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# DESERT PALMS CHURCH

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## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

### DESERT TIDINGS

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#### **GOD'S POWER AND HUMAN FRAILTY**

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2009

Lately I've been drawn to the book of 2 Corinthians and the theme of God's power and human frailty. It seems like a contradiction that strength could be found in weakness, but that is part of the message found in this letter. For all his training and academic religious pedigree, Paul is weak. But in Paul's weakness God's strength receives the proper focus and God's ministry is more clearly seen. One commentator writes, "In addition to calling into question Paul's motives ... and questioning his personal courage, Paul's opponents had argued that Paul suffered too much to be a Spirit-filled apostle of the risen Christ." In 2 Corinthians, Paul addresses this attack and shows that the human weakness of a believer shows God's redeeming grace to be stronger than his/her sin. It is in this weakness and Christ like/Christ focused suffering that Jesus is made known to the world.

The idea that the truly good, faithful, and righteous don't really suffer or that they don't suffer much is still a popular error in the world today. When things are going well we might say or hear others say, "you must be doing something right- or- you're living right." When things don't go our way we're tempted to think, "What did I do to deserve this?" Well, the answer could be nothing. The answer could also be that you deserve much worse, but you have not had that visited upon you. Essentially, this ends up being a sadly Christianized version of Karma. In Reformed Presbyterian speak this is called \*works righteousness\* or \*works based justification\*. Jesus speaks against this sort of reasoning in Luke Chapter 13. Following Jesus' lead, Paul speaks against this sort of reasoning for most of his ministry. God's ways are beyond us and we can't always connect the dots and trace exactly the route of blessing and curse in our lives.

Even in hindsight we can often only speak in generalities with regard to cause and effect. We can get close and look at and understand patterns of Scriptural teaching, but can speak with absolute authority on few things. This is part of the mystery of the life God has designed for us. As Christians we have to be comfortable and tolerant of a little bit of mystery.

We start to see the way through when weakness and strength are brought into focus. According to His grace, God grows and strengthens faith in the midst of weakness. We see it in Job Chapter 19 when Job gives that famous confession, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth." This confession is after the description of his situation, "My relatives have failed me, my close friends have forgotten me. The guests in my house and my maidservants count me as a stranger." Yet, his personal hope for this life is the knowledge that his Redeemer lives and that justice will be brought about by Him. Paul brings this through to A.D. 55 or 56 and proclaims this truth again in 2 Corinthians.

Jesus is our Redeemer and our life is in Him. When we face our weakness, we can only do so in the strength of knowing that our Redeemer lives. When we do suffer and we can't quite explain it or are frustrated by the motives of those who may be causing our suffering, we press on in Christ. This is different than just pressing on. Paul sees his success only accomplished by God's power. Writing to the elders in Ephesus he says, "And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified (Act 20:32 ESV)." Paul writes at the beginning of 2 Corinthians, "For as we share abundantly in

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## UPCOMING EVENTS...

### Weekly Bible Studies:

#### Tuesday Morning

- **Women's Bible Study** is studying "The Great Teachings of the Church: The Covenant" taught by Carolyn McCorkle. The class begins at 10:30 am.

#### Wednesday Evening

- **Youth Bible Study** (7th to 12th grades) meets from 7 pm to 8:30 pm in room 111.

#### Wednesday Evening

- **Women's Bible Study** meets from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

### Thursday Morning

- **Men's Bible Study** meets at 6 am in the church library. Study topic is Romans using Dr. James Montgomery Boice's commentary.

### Other Events:

- **Sunday School** begins at 9 am.
- **Prayer Meeting** at Bruce and Carolyn McCorkle's home on October 23th at 7 pm.
- **CAP Breakfast** is November 5th at 8:00 am at Camelback Inn.

### • D P C Luncheon

will be October 11th after worship.

The theme is Mexican. If your last name begins with A-K, please bring a vegetable dish and bread. If your last name begins with L-Z, please bring a main dish. Drinks and dessert will be provided by DPC. We would like to invite visitors to this luncheon so please bring enough food for at least 10 people.

