

BY THE WAY...

February 2012

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Raymond S. Thomas

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Editor: Sarah Terpening

From the Pastor



The Holy Way Presbyterian Church is a peculiar place: a faith community with a unique ethos. We have a different way of being church than most other churches you might experience. People perceive, and remark about, some of our particular characteristics. We are genuine and down-to-earth, with an upward gaze. The church is informal, yet respectful. We are welcoming to all and offer caring attention to anyone who makes their needs known. We are attentive worshipers and grateful participants. We like to laugh and are not afraid to cry.

I'll share a few examples, from where I sit, that capture some of our uniqueness. At the beginning of our worship service, I invite first time visitors to introduce themselves. Often they will say their names, or I will ask them where they are from. Inevitably, later in the week, when people tell me about a conversation they had with our first time visitors, they are never referred to as "the new people", or "that couple from Iowa", or "the visitors on Sunday", but they are called Tom, or Rachel, or Alfonso. We see each visitor as our sister or brother, along this holy way, with a name and with value. Welcome friend!

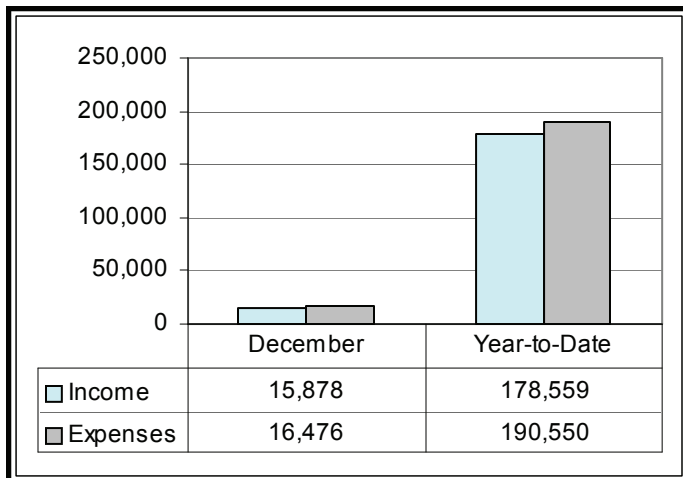
One of the hallmarks of our Sunday worship is the sharing of joys and concerns. A few years back, we made sure that our ushers brought a microphone to the person speaking, because we want all worshipers to hear, and pray. Sometimes there are a number of prayers, sometimes lengthy details are shared, sometimes people struggle with emotions or have trouble getting words out. And I always see this congregation wait patiently, encourage lovingly, listen carefully,

and relate to each person who speaks each joy or concern. I find this remarkable. We are building a house of prayer, as followers and believers in Jesus Christ.

And I am reminded of that center every Sunday when we join hands and sing "Let There Be Peace on Earth". As I step down from the chancel area, where you have respectfully and reverently given me your full attention during the service, I love to see the congregation still looking forward as we sing. It was not me to whom you have been giving your full attention. I was up there, reading and preaching and praying, as you looked in my direction. But when I step down, and you still look forward, I am reminded who you have really been looking toward and listening to. And we sing to our Almighty God, revealed in our Savior Jesus Christ, as brothers and sisters, from the heart, and peace begins in us, and with us. This is a strange, and wonderful, place! Thank you, Lord!

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'R' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

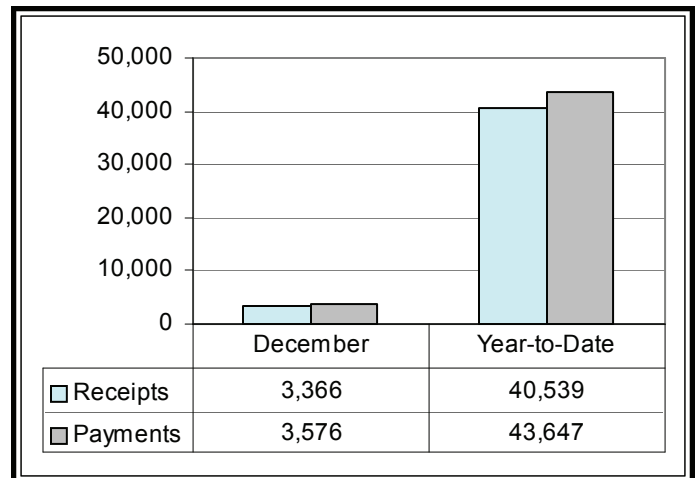
Operating Budget



General Fund Receipts 2011 (As of December 31)

Pledged	95,656
Unpledged	76,194
Other	6,709

Monthly Mortgage Report



Mortgage Balance Remaining December — 238,800

**20 Year Mortgage to be paid off by
May 2019**

Something to Think About...

Your faithful giving allows Holy Way to witness to God's love.

