

# Looking Ahead at PVUMC

## December 21, 2014

### Thank You from Betty Cochran to PVUMC for Love Gift

Betty Cochran wanted to thank us for the gift she recently received from us: "It is with a grateful heart that I thank you, the congregation of PVUMC, for the love gift given to me in honor of my retirement. It was very, very thoughtful and generous of you. Thank you for your continuing friendship. You are very special to Dale and me. We look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday mornings."

### Disciple III Bible Study Continues with Letters of Paul in January

New participants are welcome to join Disciple III as the class continues to study the Letters of Paul in the New Testament in this semester's eight-week class beginning **January 13, 2015** and meeting until March 3 (every Tuesday), 6:30-8 pm in H5. The class starts with the book of Romans. If you are new to the class, we invite you to register with the church office no later than **December 22**, so that we may order a book for you. Continuing participants don't need to order a book; just bring the one we've been using in previous classes. We will dive right into the study on day one, with no administrative session, so come on **January 13, 2015** prepared to begin with the letters of Paul. If you have questions or would like the complete schedule, email Robin Kreutzberg, [rhkrobin@cox.net](mailto:rhkrobin@cox.net).

### Kindergarten Readiness Parent Education Class Offered January 26



Is your child ready for kindergarten? The PVUMC Preschool will offer a kindergarten readiness parent education class on **January 26, 2015** from 6-7 pm in the Chapel. Pediatric neuropsychologist, Dr. Jennifer Gatt, will discuss multiple developmental domains that should be considered for each child when deciding if yours is ready to move forward to kindergarten. For those with younger children, this class provides insight into activities and tasks that should be introduced and monitored in order for the "whole child" to be ready to move on to elementary school learning. A sign-up will be outside the preschool office in January and the cost is \$5 per person. Childcare will be provided.

### Businesses Invited to Sponsor PVUMC Preschool Ice Cream Social

Looking for new ways to advertise and market your business while targeting the Paradise Valley, Scottsdale and Phoenix markets? Be a sponsor of PVUMC Preschool's 2015 Ice Cream Social. Last year, our event was attended by hundreds of local families. Tax-deductible sponsorship packages are available with varying levels of exposure at the \$250, \$500 and \$1000 levels. We are also seeking donations for our silent auction. Promote your business through a sponsorship and/or donated item and help the PVUMC Preschool for a win/win! Contact Katy, [katymay@me.com](mailto:katymay@me.com) or August, [august@augustforhomes.com](mailto:august@augustforhomes.com).



### UPCOMING SUNDAY SERMON

Worship at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary

Worship at 8:00 & 11:15 am, Chapel

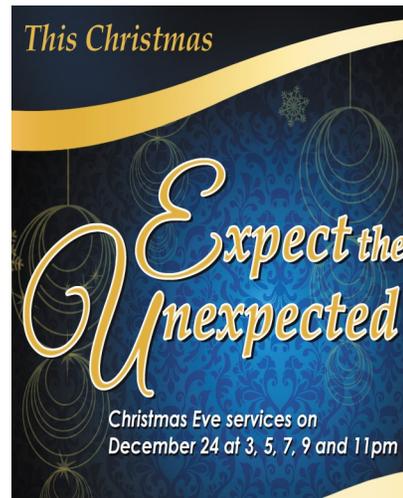
**NEXT SUNDAY – December 28**

Family Sunday (no Sunday School)

Sermon: *Winding up the Year: The Good, the Bad, the Hopeful*

Andrea Address

Scripture: *Galatians 4:4-7*



### Advent Books Make Great Gifts

Looking for a last-minute, meaningful gift? Buy a copy of James A. Harnish's book, *When God Comes Down*, for just \$7 in the office, 8 am-5 pm, Mon-Fri.



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### Provide for the Homeless with UMOM Holiday Cards

PVUMC supports UMOM through the sale of holiday cards that pay for a night of shelter (\$15); a day of shelter, food, and childcare for a child (\$50); a week of shelter (\$100); or a month of shelter (\$360) for a homeless child or an adult at UMOM New Day Centers. Stop by the patio table after worship to buy a card or two to give to family and friends as we remember the birth of a child needing shelter so long ago.

### Home Improvement Sponsors Blanket Drive for Watkins Shelter

The church is collecting NEW or gently used twin-size blankets, sheets and pillowcases, as well as NEW pillows to residents at UMOM's Watkins Homeless Shelter. Home Improvement is sponsoring the blanket collection. Please drop them off in G2 before the class meets at 9:30 am this Sunday or leave them in the church office.

### Invite a Friend to Join You for Christmas Eve Worship at PVUMC

Christmas is coming, and it's a perfect time of year to invite a neighbor or friend to join you at one of our five worship services on Christmas Eve. Take a postcard with you after worship and use it as an invitation. Our 3 pm service offers an opportunity to worship early in the day, and may be ideal for those who have evening plans. This nontraditional service in the Chapel features our Praise Band. At 5 pm, our Children's Choir sings, and at 7 pm, we welcome our Youth Choir and Chancel Choir, as well as the Bells of Paradise. At 9 pm, our Paradise Singers lead us, and at 11 pm, we celebrate with communion at a service of lessons and carols. Candlelight is a part of all the evening services at 5, 7, 9 and 11 pm.

### Daily Devotions Available Online Through Christmas Day at [pvumc.org](http://pvumc.org)

Throughout the Advent season, **until Christmas Day, December 25**, we invite you to read, subscribe to and share our daily devotional Advent blog on the church website. Written by PVUMC members, pastors and staff on the theme of "Expecting the Unexpected with Scripture and Song," these devotions include visuals, songs and videos, posted on the PVUMC website under the "News" tab. To sign up to receive the posts every day via email, go to the blog at <http://pvumc.org/news/2014-advent-blog/> and submit your name and email address.

