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Hope in the Crucible

“Refined by Fire, Restored to Hope” was the theme of this year's Women's Retreat. On October 4th and 5th, sixty women gathered at the beautiful Windmill Inn at St. Philip's Plaza for a weekend of fellowship and renewal. The women enjoyed delicious food, uplifting worship in song, encouragement from testimonies of hope, and meaningful moments of vulnerability as they shared about their struggles.



A room full of God stories

The speaker for the weekend was Biblical Counselor Gini Larsen. Gini grew up in Tucson, and now counsels for Christian Family Care in Phoenix. Her message was sobering—we will all face the crucible of testing, and encouraging—God is present in and working out His perfect purpose through our suffering. Gini offered encouragement that God is writing a story in each of our lives,

and that the best stories are filled with nail-biters.

The theme verse for the weekend was 1 Peter 1:6-7,

“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” (NIV)



Women's Retreat Committee with speaker Gini Larson.

The wrap-up session of the weekend gave practical advice on resting in Jesus. Gini suggested prioritizing faith, family and friends and creating a personalized “retreat in a box.” She offered a list of practical ideas for creating Biblical rhythms of work and rest in our daily lives. Refreshed and renewed, attendees left the retreat encouraged to face their struggles with patience and hope and equipped to carve out times for Sabbath rest.

Trunk or Treat

Who: Trunk or Treat is for all Rincon members and our community.

What: This will be an evening of fellowship and trick-or-treating fun. The kids will love getting their candy, and we will get to see how cute they are. We also hope that this will provide an opportunity for us to have conversations with people in our community.

When: Thursday, October 31st from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Rincon Mountain Parking Lot

Why: We want to host a safe and welcoming event on our campus for families in our community.

How: We need Rincon members to host trunks. Bring your lawn chairs, candy, and welcoming smiles. Decorating your trunk is encouraged, but not required. There will be a prize for the best trunk! Sign-up to host a trunk in the church office or by emailing Victoria at victoriawates@gmail.com



Pastor Phil Kruis

Kruis Korner *Transition and Change*

My first whitewater rafting experience was on the Colorado River at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. I was eager with anticipation-until I heard the roar of the rapids up ahead. Then I experienced a wide range of emotions I didn't expect: uncertainty, fear, and insecurity at the same time. Riding through the whitewater was a first-rate, white-knuckle experience! And then, suddenly, it was over. The guide in the back of the raft had navigated us through. I was safe—at least until the next set of rapids.

Transitions in church life—like the transitions in our lives—are like whitewater. Rincon Mountain Presbyterian Church is about thirteen years old. Could it be that we're going through puberty? Remember all those changes? You couldn't pay me to go through those years again.

Transition and change happen. They are part of life. Transition and change can present certain benefits. It is during times of transition and change that we often experience significant growth—think of puberty! During this time of significant staff changeover, we've experienced growing pains like never before. While we are excited and eager with anticipation, we're also being challenged in our faith to trust that God will use the new staff to minister to our flock

and to the community in ways we never even expected or imagined.

Times of transition and change bring fresh ideas. I can't count the number of times I've already said, "That's a great idea!" during staff meeting or individual meetings with staff members. That is because these new staff members bring a whole new set of gifts to our church. Their experience and knowledge comes from very unique and interesting pasts with a wide variety people and organizations.

Times of transition and change can present challenges. "We've never done it that way before," may put words to what we feel. There will be differences in how things are done. Activities may take on a new look and practices may receive a new and different emphasis. Some characteristics will be dropped and new features added. The culture or 'feel' of our church may change.

While change is always difficult, the constants provide security. Knowing there is calm water after the rapids gives hope and rest. With God not just in your raft but the raft itself, we find that we are not in danger and we are not alone. Keep your eyes on the One who is navigating the rapids. He's taken lots of others through before. Smooth waters are just ahead.

Nursery Ministers to the Youngest Among Us

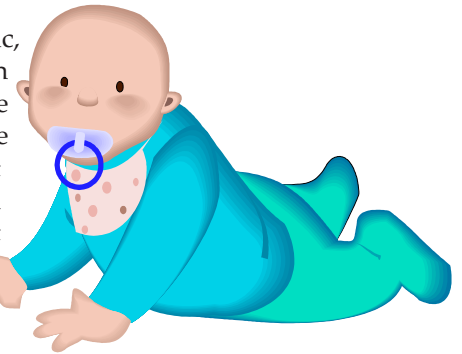
On any given Sunday you will find the back hall near the Ebenezer Room crowded with strollers, toddlers and parents as little ones are dropped off to be cared for in the nursery. The mission of Rincon's nursery ministry is to make children's first impressions of church happy ones and to provide a healthy and safe environment for them while they are in Rincon's care.

Linda Anibal has been in charge of Rincon's nursery ministry since the church's inception almost 13 years ago. She hasn't tired of the dirty diapers, scattered toys and Cheerios underfoot, though. "I love serving the parents and children and providing a place for them and getting to know them," she says.

