

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 the 2nd Service

Church Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 am—12:00 pm

Friday: 7:30 am—11:30 am

Email:

admin@cor-pca.org

Website:

www.cor-pca.org



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Church of the RESURRECTION

“Where People Come Alive!”

IT'S FRIDAY...BUT SUNDAY'S COMIN'!

We're drawing near to Easter...a joyous celebration of the victory of our Lord Jesus. It is also my last sermon at Church of the Resurrection after twelve years of planting and nurturing this dynamic congregation. It has been a privilege and a joy to serve our living Lord by serving Flagstaff through COR.. It's a time of major change in our lives.

One reason people resist change is because they focus on what they have to give up, instead of what they have to gain. Looking back at the history of COR we are profoundly grateful. However, looking ahead to the future of COR can empower the congregation for ever more fruitful ministry. I believe that the best years of COR are in the future. How can I say that? Because our living Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord of Church of the Resurrection. We are praying to "Dream God's Dream for COR" and His promise is "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

Years ago, a powerful African American preacher by the name of Dr. S. M. Lockridge preached a memorable message entitled "It's Friday...but Sunday's Comin'!" He masterfully identified the hungers, hurts, heartaches, and hang-ups of his flock each time saying, "It's Friday and many of you are out of work and can't feed your families...but Sunday's coming!" As a faithful pastor, he knew their hurts, but he also knew the hope of the Resurrection. As followers of Christ we are realists as we live day by day walking with God through pain and suffering, but we are also Easter People! Sunday's coming! We look to the future with hope because Jesus Christ is our

living Lord. We don't know clearly what the future holds, but we know it is good because our resurrected Lord holds the future in His hands.

The first Easter was a day in history when Jesus rose from the dead... one of the great miracles of the Bible. The evidence for the Resurrection is compelling. However, it is also a paradigm by which we live our lives. After resurrection day, the disciples laid aside their sadness and despair and changed the world with the most powerful people movement in history. Their victory cry was "He's Alive!" Yes, filled with the Spirit, the Christ followers down through the centuries have changed the world. Some call this movement the unfinished Easter... His resurrection life continues to transform the world. Pastor John Ortberg's marvelous book *Who is this Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus* chronicles this transformation. Read it and be inspired to participate in this unfinished Easter.

For many, they see the West is in the spiritual doldrums and the western churches are in decline, but the Holy Spirit has moved globally South where open hearts and minds receive the fullness of His resurrection blessing: Africa, Asia, Latin America are bursting with revival and resurrection life. God is not dead...He's very much alive!

Yes! "He's Alive!" Because Jesus lives, I believe the best years of Church of the Resurrection are in the future and I believe the most fruitful years of my ministry are also in the future. Remember, when you feel the sadness of separation, "It's Friday...but Sunday's Comin'!"

Dear Members and Friends of COR,

As you know, Pastor Bob has announced his retirement from his dedicated long years of faithful service to Church of the Resurrection! It is now time for us to celebrate a reception in his and Robin's honor.

Please join us on April 28th at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall of COR. RSVP by April 15th by calling: 928-699-2715 or emailing: corflagstaff@gmail.com

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness!"

- Lamentations 3:22-23



Mission to Verde Valley The Abide House April 13, 2019

We will be working on light construction, painting, cleaning, and whatever else we can do to help those in this unique Christian ministry for women of the Verde Valley. \$30 per person, \$50 per family. For more information contact the Trip Coordinator Amy Casali at (928) 699-8138 or via email at Tony_Amy@FaithWorks4us.org

DEACONS ORDAINED

God Raises Up Leadership for His Church

Our first two deacons were ordained on Sunday, March 31st. We celebrated the calling, Christian character, and commitment of **Randy Messerschmidt** and **Chuck Thomsen**.

We read about the first seven deacons chosen to serve in Acts 6. This was a formative event in the Christian movement because those called to practical service complemented and magnified the prayer and preaching of the Apostles. Deacons became an essential element in future generations and the Word of God spelled out the criteria for deacons in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Randy and Chuck have been thoroughly trained in theology and ministry by Ruling Elder Mike Bradley and we look forward to their continuing ministry. We give thanks to God for these two Christian servant leaders. Give them your full support and faithful prayer. To God be the glory!

Meet Your Staff



Bob Norton
Pastor
928-699-7592



Liz Skowronski
**Worship Team
Leader**
623-810-7233



Greg Reiff
**Director of
Youth Ministry**
928-600-9395



Brigitte Bradley
**Administrative
Assistant**
928-699-2715

Sermons for APRIL

"Pastor Bob Finishing Strong" "The Christ Event is the Hinge of History"

Come and hear Pastor Bob complete his preaching ministry after twelve years at Church of the Resurrection. Invite friends to come and focus on some of the central issues of the Christian faith. This short series will unfold with the following messages:

Sunday, April 7th - "Who is this Jesus?"
Matthew 16:13-20 and Colossians 1:15-20
Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Palm Sunday, April 14th - "Living Under the Cross"
John 19:17-30
Nailing Our Sins to the Cross

