

## CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

740 W. University Heights Dr. South  
Flagstaff, AZ. 86005

### Sunday Worship

9:00 AM & 10:45 AM

### Sunday School for Children & Youth

10:45 AM

Nursery Provided At Both Services

### Church Office Hours:

8:00 AM—4:00 PM

Monday—Friday

### Email:

admin@cor-pca.org

### Website:

www.cor-pca.org



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# Church of the RESURRECTION

"Where People Come Alive!"

## KEEPING CHRISTMAS

I love Christmas. It's a beautiful time of the year filled with opportunities. During the month of December I try to celebrate Christmas every day. Guiding my choices I remember that love came down at Christmas. Historian James MacGregor Burns tagged Christmas for Americans as a "festival of consumption." It doesn't have to be that way. Keeping Christmas can be a series of magical emotions and loving actions all focused in devotion to the Lord of Christmas.

First of all, I remember Christmases past and give thanks. I read the birth narratives in the New Testament (Mt 1&2, Lk 1&2) and once again begin my pilgrimage to Bethlehem. I remember Christmas celebrations in my childhood, youth, and adult years giving thanks for the people who brought me great joy. I remember Christmases of profound sadness and give thanks for God's sustaining grace.

Secondly, I enter into Christmas present seeking to engage in celebrative acts every day of December. I want to know the presence of Christ and experience His joy in the present moment. And I want to be present to the people around and before me being more focused on them and their needs than myself.

In keeping Christmas how do I fill my days? I try to spend more time praying than shopping. I work toward less stimulation and more listening in solitude. I reread my favorite seasonal books like Morton Kelsey's *The Drama of Christmas*. I try to watch classic films like *White Christmas, It's a Wonderful*

*Life!, The Bishop's Wife, and Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*. I sanctify Santa imaging him kneeling in Bethlehem before the Christ Child. I make donations to the Salvation Army kettles and try to take my turn ringing the bell. I enjoy going to a Theatrikos Christmas play and attending the Master Chorale concert "Christmas in the Mountains." I try to write encouraging letters to friends and family. I try to visit someone in the hospital or someone homebound and read the Christmas story and talk about precious memories. This year I'll give a gift to a Navajo child and help host a homeless person welcoming them as if they were Christ Himself. Robin and I will buy our Christmas tree and decorate it together for each ornament is meaningful to us. I'll meditate before a lighted candle remembering that Jesus is the "Light of the world." I will enjoy worshipping the Christ of Christmas with Advent Sundays and Christmas Eve. Times together as the family of God are particularly rich in this sacred season.

Thirdly, I will go away from my Christmas pilgrimage...another way (Mt 2:12). Deeper faith. Filled with wonder. Profound gratitude. Humbled for service. I will have made keeping Christmas a time of spiritual renewal that pervades the New Year. *Immanuel* (Isa. 7:14 and Mt 1:23) "God with us!" Remember, God cared enough to send the very best! Himself. He came in person through His Son. He could have communicated His love through email, snail mail, megaphone from heaven, or sky writing. Instead, the Word love became human flesh and lived with us full of grace and truth (John 1:14). We behold His glory...the glory of Christmas!

## Meet Your Staff



Bob Norton  
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928-853-8522



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**Worship Leader**  
928-225-9889



Sheila Long  
**Secretary**  
928-699-2715

## Sermons for Advent & Christmastide

As the people of God gather for worship...turning our attention to God's Word through the preaching of the good news (Luke 2:10) is a thrilling and transforming spiritual experience. Just as God spoke through the prophets of old, he now speaks through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-3). The written Word of God bears faithful witness to the Son (John 5:39-40). Here is our sermon schedule for the coming weeks:

Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> - "How to Have the Best Christmas Ever!"  
Hebrews 1:1-3

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> - "Village of Secrets"  
Luke 2:1-7 and Matthew 2:13-18

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - "Lord of the Ordinary"  
Luke 2:8-20

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> - "Laughter in Heaven"  
Luke 15

Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> - "The Glory of Christmas"  
John 1:1-5, 14, 18

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> - "A Deeper Wisdom"  
Matthew 2:1-12



## FaithWorks 2015 Calendars

You are encouraged to give these as gifts this Christmas. They beautifully portray the joy of serving God through missions. They are available at our church office (928-699-2715) for \$10 per calendar.

## A Big Thank You!

Thank you to all who have contributed a Christmas gift to our Navajo friends. Your gift will be distributed on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at Church of God Holiness in Leupp.

## Reflections on the Meaning of Christmas

"The Son of God became a man...to enable men and women to become the sons and daughters of God."  
C. S. Lewis

Right here in this center, in which as a Professor of Systematic Theology I must call to you,  
"Look! This is the point now!  
Either knowledge or the greatest folly!  
Here I am in front of you,  
like a teacher in Sunday School facing his kiddies,  
who has something to say  
which a mere four-year-old can really understand.  
*The world was lost, but Christ was born,  
rejoice, O Christendom!*"  
Professor Karl Barth, *Dogmatics in Outline*

"The Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us.  
We have seen his glory,  
the glory of the One and Only Son,  
who came from the Father,  
full of grace and truth."  
John 1:14

"He is the image of the invisible God...  
For God was pleased to have all his fullness  
dwell in him."  
Colossians 1:15, 19

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" which means, "God with us."  
Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23

## Ladies Decorating and Potluck Event

Thursday, December 4th, 6:00 PM

You're invited to come and decorate the church for the Christmas season. Thank you to Cathy Jolma who has supplied a beautiful tree. Bring an ornament for the tree and a dish to share. Childcare will be provided. To join the fun, call Cathy Jolma at 602-615-0194.