While parents worship and study Scripture, nursery volunteers care for and entertain infants and toddlers up to age three. Rincon has been extremely blessed to have Sylvia Gutierrez, a state-certified childcare provider, serving as the paid nursery worker during the worship hour for the past year. She is responsible for the nursery "dirty work" such as diaper changing and cleaning the toys, leaving congregational volunteers the enjoyable task of playing with the children.

Right now, the nursery is in need of more volunteers, especially to help during the Sunday School hour. Four adult volunteers are needed each Sunday, along with a youth volunteer for the worship hour. On a typical Sunday, there will be 3-5 children in the nursery during Sunday School and about a dozen during worship service. Volunteers need only to fill out a church application, which includes a background check, and to read and sign a nursery guidelines form. They will then be scheduled to help once every two months. Though not officially scheduled, volunteers are appreciated during the evening service as well.

If you are enthusiastic, enjoy playing with kids, and would like to volunteer to serve our youngest covenant children in the nursery, contact Linda Anibal at (520)298-3356 or lanibal@cox.net



Pastor Luke Smith

Hey Y'all!

A question the Holy Spirit has been putting on my heart lately is simply this, "Who's coming to dinner?"

God calls us to actively participate in his mission, and inroads to that gospel transformation originate through gaining relational capital within one's various communities. Though sometimes these associations are initially made through social settings and functions, they are often further developed through things like a simple invitation to one's home for dinner—it can be very easy to limit God's missional work to formal events on a church calendar.

Participation in God's call for us to bless and be a blessing is intended to reveal who God is, and thus, who he designed us to be—we are made in the image of God, whereby we express his glory relationally. When churches merely think of themselves as places where people come to worship a couple times a week, then the

mission to which the church has been called gets lost in translation. The Lord dwells not in houses made of stone but in his Body that is made of many parts—everyone plays a unique role in advancing his kingdom throughout our broken communities.

Did you know that approximately one-fifth of the times Jesus speaks in the Gospels is either just prior to, in the middle of, or after a meal? The imagery shouldn't be lost on us—we must look to those who are starving for the hope of the gospel, and feed them. Wherever God has placed us, that is our mission field. God works through interactions in office cubicles, classrooms, grocery stores, and coffee shops, just as he does through formal church activities. And we must remember that our communities are not just comprised of those outside the church, but the family within.

So who's coming dinner?

Spotlight On: Brenda Wiersma

What is your church background?

I was raised in a Christian home. My life was filled with Christian role models, my parents being the most influential. They sacrificed much to send my 5 siblings and me to a Christian school from kindergarten through high school. As an infant I was baptized in the First Christian Reformed Church of Wellsburg, Iowa. As a teen I became a communicant member of Second Allendale Christian Reformed Church in Allendale, Michigan. Dave and I continued in the CRC tradition until 3 years after we moved to Tucson in 1982 when we joined a local Bible church. In 1997 we joined Catalina Foothills Church because of the Christian school that they were beginning.

What first brought you to Rincon Mountain?

Dave and I were attending Catalina Foothills Church when RMPC began. We chose to join the church plant because we felt that the group that was forming it was a better fit for our family.

In what ways have you been involved in ministry at Rincon?

I have been involved in many different areas over the years. Women's ministry including WIC President, Sunday School teacher, choir member, Building Committee member, Property Committee member which includes Interior Design subcommittee, nursery attendant, office sub, prayer card typist, Connect @ Rincon Committee member, mercy ministry, greeter and connect cart.

What are the responsibilities of being head of the church interior design committee?

We are always looking for ways to improve the environment and aesthetics of our campus to make it more inviting, welcoming and conducive to worship and furthering of our vision "Equip to Engage."

Were there any particular challenges to furnishing/decorating our church building when we first moved in?

It was hard to know exactly what we needed because we had never had a place to call our own. We asked each ministry to put together a wish list. From there it was a matter of choosing furnishings that fit into our budget. The hardest part was saying no to well-meaning folks who wanted to donate their old furniture and household items, most of which was not appropriate for a church.



Brenda Wiersma

Looking to the future, what changes, if any, would you like to see to the church building?

There are a few things in the works now that will hopefully come to fruition in the near future. I am working with Cindy Visser on an ongoing project involving the Narthex. It began with the remodel of the welcome center area, paint, bulletin boards and an art gallery. The next phase will include improved signage. There is a group of talented Quilters who are planning to make some banners for the sanctuary. It is also my strong desire to see an upgrade to the exterior entrance area, including a shade structure along the east side of the building. Then there is the kitchen. Anyone who has worked in our kitchen knows that it could use a little tweaking. I would also like to complete several items that were cut from the original plan because of their expense, such as the kitchen upper cabinets and appliances, office storage and work area.

If women would like to become involved in this area of service, whom should they contact?

Both men and women are welcome to help on the committee. They can call or email me. I am currently looking for help reorganizing the kitchen. We will also be decorating for Christmas sometime during the Thanksgiving weekend. So if you like to put up ornaments, bows and trees please let me know.

