April 2025 – Volume 14 | Issue 4

n Touch

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church

Jackie Miles | Elder of Outreach



The FHPC Outreach committee is very pleased that one of our church's very active members, Shawn Uphoff, who had the foresight to begin the parking lot sales, now known as Presby Pickins', (a major fundraiser for our church) has received another honor from the community of Fountain Hills.

As an active volunteer with the Fountain Hills public school system, Shawn is program manager for the F.H. Protect Our Youth Coalition, and has spent many hours helping to establish a program to encourage our town's youth to say "no" to the use of drugs and narcotics.

As a result, Shawn was selected to receive the 2025 Hometown Hero award at last week's annual FH Community Foundation Flutter at the Fountain celebration.

Congratulations, Shawn! And thank you for your many volunteer hours on behalf of our town's youth!

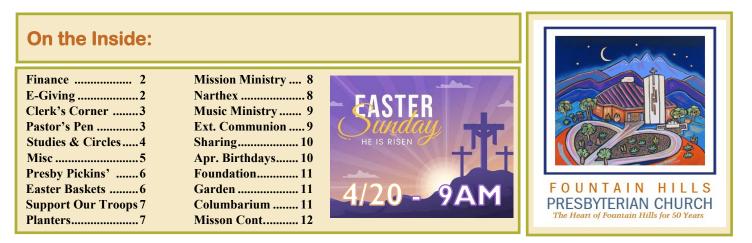
On another note, several church leaders in Fountain Hills supported the Look Up celebration in Fountain Park on March 22nd which featured Will Graham, grandson of the late evangelist Billy Graham. Families gathered in the park at 1 p.m. to enjoy games, and a much larger crown joined in at 6



p.m. to hear Rev. Graham preach. Live music was a big feature of the event.

The Sonoran Woodwind Quintet performed a wellattended concert at FHPC Sunday afternoon on March 16h. The event was free and open to the public, but donations were gratefully accepted. According to quintet oboist and FHPC member Patti Bakes, the \$1,056.00 collected from concert-goers, plus additional funds donated by Missions, Men's Fellowship, and Presby Pickins", resulted in a donation of \$2,556.00 to the Fountain Hills Mary Elllen & Robert Mckee branch of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Scottsdale. These funds will provide financial assistance to families for the cost of Daycare.

- Jackie Miles, Elder



In Touch | April 2025

OUR STAFF Rev. Dr. Bob Simmons Transitional Pastor bsimmons@fhpresby.org

Eric Williamson office@fhpresby.org

> Linda Lull Treasurer

Debbie Fisher Director of Music

Dorothy Parris Pianist

Steve Trommer Custodian

CHURCH SESSION

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Susan Titus, Moderator Jean Linzer Suzanne Ottoson Class of 2027

13001 N. Fountain Hills Blvd, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 www.fhpresbyterian.info

Focus on Finance | 2025

February Income	\$ 44,464	Budget	\$ 38,417
February Expenses	\$ 31,711	Budget	\$ 40,905
YTD Income	\$ 71,008	YTD Budget	\$ 76,834
YTD Expense	\$ 66,464	YTD Budget	\$ 80,310

Finance Report | Linda Lull, Treasurer



The church's finances are in great shape. We continue to monitor expenses and have managed to keep them below budget. This helps build a cushion in the operating fund in case of unexpected expenditures. We appreciate your ongoing support through your pledges and contributions to the missions and ministry of our church. Don't forget that there are tax advantages to using Qualified Charitable Distributions for donations. If you're considering this option, your financial advisor can help.

FHPC eGiving is Safe and Easy



FHPC offers church members and supporters a convenient way to express their generosity online through our eGiving portal. To get started, sign up today at <u>www.fhpresbyterian.info</u>. Look for the Giving Box image at the top right or click "Giving" in the top menu.

from your phone. For instructions, please refer to the eGiving Help section.



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FHPC publishes *The Weekly*, Sunday Worship, News Flashes, and other communications electronically. Subscribe on our website at <u>www.fhpresbyterian.info</u> or contact the office at 480-837-1763 or by email at office@fhpresby.org.



Love God – Love People – Make Disciples



Clerk's Corner | Jack Reynolds



As we enter the season of Easter, a time of renewal and new beginnings, we celebrate the hope and joy that the resurrection brings to our lives and our church community. After the solemn journey of Lent, we now rejoice in Christ's triumph over death and the promise of new life.

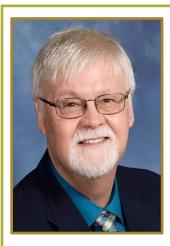
I'm thankful for the faithful service of our elders, deacons, and all those who continue to guide us in our mission. Your dedication strengthens our fellowship and outreach, and I am deeply grateful for your contributions.

