

# Scottsdale Presbyterian Church

## The Messenger



August, 2017

Vol. 37

Issue 8

Since 1958

### Pastor's Column

*"But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life."*

1 Timothy 1:16

The good news is that, in Christ, all things are possible. Even St. Paul, "the worst of sinners" who hunted down Christians, became a Christian himself. The bad news is that change is difficult. Even when we are following Christ, change can be hard and costly. Paul wrote the words above from a prison cell. His change to follow Jesus was costly. So if change is both possible but often costly, how do we become effective at making changes as we continue to follow Christ?

In their book "Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading", Harvard University professors Ronald Heifetz and Martin Linsky Heifetz distinguish between what they call technical and adaptive problems. Each problem requires a different response. Confusing the two types of problems will result in ineffective responses. When we are dealing with technical problems, we use know-how and follow a set of procedures. Adaptive problems, however, involve challenges to deeply held values and well-entrenched attitudes. They require new learning.

#### Technical Problems

- Problems are amenable to solutions.
- People already know what to do and how to do it.
- Leaders know the answer and take corrective action.
- Problems are not trivial, but solutions are within a person's abilities.
- Solutions are not necessarily easy, but expertise and knowledge are available.

#### Adaptive Problems

- Problems demand change in values, attitudes, and behaviors.
- People's hearts and minds need to change, not only their likes and dislikes.
- Problems surface that no existing technical expertise can solve.
- Leaders ask questions that challenge people's beliefs.
- Problems require a mindset shift that will result in some loss, especially for people who benefited from previous circumstances or patterns.
- People are challenged to use their competence to bring about new solutions.
- Leaders bring people's attention to the problem and expect them to take responsibility for it.
- Problem solving involves new experiments, uncertainty, and loss.

On the floor of the wilderness, the Children of Israel grumbled. So Aaron shaped a golden calf as a quick fix to calm down God's people. He thought the solution was within his ability. It was not. At the same time, Moses was up on the mountain receiving from God the Ten Commandments. The change that the people needed at that moment demanded change in values, attitudes, and behaviors. It wasn't a quick fix and it was not within Moses' ability to pull it off. It would take God's help.

Difficulties are opportunities to change, adapt and grow as long as we don't go for the easy fix. Sometime we must adapt, under God's guidance and direction. That is called the life of faith. We trust that God is still in control even if we are not. It can be both scary and a very good thing in the long run. So trust. So Change. So Grow.

In His service, Pastor Bruce

*"And I am surely with you always..." Matthew 28:20*

Once again we give a big **THANK YOU** to those who have provided special music this summer! Recently we have enjoyed guest instrumentalists Rick Davis on bass guitar and Pastor Fred Davis on trumpet/flugelhorn! How meaningful it is when individuals are willing to share their God-given talents and as always we pray that the Lord will be glorified!

The Redemption Kids Choir hopes to sing later in the fall. The music director will be a new father soon, so he has had time off. However we hope to enjoy children from the El Bethel Ethiopian church on August 13. Pastor Bruce will be out of town and GreenStone Ministry will share a video documentary of the 2016-17 Bible Distribution trip to Ethiopia. It promises to be another inspiring mission Sunday.

I wish to share one of the Lord's very special blessings I recently received. Each summer I look for new and suitable music for the future choir and handbell season. In early July, Pastor Bruce shared the sermon themes and scriptures through Christmas. Using that important work sheet I began the process of searching for suitable music that supports the theme for each Sunday. Recently, after finishing my morning quiet time, I moved to my computer and felt led of the Lord to begin the process of selecting the choir and handbell anthems. Because Pastor Bruce had already provided the themes, the process moved very smoothly. I worked at this for an entire day and joyfully reported at the following staff meeting that the music choices were beginning to take shape through Christmas! This is always good news for a choir director!



### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

Wednesday, August 30

Handbell Rehearsals Resume 6:00 - 6:50 PM

Choir Rehearsals Resume 7 - 8:10 PM

Praise Band Continues Sunday 8AM

Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of one of the music teams. We promise you will be blessed.

