

# BY THE WAY...

September 2011

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Raymond S. Thomas

Volume 17, Issue 9

Editor: Sarah Terpening

## From the Pastor



It's that season of new beginnings in Tucson: September! It's only taken me a bunch of years, living in Tucson, to come to understand September here as I once understood April in the north-east. It's a season of anticipation and growth. The kids are off to a new school year. A new Sunday School year begins. The early snowbirds start their return from their summer travels. The weather shows signs of becoming more comfortable.

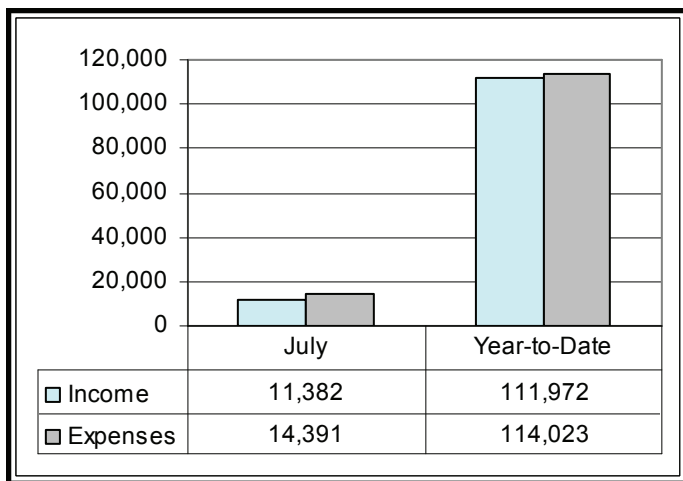
As we move forward, as a congregation, as followers of Jesus Christ, may we feel again the surge of new life and new hope that God provides. May you find ways that God is answering your prayers, lightening your burdens, healing your hurts, and directing your attention to new ways to serve and bless others.

We, as a church, in the this season of new beginnings, invite neighbors and friends to join us in worship, at church dinners, with our Bible Studies. We look forward to a new choir season, with a new Director of Music, whom God has guided our way. It's that positive, exciting, invigorating, good sign of change: new life. It is one of God's specialties, particularly revealed to us in Jesus Christ. It's September: a

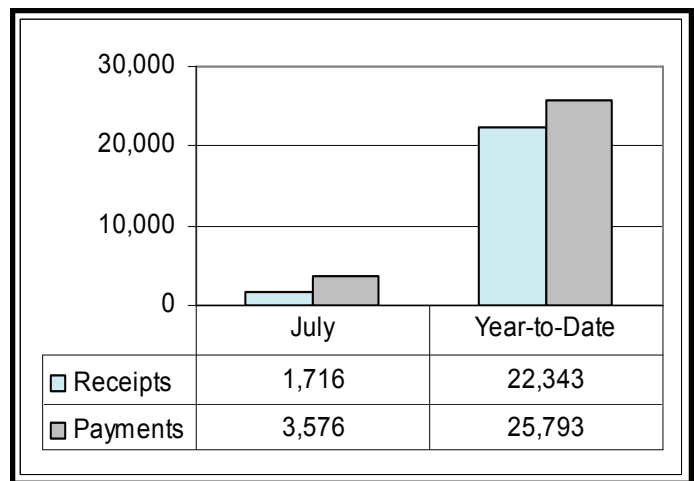
perfect time for us to celebrate new life, in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ray' or similar, written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the main text block.

## Operating Budget



## Monthly Mortgage Report



### General Fund Receipts 2011 (As of July 31)

Pledged	61,293
Unpledged	48,887
Other	1,892

### Mortgage Balance Remaining July — 251,453

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

## Something to Think About...

Every year the Stewardship Committee invites each worshipper to contribute time, talents, and treasure in response to the generous flow of God's grace into our lives. Most of the treasure that is contributed to Holy Way is designated to support the ongoing mission and ministry of the church, through the Operating Budget, and to reduce the mortgage that is owed on our sanctuary, through the Mortgage Reduction Fund.

Conventional wisdom, regarding church giving, is that 20% of the people support 80% of the budget, meaning that a few large givers carry most of the financial needs of the church. You may be surprised to learn that Holy Way is not "conventional". In 2010 we had 71 families or individuals contribute over \$1,000 to the church, spreading out the giving more evenly among the congregation. We had 38% of the church (more than the average church) contribute 70% of the financial support, meaning our financial obligations are shared more evenly here than usual.

We are blessed with many givers who seriously consider how they can support this church, through giving treasure, time, and talent. Thank you for all you give and for making this church the unique place it is!