Good Friday Service (7:00 p.m.), April 19th -
"The Gospel According to Judas"
Matthew 26:47-56 and 27:3-10
Receiving of the Nails (*Christ is Counting on You*)

Easter Sunday, April 21st - "Easter People"
Mark 16:1-8, 14-20
Flowering of the Cross

Our Liturgical NAILING of Our SINS TO THE CROSS

Palm Sunday on April 14th

One of our Church of the Resurrection traditions has been very meaningful to our worshippers on Palm Sunday. Each worshipper is given a blank card to fill out with their sins with which they struggle. At the end of the service each person is invited to come forward, folding their card, and nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13-15 tells us that God made us alive in Christ nailing our sin debt to the Cross. This liturgical act demonstrates the spiritual truth of what Christ has done for us on the Cross.

Our Liturgical FLOWERING OF THE CROSS Easter Sunday, April 21st, 9:00 & 10:45 Worship Services

Another tradition we share at Church of the Resurrection is the *Flowering of the Cross* on Easter Sunday. Each worshipper is encouraged to bring beautiful, colorful flowers to adorn the Cross.

Both when they arrive and as an act of dedication at the conclusion of the service, we bring our flowers to remember that "He is Alive!" We serve a Risen Lord and He reigns in our hearts and in our church. We share His glorious victory!



There's Still Time! BAPTISM & CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

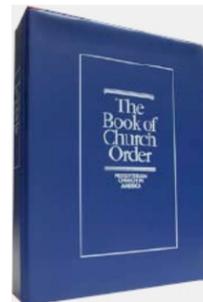
As Pastor Bob's days at Church of the Resurrection draw to a close on Easter Sunday, April 21st, he would love

to share in your Baptism or receiving you into the Membership of the Church. Baptism can happen in a worship service context by sprinkling or by immersion at Bob and Robin's "holy hot tub." All disciples of Jesus Christ are called to Baptism (Matthew 28:19-20). **Baptism** is the Sacrament of Identity, a public identification with Jesus Christ. Also, disciples of Jesus Christ are called to **Church Membership**. Some people misunderstand this calling. They think we're talking about a membership in an exclusive country club. This is a distortion of biblical teaching. The "members" the Bible talks about are like the members of a human body (1 Corinthians 12). A hand. A heart. Eyes. We are to be members of the Body of Christ, the Church. A hand separated from the body is grotesque. We are to be connected and serving together as the living Lord, who is the head of the Body, directs us. Let's be faithful to sacred Scripture and become a part of the Body of Christ, the Church. As a fitting completion of his work at Church of the Resurrection, Pastor Bob would love to receive you into the fellowship of the church of Christ at COR. Call him today at (928) 699-7592.

SEARCH FOR A NEW PASTOR

by Mike Bradley, Ruling Elder

The Session and Church of the Resurrection have some hard work (and opportunities) in front of us to find a new pastor. The process for selecting, electing, and installing a pastor within the PCA is outlined in the Book of Church Order, chapters 20-23. It is a detailed and thorough process. We are working



with the Presbytery and getting questions answered about next steps. The Session is meeting on a weekly basis to ensure we have as smooth a transition as possible.

It is expected that we will have a "pulpit committee" to assist the Session in the interview process. There will be a number of congregational meetings also. It is important to attend these meetings as we need one-quarter of our registered members present to have a quorum and conduct business.

This is the time for members and friends of COR to unite and give thanks to God in all his glory. He will be with us on this adventure to select a new Pastor for His church. Pastor Bob told the congregation last week that he believed "the Church of the Resurrection is going to be fine and that our best times are ahead of us." The Session believes that also!

I have had the opportunity to attend the Arizona Presbytery meetings on several occasions now. There are many great pastors out there who are truly men of God and have the gift of preaching as well as ministering to the flock. I am convinced that God is going to send us the right pastor.

If during this process you have questions or need information, ask an Elder. We will pass on what we know at this point. We do know that until we select a new pastor, the Presbytery will be providing us with temporary pastors to preach on most Sundays. Ruling Elders may be required to give the sermon one week out of the month.

Let us not forget... God has the plan; let us put our trust in him and he will send us the right pastor for His church.



Let the Church Be the Church A Modern Parable from Theodore O. Wedel

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a crude little lifesaving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought of themselves went out day and night tirelessly searching for the lost. Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so that it became famous. Some of those who were saved and

various others in the surrounding area wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little lifesaving station grew.

Some of the members of the lifesaving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. So they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building. Now the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it beautifully and furnished it exquisitely, because they used it as a sort of club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The lifesaving motif still prevailed in this club's decoration, and there was a liturgical lifeboat in the room where the club initiations were held. About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet, and half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick. The beautiful new club was in chaos. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon lifesaving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a lifesaving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save lives of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own lifesaving station down the coast. They did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another lifesaving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit that seacoast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown!

From a Sermon by Pastor Bob
and used by David Hoffman for Devotions
at a FaithWorks Board of Directors Meeting