

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

Episcopal Church in Communion with the ELCA Newsletter

Sweet in Our Memories



As we were going to press, we learned of the passing of Brent Roubal, a long time member of our church. As you may know, Brent had been battling cancer for this past year. Brent will be remembered always, always stepping up when there was a need. He was a master of moving pews in and out, setting up tents and then taking them down, participating as a vestry member as well as various other church roles. We will miss his culinary skills at the grill and his coffee hour brownies. When we think of Brent, we will always be reminded of his gentle ways and kind smile.

Plans are being made as you read this. We will share them with you as they become available. Please keep Brenda, JR and Claire in your prayers.

Welcome Home....by Rev. Kerry Neuhardt



Brent Roubal, (7/27/1966 - 5/06/2020) our brother in Christ, may his soul rest in peace and light preputial shine upon him. Our tribute to Brent will begin by requesting everyone to email in your fondest memory of him. These will be collected and put into a memorial book. Email memories to COSoffice@cableone.net

Welcome home to all our returning members. You missed the snow and cold ! While you were in warmer places, the winter group endured and grew closer.

Here are some of the highlights at COS....

We enjoyed another beautiful fall with the trees splendid colors. The hiking group went to Greer where the Weber's led an incredible hike. The Xmas dinner was amazing and wonderfully attended in spite of the snow. One Sunday after Xmas had to be cancelled due to a huge snowfall and icy roads. Previous years had a minimum attendance due to snowfall of 18. The official record for that Sunday will now be zero, even though 12 people were able to get here, and getting stuck in the parking lot happened several times.

The Building Committee (for the church and hall expansion project) were informed we needed a licensed business contractor for oversight and construction. If you missed previous updates about this, please call Leroy Johnson, Dick Hileman, Steve Bell, or Jerry Nansen. We are happy to share all the details ! The work is underway and Leroy's letter to everyone is in this newsletter and will be on the website. Our ongoing funding campaign moves into the final stage this summer, with opportunity to become part of the project through gifts of time, treasure, and talent There is an opportunity to do memorials for furnishings also.

Welcome back continued

Bishop Jennifer Reddall has been remarkable in her first year. Three Arizona clergy have become Bishops, wow! So there are many new faces in our churches, making it exciting as young clergy settle in with new wisdom.

The corona virus has drastically changed everything and everyone. Sadly the numbers of deaths is increasing in our region. The Navajo people I worked with find themselves in a very painful time. I was told this all seems unreal until it is you or your spouse or a family member stricken and on a ventilator for weeks. My niece in New York city and her roommate were both patients with COVID-19. The death of a person I was friends with here in the White Mountains made me aware of the danger personally. The Bishop has directed our churches to remain closed to gatherings until May 25, and in her weekly Zoom meetings we are looking at the steps and precautions for the coming months if we move toward being together again. The vestry is working on some of the questions that require preparation in Phase 1. Clearly we will need sanitizing products in order to be together in any fashion. I am aware there are a variety of beliefs about the pandemic and what to do or not do. Everyone's situation and opinion matters because it is real to them. Let us not become judgmental and continue to practice radical acceptance of one another.

If you are able to procure more than you need at home, please purchase wipes and spray and hand sanitizer for the church. You will be reimbursed.

Our construction /expansion underway means we will need to wait for a permit of occupancy before even considering being at church.

As the days press on with the pandemic in the forefront of everything, please remember I am here for you. The prayer ministry people continue to lift you and your loved ones up. Please call me anytime @ 505 635 9076 if you need to simply talk with how you are affected by the changes we are all experiencing.

Remember to go to our [website \(www.churchofoursaviurwm.org\)](http://www.churchofoursaviurwm.org) for lost of wonderful items from the Presiding Bishop and even our recorded services.

I encourage you to say this prayer every morning and know that I look forward to being with you again, so please stay safe! REALLY!

Kerry

Prayer by St. Augustine: (from around the year 400)

O God, from whom to be turned is to fall, to whom to be turned is to rise ...

And in whom to stand is to abide forever—

Grant us in all our duties, Thy help ...

In all our perplexities, Thy guidance ...

In all our dangers, Thy protection ...

And in all our sorrows, Thy peace. *Amen.*



Happy Mother's Day this Sunday.

We wish you a day filled with God's Love, joyful conversations, and fond memories of days past.

COVID-19 Response by the Diocese of Arizona

Currently we are in Phase I and following national and state government directives. Bishop Jennifer Reddall has extended the suspension of public, in-person worship in our congregations until May 25, 2020. Church leaders and vestry have been examining questions that are aimed at what would need to be done in order to follow the guidelines and still have some person to person gatherings.

Next week, the Diocese will be sending out a documents called **“Gathering for Abundant Life; Arizona Churches and Worship during COVID-19”**. These will be the guidelines for congregations moving from Phase I to II. Phase II is limited gatherings of small groups and worship where possible. The document will also envision what activities will need to wait for Phase III. (Phase III will occur when we have a vaccine or a reliable treatment for COVID-19). How and when guidelines are implemented will vary from congregation to congregation.

On either May 12 or 14 (Tuesday or Thursday), Senior Warden Dick Hileman, Father Kerry and Father Brian, will be joining the Bishop and others for a webinar to address the guidelines in “Gathering for Abundant Life” document. Our church leaders will then be able to create a plan for how we can move forward. Obviously, since our building is under construction we not will be able to use it until we have a Certificate of Occupancy. The Vestry will be seeking your concerns and ideas in the coming future.