### Choir Railing Gift

We welcome the addition of a new choir railing in our Sanctuary. The gift has been given by the Pauch family, in memory of Carl, and was designed and constructed by Brian Hamilton.

This new railing was inspired and envisioned by one of our recently departed saints, Judith Perry. We are grateful for this generous gift.



The church office will be closed in honor of Labor Day on Monday, September 5th.



## Upcoming Meals

Get signed up for our next Church Dinner, to be held on Wednesday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m. We will have a delicious meal consisting of sausage and noodles, a fresh salad, crusty French bread, and of course, dessert. Suggested donations of \$7.00 will support our Mortgage Reduction Fund and the C.E. Fitzgerald Scholarship Fund.

Our monthly Lunch & Games is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, at 12 noon. Join us for a cashew chicken casserole, followed by dessert and an afternoon of fun and games! Please sign up in the Ranch House for both of these yummy events- it's a great way to support the church and to enjoy fellowship.

## Elves? At Holy Way?

You bet there are elves at Holy Way! Yes, indeed there are. From baby blankets to teen-sized quilts— they have supplied more than 125 quilts to the Linus Project this year alone!

You all know the character from “Peanuts” who carried his little blankie everywhere he went...yep, Linus. The Linus Project is a national non-profit organization dedicated to providing the comfort of quilts to children in need. The Holy Way Elves are dedicated contributors to this worthy cause.

Our Elves have also provided preemie caps for newborns, knit caps for homeless folks, and lap afghans for the chair-bound. Recently added to the scope are prayer shawls, distributed to those in need of God's love and the comfort the shawls represent.

So, are YOU an Elf? If you knit, sew, crochet, or can tie a knot, you could be a Holy Way Elf! Meet us at 9:00 a.m. on Friday mornings and join in on the fun!



## PCM Dinner

Join us on Friday, November 4, 2011 for the Annual Presbyterian Dinner, hosted by the Presbyterian Campus Ministry. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Christ Presbyterian Church, 6565 E. Broadway, 888-5535. Come see what the PCM is all about and enjoy fellowship with other Christians. We will have a silent auction this year! The cost of the meal is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 and under. If you would like a ticket, please contact Ruth Ann Beck at 578-1255. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute to the Ministry, please mark your donation “PCM”. Thanks for your support!



## Shower Ministry



For those of you returning to Holy Way after your summer travels, please remember to bring in your personal care items you may have collected along the way for the Southside Presbyterian Shower Program. They are always in need of men's clothing, towels, toiletries, and peanut butter and jelly for sandwiches.

Bring them to the church, or if the amount is too large, contact Mooneen Ringenberg at 578-1100.

Thank you for supporting this compassionate mission!

## Sunday School News

On Sunday, September 4, Ray will lead a class for young people, in the 4th grade and older, who would like to receive communion with the congregation. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in Ray's office.

Our **Sunday School kick-off** will be on Sunday, September 11. As well as getting our new Sunday School year off to a raising start that morning, we will also give parents a chance to learn more about our program after worship.

## Church Family Updates

-We pray for the Alice Higby and her family. Alice's husband, Howard, died on July 28, of health complications following a fall. A memorial service for Howard is scheduled on Saturday, September 3, at 2:00 p.m. in our sanctuary.

- Affiliate Member, Ray Jokipii, died while he and his wife Fran were traveling overseas in July. We keep Fran in our prayers.

-Our church pianist, Astrid Chan, has completed the final requirement for her doctoral degree at the University of Arizona. Congratulations, Dr. Chan!

- We send the Veninga family off to Oklahoma with our prayers and best wishes.

-We do the same with Jennifer Roll and her family in their move to Alaska.



## A Note From Ana Miller

Dear Holy Way Family,

Thank you so much for generous gifts and warm hugs on my last Sunday. You are so incredibly kind! We are settling into small town life quite nicely and preparing for the school year to start. I've been feeling great, and very thankful for that! I think of you all often and feel grateful to have such a wonderful extended family in Tucson. Take good care of each other and I hope to see you all again soon.

Our new address is: 1325 E. Monroe Street  
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641



# A Musical Note



To The Holy Way Congregation:

I am very excited to be a part of worship at The Holy Way! Rev. Thomas and the members of the search committee have already made me feel welcome. I look forward to getting to know all of you, and I hope you will feel free to introduce yourselves over the coming weeks.

