ages attending the lovely affair. A beautiful quilt was made by Dottie Besemer and Hazel Copenhaver was auctioned off to raise money for our mission projects.

Local mission projects included: New Beginnings and Bethany House. They received many dozen diapers, 50 baby quilts, and 24 receiving blankets. Fifteen lap robes were donated to La Canada Nursing Home. Casas de los Ninos received 22 blankets, 15 hats and other clothing items. 10 blankets are also being sent to with Tortolita's Mexico Mission Team in February.

*Thank you to all who supported the Presbyterian Women's Quilt Raffle. Vivian Dellow won the drawing and is now the proud owner of a beautiful hand made quilt!*



## **How May We Serve You?**

By Sue Wallace, Deacon

Tortolita Presbyterian Church has a Board of Deacons who provide a ministry of care and compassion to our church and community. When a church member notifies TPC that assistance is needed due to a health concern or family emergency, etc., the deacons coordinate the necessary care and aid. Examples of assistance include home or hospital visits, preparation of meals during an illness, home communion when a church member is physically unable to attend church on Communion Sunday, providing transportation to and from doctors visits, etc. In addition, TPC's deacons maintain a fund to assist those struggling with a financial emergency as well as other severe hardship circumstances in cooperation with Interfaith Community Services (ICS).

TPC's Board of Deacons consists of six elected church members who serve for a period of three years each in rotating terms. A moderator is chosen from the group of six. Two of the most recent deacon moderators have been June Hall and Bob Drake, each having provided dedicated service and direction to the Board of Deacons who serve the church.

In the past several years, TPC's deacons have sponsored several fundraisers both to help with church expenses and maintain the deacon's emergency aid fund. In addition to the six elected adult members, two younger church members serve as youth deacons to help coordinate activities to assist church members such as yard cleanups on a Saturday morning, visiting shut-ins, etc.

Serving as a deacon is a wonderful way to get to know other church members as well as helping church friends dealing with unexpected difficult circumstances.

## **Building & Grounds Council Plans for 2011**

By Perry Cole, Elder

**Memorial Wall Addition**—Plans are being finalized to enclose the memorial wall with a new five-foot wall addition just south of the large cement slab in front of the sanctuary. This wall would extend down on the east side to the brick walkway. Three new gates would completely enclose the memorial wall. A cactus garden and gravel landscaping would replace the current rocks under the ironwood tree to complete the project.

**Replace the Existing Metal Storage Shed**— A new wooden storage shed is being constructed northeast of Ironwood Hall. It is to be approximately 10' x 12' in size and constructed of wood with a metal roof and will be set on a cement slab. Once construction is completed, items from the existing shed will be transferred into the new shed and the old metal shed will be demolished.

**Replace Carpeting in Ironwood Hall**—The carpeting in Ironwood Hall needs to be replaced with flooring that is more easily cleaned and maintained. A commercial quality vinyl tile or linoleum has been suggested. Various options will be explored to see how this can be accomplished within our existing budget.

**Remodel UPKIDZ Room** — members of the Buildings and Grounds Council are assisting the Children's Ministry Team in expanding and remodeling the UPKIDZ Room. This project was made possible by a anonymous gift of \$3000 from a member of our community.

**Other Maintenance or Repair Needs**-Noisy wind turbines on Ironwood Hall are to be replaced and a metal weather cover is to be made to protect the backflow valve in the main water line from freezing.

## **Per Capita 2011**

Each year, Tortolita pays a "per capita apportionment" to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to help support the ministries and administrative costs of the denomination.

Your special gift of \$31.00 per member in your household (marked "per capita") will cover this expense and is much appreciated.