Bishop Reddall 's top priority is to keep safety first.

Treasurer's Report by Tim Wooley



Month	Collections	Expenses	Balance	Notes
Jan-20	\$ 9,423	\$ 10,099	\$ (676)	Jan 1 Beginning balance was \$40,741
Feb-20	\$ 6,994	\$ 16,422	\$ (9,428)	Includes 2019 Diocesan Mission Share
Mar-20	\$ 11,337	\$ 11,588	\$ (251)	
Apr-20	processing			Transferred \$500 VISA rebate to checking. Donation through VANCO = \$4,633

2020 Clergy Compensation Report Filed with diocese in March 2020

Parochial Report Filed with diocese on 21 April

We applied for a Payroll Protection Program Loan to cover salaries and have been approved.

In this Interesting time, you are being diligent with your contributions. Thank you. The first quarter is always our hardest times. Treat January and March as representative of our needs and giving. February was an anomaly because we had needed extra time at the end of 2019 to close out the books so ended up paying our diocesan contribution/mission share to close out 2019 and to pay January's share all in one month. That doesn't mean ignore February, we must cover those expenses.

More people are using VANCO on the COS website to make donations and pay their pledges. This is good, You can still mail your contributions to the church, or drop them in the top slot of the church mailbox to save yourself postage.

If you receive a stimulus check from the government , it would help if you could tithed a portion to the church. As always your health and welfare come first.

We have been able to pay our bills during this difficult time by dipping into savings.

ChurchofOurSaviourWM.org *by Deb Carroll*



Ever wondering what's going on with the [expansion](#)? Missed last week's [Sunday service](#) on Zoom? Looking for some uplifting news?—try the church's website. Definitely weekly and sometimes daily interesting articles are posted. You can find videos from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry ([Habits of Grace](#)), Bishop Jennifer Reddall ([Living on the Ark](#)) as well as our weekly worship services. The goal of the website is to keep you informed and provide resources to enrich your life.

To find all the recent postings and videos, go to the top right hand side and click "Updates"

Building Expansion Update *by Leroy Johnson*



Exciting progress is being made! The County Construction permit is in hand!

The Polycarp Hall porch, old windows & doors, and the concrete walk have been removed. The new roof trusses ordered will arrive this week. We are watching the old give way to something new during this difficult time of sheltering in place. The 'Silver Lining' is that construction is not interrupting our normal operations while we stay at home and stay safe.

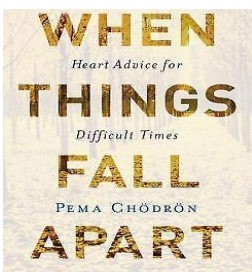
As mentioned in our last update building costs estimated by our contractor reflects costs of approximately \$180,000. The Building Committee expects this amount may rise some as we see things that need to be done during construction. We are dreaming of paving at least the handicap parking spaces and redo the old flooring in the hall to match the new area!

To date, we have approximately \$164,000 in the bank. In addition, we have approval for a bridge loan from the Diocese, if necessary. Pledge amounts for the construction continue to come into the Church. Thank you all for your generous gifts to the exciting Church expansion. Federal Stimulus payments are being received currently. To the extent, you do not need all of your stimulus funds, please consider an additional contribution to COS.

Please contact any member of the Building Committee with questions. Again, thank you for your generous support of this project.

We are adding pictures to the [website](#) weekly documenting the progress of the expansion.

Friday Book Study *by Pamela Johnson*



Beginning in June 2020, our Friday class with Father Kerry will discuss a book written by Pema Chodron, titled "[When Things Fall Apart \(heart advice for difficult times\)](#)."

Pema Chodron is a Tibetan Buddhist nun and a renowned spiritual teacher in the West. In this book, she shows how learning to live in the present develops courage to cope with pain and suffering in daily life, and brings clarity and spiritual change. 'When things are shaky, we are on the verge of something.'" Living in the present allow us to open our hearts and creates opportunities for happiness.

This book is widely available in paperback, new or used.

Gifts for Iglesia San Marcos, Our Sister City *by Barbara Stone*



[Click here to view a video from San Marcos.](#)

In early April, the Church of Our Saviour family and the Medical Team who hold a clinic in San Marcos annually generously donated funds for the purpose of providing foods to the very needy families served by Iglesia San Marcos and the surrounding communities.

Enough money was collected to purchase beans, rice, soap, cooking oil, salt, pasta and tomato sauce, and eggs to fill bags that were distributed to 94 families!

Olga Guadalupe, who coordinates this effort stated, “In the name of this community where I spent my childhood and in the name of every member of this community receiving a bag or not, I thank you. My mom and I are very happy that our friends will receive a little help. From the bottom of my heart thank you. “

This was so successful that a second effort was held to fund groceries and supplies for Mothers Day. An additional \$1,000 was donated. \$200 from individuals who attend COS and \$800 from members of the Honduran Medical Team who live in Tempe and Virginia. Thank all of you who honored Mothers worldwide by donating.

Church of Our Saviour is a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona in communion with the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Here you will find an energized and inclusive community of people seeking God’s transforming presence. The Church of Our Savior is a safe place to connect your spirit and your mind. Please join with us in experiencing Christ’s love as we worship on Zoom.