



**Tortolita**  
Presbyterian Church  
Love Grow Serve Impact

# The Desert Dove

Summer 2010 Issue  
May/June/July

## A Word From Our Pastor

### One Small Step...

by Rev. Jon Ashley

In a world of rapid and radical change, it can begin to seem like there are few constants. Everything seems to be changing. The economy. Technology. Health Care. Education. Our culture. Our families. Our world.

But is the Church changing as well? Are we adapting to the changing world around us, so that we are equipped to thrive in pursuit of our mission of growing God's Kingdom? Or are we stuck in a rut, doing things the same way we've always done them? Some would say that the Church has become too much like our culture — mirroring its values and its views. Others would argue that there are some things that should never change about the Church (i.e., our beliefs, the songs we sing, the people we serve).

While the world is in a state of constant change (including obvious signs of decay and death, as well as creation and growth), as Christians, we believe that God's Word is eternal. It is unchanging. It is the constant light for our path. Yet the methods we use to communicate God's Word can and should change, so that new generations are able to better hear and understand the gospel of Jesus Christ. We must be flexible in order to face the adaptive challenges that face us, with God's help.

So while Tortolita continues to be open to creative change and growth, we must also be careful to not compromise the essentials of our faith. To that end, the elders and deacons have developed a Foundational Statement (see below), which defines some of the essentials of what we believe. Standing firm in our faith is one small step for the Church, one giant leap for those who are struggling to survive in the chaos of change.

Warmly in Christ,

Jon

#### We Believe:

**Christ's Church** is the people who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior and who partner with God in worship, discipleship, and carrying out His mission (Mt 28:19-20);

**Jesus** is Lord of all, the Son of God, our Savior who died for our sins because of His love for us (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9);

**Salvation** is a gift from God, received through faith in Jesus Christ, which saves us from the consequences of our sins (Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 4:10);

**Worship** is the act of celebrating new life in Christ through praise, prayer, hearing God's word and walking with God daily (Deut 17:19; Romans 12:1-2);

**Discipleship** is making followers of Christ through teaching the Bible, leading in spiritual growth and loving like Jesus (1 Tim 3:16-17; John 15:12); and

**Mission** is growing God's Kingdom by proclaiming the Good news of Jesus Christ through service and sharing God's Word (Matthew 6:33; John 4:10-15).

- Tortolita Foundational Statement, approved by Session 3-18-10

## Inside This Issue

<i>Session Notes</i>	2
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	2
<i>Youth Confirmation</i>	2
<i>Tortolita Poets</i>	3
<i>Sermons By Request</i>	3
<i>Deacons Doings</i>	4
<i>Nurses Corner</i>	4
<i>Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	5

### 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

#### **UPKIDZ** Adventure

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.  
Wed. Night Live! dinner @ 5:45 p.m.

#### **EGYPT VBS** June 7-11

### Youth Ministry (6th-12th)

#### **JESUS JOURNALS**

Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
Complete 5 pages in your Jesus  
Journal and receive a prize!

#### **faithbook@tpc**

Wednesdays, 6:30pm

#### summer faithbook events:

- May 14** 50's Diner
- May 15** Destination Unknown 2-6 p.m.
- May 23** Confirmation students received  
as new members!
- June 5** Pool Party 3-7 p.m.
- June 19** Picnic/Zoo 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- July 24** Breakers Water Park 10-4 p.m.
- Aug 21** faithbook Lock-in



As part of the **2010 CONFIRMATION PROGRAM**, Tortolita students gather weekly for "faithbook@tpc" during Wednesday Night Live. Nine students are preparing to be confirmed in worship on Sunday, May 23: Mikaela Ashley, Danielle Brockman, Shawn Buchanan, Michelle DiCosola, Kaitlyn Dirkschneider, Shelby Dirkschneider, Sarah Hall, Brandon Mathews, and Allen Otero.



## Spend awhile on the Nile Vacation Bible School

Mon.-Fri., June 7-11, 9-11:30 a.m.

Join us for a fun-filled adventure in ancient Egypt and discover first-hand from Joseph (the guy with the colorful coat) what it was like to follow God as a slave, prisoner & 2nd in command of a country!

