All people smile in the same language. Vol. 19, Is. 12

THE HERITAGE HERALD

A Letter From Paul

For just about everyone, this year brought a shroud of uncertainty with no job being recession proof, and budgets shrinking with demands expanding. Often these times bring on a sense of worry. The gospels tell us not to worry. Yet, it is hard to expect anyone not to worry at least some during this time; So, if we're going to worry, I suggest we just worry about ***worthy things.***

Things ***not to*** worry about:

- **Perfect plans** (or trying to be perfect for that matter);
- **Arrangement of chairs**;
- **Wrinkled clothes**;
- **Wrinkled faces**;
- **Scratches** in the paint;
- The **brand name** on your clothing;
- **Scores** (especially if you're a **Suns** fan);
- **Burnt stuff** (tell folks that really it's Cajun);
- **Enough time** (there never is);
- **Newsletter articles**;
- **Speling**;

What gifts will the new year bring?

Things ***to*** worry about:

- Did I **say a least one kind thing** to the kids in school, house, and/or church?
- Does **everyone** in the family (including those not related by blood) **know that I love them?**
- Is there **gentleness, forgiveness and patience** (or at least one of the three) in my heart?
- What am I doing to **help the poor and the marginalized** in this community?

If you read this, **know that I love you and wish for you a less worrisome new year.**
God Bless you. Shalom,

Paul

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Desert Heritage Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Paul A. Whitlock
Admin. Sec.....Susan Anderson
Music Director.....Mutsumi Mori
Ministers.....All our Members
"Timothy".....Michael Whitlock

Church Board

Buster & Sue Bradley.....Moderator
Richard & Dianne Williams....Vice-Mod.
Carolyn Phelps.....Secretary
Laurel North.....Treasurer
Camille Pietz.....Elders
Laura Meyer.....Deacons
Verlin Pietz.....Property
Roy Phelps.....Membership
Dianne Williams.....Education
Jean McColgin.....Outreach
Anita Joy & Krystol Reece...
...Organizational Secretary
TBA.....Stewardship
Wendy Whitlock.....Worship
Trish Stricker.....DHW
Ryan Dugan.....Youth Rep
Maynard Schneck.....At-Large
Mark Meyer.....At-Large
Bonnie Lehmann.....At-Large
Richard Hicks.....At-Large

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The HERITAGE HERALD is published monthly.
Volume 19 Issue 11

Webmaster: Jill Wen

News to Share from the Sanctuary Chair

Paz de Cristo Report

We served 157 adults and 11 children totaling 216 plates including refills. We had a great group who worked hard and fast. Thanks to:

Verlin, Bev. L, Harley & Snooks, Mary W., Whitlock 4, Kathie, Dugan kids, Don & Jim, Maynard, Wayne & Mike, Jim D., Debby & me.

We served carnitas burros—cooked pork, tortillas, rice, beans, green salad, fruit salad, pastries, 3 drinks. Thanks to all for all the hard work.

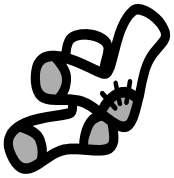
Love, Jean

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Our Next Opportunity to serve at Paz is January 3rd. Start the new year out right— Serve the poor down at paz!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We'll hand out socks on January 3rd to the men, women and children who come to Paz. Thanks to all who donated them!



~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

January is *Mac-n-cheese* month.

Food Donation of the Month of January:

Mac-n-Cheese.

What a spread of jams and jellies you provided in December!

For those who like to plan ahead, the month of *February will be: Soup*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In tough economic times... please remember:

When those of us with resources have less, those with almost no resources have even emptier hands and emptier stomachs.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Silent Auction for Camp Scholarships

On January 23, at 6:00 p.m. we will have a silent auction and spaghetti dinner. Remember how much fun it was last year? It'll be even more fun this year! WE NEED LOTS OF SUPPORT ON THIS TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS! 100% of money raised goes to camp Scholarships.

Desert Heritage Women

Well, we did it again—had a great December meeting and looking forward to our next meeting which is Tuesday, January 12. We don't know what will happen then, but I know we will have a good time while serving our Lord. Our attendance is growing and our Bible Study is rewarding. Hope to see you then. 12:00 noon, Jan. 12 and bring a sandwich. Beverage and dessert will be served. Start the year off right—come and enjoy the study, fellowship, and service of DHW.

