

VOL. 26 - ISSUE 6 • JUNE

THE SCROLL

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CHURCH OF THE MASTER PC(USA)



FROM PASTOR BEN

BY THE REV. DR. BENJAMIN D. SELLER

Change is a hard subject for all of us, no matter how adaptable we think we may be in our lives. All people have routines, even if they don't realize it. There are rhythms to how we go about our day. You may be a person who hits the ground running the moment you awaken. I would be part of that camp. These days, I wake up at about 4:30, and I am out of bed within 10-15 seconds. There is no checking my phone or wiping the sleep from my eyes. I get right out of bed. I also must brush my teeth before I do anything. I can't stand even drinking water before I brush my teeth. These are routines, and if I try to change them, I would feel "off." Probably both mentally AND physically.

Now, these are routines that could be changed and wouldn't shatter our worlds. May be annoying and getting used to, but most of us could adapt. Other changes can shatter us. Obviously, the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, or our identity being stolen. Those would all be really hard on varying levels.

I think about change as Christians in what it means to be part of the church. No two churches are alike, but there can be some constants that bring us comfort. Take for example the doxology, "Praise God from whom all..." You might have even begun to sing the tune when you heard those words. There is comfort in where this is placed in worship. In a world of constant change, some things bring us great comfort. It reminds us that we are worshipping God, and these words and music in praise to God can remind us of a Triune God who is ever present. It also connects us to the past, a real tangible link.

In the church, I like to think about transitions as opposed to change. Change itself often happens almost instantaneously. However, our process of dealing with that change can take much longer. We've lived through this when COVID shut everything down in March 2020. Everything changed all at once. Shopping, medical care, work, church gatherings, social connections, etc. This adjustment process takes longer and is more intense for bigger changes, but all change requires a process.

I often wonder where God is leading us as a church, and it gets me excited because in the end it is about what God did and is doing. I just finished watching the original episode of "Hour of Power" on YouTube from 1970. Robert Sculler was a Reformed Church of America (RCA) pastor who was not afraid of trying things. Now, we are not going to build the Crystal Cathedral in Mesa, but it does get me to wonder at times. God, where are you leading us?

See you in worship,
Pastor Ben

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THE SCROLL

PAGE 01



HIS WORK, OUR HANDS

We are a community built on the love of Christ here at Church of the Master. Take a moment to review the four Pillars of Ministry that support our House of Worship. Within each, you will find just a few of the active, diverse ministries we embrace. For more information, call the office to connect with each ministry leader.

MINISTRIES OF THE MASTER

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

Christian Education
Paul Martin

Family Ministry
Sydney Prinster

Men's Bible Study
Wayne Woodland

Presbyterian Women
Sue Christie

Redemption Homeless
Outreach
Keith Downs

Stephen Ministry
Carol Story
Chuck Holland

Sustainable Hope Earth
Care Ministry
Erin M. Rausch

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

Bereavement Ministry
Rev. Dr. Ben Seller

Faith, Activity,
Nutrition FAN
Fran Caldwell

Historical Society
Lee Mason

Medical Supply Ministry
Beth Woodland

Midweek Supper Team
Fran Caldwell

Needlers Ministry
Heather Ceasar

Out To Lunch Bunch
Bruce Long
LaVonne Wellborn

PARTNERSHIP MINISTRIES

Agape Brass

C.A.N.
Beth Woodland

Co-Dependents
Anonymous

Faith Christian School

Maranatha Community
Church

Missions Ministries
Judy Youngren

Montlure Camp

Presbytery of the
Grand Canyon

Staying Alive: CPR & First
Aid Training

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

A/V Ministry
Gary Wellborn, Ted
Martin

Bells of the Master
Handbell Ministry
Dr. Nathan Arch

Chancel Choir Dr.
Nathan Arch

Chancel Guild
Ministry
Diane Windish
Margie Van Roekel

Communion
Preparation Ministry
Kathy Holland

Greeters & Ushers
Ministry
Heather Ceasar

Welcome
Outreach Ministry
Barb Cooley
LaVonne Wellborn

HOLY BIBLE



DEACON'S CORNER

I want to live like a sheep! Please note, I didn't say that I wanted to BE a sheep. No way! Sheep are among the dumbest of all the farm animals. Even chickens are smarter! Many sheep have a very short lifespan and end up as someone's burnt offering as in Jesus' day or as someone's Sunday dinner. And with the temperatures we endure here, who would want to wear a heavy, wool coat most of the time? So "no" to being a sheep.

Back to living like a sheep. There are lots of biblical references to sheep and their shepherds. And, overall, the sheep lived pretty well. The shepherd knew his flock well. He knew where to find the best grass for them, even though herding them from one place to another must have been difficult. He stayed awake at night to protect them from predators, even endangering his own life to do so. His voice calmed them - think of David's songs. And if a sheep was lost, the shepherd would make every effort to find it. As long as the sheep trusted their shepherd and followed him, everything was well and good.