Rev. Thomas asked me to share a bit about my background, so here it is: I grew up in the north-central part of Illinois (literally in the middle of a cornfield) near the very small town of Altona. I found my love for music in the United Methodist Church I attended as a child, where my mom was the organist. My dad and grandfather were avid bluegrass musicians, and their love for folk songs and hymns had a huge impact on me. I had music all around me as I grew up, and I knew from an early age that I wanted to pursue it as a career. After high school I headed to Millikin University in Decatur, IL, to study music education and vocal performance. Five years later, and I found a wonderful position teaching choral music to grades six through twelve in Durand, IL. While teaching, I attended Northern Illinois University part-time to pursue my Master's degree in music education. After six years, I decided to turn 180 degrees and try something completely different, so I loaded up a U-Haul and moved to New York City. For the next two years I worked as a freelance performer (and waited a few tables). It was an amazing experience, but I missed being in front of a choir. My goal was to conduct at the collegiate level, and that meant going back to school. Currently, I am working on my doctorate in choral conducting at the University of Arizona. The past two years in Tucson have been great, and I know my time here will become even better at The Holy Way!

We will start regular choir and bell rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 7.**

**Bell Choir: 9:00 a.m.**

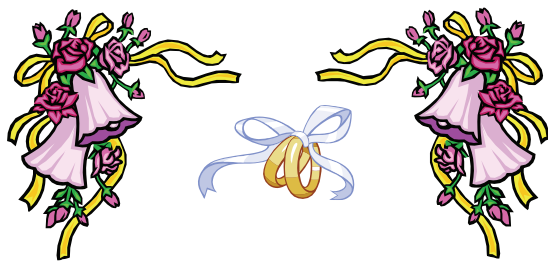
**Chancel Choir: 10:00 a.m.**

Our first Sunday worship service will be on September 11. I hope you will join us, even if you have never been in choir before. There is room for everyone, and I will help you no matter what your past experiences in music may be! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at: [stevens.alan.e@gmail.com](mailto:stevens.alan.e@gmail.com)

Again, I look forward to meeting all of you and being a part of worship at The Holy Way!

Warmly,

Alan Stevens



## SEPTEMBER'S ANNIVERSARIES

TR & Dee Ellis	9-1
Ed & Anita Parsil	9-7
Jerry & Ruth Ann Beck	9-9
Marvin & Ginger Manly	9-13
Willis & Betty Irons	9-16
Brian & Marianne Hamilton	9-25



### Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who donated school supplies for our drive in support of Altar Valley Middle School! A list of the many items donated will be posted in the Ranch House. Your generous response to this mission project is greatly appreciated by the Presbyterian Women's Group and by everyone at Altar Valley.



## SEPTEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS

Cugler Diggs	9-1
Cheri Davis	9-2
Gwen Schroyer	9-2
Bob Venzkamp	9-4
Jane Ansell	9-5
Chuck Cooper	9-6
Laura Penton	9-8
Dudley Williams	9-15
Don Schrock	9-19
Jane Hosler	9-20
Charles Sayers	9-20
Dale Wright	9-20
TR Ellis	9-21
Darleen Lancaster	9-27



### NOTE:

Our **Session** did not meet in July. Session did meet on Monday, August 15, and Session Highlights for that meeting will be in our October Newsletter.



# SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:30 pm AA Meeting	2 9 am Craft Guild	3 Memorial for Howard Higby 2 pm
4 COMMUNION & FOOD BANK SUNDAY 9:00 am Communion Class 9:30 am Worship & SS 6 pm Ala-teen/Al-anon	5 LABOR DAY Office Closed	6 9 am Bible Study  6 pm Alanon	7 9 am Prayer Group  7 pm AA Meeting	8  5:30 pm AA Meeting	9 9 am Craft Guild	10
11 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School Kickoff  6 pm Ala-teen/Al-anon	12	13 9 am Bible Study  4:30 pm Deacons Meeting  6 pm Alanon	14 9 am Prayer Group  6 pm Dinner  7 pm AA Meeting	15  12 n Newsletter Due  5:30 pm AA Meeting	16 9 am Craft Guild	17
18 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School  6 pm Ala-teen/Al-anon	19  6 pm Session	20 9 am Bible Study  6 pm Alanon	21 9 am Prayer Group  7 pm AA Meeting	22  5:30 pm AA Meeting	23 9 am Craft Guild	24
25 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School  6 pm Ala-teen/Al-anon	26	27 9 am Bible Study  6 pm Alanon	28 9 am Prayer Group  12 n Lunch & Games  7 pm AA Meeting	29  5:30 pm AA Meeting	30 9 am Craft Guild	31