As we continue this season of resurrection, let us focus on the opportunities to serve, grow in faith, and share God's love with one another. The joy of Easter reminds us that, together, we can face all challenges with hope and grace.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to making Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church a beacon of love, hope, and fellowship.

Jack Reynolds—Clerk of Session

From the Pastor's Pen | Rev. Dr. Bob Simmons



As we move into April, I will continue with my series of sermons on the life of Jesus. Plan to join us each Sunday as we **"Meet Jesus: The Greatest Life Ever Lived."**

-Pastor Bob

April Sermons:

April 6	"Jesus Stands Before Pilate" Scripture: John 18:28-40
April 13	"Jesus Enters Jerusalem as King" Scripture: Luke 19:28-44
April 20	"Jesus Is Risen!" Scripture: Matthew 28:1-15
April 27	"The Ascension of Jesus" Scripture: Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:6-11

Attention: It has come to our attention that some members have received fraudulent texts and emails appearing to be from Pastor Bob, requesting money, help, or donations. Please know that I will never contact you in this manner. If you receive such communication, it is a scam—please delete it immediately and consider blocking the sender for your safety. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to the church office directly. *Thank you.*

After Worship Bible Class

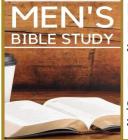
Join us every Sunday after services as we continue our study on "Who is the Holy Spirit?" Enjoy a 25-minute video presentation by Dr. Sinclair Ferguson, followed by discussion. Grab some coffee and head to the Fireside Room at 10:20 AM—we'd love for you to be part of this time of learning and fellowship!

Last Wednesday Lenten Vespers - April 9, 6:00 PM

Seder Ceremony with Rabbi Jack Zimmerman -Tuesday of Holy Week, April 15. Dinner begins at 5:30. Cost for the Dinner is \$10 person. There will be a free will offering for Reigning Grace Ranch. This service will also include Holy Communion.

Good Friday Service, "The Stations of the Cross" - Friday, April 18 at 12 noon.

Men's Bible Study Don Carillo



Men's Bible Study Group continues weekly every **Monday at 8:30am** in the Fireside Room. We hope to learn and gain a greater understanding of the New Testament and apply it to our daily lives.

If you have any questions, please contact Don Carillo at 480-694-3025 or <u>carillofamily8@gmail.com</u> We would like to see our small but steady group grow and all are welcome to attend! Thanks, Don

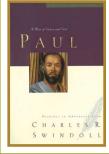
Women's Bible Study Jeanette Simmons & Janet Scaggs



Dig Into The Word! It is so important to get involved in a ladies bible study; to study God's Word, to connect with other women, and to enjoy fellowship and sharing. We offer several Women's Bible Studies—Morning, Afternoon, and Evening. The evening Women's Bible study will begin a brand new study of the Women of the Old Testament. Each study is a stand-alone study so if you miss one you will not be lost. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, April 1 & 15 at 6:00 p.m. The group meets at 17152 Kensington Place in Fountain Hills.

For more information or any questions, please contact Jeanette Simmons (480-577-3162) or Janet Scaggs.

Women's Morning Bible Study



Women's Morning Bible Study will meet Wednesday, April 9, at 9:30 AM in the Chapel. Please note this is a different day and meeting place. We will discuss Chapters 13 and 14 of our book Paul, a Man of Grace and Grit by Charles Swindoll. For information please call Monique 336-382-8733. See you then!

Women's Fellowship M. Holtan & S. Titus



Lunch & Lecture

Women's Fellowship will be held on **Friday, April 18 at 10:00 a.m**. in the **Fireside Room**. For any questions, you may contact Susan at <u>SLTitus@gmail.com</u>.

Ladies' Drop-In L. Katz & M. Berry

S Ladies Drop-in

Every Tuesday | 10 a.m. Fireside Room

All ladies are invited to *drop-in* for fellowship, games, puzzles, and conversation.



Maria Berry

"Jesus & the End Times by RC Sproul"

Next Meetings | Saturday April 12 & 26 | 12:00 p.m. Fireside Room Maria Berry 602-799-9982

Men's Fellowship Bill Matty



Gentlemen: Please mark your calendars for our next Men's Fellowship meeting, which we will have on Saturday, April 12, in the

Fellowship Center, starting at **8:00 am** with coffee, juice, and sweet rolls, followed by a full breakfast at 8:30 am. Hope to see you there for some good fellowship. Blessings to all.