- **Women's Dinner** is on Saturday, October 17th at 6 pm.



## GOD'S POWER AND HUMAN FRAILITY ~ Continued from Page 1

Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too...our hope for you is unshaken." He brings that weakness and power of human experience to our attention in Chapter 4, "For we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." Earthen vessels break and crack with use. The temptation is to move on from this and say we are no longer weak. But Paul doesn't move on—he stays here and builds upon his weakness. Because of God's word to him in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness," growth and maturity are to be expected but only in God's power with the ever present reminder of our need overcome by the always present promise of God's strength.

Pastor Kelley

## CITIZENS FOR ARIZONA POLICY



The church must not sleep, but rather be salt and light in a dark world! Let's find out what is happening in our state and how we can help influence public policy with Christian principles to

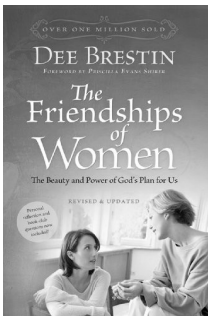
honor God and bless residents of Arizona. On Saturday morning, October 10th, a group from

DPC will visit the office of Center for Arizona Policy where we will meet the staff and learn about urgent, current issues and the work that CAP is doing on behalf of Arizona families. President of CAP Cathi Herrod will be on hand to answer questions. Please join us! Find the sign up sheet in the Narthex, or for more information, call Dave or Carol Lambert (480-775-0531). If the 10th is not a good date for you, let us know! Other dates are available!

## WIC MINISTRY

Our fall is off to a great start. We had a lovely, salad dinner to celebrate the beginning of our Bible Studies for the ladies. A special thank you goes to Sandra Niman for hosting the event at her home. Thank you, also, to Iris Thomas, Lori Bajema and Amy Vasel for sharing your "box talks" with us. It is always fun to get to know some details about each other's lives. The salads and desserts were delicious!!!

We are blessed this fall to have two studies for ladies to participate in. Tuesday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm is a study led by Carolyn McCorkle entitled, "The Great Teachings of the Church: The Covenant." Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm is a study on Dee Brestin's book, The Friendships of Women. Please come and participate in one or both of these studies. You will be blessed!!



Women's Ministry in the Local Church, by J. Ligon Duncan and Susan Hunt answers five fundamental questions:

- Why should a church have a women's ministry and what is the biblical apologetic?
- Who is responsible for the women's ministry in a church?
- How does a women's ministry relate to the other ministries in a church?
- What are the tasks of a women's ministry?
- How does a church implement a biblical approach to women's ministry?

Would you like to know the answers to these questions? Over the course of the next five months, I will try to post a summary of what Susan and Pastor Duncan teach on the subject.

Julie Kaal  
WIC President

## BIRTHDAYS

Oct 14 – Emily Lambert  
Oct 15 – Jim Hamblin  
Oct 18 – Deborah Maurmann  
Oct 19 – Curt Hoekstra  
Oct 22 – Mary Lee  
Oct 25 – Bob Captain, Nadia Kilnoski  
Oct 30 – Brock Hand

## ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 11 - Eric and Sandra Niman  
Oct 17 - Peter and Julie Kaal

## DPC WORKDAY

Praise God for all the cleaning that was completed during the last church workday, and thanks to everyone who came out and participated. All the work was completed to God's glory and exemplifies that Protestant work ethic! We will have another workday in the near future, so look for the announcement and be ready to clean God's House again.



\*\*Would you like to be added to our Birthdays and Anniversaries? If so, please send your information to Wendy Hood, email: [wendyhood@cox.net](mailto:wendyhood@cox.net).

## SMALL GROUPS' CORNER

The Finley-Galloway-McCorkle small group kicked off last Sunday at the McCorkle home. Thanks to Bruce and Carolyn McCorkle for graciously sponsoring a dinner at their home; it was a good opportunity to get to know each other better. We've decided to use the Truth Project for our first study and will be viewing the first episode on October 18<sup>th</sup> at the McCorkle residence. We have room for two or three more families if you wish to join a small group. Contact Mike Finley for more information.



