



OCTOBER 2022

CHRISTIAN CENTER

EQUIP ~ ENGAGE ~ EDIFY

*for the equipping of the saints
for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ
Ephesians 4:12*

Psalm 36:5

Your mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

It has been one full year since our last church newsletter. A lot has happened with my family during this time. My mom passed away from COVID last November and we had my dad, who has Alzheimer's come and live with us until last May. He continues to do fine and is happy. We will celebrate his 90th birthday next month in Arizona.

We helped two of our children, Joanna and Michael, move to Pennsylvania this summer. Joanna just finished her BSN and will be nursing at a women and babies hospital in Lancaster. Michael was hired at Sight & Sound Theatres in the 3D printing and CNC department to make sets for the productions. Thankfully, Sarah is still with us. Marian and I are so blessed and grateful for our children.

We had the honor of officiating at Paul and Evelyn Palaszewski's wedding in New York this last April. Paul was our men's ministry leader for several years and contributed greatly to that ministry. Paul and Evelyn are currently living on the east coast, and we wish them all the best.

In July our dear brother Arne Halvarson went to be with Jesus. Arne and Carolyn have been a tremendous blessing to our fellowship for many years. We miss him and continue to pray for Carolyn and their family.

We are really looking forward to this new season at the Christian Center. Small Groups started up again this past Wednesday. During our time together we discuss how the content of the previous Sunday's message applies to us today. It is a wonderful time of encouraging one another in the faith. Both of our Women's Bible Studies will begin this month, and our Men's Bible Study is returning to a weekly format.

I pray that we all may be encouraged and built up in the faith as we continue to worship and serve the Lord together. It is an honor and joy to be part of this fellowship. May God be praised and pleased as we serve Him together.

God Bless You,

Pastor Steve





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY MARIAN MELLOR

Psalm 96:9 "Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth."

Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

As I was reading through Psalm 96 a couple of weeks ago the phrase, "in the beauty of holiness," stood out to me as I remembered that to be "holy" is to be set apart. Then I thought, "It is beautiful to the Lord that we are set apart to Him, and we are to worship God in the beauty of our set apart-ness." Paul says that our "reasonable service" is to give the Lord our whole selves - serving Him, worshiping Him, with all that we are.

There are several dear souls who are moving away from Borrego Springs who have been beautiful examples of worshiping the Lord in the beauty of holiness, presenting themselves to Him for His service:

Betty Clain has faithfully served in the Children's Ministry for many years - in Children's Church and in Vacation Bible School (VBS) - and it has been an incredible blessing for the children to receive God's word as she shared through her particular gifts and love for Him and them.

Bob and Helia McFalls have also blessed our fellowship in many areas of ministry. I even remember one particular VBS in which they spent hours preparing creative snacks for the children at VBS - it was a BIG undertaking!

Betty, Bob and Helia are beautiful examples to me of how the Body of Christ, serving the Lord together with their particular God-given gifts and talents, fulfill the work of the ministry in a way that glorifies our awesome God.

Thank you, Betty, Bob and Helia! We love you and will miss you tremendously!

Blessings,

Marian



DEREK & LAUREN VISIT
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

MEN'S MINISTRY

BY BOB MCFALLS

1 Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'"

Following on the heels of last season's study of the book of Revelation, the Men's Bible Study Group finished the book of Daniel in September. Daniel is rich in prophesy and symbolism, and provided us with a preview of the coming antichrist revealed to us in our study of Revelation last season.

As always, Joe, Dan and Dennis have fed our stomachs while the teaching team has fed our souls, and the fellowship we share as a group of men is invaluable. In fact, although our meeting starts at 7am, I like to encourage the guys to arrive early to take advantage of this fellowship time.

As most of us desert folks look forward to cooler temperatures and putting the heat of summer behind us, we are also looking forward to the return of our seasonal visitors. This season we are studying the book of Ephesians, written by the Apostle Paul, which can serve as a guide to Christians in any Church around the world. All men of the Church are invited and welcomed.

