What does it mean to be you? Vol. 20, Is. 2

THE HERITAGE HERALD

A Letter From Paul

With apologies to Simon & Garfunkel, the sound of silence is not always what we want to hear these days...especially on Sunday morning!

In fact, I once served at a church whose Sunday morning services were on the radio and thus, there could be no "dead air." We had to have music playing or someone speaking at every moment in the service. I hated it!

The Gospel According to Luke tells us that because Zechariah didn't believe the angel when the angel announced the coming of a baby to Elizabeth, Zechariah was unable to speak until the birth of John.

I had always thought of that as a punishment on Zechariah:

"You don't believe, okay, you can't speak...that'll teach you!"

Then a sermon by Barbara Brown Taylor suggested,

what if the silence was a gift, "a wilderness in which the dream was born?"

I know this is the season of Lent not Advent. However, I also know in my life that there's so much noise. If you're at all like me, maybe we need to listen for a while, to be silent before the mystery of God during this Lenten season, too.

Taylor recalled a book review she had seen in which the author was praised for "leaving all the right things unsaid." Amazing things were happening in those days in Judah. There was definitely something in the air. And Zechariah received the gift of "leaving all the right things unsaid," watching in silence as God's plan unfolded.

Yes, it's true that this pastor loves words: speaking, writing, and hearing. But, like a journalist who appreciates the white spaces on a page, I also appreciate the silent spaces between words.

The season of Lent seems a wonderful time to leave some things unsaid, to sojourn in the wilderness where dreams are born, and enjoy, like Simon & Garfunkel, and before them, Zechariah, the sound of silence. Let those who have ears...hear. Shalom,

Paul

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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
Rebecca Robinaugh.....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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Webmaster: Jill Wen

News to Share from the Sanctuary Chair

Paz de Cristo Report

We had a super crew helping us—they worked fast and served a great meal: Jim & Pam, Harley & Snooks, Wendy & Ruthie & Mary, Laurel & Alexandrea, Kathie, Joanne, Joyce & Scott, Wayne, Jill and me. Hamburgers, bbq sausage links, a great dip & chips, salad, fruit salad, PBJ sandwiches, drinks & ice cream! Jim bought onions so we could have them for the hamburgers. Thanks to all—I appreciate your hard work. Love, Jean

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Our Next Opportunity to serve at Paz is March 7th.

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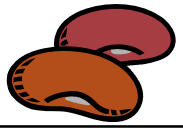
Food Donation for Month of March:

"sack of dried things"—that is, dry beans, peas, rice, etc.

For those who like to plan ahead, the month of *April will be 'helper' month... Bring in Hamburger helper, etc. type of packages.*

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

March is dried things... *beans, peas, rice* month.



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.

Desert Heritage Women

Desert Heritage Women held their meeting on February 9, with 11 members attending and having fellowship. Our March meeting will be preparing for our Rummage Sale which will be on March 12 & 13. Please join us March 8th—11th for the set and preparation for the sale There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for you to let us know when you can help.

Congregational Lunch Out

We're gathering at 1:00pm at The Weather Vane (7303 E. Main St, Mesa, 85207) on the second Thursday—March 11th.

Congregational Dinner Out

We're gathering at 6:00pm at Midwestern Meats (4308 E. Main St., Mesa, 85205) on the fourth Thursday—March 25th.

Update on Members

♥ They have been a part of us for some time, but now it is official; welcome Gary and Rhoda Schriver as official members. They transferred their membership last month. Give them a warm *"official"* welcome.

♥ Ken and Rita Cox have a new address: *9302 E. Broadway #158, Mesa, AZ.* Phone stays the same.

Sign-up for Easter Lilies

You are invited to sign-up in the Heritage Room for Easter Lilies. The cost for each one is $10.00. Reserve yours today!

DHC Women's Retreat in Payson

Date: Noon on Friday, June 4th, to Noon on Sunday, June 6th
Place: LOMA Lutheran Retreat Center, Payson, AZ.
Theme: New Beginnings
Cost: $75. Partial scholarships are available. Make checks out to DHC. A $20 deposit is due April 17.