To register for the adventure go to [www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/tortolita](http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/tortolita) or pick up a registration form from the church office. Cost is \$25.00 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child from the same family. Plus, scholarships are available! So join the journey!

## Session Notes

By Sue Van Allen, Clerk of Session

Our Elder/Deacon Retreat was held on February 20 at the beautiful Casas Adobes Plaza where we enjoyed the tranquility of the fountain as we prayed and worked together in fellowship. One of our accomplishments, under the leadership of Pastor Jon, was to work together to complete the Foundational Statement (see page 1).

At April's Session Meeting, we discussed the *Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church* by E. Stanley Ott. The review and discussion of this publication is helping to guide the formation of leadership goals to enable Tortolita to grow toward our mission and vision.

We are planning a mid-year Session Leadership Retreat for Sat., June 19 to further strengthen our sense of team work as we develop goals and ministry plans, using a guidebook from the Vital Churches Institute.

## Councils in Action

By Roger Wallace

Have you ever wondered how or why ministries happen at Tortolita Presbyterian Church?

Would you like to be involved in the process?

Most Church activities are sponsored, planned and executed by a council or a ministry team. For example, the Worship and Fellowship Council meets monthly to plan items related to worship services and fellowship activities.

If you would like to visit a council meeting (or join), please contact the responsible Elder (listed below) to learn when and where the council meets:

**Building & Grounds**- Perry Cole, 744-7605  
**Discipleship (Children-Youth-Adult Ministries)** - Orland Worcester, 682-4223  
**Missions** - Bob Chester, 395-1249  
**Outreach & Membership** - Annette Trask, 886-5636  
**Worship & Fellowship** - Roger Wallace, 744-9443

## 2010 Session and Board of Deacons

<i>Our Elders</i>	<i>Our Deacons</i>
Perry Cole ('10)	June Hall ('10)
Annette Trask ('10)	Claire Rhoads* ('10)
Sue Van Allen ('10)	Sue Wallace ('11)
Frank DiCosola ('11)	David Weiss ('11)
Roger Wallace ('11)	Alicia Rowe ('12)
Orland Worcester ('11)	Kathy Worcester ('12)
Dick Besemer ('12)	<i>Youth Deacons:</i> ('10)
Chuck Brown ('12)	Shelby Dirkschneider
Bob Chester ('12)	Brandon Mathews

\* pending election by congregation

# Fighting the Fiercest Dragon

By Susan Matthews

*I have no magic sword to pierce the heart of this mighty dragon  
I have no knight to save me.  
I have only one path to lead me away, and no pony to carry me.*

*I thank God for the wisdom to find the path.  
I thank God for the strength to make the journey.  
I thank God for His light that guides me.*

*I thank God.*

In 1997, after the death of my husband, Joseph, I felt myself spiraling down into depression. I knew my symptoms, and I knew how disabling depression could be. I had been there before. Yet I still avoided getting help for almost a year. By then I was really in trouble and had a tough journey back that lasted almost two years.

With the help of friends, our church family, a wonderful therapist, medications and a renewed relationship with God, I found my way back stronger, happier and much more confident. It was during this recovery period, as the grey clouds slipped away, that I began to think of depression as a fierce dragon, and I wrote this poem.

I know that many people suffer from depression at some time during their lives. It took me a long time to place my trust in God, and now that I have, I truly believe that if I begin to slide again, I will have the strength to seek help sooner and the faith that God will be with me all the way.

*"Enter his courts with thanksgiving, go into his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him and bless his name. For the Lord is good.  
His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation."* - Psalm 100:4-5

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



*The Session and members of Tortolita would like to thank everyone who donated money and time to help the Buildings and Ground Council construct a covered canopy over the barbeque area. We are truly blessed that you are part of our church and want you to know how very much you are appreciated.*

**Do you like to write?**

**Do you like photography?**

**Do you like to do desktop publishing?**

Join **The Desert Dove** Newsletter Ministry Team! Interested?  
Call Annette Trask (886-5636) or see Esther in the church office.

# Summer

A Poem by Rebecca Hurley

The sun is shining, what a beautiful day.  
Flowers are blooming and allergies are here to stay.