Leadership Update

We welcome our new ruling elders (Dee Ellis, Ellen LaCroix, Nadine Huddleston, Paul Nichols, and Kevin Sterner) as they begin serving on the Session and welcome back our returning deacons (Don & Karen Cutting, and Rena Tucker). Our newly elected deacon, elected at our congregational meeting on January 15, Barbara Locke has also been installed and will begin her new role.

The Session is having a leadership retreat on Saturday, February 11, at the Tohono O'odham Museum in Topowa, AZ. The retreat will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; rides will leave from our church parking lot at 9 and return at 5. Keep the Session members in your prayers as they work to lead our church faithfully and energetically! The Session will be bringing Sunday School supplies for the church in Sells. We invite you to bring crayons, paper, markers, or other items to worship on February 5.

Book Club

The Book Study Group will discuss "Heaven is For Real" by Todd Burpo. Everyone is invited to join in the conversation! Meet us in the Conference Room on February 20, at 1:00 p.m.

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 5, Holy Way will participate in the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring offering. As football players fight it out on the field, churches invite their folks to fight against hunger. Every worshiper will be invited to donate \$1 to go directly to feeding the hungry. The money we raise will be given to the Food Bank in Three Points.

Upcoming Meals

Join us for a tasty meal this month! On February 8th, we'll meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Ranch House for a Chili and Cornbread Dinner— we'll have both red chili and white bean chicken chili, and dinner always includes beverages and dessert.

On February 29th, join us for Lunch & Games! We start with a nice lunch at 12 noon, then we hang out and play cards or some board games. Sign-up sheets are in the Ranch House.

FEBRUARY'S ANNIVERSARIES

Kevin & Wanda Størner 2-14
Wagne & Judy McKee 2-18



Sunday School News

The Sunday School will continue to collect aluminum cans; they will be stored in the storage shed beside the barn. The money raised will go toward a soon to be determined mission project.

We are looking for folks to help teach our Sunday School class. Melanie Miller, who has taught our class for years, needs some much deserved time off. She will continue to teach one Sunday a month but we are relying on other folks to teach one Sunday a month, or once every two months. Please let Ray know, or sign the sheet in the Ranch House, if you can help.

Dick & Charlotte House

Good friends of Holy Way, gospel performers Dick and Charlotte House, will be with us at both worship services on Sunday, February 26, and will also offer a concert that afternoon, in our sanctuary, at 3 p.m. Admission is free; a freewill offering will be taken. We are thankful that Dick and Charlotte include us in their busy touring schedule!

Rummage Sale

Our Spring Rummage Sale date has been set for Saturday, March 10, 7 a.m. to 12 noon. We are looking for your help to set out the rummage from the barn and help with the sale that morning. Mark the date on your calendar!

FEBRUARY'S BIRTHDAYS

Eddie Meier 2-1
Barbara Locke 2-2
Lury Osburn 2-2
Polly Spann 2-2
Sue Rollins 2-3
Bev Spangler 2-3
Dave Stowell 2-4
Alice Belzer 2-11
Ellen LaCroix 2-11
Jim Rollins 2-13
Ruth Ann Beck 2-19
Thalia "Tim" Pauch 2-20
Melanie Miller 2-21
Robin Thomas 2-21
Ed Kragnak 2-23
Craig Schiek 2-24
Barbara Bianco 2-26
Staff Krause 2-27
Charlotte Venekamp 2-28

Missionaries Visit

In the past, we have invited your donations to Tools for Tanzania, a mission effort that Don Hemming has been actively involved in. Over the summer, we sent a contribution to help cover the costs of shipping needed tools to Tanzania. The organization that oversees the Tools for Tanzania project is International Health Partners of Tanzania (www.ihptz.org).

Two folks who lead this mission work will be with us the morning of Sunday, Feb. 12: Denny and Paula Lofstrom. Denny and Paula will give us a brief introduction to their work in a Minute for Mission at both worship services and they will share a more in depth presentation during our Adult Sunday School time, 9:15-10 a.m., in the sanctuary. A freewill offering will also be received to support their important ministry.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 9 am Handbells 9 am Prayer Group 10 am Chancel Choir 7 pm Evening Study Class 7 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>2 8 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 AA Meeting</p>	<p>3 9 am Craft Guild</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Communion & FBS Souper Bowl Sunday 8 am Worship 9:15 am Adult Ed Class 10:30 am Worship & SS 6 pm Alateen/Alanon</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 9 am Bible Study</p>	<p>8 9 am Handbells 9 am Prayer Group 10 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Chili Dinner 7 pm Evening Study Class 7 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>9 5:30 AA Meeting</p>	<p>10 9 am Craft Guild</p>	<p>11 10am—4pm Session Retreat in Topewa</p>
<p>12 8 am Worship 9:15 am Moment for Mission 10:30 am Worship & SS 6 pm Alateen/Alanon</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9 am Bible Study 11 am Worship Committee Meeting 4 pm Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>15 9 am Handbells 9 am Prayer Group 10 am Chancel Choir 7 pm Evening Study Class 7 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>16 8 am Men's Breakfast Articles for March Newsletter Due 5:30 AA Meeting</p>	<p>17 9 am Craft Guild</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 8 am Worship 9:15 am Adult Ed Class 10:30 am Worship & SS 12:30 Ladies Lunch 6 pm Alateen/Alanon</p>	<p>20 1 pm Book Club</p>	<p>21 9 am Bible Study 6 pm Session</p>	<p>22 9 am Handbells 9 am Prayer Group 10 am Chancel Choir 7 pm Evening Study Class 7 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>23 5:30 AA Meeting</p>	<p>24 9 am Craft Guild</p>	<p>25 10 am New Members Class & Luncheon</p>
<p>26 8 am Worship 9:15 am Adult Ed Class 10:30 am Worship & SS 3 pm Gospel Concert 6 pm Alateen/Alanon</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9 am Handbells 9 am Prayer Group 10 am Chancel Choir 12 pm Lunch & Games 7 pm Study Class 7 pm AA Meeting</p>			