## Did You Know?

Our own Dave Kelly will be acting in the current Theatrikos production of *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*. Starts Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Why not go and enjoy this Christmas classic and cheer Dave on!

## FaithWorks "Navajo Christmas Party"

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
Church of God Holiness, Leupp

For a number of years, FaithWorks missionaries under the direction of Glen and Jan Allen have journeyed to Leupp to partner with Pastor Dean and Lola Bahe at the Church of God Holiness congregation. This project provides gifts for the Navajo people both children and the elderly. The gifts open hearts to hear the good news of God's love through Jesus. At the party, a sanctified Santa tells the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Gifts are distributed and feasting is enjoyed by all.

This year the people of COR have brought many gifts for this party. On Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> the Allens and the Bahes will be with us to dedicate these gifts for the glory of God and the material and spiritual blessing of the Navajo people. God is at work on the reservation and it is a joy for us to participate in what God is doing. "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). Thank you for your participation in this project and your generosity in giving gifts.



## Emerging Ministries Coming In January 2015

We're looking ahead to a bright New Year filled with marvelous opportunities and exciting challenges. First of all, our *Neighborhood Groups* will be resuming in mid-January providing weekly opportunity for prayer, Bible discovery, building friendship, and mutual encouragement. Truly, "Christians grow best in small groups."

Also, we will be offering *The Truth Project* on Monday evenings, Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* on Tuesday evenings, and the *Evangelism Explosion Discipleship Training* on Tuesday mornings with an evening EE session coming in the spring.

These dynamic adult spiritual formation opportunities will enhance your experience of joyful fulfillment and successful living.

## Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
At our 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Services

Bring Your Friends...Remember, Communion is the First Altar Call of the Church. The Christ of Christmas says, "Come to Me!"

## COR Hosting the Homeless this Wintery Season

The Week of December 7<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>

"No room in the inn?" There doesn't have to be! Flagstaff Shelter Services partner with The Refuge to provide overflow lodging for homeless folks. The FSS shelter has a capacity of 86 beds, but sometimes there are more people needing lodging on a cold winter's night than is available. Now, we can help with the overflow. During the week of December 7-13 we will open our fellowship hall for homeless people to enjoy a warm and safe place to sleep.

We are partnering with The Commons (a four-year-old congregation that meets at Coconino High School). They don't have a building, but they have willing volunteers. Together we will serve the Lord with joy by welcoming homeless folks to stay with us. Showers, washing clothes, and meals are provided at the FSS facility then they will be transported to COR where COR and Commons volunteers will welcome them. Evening snacks and morning coffee (maybe breakfast treats) will be provided. Would you like to help? Call the church office (699-2715) to put your name on a volunteer list and be sure to tell us of your availability. Thanks so much! What an exciting opportunity for us to serve in the name of Christ and provide room in our Inn!

## Christian Baptism & New Member Class

Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
RSVP to Pastor Bob at 699-7592

Many people worship with us, but have not taken the important step of faith of Baptism and Church Membership. *Baptism* is a public identification with Christ. *Membership* is commitment to Christ, the Body of Christ the Church, and the work of Christ in the world. Would you like to take this important step in this Christmas season? What a wonderful gift to the Christ of Christmas this would be! Remember, He is the Reason for the Season!

## Our K-6 Youth to Perform!

Our young children are busy learning the signs to the song "My Lighthouse" for Christmas. They want to bring a smile to your face and also to their audience of One. They will be joyfully sharing their song on Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup> at our 10:45 a.m. worship service and at our 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Invite your friends and neighbors!



## Christmas Eve Worship Services "The Glory of Christmas"

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 & 7:00 p.m.

"It is the most beautiful night of all the year!" We gather to adore the Christ Child through music, sharing the good news of great joy, and inviting all to come to Christ the Life-Giver. This candlelight worship service is beautiful, magical, wondrous, and warm with the experience of the presence and peace of God. Begin inviting your family and friends to join with us. Don't forget to invite your Operation Andrew friends, those not-yet-Christian friends, for whom we regularly pray throughout the year. The children will be singing, signing and dancing along with special musicians to enhance our worship team. What a wonderful evening this will be!

## Search Committee Forming

For New Director of Youth & Family Ministry Position

This new Search Committee will be comprised of nine men and women tasked with the enjoyable and significant assignment of refining our job description for this new full-time, paid ministry position. They will also work on the compensation package. They'll publicize the position and receive resumes. Eventually, they will interview several candidates and then recommend their choice to the Session. After the selection, an orientation weekend will welcome the new person to serve in our midst. This committee will begin meeting in January and the date of employment is projected to be in June 2015. For more information, call Pastor Bob at 699-7592.