



The Rincon Mountain MESSENGER

August/ September 2013 Volume 1, Issue 2

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Patriotic Caroling Blessed Residents

On July 7th, over forty people from Rincon Mountain were privileged to sing patriotic songs at care facilities in East Tucson. A part of Rincon's Summer of Service activities, carolers from the church were divided into four groups which visited twelve nursing care facilities. The groups

sang such songs as "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "My Country 'Tis of Thee," and "God Bless America." There was time to interact with the care facility residents and also to pray with them. Several of the residents expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to hear and sing along with these wonderful songs. Hopefully, more events like this will be on Rincon's calendar in the future.



Pastor Phil Kruis visits with a care facility resident.



Emma Cate shares Christ's love

S O S



The Jorg, Sherard, Rodriguez, Craig, and Miner families delight residents with a patriotic tune.

Connect Cart Connections

The Connect Cart is your one-stop opportunity to find out what's going on at Rincon Mountain Presbyterian Church. Just inside the church entrance, the Connect Cart is the place to find out about upcoming church sponsored events and the place to sign up for service projects, Bible studies and mission activities.

If you are new to Rincon, the ladies manning the cart, such as Barb and Brenda, will direct you to Sunday School activities, to the Café for coffee and to other locations. The Connect Cart is the place to pick up a copy of the church directory, our denomination's magazine or a brochure about the Presbyterian Church, PCA.

So make it a point to visit the Connect Cart to keep up with the exciting events happening at Rincon Mountain.



Barb Strothman gives helpful information to Elisabeth Cole at the Connect Cart.



Pastor Phil Kruis

Kruis Korner The Church–Home Partnership

Our vision, Equip to Engage, has no greater impact than in the church-home partnership. Our desire to equip every person who attends Rincon Mountain to be able to engage others with the gospel begins in the home. It is in our 'prayer closet' where we are personally renewed in God's grace through the gospel. It is in our bedrooms and kitchens and dining areas that husbands lead their wives and couples engage each other and sharpen each other in gospel conversations. It is in these vital living spaces that we make disciples of our children through gospel-centered interactions.

Fulfilling our calling to equip our church family to engage others with the gospel necessitates a strong church-home partnership. This partnership comes with inherent responsibilities on both the church and the home.

The church is responsible to provide training, resources, modeling and accountability. The church is committed to provide forums and avenues for every head of household to be trained in having gospel-centered

conversations and living out gospel-driven lives in their homes, communities and work places. We will resource families with what they need for active discipleship in biblical principles and godliness. Modeling what couple devotions and family worship look like will take place for men at special men's gatherings. The Session will hold men and their families accountable in practice and growth through their LIFE groups and shepherding groups.

It is in our 'prayer closet' where we are personally renewed in God's grace through the gospel.

At the same time, the home is responsible to ensure the following takes place consistently in the home: regular time together in God's

word and in prayer; consistent and attentive attendance in worship; sharing at least 10 meals together throughout the week; acts of kindness and service to others; and attending intentional discipleship instruction (Sunday school, youth group, and small groups).

As we each, church and home, commit to partnering together in these ways, we believe we will see significant spiritual growth and intimacy in our families.

New Adult Sunday School Classes for Fall

Sunday School resumes on August 25th with these two wonderful classes offered for adults. Come and be blessed!

2 Corinthians taught by Dan Jorg

This autobiographical letter pours out Paul's personal apostolic ministry from the heart, written with the help of Timothy. It is to the church, including believers throughout the bustling commercial and agricultural area of Achaia that makes up southern Greece, the Peloponnese Peninsula. This epistle is packed with stories, teaching and examples that lead each believer to personal applications as varied as each of our backgrounds, personalities and proclivities. Our intent in this study is for the Holy Spirit through scripture to direct each of us to Jesus, "for all the promises of God find their Yes in him."

The Confessions of St. Augustine taught by Seth Holler

According to Gerald McDermott, St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) has probably been the most influential Christian theologian in history, after the Lord Himself and St Paul. As a rhetorician, teacher, philosopher, priest, and bishop, he was certainly one of the most learned Christian pastors in the early Western church. His voluminous writings include sermons, commentaries, and theological and polemical works. This discussion-based course will take us through a complete reading of Augustine's famous spiritual autobiography, the *Confessions*. Each week we will consider one or two chapters (or "books") from the volume. Towards the end of the class, we'll examine one or two contemporary applications of Augustine's thought. Discussion questions will focus on the book's ideas and devotional character.