Bill Matty | 815-282-6024 | bbmatty67@gmail.com

WANT A FINE, INSPIRATIONAL GIFT?

Choose from two beautiful FHPC books, produced by Women's Fellowship with contributions from the FHPC family. Each book comes with a festive gift bag, making it easy to mail with reasonable postage.

INSPIRATIONAL READINGS (2022, First Printing) for \$15, featuring 74 pages in color and diverse, uplifting readings,

ONE IN THE SPIRIT (2010, Second Printing) for \$10, with 58 pages and several meaningful readings.

You can pay and pick up your book at the FHPC office, or contact Jane Allen at 907-538-3223 for more details.



Out n' About Joyce Leo & Bonnie Matty



Out and About will be having their April lunch at noon on Wednesday the 16th. We will be meeting at Wicked 6 Bar and Grill at Sunridge Canyon Golf Club.

Please call Joyce Leo at 803-522-2889 or Bonnie Matty at 815-260-5031 for reservations. *Looking forward to seeing everyone.*



Pictured (L-R): Shawn Uphoff, FHUSD Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski, Kathy Cole, from the Coalition: Tammy Bell & Elizabeth Watters,

Presby Pickins' Flea Market was recently recognized by the FH Protect Our Youth Coalition for their support during the "State of School District" hosted by the FH Chamber of Commerce. Beyond financial contributions— \$3,350 to 14 local youth initiatives—Presby Pickins' also provided these groups with a dedicated space at the market, giving them a platform to connect with shoppers and vendors.

Presby Pickins' Flea Market | The Buzz of Stewardship

A beehive is a perfect metaphor for stewardship, demonstrating the harmonious use of time, talents, and treasures for the greater good. Just as a hive thrives when every bee plays a part, our church and Presby Pickins' flourish when everyone contributes!

Time: Like worker bees tending to the hive, our volunteers generously give their hours to sort, price, and sell donated goods, as well as set up the market and ensure it runs smoothly.

Talents: Just as bees have different roles—gathering nectar, building honeycombs, or protecting the hive—our volunteers share their unique

gifts, whether through craftsmanship, music, organizing, or customer service, creating a welcoming and enjoyable experience.

Treasures: Bees collect nectar and transform it into honey, a valuable resource for the entire hive. Likewise, donors contribute items they no longer need, giving them new life and purpose while providing affordable goods for others.

That's why our PresBee Picker is the perfect mascot for Presby Pickins'—buzzing around, seeking out treasures, and reminding us all that when we work together like a hive, we create something sweet and lasting.

Our next and final market of the '24-'25 season is April 5th. Hope you'll BEE there!

Devereux Easter Baskets | Jane Allen

A neighborly, outreach request for 50 plus.

Youth, boys & girls ages 8-17, at the Residential Advanced Behavioral Health Home & School in Scottsdale anticipate our fun & yummy baskets at their annual Easter Party!!

Do you have a heart for displaced youth with unusual circumstances? We need...

- \Rightarrow those who sign up and will buy items and then make up baskets on their own OR
- ⇒ those who donate \$25 per basket for our ladies to make up baskets at my home!
- Sign-ups -- Sunday, April 6
- Baskets can be brought in on Sundays or to the Church Office during office hours. The last day for collection is **Palm Sunday, April 13**.
- Day for ladies to make up Easter Baskets at Jane's -- Saturday April 12, 9am
- Delivery of baskets to Devereux -- Wednesday AM on April 16

We have a wonderful, giving church. FHPC is their sole provider of Easter Baskets. Women's Fellowship thanks you for making this an "uplifting hit" for over a decade. Jane Allen, Coordinator - 907.538.3223





Support Our Troops | Donna Sims

My next Troops project has been the Easter card NOTES. Have you picked up yours yet, I most certainly hope so. Time has come for the Notes to be placed inside the individual Easter cards that I prepare. I'm thankful for all who were willing to take one of the envelopes and write personal Notes to our Church-connected Military. You cannot imagine how much they are appreciated when being read by each one of the recipients.

Hopefully by the time you read this message, I will have had Community Bridges come out to Fountain Hill to make another pickup from my garage. I want to thank one and all who have placed donations in the basket on Sunday mornings or have left items in the Church office. And by the time I am able to schedule the next future pickup, it will be for warm weather clothing, along with much needed toiletries, socks, blankets, t-shirts and hats.