### Women's Bible Study

*"The Great Teachings of the Church: The Covenant"*

This is a year-long study of 22 lessons, beginning on Tuesday, September 22, from 10:30 am to noon. Covenant is the way that God interacts with man: "I will be your God and you shall be my people."

A proper understanding of covenant will provide

a fuller view of the grace of God and the drama of God redeeming a people to glorify Himself.

The significance of Covenant affects our view of Scripture, the church, worship, history, obedience, choices, the Kingdom, salvation, and the great doctrines of our faith. An understanding of covenant will enhance your relationship with Christ, your church participation, your view of marriage, child rearing, friendship, and evangelism.

## ABORTION LAWS THREATENED

In September, abortion advocates filed two lawsuits seeking to block enforcement of Arizona's new abortion laws. Planned Parenthood filed their lawsuit in Maricopa County Superior Court and Center for Reproductive Rights filed in U.S. District Court, Phoenix.

In a very coordinated, strategic attack, the abortion industry has two key goals:

- Get a definitive state court ruling that the Arizona Constitution provides a greater right to an abortion than the U.S. Constitution, thus effectively overturning the Legislature's right to reasonably regulate abortion.
- Get a court ruling that non-doctors, such as nurse practitioners, may legally and constitutionally perform surgical abortions.

If the abortion-on-demand crowd wins these lawsuits, it will be very difficult to protect a woman's need and right to get adequate information about the abortion procedure and to have a consultation with a doctor. Protecting parental rights, taking care of minors' medical needs, and preserving conscience rights for healthcare workers also will be greatly endangered. The abortion industry's push to have non-doctors perform surgical abortion with government approval has ramifications nationwide. CAP remains committed to doing everything they can to see the new Arizona abortion laws upheld and enforced.

*This is an excerpt from CAP's "Five Minutes for Families," September 18, 2009. If you are interested in receiving updates from CAP, you can sign up on their website at [www.azpolicy.org](http://www.azpolicy.org).*

**HELP NEEDED!** Would anyone in the congregation like to take part in planning and organizing one of the Fellowship luncheons? You may have a great suggestion for a theme. If you do, contact Jackie Finley or Sandra Niman. The dates available are December 13th, January 17th, March 14th and May 16th.

**Desert Palms Church  
Presbyterian Church in  
America**

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**We're on the web  
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Gene Lee

**Deacons**

Jesse Galloway  
Mike Finley  
Peter Kaal  
Rob Hood  
Bill Lambert

**Office Administrator**

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## MEMBER/GUEST PADS



Please fill out the guest pads at the end of your row. It is used only to contact you for a church event or news that needs to be shared. We promise not to spam you or sell it to 3rd parties.

## NEWSLETTER

People like to know what is going on in the church. Write an article for the newsletter and share the information. All articles need to be in by the 20th of each month for review before being added to the newsletter. Please email your submissions to Wendy Hood at [wendyhood@cox.net](mailto:wendyhood@cox.net).

If you have any questions please call her at (480) 209-1328.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school classes meet each Sunday (September through May) from 9:00 to 10:00 am in various locations. Ask the greeter at the church entrance to guide you or simply ask anyone for help in locating the appropriate classroom.

**Adult**

Bible Study Class gathers each Sunday (September through May) at 9 am in room 111.

**College and Career Age Young Adults**

Class meets in room 105 (Library/Conference Room) led by Mike Finley and Dave Farbishel.

**Children**

Classes are provided for second grade through sixth grade. Each class has at least two teachers or a teacher and an aide. For more information, contact Dave Farbishel, Director of Children's Ministry, at (480) 422-2499 (Church office).

- Infants, Toddlers, and Two year olds (Rooms 114,115): Kathy Kaye, Julie Kaal
- Three, Four, and Five year olds (Room 112): Vicki Hand, Amy Vasel
- First through Third Grades (Room 106): Dave Maurmann, Wendy Hood
- Fourth through Sixth Grades (Room 108): Gene Lee, Julia Martinez
- Junior and Senior Highs (Room 109): Ken Kaye