Luke Smith, aka "New Luke"

Hey Y'all!

Hey y'all! Let me first just say that Joelle and I feel very blessed to be able to labor with you in gospel ministry at Rincon, and we look forward to years of fellowship and maturing in Christ together. This church has so lovingly welcomed us into the family, and we are honored to be part of the work that God is doing and will continue to do. There are so many things that we are looking forward to as we settle into our new church home that I must limit myself to name just a few.

First, I am eager to work alongside of Phil Kruis. After I got off the phone with Phil for the first time several months ago, Joelle asked me how our conversation went—the first words out of my mouth were "I already like this guy!" In fact, my only two Tucson connections both knew him well and said that if I got a chance to work with Phil then I would be getting one heck of a mentor and pastor. I have already felt that, and I hope you know the treasure you have in your Senior Pastor.

Second, Joelle and I are looking forward to getting to know all of you better. We are both highly relational people—we love having good conversations and hearing all the ways in which God has uniquely fashioned his people and the passions he has set on their hearts. We never pass up the opportunity to break bread with friends, so we look forward sharing meals and stories with you in the days ahead.

Third, Joelle and I have little to no experience with the people and culture of Tucson, much less that of the Southwest, so this is a brand new adventure for us as a young family. We long to see how the Lord might use us to minister to the community around us, to bless and be a blessing to those who are believers and those far off. We long to be a part of the Christ-centered renewal of the hearts of the people of Tucson who are just as desperate for the gospel as we are...and of course, not being used to this desert heart, we look forward to the days when God will bless us with cooler temperatures in winter!

Spotlight On: Alex Churchill

Why did you become a charter member of Rincon Mountain?

Lilias and I had become charter members of Catalina Foothills Church in June, 1995. I was the bloke who stood up at a congregational meeting in 1999 and asked, "When are we going to start a daughter church on the east side?" And so, of course, my bride and I were present for the very first Sunday morning worship service at Magee Middle School on January 7, 2001, and I suppose one could say, charter members upon arrival.



Alex Churchill with Stephanie Whitaker and Galen Fink

How long have you been a part of the PCA?

Since 1969! We became members of a tiny mission church of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod upon arrival in the St. Louis, MO area. That denomination merged into the PCA in 1982. I was ordained an elder in that wee church in 1970.

What is your most meaningful life experience?

*Being born again. I must say that a key factor in my conversion was **hospitality**. First, from a US Navy shipmate, who invited me to join him at his parents' summer cottage on the New Jersey shore after we had been discharged in 1946. It was through his unintended witness that I realized that maybe I should ask God, if there be such, to please reveal himself to me. And so I prayed for that regularly for the next nine months, when I found myself working in a Westinghouse Research Lab under a "Jesus freak" who was quoting scripture at every conceivable opportunity, AND, who, with his wife, were very **hospitable** toward me. Soon I was reading the gospel according to Matthew and bringing in questions every morning, until one day he said, "Well son, your questions suggest that you really believe this stuff!" He was right.*

What is it about Rincon that is important to you?

Life Group — where the Agape River is deep and wide, and its vital tributary, Quickly Forgive, which is free of hidden hazards; sound preaching and Sunday School classes that keep me growing; and the joyful "noises" we, as a body, sing to the Lord.

Are there any special activities that you have been involved with at Rincon?

Yes, being a Life Group leader, being a friend to the young adults (aka teens), and being a friend to our pastors.

What advice do you have for the younger generation concerning their spiritual lives?