And again, I kindly ask that everyone remember that our Veterans and Troops Ministry is year-round, it never stops. We are always happy to see Church members and friends from our community placing items in our collection box, located in the Narthex on the East side, in the basket out front as you enter the Church and in the Church office. Thank you again for remembering our Veterans and our Troops and many thanks to those of you who wrote handwritten notes for our Church connected

New Planters | Mary Holtan

A heartfelt thank you to Presby Pickins' (Kathy Cole & Shawn Uphoff) for their generous gift of beautiful new blue planters—along with the dirt and plants—to replace the broken ones that adorned the outside of the church. The beauty of God's creation will shine brightly on our campus through these colorful new planters. A special thanks to Kathy & Larry Cole for their time and effort in helping pick out the planters and gathering and transporting the dirt and plants. This project could not have been completed without their dedication and hard work. I hope everyone enjoys the beauty of the new planters!







military. Remember, it takes more than one person to make our military ministry a great success.

Donna Sims, Mission Committee



Narthex Update | MaryAnn O'Connor



As you enter the Church and pass through the Narthex, you will no doubt notice a change! In an effort to update and revitalize the Narthex, myself along with members of Worship and Music worked hard relocating, repurposing and reorganizing.

All this effort was truly an act of love and appreciation for our beautiful Church and those who spend time worshiping here.

We are so fortunate to have many talented artists among our membership and if you take a look around the Narthex, you will see beautiful works of time to look art adorning the walls. The great thing is there is now plenty of room to wander through and enjoy those beautiful pieces.

Much thanks to Mary & George Holtan, Steve Trommer, Susan Harding, Brendan Wagner, and lack Morris for their hard work moving and hanging!

We are also so appreciative of the creativity and generosity of our artists, Nancy Grahlmann, Susan Harding, Jack Morris and those whose work will adorn our walls in future.

"Each of you should use whatever

Don't forget

to take the

around next

Sunday!

gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." I Peter 4:10

MaryAnn O'Connor Elder of Worship & Music

Mission Messages | Mary Holtan

"Showing God's Love By Giving and Doing" -**Mission Committee Sponsored Activities in** March:

Food For Kidz:

A big thank you to the people who helped pack food for Food for Kidz on February 26th from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Community Center. FHPC volunteers included: Brendan Wagner, Christine Colley, Terri Schmidt, Leslie Hermanson, Susan Owens, Keith and Kay Spicer. 140,803 meals were packed in 2 hours. Thank you to all the volunteers.

Above That Club:

Middle School age students from the **Above That**

Club at the Fountain Hills Middle School made a presentation to the Mission Committees. High School students from the Youth Coalition were also present



along with some of the speakers' families. The purpose of the **Above That Club** is to inspire and empower young people in *(continued on back)*



Music Ministry | Debbie Fisher



Music Ministry

What a journey we embark upon as we recognize Lent. The Vesper services, which are so precious to those of us who attend, captivate us. Just as the sun is setting. You can hear a pin drop as we listen to Bob's sermons, then experience communion each and every service. We have

Lenten Worship services with uninterrupted movement toward Easter Sunday. We examine Christ's most pure life, and our own lives as we give to God our hopes, dreams, confessions and openness to His transforming of our lives through the life of His Son. Let our Music reflect this journey as we

approach Easter, celebrating the resurrection of Christ as was foretold in the Old Testament and revealed in the New. We are truly Blessed to know this, and to be given this opportunity to praise Him forevermore. *Happy Easter!*

"He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." -Luke 24:25-27

Debbie Fisher Director of Music Ministries Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church ECO



The **Sonoran Quintet** presented a free concert on March 16th in the sanctuary. Donations were received to benefit Boys & Girls Club of Greater Scottsdale— Mary Ellen & Robert McKee Branch!

Thanks go out to the Quintet for their wonderful performance! Members include Flutist Dianne Winsor, Oboist Patti Backes, Clarinetist Chris "Doc" Stewart, Bassoonist Marty Haub, and French horn player Stacey D'Abate.

Extended Communion



Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church is offering **Extended Communion** at the homes of interested congregants following the regular Communion service on the first Sunday of each month.

If you are unable to get to church and would like to receive Communion at home, simply call the church office at (480) 837-1763 and ask to be added to the Extended Communion list.

Please call no later than the Monday prior to the first Sunday of the month.

A Deacon will call you a couple of days prior to the service to confirm that you still want to receive Communion on that Sunday, and an Elder, Deacon, or both will visit you following the regular 9 a.m. service to serve Communion. —The FHPC Board of Deacons

Sharing Our Gifts



At FHPC, we are continually inspired by the ways our congregation shares their God-given gifts—our talents, time, and treasure—to advance God's work and spread His love. As I Peter 4:10 reminds us, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others." Every act of generosity, no matter the size, enriches our church community and demonstrates our shared commitment to making a meaningful difference.