Congregational Lunch Out

We're gathering at 1:00pm at Mimi's Café (Alma School and Southern, Mesa) on the second Thursday—January 14th.

Congregational Dinner Out

We're gathering at 6:00pm at Pier De Orleans (Just east of Center and University, Mesa) on the fourth Thursday—January 28th.

On entering the house,

they saw the child with Mary his mother and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of

gold,

frankincense,

and myrrh. **Matt. 2:11**

Change in Flower Ministry

Our ministry of providing flowers for Sunday morning will change in 2010. When you sign-up for flowers, you will be asked to pay $25 in advance for the flowers—you can do so by just dropping off a check in office. *If you don't pay in advance, no flowers will be provided.* Our budget does not include a slush fund to cover the costs when people forget to pay nor do we want to be the bill collector tracking down folks. So, simply pay when you sign up and everything will be taken care for you. Or, you may bring the flowers yourself. When you sign up for flowers, just check the box that indicates you will provide them. Thanks.

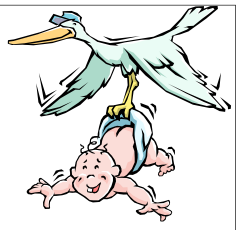
Pastoral Care Page

If you or a loved one are entering the hospital, please take a moment and telephone the Church office at 480-969-5631 or Pastor Paul's cell, 480-242-6697. In prayer, please remember these people and their families:

Gerry Dillman, Dan Dugan, Ed Hook, Terese Hovan, Wanda Idle, Dot McCown, Bob Montgomery, Bill Murray, Ali May & Ethan North, Steve North, Don Pew, Roy Phelps, Dottie Rasmussen, Maynard & Nancy Schneck, Mary Short, John Williams

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute.
Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. *Proverbs 31:8-9*

Congratulations to Avril & Brandon Anders



(and big sister, Lilah)
on the birth of

Parker Lloyd Anders

on November 24, 2009

Proud relatives include great-grandparents, John and Mary Whitlock; great-aunts Laurel and Wendy; great-uncle Paul; aunt Niki, and about half of the rest of the congregation!

Madalyn Young Baptized

What a joy it was to have **Madalyn Young**, Daughter of **Glenn Young and Amanda Knight**, baptized on December 13th. *Madalyn is the granddaughter of Curtis and Dee Dee Knight.*

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Ellen St. Onge** (Dianne's little sister) & to **Robert Harris** on their engagement!

Great
Renewal
Opportunity
Within / without

To The Congregation

Thank you for your kind remembrances during this season and throughout the year.

Your Church Staff

From our Peace Statement:

"No one will be denied into the full life, leadership and ministry of the church due to color of skin, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, language or status."

Vital Statistics for 2009

Nov. 29:	103
Dec. 6:	107
Dec. 13:	124
Dec. 20:	99

That's 11% higher than last year!

(Financial Report through Dec. 13th—Year end report will be down in the next issue of the newsletter)

Received:	$ 123,015.44
Expenses:	$ 124,497.12
Budget:	$ 136,038.56

The total transferred from saving to date this year is $9,000 and is included in the "received" total.

We have a $794.51 surplus in our camp fund! Any money that comes in for camp for the rest of the year will be set aside for use for the 2010 camping program.

Congregational Meeting
January 17, 2010 after worship

We have received 57 pledges for $94,092 dollars. That's 2K higher than last year. **Thank you to all who have made a pledge!** When you add that to the $28,500 in regular giving, loose offering, building use income, special offerings and designated gifts, you get a grand income total of $122,592. The board set the budget at $120,871. That's a $1,721 surplus. It is our hope that this budget will not need to raid the savings account.

The congregation will get a chance to review this and then vote on this budget on Jan. 17th. Until then, ask any board member the questions you may have about the budget. Plus, we'll have informational moments in worship on January 3rd & 10th to prepare you better for the Jan. 17 congregational Meeting.

Ministry Fair Sunday, January 10, 2010

Come one come all to the Ministry Fair on Sunday, January 10. All Board Members, Ministry Members (committees) and interested congregation members are invited to attend.

