

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

740 W. University Heights Dr. South
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Sunday Worship
10:00 AM

Church Office Hours
Flexible Morning Hours

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Church of the RESURRECTION

"Where People Come Alive!"

FAITH

Hebrews 11

The word "faith" appears 336 times in the King James Version. Other Bible versions have varying counts: Faith appears 458 times in the New International Version, 389 in the New King James Version, 378 in the New American Standard Bible and 521 times in the Good News Bible (GNB).

Hebrews 11 is known as "the faith chapter." The idea of perseverance in the exercise of faith controls the emphasis of this chapter, coming as an explanation of what the writer states in 10:39, that we are "of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul." You must remember the struggles the first century audience faced, as they were in the midst of hostility and impending persecution. So our writer calls for the kind of faith that preserves the soul through the most demanding circumstances. Such faith enables the disciples of Christ in the midst of trials to "run with endurance the race that is set before" them (12:1). We know very well the opening words of chapter 12 and the climax that sets our attention upon our exalted Lord. Exercising faith fixes the eyes on Jesus and endures even hostility in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ. Faith aims for soul preservation-that's perseverance in concept; and it runs with endurance-that's perseverance in process. Exercising faith in Christ stands at the heart of persevering as Christians.

Hebrews 11:27 talks about the source of perseverance: "*By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.*" **Faith apprehends as a real fact what is not revealed to the senses.** It rests on that fact, acts upon it, and is upheld by it in the face of all that seems to contradict it (Hebrews 11:1).

Keep this in mind as you read and study the various examples of faith found in Hebrews eleven. We're not talking about men who had some spiritual force called faith, but we're talking about men who trusted in the unseen, who trusted in God's promises, who based their lives on hope. Faith is more than just being sure about God's promises, but it is an awareness of the entire invisible realm all around us.

2 Corinthians 5:7 tells us: "*For we walk by faith, not by sight*". We need to learn to not depend as much on what we see in our circumstances, but more and more on trusting in the unseen, in the great hand of God. Looks can be deceiving. Our problem is we don't like to go where we don't see where we're going.

The African impala can jump to a height of over 10 feet and cover a distance of greater than 30 feet. Yet these

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FaithWorks Mission to Chugiak, Alaska

Volunteers help to fix and repair Birchwood Camp, which is used by many youth and adults year round. There could be painting, cleaning, wood splitting, trail-blazing etc. Cost will be \$450 per person plus airfare. For more information contact the Trip Coordinator Amy Casali at (928) 699-8138 or via email at Tony_Amy@FaithWorks4us.org

JOIN ONE OR MORE OF OUR MINSTRIES OR GROUPS TODAY!

If you are not already part of a ministry or group at Church of the Resurrection, join one. WE ALL TOGETHER are the church! Signup sheets and contact information can be found on our Ministry bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please also check out our weekly calendar in the Sunday bulletins or on our website www.cor-pca.org.

Here some examples:

Circle of Sisters:

- TLC Meal Delivery: We take turns bringing meals to church members/attendees in need - please contact Polly Philpott (928) 773-1818

- TLC Crafts: We meet usually on the 3rd Saturday of the month to bless our assembled baby packets, hand-made prayer shawls, cards etc. Contact Brigitte Bradley (928) 774-5557 for more info.

Band of Brothers:

- Men's Prayer Breakfast: Usually on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Contact Bob Robertson (928) 853-6449 for more information.

Meet Your Staff

COR will be blessed with guest pastors, until we have identified the Pastor who God has already chosen for us.



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



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

We are grateful for our volunteers who lead or take part in various ministries!

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magnificent creatures can be kept in an enclosure in any zoo with a 3 foot wall. The animals will not jump it they cannot see where their feet will fall. Faith is the ability to trust what we cannot see, and with faith we are freed from the flimsy enclosures of life that only fear allows to ensnare us.

Faith...with it you will see the impossible because you stand on God's promises. Without it ...you will never please God. *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* (11:6).

Maybe today you are wrestling with unbelief. Confess that to the Lord just like the man did in Mark 9:24. Tell the Lord: *"Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"* God will help you through your struggle. God doesn't require a ton of faith...Just a mustard seed size, that's all. *"...For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."* (Matthew 17:20b)

- Elías R. Reyes
Founder Oasis of Hope Ministries
& C.O.R. Ruling Elder



PREACHING ITINERARY FOR AUGUST

We are excited about having the following PCA Teaching Elders preach at COR for the month of August:

John Kelly - August 4 & 11

Bill Phillips - August 18

Justin Beach - August 25

Let's keep them in our prayers as they travel to Flagstaff and proclaim the life changing Word of God.

