

# 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*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Doing the right thing the right way.

This is the theme that speaks to me from 2 Samuel 6 that we will be studying this weekend. David is bringing up the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. He is bringing that which represents the presence of God into the center of Israel's national life. But he goes about doing it the wrong way. In failing to have the Levites carry the Ark, the procession is abruptly halted, a man dies, and David leaves angry and afraid.

Our world is much different today than it was this time last year; much different than even six months ago. We need to bring God into the center of our lives, and we need Him in the center of the life of our nation. How we as believers navigate these times is important. We want to do the right thing, and we want to do it the right way. We just need to look to the Lord. As Peter said, He has given us everything we need for life and godliness. We find in God's word the truth, and how to rightly apply that truth. We find what to do, and the right attitude in which to do it.

I encourage you to stay steadfast and consistent in your times of prayer and Bible reading. It is there that we can be filled up with the knowledge of the truth, and then we will be equipped to operate out of the overflow of that truth.

It is with much appreciation that we say thank you to Ryan and Megan as they begin a new chapter with their family. Their fingerprints are on so much of what we enjoy at the Christian Center. But it is so much more than what they have done, it's who they are. They have touched many lives, both young and old, for time and eternity. Their family has been a blessing to me and my family in so many ways. Through their God-given talents they have enhanced this ministry and touched not only the lives of the church Body, but the entire community. May God continue to use them and bless them as they begin to minister in Prescott, AZ.

*Pastor Steve*



We had a celebration of life on June 17th for our brother, **Reed Michka**, who went to be with Jesus. We rejoice that he is out of pain and suffering and is in the presence of his Lord. I want to thank all of the men who stepped in and helped in that very important time in the final days of his life. You are greatly appreciated.



## MEN'S MINISTRY

BY PAUL PALASZEWSKI

Romans 5:3-4 "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Our men have responded to the tribulations of our times by demonstrating great perseverance and refinement of character, setting our hope on the person and promises of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our weekly Zoom video conferences have been well attended with participants from as far away as Canada and Africa. Each meeting begins with breakout group fellowship, moves into a lively and edifying Bible study, and closes with the sharing of our deepest prayer needs. We are continuing to make our way slowly and deliberately through the Gospel of Matthew, taking the time to savor and draw out the richness of every God-inspired verse.

It is with expectant prayers and well-wishings that we send off the youngest member of our Men's group, Pastor Ryan Lynn, as he embarks on a new ministry calling in Arizona. He did an exceptional job of bridging generational differences and effortlessly and effectively relating to our mature body of men. He often remarked on the integral role the men in our group played in shaping his growth as a husband, father, and ministry leader. We want him to know that his contagious enthusiasm, sensitive heart, and discerning spirit have had a lasting impact on us as well.

We also want to acknowledge the passing of our dear brother, Reed Michka. Though his provocative, heartfelt, and often challenging comments are sorely missed, we rejoice that he is now face to face with his longed-for Savior.

Blessings,

*Paul Palaszewski*

Current Meeting Status: 7:00 AM every Saturday morning, social distancing live in the Fellowship Hall, breakfast served, zoom option still available (subject to change)



## WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

BY DEBIE DILLAHUNT

What a joy and blessing it has been to study God's Word together! During this pandemic we've been able to stay in touch via Zoom. Our ladies have joined us from several States, Canada, and even Africa!

We are currently studying the Book of Philippians with a study called Experiencing God's Peace by Elizabeth George. In these troubled and uncertain times, it has been so important to encourage one another with God's Word. Even with the events occurring in our country and the world, we can know there is HOPE - and it's found in Jesus! The hope we have as believers is not a 'wish' but the confidence we have in what God has promised in His Word. Jesus is our LIVING HOPE! Jesus is also our only true PEACE regardless of our circumstances! "For He Himself is our peace," Ephesians 2:14.

In our study, we have recently focused on several people who have been faithful and humble servants for Jesus. Ryan and Megan Lynn have demonstrated these qualities as they have faithfully served here at the Christian Center. They have been such blessings to our church family!

As we prepare to say goodbye to the Lynns, we are so thankful for the amazing gifts they have shared with our church. While we are sad to see them leave, we rejoice with them as God leads them in this new chapter of their lives. An encouraging thought to keep in mind as they leave is that we are truly FAMILY - and that's forever! We love the Lynns! May God bless them richly as they continue to serve Him and shine for Jesus!