Stated Session Meeting –December 19, 2011

Finance Committee – 2012 Budget:

Upon approval by the Finance Committee, the 2012 budget was presented. Session members reviewed the pastor's compensation, which reflected a 2% increase. *After careful consideration of all line items, the 2012 budget, in the amount of \$239,111, was accepted by a motion from Daryl Betts, s/p.*

Deacons Report: Don Schroyer

This committee met on December 14th with much discussion on the Christmas gift and food drive for the needy at Three Points. Twenty-six boxes of food were assembled and delivered on December 19th, along with the Angel Tree gifts. Thanks to Tucson Mountain Motors for use of the truck they donated; assuring safe delivery of these items. Next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2012.

† Pastor's Report: Ray Thomas

1. Letter of transfer for Jack and Betty Thomson received.
2. Request that remaining 2011 Study Leave money (\$763.95) be carried over to 2012. *A motion was made by Cory Barton to honor this request, s/p.*
3. 2012 Session Devotion list.
4. Approve 2012 Housing Allowance. *A motion was made by Cory Barton to approve housing allowance for 2012 in the amount of \$34,500, s/p.* This is an IRS regulation.
5. Wednesday evening discussion group will be using the DVD curriculum "Saving Jesus" beginning January 11th.
6. Session Retreat planning. February 11, 2012 is the date chosen for our Session Retreat and it will be hosted by Lucinda Hughes-Juan in the Museum building in Topowa, AZ (close to Sells). Hours will be 10:00am to 4:00pm, with carpooling from the church starting at 9:00am.

The resignation of Deacon Alice Belzer was announced. The 2011 Nominating Committee will work on finding a replacement.

† Administration: Wendy Mattias/Dougald McIntyre

The Session reviewed the annual performance review of the pastor, conducted by the Administration Committee.

† Building & Grounds: Daryl Betts/Larry LaCroix:

The east flat roof of the sanctuary leaked during the November 17th storm. Interior damage (stains) occurred in the Conference Room. All seams, protrusions and drains needed to be resealed on both east and west roof. Work was completed on December 1st, with no further interior damage occurring. Cost was \$975 with a two-year warranty. The Finance Committee will decide where these funds will be expensed.

† Congregational Life: Gerry Pearson

On Thanksgiving Day, November 24th, Ellen and Larry LaCroix, along with help from Barbara Bianco and Dearwyn Knittel, prepared three turkeys to serve about 50 people who brought side dishes. \$218 was collected as a free will offering. The cost was \$85.25. On December 14th Gerry Pearson, Gloria and Dave Stowell and Jerry Kolnacki served a ham dinner to 53 people. We were entertained with Christmas carol singing led by the Classics and a white elephant gift exchange. \$395 was collected and all expenses were donated. Thank you to Ruth Parsil for cleaning up after coffee hour during the month of November. Thank you to Sherri Atleson and Bob and Charlotte Venekamp for taking care of the coffee hour during the month of December.

For 2011, 473 dinners have been served netting \$2,869.22, 122 lunches have been served netting \$560 and 130 breakfasts have been served netting \$603.61.

† Welcome: Cory Barton/Lucinda Hughes-Juan

Welcome bread was discussed and pointed out that the church address on the card accompanying the bread is incorrect. Dee Ellis volunteered to make new cards with Cory Barton providing the needed information. A picture of the 2012 Session members will be taken on January 8th, after the installation and ordination of the new members.

† Worship: Sherri Atleson

On April 15th, we will host the Christ Presbyterian and Trinity Presbyterian choirs, as in the past. On April 22nd our choir will return the favor to Christ Presbyterian and on April 29th to Trinity Presbyterian.

† Memorial Garden

Lucinda Hughes-Juan's sister, Marlene, came to talk to us about the ethnic effect of a Memorial Garden on the Church property. She is a spiritual advisor for the Tohono Nation and stated as long as there was no scattering of remains in the garden, it was acceptable in their beliefs.

Note: Session Minutes in their entirety are posted on the bulletin board in the Ranch House.