We want to hear your stories about how you or others are sharing these gifts. Whether it's through volunteering, supporting church initiatives, or making an impact in the community, your experiences can inspire and uplift others. Please email your stories to <u>office@fhpresby.org</u> to be featured in our upcoming In Touch newsletter.

Celebrate with Flowers: Honor, Memorialize, and Cherish Honor your loved ones or celebrate special occasions by dedicating flowers in the Sanctuary. Each week, beautiful arrangements are created and available for a fee of \$35, which can be taken home after Sunday Worship.

When you dedicate flowers to honor or memorialize someone, or to celebrate a significant event, your dedication will be announced during the Welcome portion of the service and included in The Weekly. To order flowers, simply sign up in the book located in the narthex or call the church office.

The \$35 fee covers the cost of flowers, which are thoughtfully purchased and arranged by our dedicated volunteers—no commercial florist could provide such generous support. You are welcome to take the flowers home after the service, allowing you to cherish these special moments.



April Birthdays

I-Apr	Gary Oakeson
I-Apr	Art Spalding
3-Apr	Jane Allen
4-Apr	Helen Roesch
5-Apr	Kristie Robinson
6-Apr	John Scaggs
8-Apr	Jo Strehlow
10-Apr	Peg Inglis
l I-Apr	Dixi MacKenzie
2 0- Apr	Irene Cain
23-Apr	Althea Halchuck
25-Apr	Bob Titus
25-Apr	Linda Katz
30-Apr	Susan Harding

2025 Necrology





Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church Foundation



Are You Looking for a Way to Do Good?

The FHPC Foundation solicits, invests and subsequently disburses planned gifts from members and friends to ensure the future needs of the church and its ministries.

FHPC Foundation NEEDS your pledges, bequests, cash or check donations, endorsed stocks and bonds, IRA transfers, Qualified Minimum Distributions, real estate proceeds, trust fund designation, and why not tithe your insurance policy or estate???

kel 'itus

Whatever you can give will be gratefully accepted. We can help you with the pledge form - call today!

Fo	Foundation Trustees				
Matt Jefferson, Chairman	Mary Holtan	Roy Nicl			
Linda Lull, Treasurer	Bill Matty	Susan Ti			

The FHPC Foundation is registered as a 501[c][3] non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Foundation's tax ID number is 46-2970452

Biblical Garden



Visit our Biblical Garden, located at the very heart of our campus. Before embarking on your tour, explore the fascinating variety of plants featured in the Garden.

Learn about their significance and historical context online at <u>www.fhpresbyterian.info/biblical-garden</u> or pick up a brochure in the office for more information.

Columbarium



The Columbarium provides a final resting place for the mortal remains of members and friends. Along with the urn niches, there is a Wall of Remembrance, a waterfall and memorial benches, providing a lovely place for prayer and meditation. It is managed by the Columbarium Trustees, a committee of our church corporation. A trust fund insures proper maintenance and perpetual care of the area.

U.S. Military Medallions are available for Veterans' columbarium niches. Please contact the church office for more information.



Mission Messages *(continued)* | Mary Holtan

the community to make positive choices by resisting peer pressure, especially around the use of smoking, vaping, and drugs. The students gave an inspirational talk about their mission and goals. The Mission Committee voted to give \$500 to support the **Above That Club** in Fountain Hills.

Here We Grow Preschool:

Terri Schmidt checked with Here We Grow and brought information back to the meeting. The Mission Committee voted to give \$500 to support the preschool for supplies and scholarships.

Individual Loan:

An individual loan in the amount of \$700 was given from the Mission Committee budget to support a request from someone in need. It will be paid back gradually over time.

Rabbi Zimmerman:

Rabbi Zimmerman will conduct the Seder Meal on the Tuesday of Holy Week. Donations collected at the meal will go to Reigning Grace.

Social Media | Live Streaming

Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/fhpresbyterianchurch/



View Sunday **worship** and read current posts about FHPC. Be sure to "Like" our page to get posts directly in your Newsfeed. The Mission Committee voted to donate \$500 to Rabbi Zimmerman's project in appreciation for his sermon and Men's Sunday and his services for the Seder Meal during Holy Week.

Boys and Girls' Club:

Donations from the wonderful Sonoran Quintet Concert held at FHPC in March will go to the Boys and Girls Club for scholarships. Presby Pickens and Men's Fellowship will match the donations of \$500.

The Mission Committee voted to also give \$500 to support the Boys and Girls Club.



YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/@fhpresbyterianchurch



View Sunday worship here under "Live." Subscribe to our Channel to receive notifications of upcoming LIVE services.

SUBSCRIBE

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