"He who calls you is faithful,..." 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Blessings,

Debie

*Debie Dillahunt*





## WOMEN'S HOME FELLOWSHIP

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*BY HELIA MCFALLS*

**"Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19**

I have been encouraged by this verse. It begins with the word, "Behold". Behold, meaning, to stand in awe and be amazed! We all have been taken out of our comfort zone in the past few months, but God does not want us to dwell on the past but be prepared and hopeful for the future. In Philippians 3:13 Paul says, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead." Since the Women's Evening Bible Study has taken the summer off it is my desire that during this time the Lord has revealed to you a new thing that has left you refreshed and ready to serve in whatever capacity you are called. Continue to focus on letting God accomplish His work in your hearts and minds. He has troubled the waters so that we may look to Him and Him only.

It may seem overwhelming when we consider the present circumstances in the world today, but take courage. I am reminded in Ephesians 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." The Bible declares that God has made a way, carved a road to lead us, and positioned rivers of provision to refresh us.

So much is on the horizon, so much lies ahead unknown to us and so many new things God is about to do. Abram comes to mind in Genesis 12:1, "The Lord had said to him 'Leave your native country, your relatives and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you.' God had something new planned for Abram.

That same verse is true today as I think of our Youth Pastor Ryan, his beautiful wife Megan and their precious little ones Addie and Caspian. They are not leaving the country but God has designed something new in Prescott, Az. Everything you have experienced in this season of your life has been preparing you to extend your knowledge and love to others. You prayed to God and He has heard you. Thank you for being so receptive to God's word. I pray that God blesses you richly as you take this journey, meeting every **new thing** He has for you.

I want to encourage us all to keep our minds and hearts open to be prepared to experience what God has in store for us. Lamentations 3:22, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Blessings to All,

*Helia McFalls*



## PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

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*BY PAT OAKES*

The Prayer Quilt Ministry received a tremendous gift from Robert Kaufmann, manufacturer: three large bags of fabric for our quilts. We are most grateful for this blessing, and we could also use some help with the preparation of the quilts, ironing fabric, and tying the quilts.

While rejoicing about our bounty, our hearts are sad due to the fact that Pastor Ryan, our Youth Minister and his wife, Megan, Addie and Cas are moving to Prescott, Arizona. Pastor Ryan always helped to get the labels for the quilts and many other things we needed. We are grateful for his help and we wish them all the blessings connected with this move. Our prayers go with them for their new adventure.

*Pat Oakes*







## YOUTH MINISTRY

BY RYAN LYNN

**John 15:5** "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

If we have seen any fruit in our lives, the lives of our children, or "our ministry," it is a result of firmly abiding in the Giver of life. We deceive ourselves to think that we are capable of producing lasting fruit in our own strength. At times, I have sinfully believed that I deserve credit for His faithfulness in my life. That I deserve an honorable mention in His story. I have

stolen His glory before and I don't want to do it again. He deserves all the glory and honor!

If you have not heard, the Lord has called us out of Borrego Springs to do Youth Ministry in Prescott, AZ at Solid Rock Christian Fellowship. We will be working alongside Pastor Matt Kottman, who was a missionary in England whom we supported for several years. We are excited to see what the Lord has in store for all of us! We are going to miss serving and fellowshiping at the Christian Center very much! Oh, how abundantly faithful He has been to this ministry!

As a result of abiding in Christ there has been much fruit during the past 14+ years of ministry in Borrego Springs. Megan and I were only 12 days married when we started doing Youth Ministry at the Christian Center. We had really no idea what we were doing (and still don't for the most part) but we did know the One who knows every youth perfectly. He was the One who brought transformational impact in these students' lives not us.

We have been privileged to see Him work through 43 summer and winter camps, 12 Truth Quests, 10 years of 5th Quarter, and various other events. We have walked alongside families when they lost loved ones, celebrated marriages, and had children. Several of the students are now parents and raising their children to love Jesus! By far, the most humbling honor for me has been to baptize students over the years. We cherish every single one of these events and divine moments. Great memories were formed but more importantly lasting change was also birthed at these events. These events represent thousands of dollars of investment, hours of prayer, and hours of volunteer work. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for always supporting the Youth Ministry.

But beyond the events and memorable moments at the Christian Center the real blessing has been the people. The Christian Center is way more than just a place of employment, ministry, or community gathering for us. The Christian Center is our family! We just want to thank you for the investment and impact you have made in our lives! We love you all so much!

Thank you to all the leaders who made Youth Ministry so enjoyable. We had the best team of leaders that anyone could possibly ask for. Each one of the leaders added a unique impact that we could have never accomplished without you. I am so excited to see how the Lord will use you in this unique season of transition.