WHO ARE WE AT CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION?

Here is one last newsletter article about Church of the Resurrection's volunteer leadership: men who - supported by their dedicated wives - donate their time, money and efforts to COR for the glory of God.

Last but not least (continued from last month's newsletter):

Ruling Elder Mike Bradley & His Wife Brigitte

Mike was born, raised and spent the first 43 years of his life in Oakland, CA. He came to Flagstaff in 1995. He is married to our Administrative Assistant Brigitte. They are a blended family and Mike has two grown sons. Before being ordained in the PCA he spent 41 years as a firefighter/ medic, fire officer and fire chief. He was the Fire Chief in Hayward (CA), the City of Flagstaff and the Highlands Fire District. He served concurrently as an officer in the US Coast Guard Reserve. In addition to these duties, for 20 years he served as a National Incident Commander and was hired by the Federal government to command responses to wildland fires, floods, hurricanes and other natural and manmade disasters.

Mike has an Associate's Degree in Fire Technology and a Bachelors and Master's Degree from the University of San Francisco (yes, a Jesuit University!). He also spent several years teaching at various colleges and universities part time.

Mike is involved in many ministries both at COR and outside of the Church. He has played the bass with worship teams for over 40 years. He is also an active member of the AZ Presbytery. Mike enjoys weightlifting, mountain biking and hunting and fishing in his spare time. He and Brigitte enjoy traveling and have a small apartment in Bad Wimpfen, Germany; Brigitte was born and raised there.

He says that his study, examinations, internship and ordination is one of the highlights of his life. He has a heart for serving and has spent most of his life in service to the Nation, the community and the church.

Aside from being part of COR's paid staff as the Administrative Assistant, Brigitte volunteers in various ministries. She is the founder of the Prayer Shawl Ministry (now "Tender Loving Care Crafts", a subsidiary of COR's "Circle of Sisters"), serves as the church's kitchen manager, is part of the bread baking team and occasionally part of the worship team.

THE LATEST FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

On 6/23 and 6/30 the Members and regular Communing Attendees were given a Congregation Survey. These are the results of that Survey:

Pastor Priorities:

- Proclamation of the Word
- Spiritual Development of Members
- Worship Leadership
- Congregational Visitation
- Youth Ministry
- Evangelism
- Development and Support of Education and Training Program.

Ministries by Priority:

1. Youth Ministries/Sunday School
2. Bible Studies
3. Small Home Groups
4. Women's Ministry
5. Vacation Bible School
6. Prayer Ministry
7. College Ministry
8. Missions
9. Band of Brothers
10. First Time Guest Outreach

The time and thought you spent completing the survey is deeply appreciated. The results will be used by the Pastoral Search Committee to refine which applicants match the priorities you have specified. The results from the Ministries will help the Session focus on what is important for you now and into the future. **The Church is not a Church without you!** Remember, the Pastoral Search Committee finds the Pastor God has already selected, the Members of the Church of the Resurrection vote for him.

- The Pastoral Search Committee

QUOTE FROM THE PCA WEBSITE:

The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) was formed in 1973 to be a denomination that is "Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission."



What Is 'Reformed Faith'?

By Mike Bradley, Ruling Elder

Reformed Christians are a small part of a much larger body of believers who love and serve Jesus Christ. We're part of a family that includes Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Anglican, Evangelical, and a host of other churches that confess and practice the Christian faith.

Reformed teachings are shared by denominations other than the Christian Reformed Church. What's different is the emphasis that we might place on them. Cornelius Plantinga writes:

"Our accents lie more on the sovereignty of God, on the authority of Scripture, on the need for disciplined holiness in personal Christian life, and finally, on Christianity as a religion of the Kingdom."

For example, the Reformed faith teaches the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all creation. We can't imagine a Christian church that doesn't hold to that teaching. But Reformed believers place a lot more emphasis on this teaching than many other Christians do.

While all Bible-believing Christians share one single language of faith, we all speak it with our own accent. Be proud of your accent. Thank God for it. Add yours to the rich diversity of tongues that speak of the great things God has done.