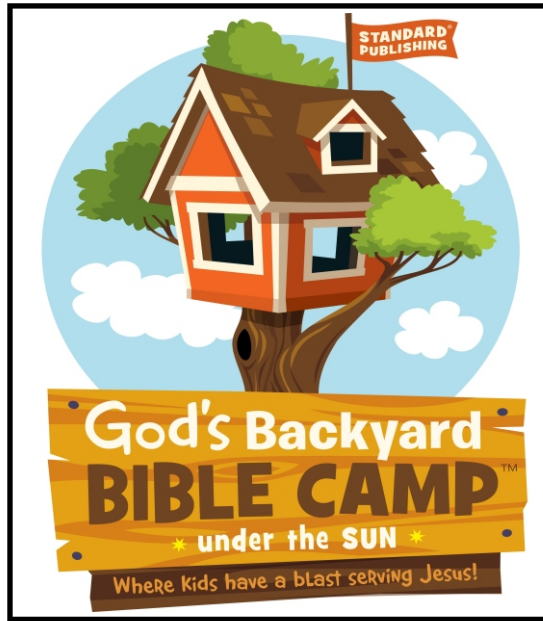
Respect (phileo) your parents as though today might be the last day you will see either one or both. That day will come — let not your most vivid memories about them include regrets. Peter said it so well, "... always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect," (1 Peter 3:15, ESV). Pray, Pray, Pray.

Digging the Summer of Service

On Saturday, July 20th, over twenty members of Rincon Mountain met at McDonald Park to support the regular ground crew in cleanup and restoration projects. Rincon's volunteers spread dirt, raked leaves and picked up trash as part of our Summer Season of Service. Dean, one of the regular ground crew, was appreciative of the help and said that Rincon Mountain's efforts would be welcome at any time.



Paul Marien, Bill Schwind, Ronald Williams, Phil Kruis, and Harvey Jansen digging diligently.



A Great VBS!

We had a great VBS this summer! During the first week in June, over sixty kids joined us to learn about loving God and loving our neighbors. Our theme this year was God's Backyard Bible Camp, and the week focused on service. Throughout the week, the children learned praise songs, made crafts to share with others, played games, experienced Bible stories, and hung out with Cooper, the dog.

The kids were also challenged to serve their families, friends, neighbors, and community. The kids got to

experience serving during VBS by completing different projects to bless their families, the Gospel Rescue Mission, our local fire and sheriff departments, and the VBS volunteers.

We have and will continue to follow up with new friends that we made at VBS though emails and personal phone calls. Thanks again to everyone who helped make VBS a great success. You were a blessing to the congregation and a blessing to the kids!

Fall Kick-Off

Fall Discipleship Kick-off and Summer Season of Service Celebration

Members of all ages are invited and encouraged to join us Sunday, August 18th at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. We will celebrate the service that was accomplished during the summer months and focus on the greatness of God with the new fall theme of "Magnitude." Our time will end with an opportunity for members of all ages to preview their Sunday School classes and to meet their teachers.

All Sunday School Resumes August 25th

*See page 3 for a full description of the Adult Sunday School Classes being offered.

Children's Sunday School (Kindergarten to 5th Grade)

These classes will meet in the Ebenezer (K-2nd) and Canaan (3rd to 5th) rooms near the nursery. This fall our unit of study will complement the sermon series as the kids explore questions and answers about God, who He is, and how we relate to His people. We will use a workshop rotation model where each lesson is taught through a variety of experiential methods including games, drama, crafts, science, music, and cooking. Please prayerfully commit to having your children be part of this important discipleship ministry.

Preschool Sunday School

This class will meet in the toddler nursery. In order to participate in this class your child needs to be three years old and potty-trained. Please prayerfully commit to having your children be part of this important discipleship ministry.

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Find us online! www.rinconpres.org

Calendar

WEEKLY

Wednesdays:

- Staff Prayer, 3 pm. *Phil Kruis*
- High School Group, 7 pm. *Carmen Lyon*
- Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm. (beg. Aug. 28th) *Luke Smith*

Thursdays: Women's Study, 7 pm. *Becca Blunk*

Fridays: Mountain Men Study, 6:30 am. *Phil Kruis*

AUGUST

Sun. 11th: Fellowship Lunch,
12 pm. *Paul Marien*

Tues. 13th: Women's Center
Meal. *Gale Brown*

Sun. 18th: Fall Kickoff,
9:30 am. *Shelley Kruis*

Sun. 25th: Sunday School
resumes, 9:30 am.
Luke Smith

SEPTEMBER

Sun. 1st: Fellowship Lunch,
12 pm. *Paul Marien*

Sun. 8th 22nd: Evening
Service, 5:30 pm. *Luke Smith*

Tues. 10th: Women's Center
Meal. *Gale Brown*

Sun. 15th: Visitor Lunch,
12 pm. *Shelley Kruis*