*Thank you!*

## **Miss a Sunday?**

Audio of weekly sermons may now be heard online at

**[www.tortolita.org](http://www.tortolita.org)**



# Tortolita Happenings

www.tortolita.org



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### February

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 Walt Otero         | 17 Phyllis & Dennis Westerlin |
| 5 Velda Fluellen     | 23 Jon & DaNeil Olson         |
| 6 Pat Chester        | 26 Judy Marvel                |
| 7 Pam Hall           | 27 Betty Cole                 |
| 10 Art Fluellen      | 27 Steve Turner               |
| 14 Bob & Pat Chester | 28 Katie Wicht                |
| 14 Dwight Comer      |                               |

### March

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Betty Sansone         | 14 Jon Ashley           |
| 2 Jim & Annette Trask   | 21 Molly Ashley         |
| 4 Peyton Williams       | 21 Kathy Dirkschneider  |
| 8 John & Kay Stevens    | 23 Larry & Tammy Arkley |
| 8 Simon & Tiffany Buus  | 28 Dottie Besemer       |
| 12 Joni Driake          | 30 Cami Reinhardt       |
| 13 Shelby Dirkschneider |                         |

### April

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Chuck Brown        | 18 Dodie Denike           |
| 2 Orland Worcester   | 18 Steve Schmitt          |
| 4 Bob McKee          | 19 Tom & Trudy Weiss      |
| 4 Frank DiCosola     | 20 Richard Bellamy        |
| 5 Perry & Betty Cole | 21 Danielle Brockman      |
| 6 Dave Hall          | 21 Chuck & Sonya Brown    |
| 7 Walt Dellow        | 23 Frank & Sandy DiCosola |
| 8 Tristan Soulvie    | 24 Dave & June Hall       |

## The 4th Annual Presbyterian Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction

hosted by the Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM), will be served on Fri., Feb. 11, from 5:30-6:30 pm at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2450 E Fort Lowell Rd, 327-7121.

Come see what PCM is all about and enjoy fellowship with other Christians. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under) may be purchased from Teal Reinhardt. If you are unable to attend the dinner and would like to make a contribution you may make checks payable to Presbyterian Campus Ministry and give to Teal.

## Mexico Mission Trip Wish List



Help send our Mission Team to serve and impact lives in Mexico with your donation of new or gently used:

- |                  |            |            |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| playground balls | hula hoops | jump ropes |
| soccer balls     | bubbles    | Frisbees   |

Please place items in the "Mexico" basket in Ironwood Hall by Feb. 16.

## Help Save a Life!

The Health Ministry Team is sponsoring an **Emergency Preparedness Seminar** on Wed., Feb. 9, 6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Gladys Miller from *Pima Council on Aging* (PCOA) will teach you how to be prepared for emergencies in your home and in our community, as well as what you need for an Emergency Supply Kit. Admission is free.



A **CPR Certification Cass** is being offered from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., on Feb. 9, at **St. Andrews's Presbyterian Church**, 7650 N. Paseo del Norte. Call **To Save a Life** at 623-8484 to register. Cost is \$25.

**The Health Ministry Team** will be sponsoring a non-certification **CPR** class for those who wish to learn the new CPR method. This class will be held on Wed., Feb. 23 at 6:45 p.m. Cost is \$10 and will be taught by **To Save a Life**.



## Mark Your Calendar

- Mar. 2 **Financial Peace Univ. Preview** 6:15 p.m.
- Mar. 9 **WNL Soup Supper** 5:45 p.m.  
**Ash Wednesday Worship Service** 6:30 p.m.
- Mar. 23 **WNL Soup Supper** 5:45 p.m.  
**Christ in the Passover** 6:30 p.m.  
featuring Tracy Rapp of Jews for Jesus
- Apr. 6 **WNL Soup Supper** 5:45 p.m.  
**The Life of Christ** 6:30 p.m.  
featuring David Turner, dramatist
- Apr. 15 **Tax Day BBQ & Game Night** 6:00 p.m.
- Apr. 17 **Holy Week Musical Cantata** 10:00 a.m.
- Apr. 24 **Resurrection Sunday!** 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

The **Desert Dove** is a publication of Tortolita Presbyterian Church, 10710 N. Thornydale Rd., Tucson, AZ 85742. The **deadline** for the May/June/July. Summer Edition is **April 12**. Please submit typewritten articles to the church office or email to [tortolita@qwestoffice.net](mailto:tortolita@qwestoffice.net) Thanks!