Time for summer and hot weather too.  
The scents of the flowers remind me of you.

The birds are singing and flying high,  
up in the cloudless blue sky.

Bees are coming out and so are baby birds.  
It's springtime haven't you heard?

I'll never forget how I lay in the sun,  
watching my nieces and nephew playing, having fun.

Summer is my favorite time of year,  
listening to country music playing loudly in my ear.

The pool is not heated and too cold to swim in,  
but you may jump in just like my niece did.

So as we enjoy the summer, please be safe,  
and see what laughter brings to your face.



***New This Summer!***

# Sermons By Request

This summer, Pastor Jon plans to preach on the topics, Bible passages, and questions requested by YOU!

Simply fill out the form below and return it to the church office (or email [pastor@tortolita.org](mailto:pastor@tortolita.org)) and then come to worship this Summer to hear a message on your request!

-----  
I would like to hear a sermon on:

TOPIC(S): \_\_\_\_\_

SCRIPTURE(S): \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTION(S): \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

## Deacon's Doings

By Kathy Worcester, Deacon

Belonging to a church family has many rewards.

Helping someone in need reminds them that God loves them and is watching over them. There are many ways to help:

- Provide rides to the doctor or store.
- Pick up prescriptions when someone is unable.
- Make meals for those in crisis or need.
- Take meals to those in need.
- Pick up the phone and call someone to say hello.
- Stop by for a visit to brighten their day.

We have growing needs such as these within our church family. If you sense God calling you to help in any of these ways, please call June Hall, Moderator (744-0330), or contact any of the Deacons.

Helping those in need is a wonderful reward in itself. The feeling of satisfaction in the knowledge that you are doing God's work can be as fulfilling to you, as to the person you have helped.

Soon, the Deacons will be publishing a bulletin insert through which you may indicate how you may be willing and able to help. Thank you for helping others, to God's glory!

### Health Ministry Programs



**Race for the Cure.** Kudos to Pat Chester (chairwoman) and her team, the TPC High Steppers. With your help we raised over our goal of \$300 for the Susan G. Komen foundation. If you meant to and didn't get a chance, you can still donate through the mail for our team.

**High Steppers** will continue to walk through the summer. Feel free to join us Tue or Thurs at 8:30 a.m. at the food court Foothills Mall. Just come!!



**World Care Emergency Supplies.** We continue to collect food, blankets, medical supplies and outdated or unused medications for World Care. Leave items in the classroom on the left just beyond the nursery.



## Nurses News

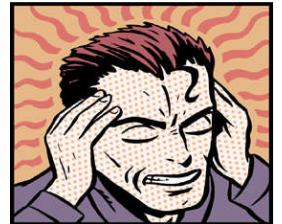
- from the Health Ministry Team, a ministry of the Deacons

### Here a Headache, There a Headache, Everywhere a Headache

Nearly 45 million Americans suffer from chronic, severe, disabling headaches and account for more than 8 million doctor visits a year. Approximately 20 million women and 25 million men experience the prevalence of chronic headaches; roughly one out of six people experience agonizing chronic headaches. Migraine sufferers lose more than 157 million work-days due to chronic headache pain, costing businesses up to \$17 billion a year in lost productivity.

There are several areas in the head that can hurt during a headache, such as:

- 1) a network of nerves that extends over the scalp.
- 2) certain nerves in the face, mouth and throat.
- 3) muscles of the head.
- 4) blood vessels found along the surface and at the base of the brain.



Pain sensitive nerve endings are stimulated by stress, muscular tension, dilated blood vessels and other headache triggers, and send a message to the nerve cells in the brain, signaling that a part of the body hurts. It is thought that people who suffer headaches may have lower levels of endorphins (natural pain killing proteins) than people who are generally pain-free.

It should be noted that headaches are generally not a symptom of an underlying serious condition. However, three or more headaches a week, taking more pain relievers than recommended, need to take a pain reliever almost every day, stiff neck, shortness of breath, fever, dizziness, slurred speech, unsteadiness, weakness, numbness, drowsiness in addition to the headache, or the headache persists after a head injury, keeps getting worse, changes character, includes persistent and severe vomiting or it is the first/worst headache; these symptoms may indicate a more serious problem that should be checked by a doctor.