On a personal note, for those who may not already know, later this month Helia and I will be officially retiring and relocating to Arkansas. The Christian Center is a very unique Church, blessed with a Pastor who is true to God's word and his family who have been such a large part of our time here. Our 14 years here have been filled with learning God's word and growing in our relationship with Him. Although we believe that God is leading us in this move, we will miss our BSCC Church family more than words can express. The friendships we have made will fill our hearts and memories. We have family in the San Diego area and plan to visit whenever we can which will include a stop in Borrego Springs.

One final note: Our time on this earth was once described as being in the living, headed for death, but the truth is, we are in a world of dying headed for life.

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The LORD be with you all." -2 Thessalonians 3:16 NLT



Bob



MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY

WOMEN'S MONDAY EVENING HOME FELLOWSHIP

BY HELIA MCFALLS

Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:" NKJV

A new season is upon us. We completed our Women's evening Bible study during the springtime in May. The hot summer months were filled with each of us reflecting on our own personal devotional and prayer time. Now that Fall is here, new studies will begin!! How exciting to study God's word surrounded by a group of women who love Jesus as they share their own experiences about how good God is and has been throughout their own lives.

Just as the seasons change in nature, they change in our lives, too. For those of you who may not know, Bob and I are relocating to Arkansas. We prayed on our first Sunday here at the Christian Center that our hearts would be knit together with yours, and God answered that prayer, and answered it so well, that it makes this decision even harder.

With bittersweet feelings, I myself, will not be the facilitator of this new study. The baton has now been passed to Susie Simpson and Bonnie Rethoret, beautiful women of God who will use their love, wisdom, and knowledge received from the Lord to share with the evening Women's Bible study.

I have also had the blessing of coordinating the Greeters team after Miss Pat Fordem passed the baton and I must say, becoming a Greeter is a most rewarding experience. It is the perfect way to meet the congregation and serve the Church at the same time. And now, Maggie Walters has agreed to fill that role.

I am who I am today because of our church here in Borrego. I have grown and learned and become passionate about servant ministry through the people I have served and the people who have served me. I realize there is no perfect church, but I tell you this, serving in this church was a privilege and there will never be another church quite like this one. What we have here is unique, it is real, and it is strong!

I asked myself, how do I say goodbye to a Christian family that I have loved for 14 years? The simple answer is, I don't. Bob and I have family living in San Diego that we plan to visit occasionally and no visit to San Diego would be complete without making time to visit our Borrego Church family. There are no true goodbyes in the body of Christ because of the promise our Heavenly Father has made, that we will live with Him in eternity. For me, "see you later" is more appropriate.

Thank you for the love you have shared with us and thank you for being our family!

Love & Blessings,

Helia



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5	Small Groups Begin
October 17	Women's Bible Studies Begin
October 29 4 - 6 pm	Harvest Festival
November 21 5:30 pm	Thanksgiving Dinner



WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

BY DEBIE DILLAHUNT

After a long, hot summer, it is such a joy to gather again for a new season of church activities and Bible studies! Our women's ministry began the season with a Fall luncheon, which was such a special time of fellowship!

On October 17th our women's Bible studies will resume. Our morning group will be going through a wonderful study, The Sermon on the Mount, by Jen Wilkin. We will be delving into the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus begins His teaching ministry. As Jesus shares about the kingdom of heaven, He teaches about what it means to follow Him.

There are some sweet benefits to enjoy by plugging into a Bible study: as we go deeper into God's Word, we learn more of His great love for us, His mercy, His grace, and His plans. 2 Peter 3:18 directs us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; to Him be the glory both now and forever!"

We are living in challenging times! Many are feeling worried and anxious, even depressed. We can so easily get caught up in worrying about our loved ones, our children, our family, and our friends. Studying the Bible and drawing close to God can help us navigate in this fallen world. In Bible study we pray and encourage each other on our walk with the Lord. God's Word is a treasure - so let's be 'treasure seekers!'

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 NIV

Love and Blessings,

Debie



WOMEN'S RETREAT