Thank you to all the students who allowed us to grow right alongside with you. From students in 2006 to 2020, you all hold a very special place in our hearts. We remember you and pray for you often. Your lives have been an incredible witness to the transformational power of Jesus! Many of you are leading worship, serving in ministry, have gone to Bible College, have traveled the world for Jesus, are married, raising kids, serving in the military, serving in the community, and the list goes on! We are so incredibly proud of all of you! May we continue to glorify Him in our lives above all else!

To the women in our fellowship, you exude the love of Christ practically. We could not have survived as a family without your support. We have had several health challenges as a family and the women in this fellowship held up our weary arms. I am tearing up now as I think about the ways you were the hands and feet of Jesus to us. We cannot even begin to thank you enough for your tender care for our family.

To the men in this fellowship, I want to thank you for being an example of what it means to be a man of God. When I came to Borrego, I was still learning what it means to become a man of God. The men in this fellowship did not condemn me for my ignorance but empowered me through mentorship. The men in this fellowship have exemplified the meekness of Christ to our family. Thank you for your support and leadership!

We also want to thank the board of elders (2006-2020) for always supporting us in the ministry and as a family. You have always been leaders that were willing to trust God above all else. Your steps of faith have had lasting impact in our community and my family! Your generosity has not gone unnoticed.

Lastly, I want to thank Pastor Steve and the Mellor family for their consistent support of the Youth Ministry and our family. Pastor Steve, you are a perfect example of servant leadership. Thank you for taking the step of faith to bring me to Borrego and extending grace as I grew over the past 14 years. I cannot thank you enough for the numerous opportunities you provided for me to grow as a pastor and as a follower of Jesus. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you for the purpose of lifting His name high! Marian, Joanna, Sarah, and Michael, I know that you know how incredibly special you are to our family. Thank you for always being there for us in every possible way. We love you all so very much.

In closing, I have been thinking about the "success" of the Youth Ministry at the Christian Center. How do you measure success? Whenever I go to a conference, the first question asked is, "How many kids do you have in your Youth Ministry?" Isn't it sad that we judge success by the number of people who walk into a building? But I believe the Lord judges spiritual success by change in the heart of the individual. If we cannot see into the heart of our brothers and sisters then it is not our job to evaluate success. Our responsibility as believers is to faithfully abide in the One who brings fruit. The future success of the Youth Ministry (or any ministry) at the Christian Center will not be dependent on who is leading the ministry but on if they are dependent on Christ leading the ministry. God has done great things and will continue to do great things! Continue to be a faithful church and give Him all the glory! We love you and look forward to you visiting us!

*Pastor Ryan Lynn*





## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY MARIAN MELLOR

**"But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:42**

I am so thankful that we as a church have been able to meet outside since the end of May. Though there haven't always been many, it thoroughly delights my heart to see the children who come with their families. Soon we will not have to be meeting quite so early, and I hope that more families will take advantage of the time to fellowship together on the grass under the shade sails. It creates quite a sweet family atmosphere that is wonderful to share together.

We have been blessed to find a ministry resource that allows us to download activity sheets for the children that correlate with the passages that Pastor Steve is teaching on Sunday mornings. This way children can read along in their Bibles and they can also do word searches, mazes, coloring pages, dot-to-dots, etc. We have a clipboard with a plastic pencil bag that contains two pencils and a small box of crayons for each child. If you haven't come to church on the lawn yet, I hope you will come soon!

The Children's Ministry has definitely been greatly affected by the gifts and talents of Pastor Ryan and Megan Lynn, and by their precious children, Adelaide and Caspian. Ryan and Megan have taught Sunday morning classes as well as groups of Vacation Bible School children. Ryan has also enthusiastically led games, held acting roles, and he and Megan have had fabulous ideas for making Bible times VBS themes come to life. It seems that all Megan needs is some paint and cardboard, and voila! - we can feel like we are in Egypt with Joseph, in Babylon with Daniel, or in a dungeon with Paul.

One of my favorite things about Vacation Bible School is the way we seek to treat each group of children and leaders as a "family group." When we reach the end of VBS week it is sad to leave, but it is such a joy to see each other in the community in the weeks and months that follow. Knowing that the Lynns are heading off to Arizona gives me a similar feeling - part of our church family will be leaving and we will greatly miss them but we are also very excited about their ability to love and serve with others in our "extended family." May God bless you, Ryan, Megan, Addie and Cas! We love and appreciate you!

Blessings,

*Marian Mellor*



Our newest missionary family, **Boaz and Africa** Niyinyumva, are raising money for a car. Boaz is a medical doctor and they are serving in Litein, Kenya. They need around ten thousand dollars. If you would like to contribute to this vehicle for them, you can memo your check "Car for Boaz". Thank you.

### Contact Us

#### THE CHRISTIAN CENTER

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