*Carol Petersen, Director of Music*



## Prayer Requests

Our prayer chain consists of people who would be happy to pray for you, your loved ones, and for any other praises or concerns you may have. Please call the church office 480-946-4207 or email [info@scottsdalechurch.com](mailto:info@scottsdalechurch.com) to have your requests added to the prayer chain.



## Preaching Schedule

August 6	Titus 1:1-16	Engaging with Truth
August 13	Psalm 119:103-112	Mission Report, GreenStone Ministries
August 20	Titus 2:1-15	Engaging with Others
August 27	Titus 3:1-15	Engaging with God



**MNO's first Community concert of the season will be on Sunday, August 20, 2017, at 3 PM in the SPC Sanctuary.**

It will feature clarinet soloist, **Alex Dergal** in a 2nd appearance on this series kickoff concert. He, along with his collaborative pianist, Gail Novak, will perform music by Poulenc, Stravinsky, Brahms & Montevino. Alex will be a senior this year at Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio where he has been featured performer in many concerts the past 4 years, receiving accolades for his technique & musicianship. He will also be guest soloist with MusicaNova Orchestra on their April, 2018, full orchestra concert performing Nielsen's Clarinet Concerto.

*Come in out of the summer heat and hear this wonderful, young, talented musician!*

It's free! Donations always accepted.

*"And I am surely with you always..." Matthew 28:20*



...and Give a Prayer and Praise

**Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:**

President Donald Trump, Governor Doug Ducey and Mayor Jim Lane.

Prayers that our Youth will be filled with the Holy Spirit and God will do mighty things in their lives.

For our church: That we will love God, one another and our neighborhood. Pastor, Staff, Elders, **Family Focus Team** & Vision Team.

For those receiving medical care and for homebound/long-term care.

**For Our Family Focus Team:** Nellie Schwartz, Gail Widner, Pat Reynolds, Heather George and Ginny Mountain, Sherry Blanchard, Pat Cook, Natallie Day and Patti Otto.

**For Our Elders:** Jeff Barton, Judy Davis, Tina Sedlock, Terry Linnig, Haley Linnig, Eric Palumbo, Brett Recen and Hal Koontz.

**For our Vision Team:** Pastor Bruce Johnson, Carol Petersen, Bob Howard, Liz Hill, Rick Widner and Jeff Barton

Be in prayer for our troops, as well as their families, who are serving abroad for our freedom. Please be in additional prayer for Missionaries Carolyn Kurtz, Dorothy Hanson, and Pastor Tazera Belachew.

### **And last but not least:**

- 1. Tuesday Bible study. 10:00 AM in the Lounge. See Craig Reynolds for more information.**
- 2. Thursday Night Women's Bible Study is on Break. Contact Teresa Wilbur for more information.**
- 3. Thursday Prayer gathering is at 3 pm in the Church office. See Craig Reynolds for more information.**
- 4. Vista del Camino needs our help. Donation items for August are: Cereal and Toothpaste. These items may be dropped off in the Narthex on Sunday morning or in the Church Office during the week.**



# August, 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Bible Study 10am	2	3	4	5
6 Praise Band 8am Worship 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am	7	8 Bible Study 10 am	9	10 Prayer 3 pm	11	12
13 Praise Band 8am Worship 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am	14	15 Bible Study 10 am	16	17 Prayer 3 pm	18	19 Men's Breakfast 7:30—8:30 am Randy's Café Chaparral & Hayden
20 Praise Band 8am Worship 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am  MusicaNova Orchestra Concert 3pm	21  <b>Newsletter articles due</b>	22 Bible Study 10 am  Session 7PM	23	24 Prayer 3 pm	25	26
27 Praise Band 8 am Worship 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am	28	29 Bible Study 10 am	30 Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm	31 Prayer 3 pm		

Our Mission Statement  
Scottsdale Presbyterian Church joyfully follows the Lord Jesus Christ. Moved by His power, Motivated by His love, Equipped for His ministry, So that our community and our world, Will know His grace.

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