Purpose of the Ministry Fair is to:

- Develop a planning calendar for the year (January through December 2010);
- Finalize ministries mission and goals;
- Strengthen action and fellowship through the various ministries.

For more information contact Sue Bradley 602-980-4010 or sbradley26@cox.net.

House Meetings to begin again.

The next round of House Meetings will be scheduled between January 18th and March 1st. The entire congregation is encouraged to attend—including our winter friends! More information will be coming out soon as to the *whens* and *wheres* of your meeting. Until then, here's the agenda.

The questions will be:

- How do we at DHC GROW during the sabbatical?
- How do we discover Great Renewal Opportunity Within & Without our congregation? And,
- How do we put these discoveries into practice.

Christian Education prevents Bible Study Opportunities

Lots of options to fit lots of different needs!

"Favorite Bible Passages" Bible Study

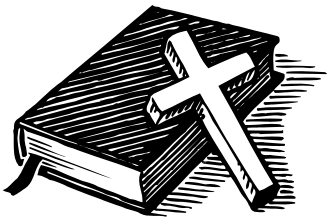
Volume I Study Guide now available in the church office for $7.

Group 1: Wednesday afternoon Bible Study begins January 6th, 3pm at the church; Study leader is Mary Whitlock.

Group 2: Hybrid Study Session with Sue Bradley begins January 3rd after church for 30 minutes and afterwards on line. Those interested will combine face-to-face study with online study based on the desire of those participating.

Group 3: Additionally we desire a to begin a third group that meets in the evening. Anyone interested in leading or participating this group please contact Sue Bradley.

"Favorite Bible Passages" will begin with the Old Testament and include passages through to the Book of Revelation. We will find unexpected insights and directions no matter how well we know the Bible. Some passages may seem familiar, while others new and unfamiliar, but all will be relevant to our lives. Plan to be a part of this exciting adventure into our favorite passages in our favorite book!



Silent Auction– Saturday, Jan. 23rd at 6:00pm

A Spaghetti Dinner

& Silent Auction

Saturday, January 23rd, 6:00pm at DHC.

Can your company offer
a gift certificate?
Donate it for the Silent Auction.

Was Santa particularly odd
in the gift giving this year?
Donate it for the Silent Auction.

Can you offer a ride, a place to stay,
or another service?
Donate it for the Silent Auction.

Do you have a particular skill or talent
like lawn care or cooking?
Donate it for the Silent Auction.

Last year we raised over $700 for Camp Scholarships.
How much can we raise this year?

Think Big!

The Christian Education committee is planning a spaghetti dinner for Saturday, January 23rd at 6:00pm. It will be a fun-filled night which will be perfect to invite your family and neighbors.

We are particularly looking for skills and talents and opportunities that people can offer.

Be Creative and Think Big!

Desert Heritage Church
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& United Church of Christ
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e-mail: dhchurch@qwestoffice.net or
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Find us on the web: **www.desertheritagechurch.com**

9:00am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Worship & Children's Church

Start off the new year right—come to church!

Return Address Requested

January Youth

Wow! What a great Christmas Program the children and youth presented!

Thank you to all the kids and youth who made their Christmas program such a success: **Ryan & Trevor Dugan, Nathan & Ruthie Whitlock, Summer & Jordan Anderson, Warner, DJ & Sophia Robinaugh, Alexandrea & Ethan North, Amanda & Adam Meyer, Jose Fernandez, Zoey Mainville, Will & Katherine Churchill, Tim Gregory, Maddie & Colbie Cripe, Meira Erwin.**

Thank you, also to the adult teachers and helpers who made this production possible; And thanks to the parents and grandparents who got the kids here for practice. But most of all, thanks to the kids and youth for teaching us the Christmas story anew.

January Calendar

January 3: 4:00 pm Serve at Paz
January 23: 6:00pm SSSSShhhhhhh!
It's a Silent Auction!

A big thank you to John and Linda Gaines for hosting our annual youth gag gift exchange! The food was great!

The gifts were the most creative and funniest we've ever exchanged! It was a bewildering magical evening in which John the Baptist would have been proud. And yes, the tradition lives on: we were swimming with the dead fishes! But, the circle of joy lived on to proclaim into the night air:

"I'll get you next time Spider Man!"