Registration Form (clip and give to Anita Joy or Mary Whitlock)

Name:_____ Address:_____

_____ Email:_____

Phone:_____ Birthday (m/d) _____

Contact Person & Phone #_____

Official Use: ____ Deposit made ____Paid in Full

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:

Buster Bradley, Gerry Dillman, Susan Dillman, Dan Dugan, Ed Hook, Wanda Idle, Dot McCown, Bob Montgomery, Don Pew, Camille Pietz Dottie Rasmussen, Maynard 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*

Who is my neighbor?

Our neighbors are everywhere from Louisiana to Ghana to Haiti. We know people all over the world are hungry. We know about AIDS, street children and epidemics. About tsunamis, earthquakes, wars and famines. We despise suffering—and desperately want to alleviate it.

Together we are.

We're working with women in West Africa to grow vegetables for vital nutrients. We're helping quake-ravaged areas rebuild in Haiti, providing health care for refugees in Sudan, building systems to deliver safe drinking water in villages in Laos, empowering AIDS orphans in Rwanda, repairing schools in Kenya, bringing farming tools and seeds to communities in the Caribbean, and rushing emergency disaster relief all over the world.

Christ has commanded us to love our neighbors. Give generously!

OUR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING WILL BE MARCH 14

"Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth,

I therefore command you,

'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor In your land.'"

Deuteronomy 15:11

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."

Report for 2010

Jan. 31:	111
Feb. 7:	118
Feb. 14:	106
Feb. 21:	109
Yr. Avg.	111.63

Received:	$ 23,002.90
Expenses:	$ 16,482.47
Budget:	$ 18,819.38

Camp Fund Has a Great Start

Received:	**$ 1,769.02**
Goal:	**$ 5,000.00**

Haitian Relief Fund: $535

O GOD,

Sometimes I feel myself sliding beyond perplexity to despair.

I can't begin to understand this broken world or to see how my little acts of serving help.

Forgive me, Lord.

I will not ever understand, but I know with certainty that my hope is in you, who in love poured out your life for this broken world.

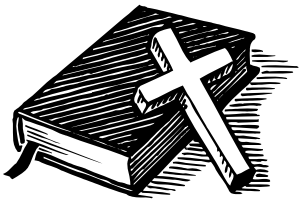
Help me, please, to be faithful, to keep on worshiping, loving, serving, not seeing the results but knowing that by your life you have called this world to hope.

Roberta Porter

Wednesday Bible Study is Open to All

This is an invitation to join the Wednesday afternoon Bible study! We meet at 3:00pm for about one hour. The following passages will be on our March agenda:

- March 3rd: We look at Esther (Esther 4) and see her example of courage in the face of injustice.
- March 10th: We look at the 23rd Psalm to see how God's providential care still exists for us today.
- March 17th: We look at Isaiah 52 & 53 to better understand God's work of redemption and reconciliation.
- March 24th: We look at Jeremiah 31:31-34 to help us see the meaning and necessity of the new covenant.



- March 31st: We look at Amos 5:21-24 to understand how God calls for determined efforts to correct injustices and to foster righteousness.

You are welcome to join us for any or all of these study and discussion times.

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE PREFERENCE

Not many folks like to talk about funerals, but at the church we can talk about difficult subjects. And we can be real in a fake world. In fact, it is appropriate to talk about real issues before we must face them. Thus, we hope you can not only read this article, but that you will fill out the accompanying pages.

Who wants to talk about funerals? But often loved ones are left to make decisions and they have no idea what you would want to have done. Take the time to fill out these forms and turn them into the church office asap! Your family and your church family will thank you!

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FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE PREFERENCE

It will be very helpful if the church office has on file your plans with regard to funeral / memorial service arrangements and contact person(s). With Pastor Paul on sabbatical for three months this summer, it is especially important that we know your wishes. Many of us have children living out of state and the church does not have that information.