The Art of Worship



Pastor Luke Smith directs the choir in leading worship.

by Pastor Luke Smith

The art of leading worship requires an ability to hold an array of theological, music, and resource factors in a fine balance. The following provides some important insight into Rincon's worship:

Worship Leaders

God has gifted us with men and women who are skilled in leading music both instrumentally and vocally. However, our resources are VERY LIMITED and have dwindled in recent months to low levels. We need those in the Body willing to step up and help us accomplish what we all value in musical worship. The more people participating in Sunday worship rotations, the more opportunity our devoted worship leaders will have to rest and worship well within the Body.

Our choir ensemble also plays a unique role in worship to communicate the beauty of God through musical art that spans the ages. All are welcome and invited to join our

ensemble in glorifying God through vocal leadership in worship and special music.

Liturgical Function of Music

Worship music serves the liturgy, and not vice versa. This is the most fundamental principle for selecting songs for corporate worship. Songs for congregational singing must enable the people of God to participate as one body in responding actively and appropriately to God in all the various ways that the Lord serves us in the liturgy. Songs function in various ways to praise/thank, confess sin, offer ourselves in service to God, profess our faith, etc.

Thematic Arc of Music

Selecting songs that contain words, images, and themes in the liturgical season, Scripture reading(s), and sermon bring coherence to the liturgy and make the whole service a unified act of proclamation of and response to God's word.

Musical Styles and Genres

It is helpful to maintain a balance of different musical styles/genres each week as much as possible. There are unique strengths and weaknesses to songs in each style/genre, and maintaining some variety lends freshness and a wider musical and emotional palette through which the church can respond to God. Each of us have different worship preferences and experiences and, while there is no formula, we try to avoid falling into extremes of singing virtually all classic hymns or all RUF folk tunes or all popular Christian songs in any one service on a consistent basis. We want to pattern after Eph. 5:19 in singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. While Rincon employs spoken portions of psalm texts for many functions (e.g., call to worship, call to confession, declarations of forgiveness, etc.), the psalms are fundamentally songs to sing in their entirety, which we will try to incorporate where it makes sense.

Missions Update

by Jim Collins

The Missions Committee has secured the week in July 18-25, 2015, for a missions trip to Honduras. There were no openings in 2014. The Missions Committee will make inquiries with our current missionaries in Africa, Italy, Thailand, Chile and Brazil to determine if there are possibilities for a mission trip in 2014.

Due to the sale of the Mt. Lemmon property, the Missions Committee received a generous 10% (\$7,500) of the proceeds. The Missions Committee agreed with the Session for \$5,000 to go to Holy Cross Presbyterian Church in Marana toward the purchase of their building.



Ben Castaneda

A Word...or Two

First off, I would like to thank Rincon Mountain Presbyterian Church for welcoming my family (my beautiful wife Bethel and our son Jonathan) and me with open arms! We've been overwhelmed by your generosity and your efforts to help us get settled. I never expected such a shower of love on us from so many folks we barely knew! It's truly a privilege to get to serve you alongside Luke and Phil, and I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you better.

Second, I'm excited to share with you a little about what's going on with the Youth & Family ministry and College & Career! As Phil mentioned in the last newsletter, we're committed to building a partnership between the church and the home. One of the key places this happens is the

Youth & Family ministry. We want to be a resource, not just by providing Sunday School and Wednesday night activities, but also by offering classes and organizing events that build the whole family.

Plans for the future include a discipleship group for fathers and a class on peacemaking in the home. We're encouraging family participation on the 2014 summer mission trip. Something we're doing right now is offering dinner every Wednesday evening just before youth group as a way to encourage families to spend time together. If you'd like to help provide food for this important ministry, please let me know!

College & Career-age folks are sometimes overlooked by the body of Christ, which is something we don't want to happen at Rincon! This is something we're just getting off the ground, so there's still a lot of work to be done. Currently this group is meeting the second and fourth Friday of each month. Contact me for details.

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Calendar

WEEKLY

Mondays:

- Women's Study, 1 pm. *Janie Craig*
- Men's Study, 7 pm. *Grant Brown*

Wednesdays:

- Staff Prayer, 3 pm. *Phil Kruis*
- Youth & Family Group, 7 pm. *Ben Castaneda*
- Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm. *Luke Smith*

Thursdays: Women's Study, 7 pm. *Joelle Smith*

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

2nd & 4th Fridays: College & Career Dinner & Devotion, 6:30 pm. *Ben Castaneda*

OCTOBER

Sun. 13th: Pastor Luke Smith ordination, 10:30 am. *Luke Smith*

NOVEMBER

Sun. 3rd: Fellowship Potluck, 1 pm. *Shelley Kruis*

DECEMBER

Sat. 7th: Women's Cookie Exchange, 9 am.

Wed. 11th: Youth Christmas Party, 6 pm. *Ben Castaneda*

Sun. 15th: Church Christmas Party, 5:30 pm. *Doris Sorensen*

Tues. 24th: Christmas Eve Service, 6 pm. *Phil Kruis*