Now you see where I'm going with this. We are sheep with a Great Shepherd! He provides us with all that we need. He protects us and calms our fears. All we have to do is trust Him and then follow. And like real sheep, we aren't always very smart about all of this. We make stupid blunders and make a mess out of things. But our Good Shepherd seeks us out to bring us back into the fold. He doesn't label us as a "black sheep" but, instead, forgives us and loves us even more. Then there was the time when our shepherd was killed. But we didn't become a lost and doomed flock. He rose again to be with us as our Forever Shepherd. There isn't anything out there, at any time, that our Shepherd can't handle. So living like a sheep can give you great confidence and peace of mind!

Here's another thought...maybe we should consider becoming more like the dedicated and obedient sheepdog to assist the Shepherd in carrying out His commands???

Food for Thought: "Learn to keep close to Jesus, listen to His voice, and then follow Him" Billy Graham

In other words, live like a sheep!

In His service with love,

Fran



DOLLAR\$ AND \$ENSE

A Quick Note from your Finance Team

Just a quick request for your help! To ensure the safety and security of your gifts to the Church, our bank is asking for us to confirm any checks written are made out specifically to the church as the example below shows. Our accounts are titled in the church's full name: Church of the Master.

We would ask that if any check written is to be given to restricted funds, that the name of the ministry or purpose for the funds be included in the Memo line only, not the Payee line.

Additionally, the church cannot deposit any checks intended for CAN or Christian Assistance Network. They are their own 501(c)3 with their own individual tax id number.

Lately, we have had several checks rejected by the bank due to incomplete dates, incomplete dollar amounts written out, and to incorrect Payee/church names listed.

Thank you for helping us ensure your gifts are going exactly where you want them to go!

1000

May 1st, 2026

Pay to the Order of **Church of the Master** \$100

One Hundred Dollars and No Cents (00/cents) Dollars

For **Ministry Name/Purpose** **Account Holder's Full Name**

1000

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Stephen Ministry Care

Each of us has times when we are lonely, grieving, hurt, or in need of care. Our congregation has a group of Stephen Ministers skilled in caring for those facing challenges in their lives. They have undergone extensive training to develop and nurture their caring skills and are working with people who are experiencing many different kinds of crises.

Who might receive care from a Stephen Minister? Care receivers may be hospitalized, grieving the death of a loved one, homebound, undergoing financial stress, or experiencing many other kinds of life difficulties. They may be members of our church, or friends, neighbors, and co-workers without any church home.

Think about your life and the lives of the people around you. Are you, or is someone you know, going through a time of crisis or challenge? The care of a Stephen Minister may be exactly what's needed to help bring Christ's healing. If you or someone you care for could benefit from the care and compassion of a trusted and confidential companion, we encourage you to reach out to us Stephen@CotmMesa.org or 480-985-1660 ext 1.

Caring that changes lives

"Love one another as I have loved you." John 13:34

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



A Reminder! Barb Cooley will finish the final three lessons in “Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ” this summer, meeting on **the 2nd Monday at 1 PM in the Choir Room (June 8, July 13 & Aug 10)**. All are welcome to attend!



Did you know? Presbyterian Women is the women’s organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Presbyterian Women (PW) is an inclusive and caring community of women, committed to working toward God’s promise of wholeness for all people. For more than 200 years, Presbyterian women have affirmed God’s particular call to women of all ages, races and backgrounds to be involved in ministry and mission through the PC(USA) in service to the Lord Jesus Christ. Through local and regional organizations, Presbyterian Women seeks to build an inclusive, caring community that nurtures women in their faith, creates bonds of fellowship across generations, and works for justice and peace through a diversity of national and global initiatives.

ALL WOMEN HERE ARE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!

We’d love you to join us for Bible study, Fellowship & missions
Fill out an interest form at the narthex pw table with times & days
that work for you!



Join us in celebrating our friends!

Marty Mattes - 6/3
Sarah Harrison - 6/4
Judy Johnson - 6/5
Findley Seller - 6/5
Matt Hayball - 6/7
Agnes Cruz - 6/10
Darlo Hartshorn - 6/12
Bert VanderWaal Jr. - 6/12

Brynlee Murray - 6/13
Judy Muth - 6/14
Erin Rausch - 6/15
Frannie Bear - 6/18
Peggy Waggoner - 6/18
Henry Lukes - 6/23
Dave Ford - 6/26
John Speidel - 6/27



ANNOUNCEMENT

Special Music Event

Join us in the sanctuary on Sunday, July 5 at 11:00am for a special concert featuring two piano quartets (piano, violin, viola, cello). This event is free to attend and is made possible by a generous donor.

Support for the Genesis Project

You can earn community rewards that benefit the Genesis Project just by shopping at Fry's and using your rewards card. Enrolling is easy!

- Sign in on the Fry's website or app
- Under My Account, choose Community Rewards
- Search for Genesis Project

Out to Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is going Mediterranean this month! It will be held on June 25 at 11:30am at the popular M.V.Pita restaurant (1066 N Power Rd #103). The private room has been reserved, which can seat up to 30 people. Check out their menu online at mvpita.com. Call Jim Trupe with questions: 480-217-9356

A signup sheet will also be on the welcome table in the narthex.