Over the next three months the Health Ministry Team will be writing about three types of headaches; migraine, sinus and tension. Look for articles in the Sunday bulletin the first of each month.

*Online source Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital*



# Tortolita Happenings



For more about Tortolita events, check out  
[www.tortolita.org](http://www.tortolita.org)

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### May

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Gus Gilman         | 16 Jacob Mathews      |
| 3 Roger Wallace      | 18 Mary Knappe        |
| 5 Emily Hall         | 22 Sandy DeCosola     |
| 5 Hazel Copenhaver   | 23 Phyllis Westerlin  |
| 6 Gary & Pam Spencer | 23 Bob & Janie McKee  |
| 8 Lynn DeRossett     | 23 Bob & Blanche Lamb |
| 9 Gigi Heinsohn      | 24 Pam Spencer        |
|                      | 24 Betty Fogarty      |

### June

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Dick & Dottie Besemer  | 15 Barbara & Don Buchanan |
| 1 Cheryl & Dennis Larson | 17 Norm & Kathy Smith     |
| 2 Hib Knappe             | 18 Art & Velda Fluellen   |
| 3 Blanche Lamb           | 19 Marlene & Henry Singer |
| 3 Nancy Gilman           | 20 Bud & Katie Wicht      |
| 5 Todd Dirkschneider     | 21 John Stevens           |
| 6 Bud Wicht              | 21 Lloyd Hatter           |
| 10 Seth Littlejohn       | 24 Sue Wallace            |
| 11 Rebecca Hurley        | 29 Renie Ramage           |
| 12 Bill & Lynn DeRossett | 29 Hib & Mary Knappe      |
| 13 Harold Copenhaver     | 30 Hope Ashley            |
| 14 Jennifer Greig        | 30 Ron & Sue Van Allen    |
| 14 Fred & Karen Ahrens   | 30 Bob & Joan Drake       |

### July

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5 Fred Ahrens        | 14 Norm Smith                 |
| 7 Jeremy Tilden      | 14 Erik Olson                 |
| 7 Frank & Joni Drake | 14 Kim Otero                  |
| 10 Karen Ahrens      | 15 Bill & Joyce Rockafield    |
| 11 Mikaela Ashley    | 15 Isabelle Olson             |
| 11 Michelle DiCosola | 15 Ace Gogolin                |
| 12 Nita Davisson     | 22 Ken & Margie Laube         |
|                      | 31 Todd & Kathy Dirkschneider |

## Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

- May 2 Service of Worship and Installation for Pastor Jon
- May 9 Mother's Day Brunch
- May 14 50's Diner
- May 23 Reception of New Members  
(including 2010 Confirmation Class)
- June 7-11 EGYPT Vacation Bible School
- June 20 Father's Day Breakfast
- June 30 Last Wednesday Night Live till August 25
- July 4 Worship & Picnic at the Park
- Aug. 7 Renewal of Vows
- Aug. 13 Ice Cream Social and Game Night
- Aug. 22 Rally Day Fall Kickoff
- Aug. 25 Wednesday Night Live Kickoff

## *Got Talent?*

- Do you have talent that you've always wanted to share with the world?
- Do you do magic?
- Sing or dance?
- Are you a comedian in the making?
- Play an instrument?
- Acting always your dream?



Your chance to shine is coming!

In the fall of 2010, the Deacons are hosting "Godlight Theater", a talent and dinner show for all ages.

More information will be forthcoming.  
Questions? contact Sue Wallace at 744-9443.



### *Save the Date!*

## Tortolita's Fall Festival & Rummage Sale

**Saturday, Oct 30**

One man's junk is another man's treasure. So, keep all of your "treasures" for the rummage sale!

For more information, please contact  
Sue Van Allen at 245-1577 or  
Kathy Worcester at 400-4797



The Desert Dove is a publication of Tortolita Presbyterian Church, 10710 N. Thornydale Rd., Tucson, AZ 85742. The deadline for the August/September/October 2010 issue is Tuesday, July 13th. Please submit typewritten articles to the church office or email to [tortolita@qwestoffice.net](mailto:tortolita@qwestoffice.net).