Also, for our winter visitors in the case of an emergency, knowledge of whom to contact would greatly facilitate things.

Email or Electronic readers: ***What you need to do is go to the Funeral / Memorial Service Preference on the webpage and print it out*** and then fill out the parts that apply to your situation.

For those who receive the newsletter in a hardcopy format, just simply fill out the forms attached with the newsletter.

Bring or mail the forms back to church.

Thank you!

READ THIS ARTICLE

House Meeting Report—First Session (Oct—Dec. 2009)

Prepared by Krystol L. Reece

I Corinthians 13:13:

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. *New International Version*

ROUNDS

When thinking of the church…

What makes you happy?

What makes you feel alive?

What makes your heart sing?

In a word(s)….

God's presence, love, extended family, the kids, music, the choir, accepting, being able to serve, hugs, Sunday School, humble, caring, community oriented, friendship, team work, intergenerational, encouraged to try new things, welcoming, diverse, reflects the community, inclusive prayer, preaching, children's moment, flowers, feeling at home, Adult Sunday School where I can be me, encouraged to be who you are, consistent leadership, full church, prayer quilts, Peace and Justice Ministry, newcomers, refreshments, PAZ, visiting the shut-ins, recharge, new members stepping up, camaraderie, family oriented, greeting cards, congregation flexibility with music choices.

What do we need more of at DH?

The boards continued focus on who we are as a church, with an emphasis on follow-through;

A fully developed Newcomers Ministry including shepherding;

More involvement in Christian Education, for children, youth and adults;

An expanded Worship Ministry to work in the areas of sanctuary arrangement and order of worship;

A Stewardship Ministry, working with the Finance Ministry, stressing our philosophy for tithing and pledging;

Clearer focus on missions and outreach;

Small groups.

What do we need to do less of at DH?

- "We've always done it this way."
- One person ministries

What needs to stay the same at DH?

Fellowship, friendship, openness, choir, VBS, Cookies for Kino, Children's minute, PAZ, Prayer Room

New Ideas:

- Develop a group for young adults including a relationship with other UCC and DOC churches
- Coffee in the Heritage Room before the service, moving Adult Sunday School to another location;
- Mailbox of general cards for church members, to save the cost of postage.

Recommendations:

- The board needs to continue with its theme of "Ministry to the Church as all God's Children" with continued emphasis on organizational enhancement and resources balanced.
- If we truly love our kids, and I know we do, then our top priority should be their Christian Education at all levels.
- We need to expand the following ministries: Newcomers, Worship and Stewardship.

Next Steps:

How will the board report the data to the congregation?

How will we use the data?

Summary:

Desert Heritage is a very loving church, with just a few areas that need to be tweaked.

Thank you to the 59 who participated.

Background:

A longer report will be available by email. If you do not have email, please contact Susie for a hard copy. This report was voluntarily prepared by Leslie Pentland, PhD in Human and Organizational Systems, using data gathered from the individual house meeting minutes.

Desert Heritage Church
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& United Church of Christ
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e-mail: dhchurch@qwestoffice.net or
dhchurchsec@qwestoffice.net
Find us on the web: **www.desertheritagechurch.com**
9:00am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Worship & Children's Church

Lent is a great time to reexamine your life.

Return Address Requested

March Youth

Youth Calendar

March 7th 4:00pm PAZ
(Our kids are such a blessing!
They really are needed in helping out.)

March 14th & 28th
11:30am—12:30am
Meet at the church

Grapefruit picking at the Bradleys will be sometime in March.
Everyone going to camp is urged to help in this fund raiser.

Camp Update:

- Camp will begin at 2pm on June 20th
  Camp is June 20th—25th
- Early Bird Deadline is April 4th cost $250
- Camp Deadline is May 4th at $275

Camp forms will be available the week of March 15th

Youth Group is for all ages!
Fourth grade on up is invited to participate in youth group activities.

We will divide into age appropriate groups at our meeting.