### Greeter Slots Open for Christmas Eve; Sign up on Website

Would you be willing to greet visitors on Christmas Eve? We have several slots open for all our services. If you are willing and able, please call or email Kim Levensky, 480-326-9387 or [klevensky@cox.net](mailto:klevensky@cox.net), for more information, or to sign up. Or, you may sign up via Sign-up Genius on the church website at <http://pvumc.org/connect/programs-ministries/welcoming/>. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

### Young Adults Invited to Christmas and Reunion Party TODAY

The Young Adult Lifegroup (YAL) is having a Christmas party **TODAY, Sunday, December 21**, 12:30-2 pm in H1 following the Ignite worship service. Friends are welcome and lunch is provided. Bring a wrapped \$10 gift if you would like to participate in the gift exchange. If you are home from college, please join us for this reunion. In the new year, mark your calendar to join us on **Sunday, January 11**, 12:30-2 pm in the Fellowship Center for a Self-Defense Class led by Morgan Peel, a certified trainer and instructor for ATA who is a 3rd degree black belt. Email Jonathan Havens, [pvumcyoungadult@gmail.com](mailto:pvumcyoungadult@gmail.com), to be added to the YAL communication list.

### Serendipities: Choose a Toy for UMOM and We'll Deliver!

Buy a toy from Serendipities' tables outside our door, and we'll make sure it gets delivered to children at UMOM just in time for Christmas! What a wonderful way to teach your children about giving this Christmas season. For the other special people on your list, we have sweets like peppermint or pretzel bark and toffee-to-go, stocking stuffers and many last-minute gifts. Our hours are Sundays 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesdays, 9 am to 12 noon, and our profits always fund missions. The shop will be closed on Wednesday, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

### Plan Your Year-End Contributions to PVUMC

With the stock market at an all-time high, now is the time to consider a special gift to PVUMC. Your gift of appreciated stock will be used to fund the ministries of PVUMC. If you own appreciated stock that you have held for at least a year, you may donate the stock to PVUMC and receive a tax deduction for the fair market value of the stock. Your gain on the stock will not be taxed and you receive a tax deduction! Each individual's tax situation is unique. Please consult your tax advisor before making any tax-related decisions. For information on how to make a contribution of stock, contact Mickey Price in the church office, 602-840-8360, ext 113.

### You're Invited to an All-Church Trip to See the Arizona Coyotes

Join other church members (maybe even Pastor Dave) on **Saturday, January 3, 2015**. 4:30 pm - 9 pm, when we'll go see the Arizona Coyotes play hockey against the Columbus Blue Jackets. Even if you don't like hockey, it'll be a fun night to be with your church family. Tickets are limited and cost \$25 each. Reserve your tickets today; email Christopher Wurpts, our youth ministries director, at [christopher@pvumc.org](mailto:christopher@pvumc.org).



### The Magi Visit on Epiphany Sunday, January 4, 2015

Every year, our children look forward to Epiphany, when the three kings or Magi bring gifts and explain how they followed the star and visited the Christ child so long ago. It's a tale we never tire of hearing. Come on **January 4, Epiphany Sunday**, and let your children have an opportunity to meet and greet them at 9:30 am Sunday School. They come bearing gifts!

### Youth Invited to VIBE Progressive Dinner TONIGHT

All the youth (7th-12 grade) are invited to participate in our Progressive Dinner **tonight, 5-8 pm**. This annual Christmas tradition has us traveling from house to house for an evening of eating and fun. This year, we're adding a fun twist too with an Ugly Christmas sweater contest. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the night for:

- Ugliest Sweater
- Most Festive Sweater
- Sweater most likely to keep you warm

We have GREAT gift card prizes for the winners. So grab your ugly sweaters and get ready for a night of fun and laughter.

### Youth Winter Retreat Early Registrations Due by December 31, 2014

Students in grades 7-12 are invited to join us for a weekend of faith and fun at the Mingus Mountain UMC Camp and Retreat Center in Prescott, AZ, **February 14-16, 2015**. There will be large-group worship sessions, breakout sessions for different age groups, fun games, and even a campfire to warm you up. If there's enough snow, we might even go sledding! **The cost is \$100/student if you register before January 2015**. After January 1, 2015, it costs \$125/student. For more information, or to register, go to <http://www.icecoldretreat.com/> or email Christopher Wurpts, youth ministries director, [christopher@pvumc.org](mailto:christopher@pvumc.org).

# Inviting Prayers of Intercession

## Joys:

The hope, peace, love and joy of Advent  
The birth of Jesus  
Celebrating the music ministry of  
Brett Robison

## Hospitalized:

Sue Blumer  
David Saathoff – upcoming knee surgery

## Hospice Care:

Nan Range, PVUMC's oldest member,  
at age 102, and mother of Kay Pickerill

## Deaths:

Fran Errington – sister-in-law of Betty Bush  
David Freyermuth - son of Cliff and Alice  
Freyermuth

## Our Nation and World:

Peace on Earth  
Family and friends serving in the military

## Continuing Concerns:

Phyllis Averill; Michelle Bray, sister-in-law of  
Dave Summers; Sandy Cook; Jami Godshall;  
Norm Henry; Carolyn Lasley, mother of Teri  
Lasley; Steve and Sharon Mettler, friends of  
Jan Elsea; Nathan Moore, nephew of Gretchen  
Holt; Evelyn Parker, sister of Frieda Bateman;  
Dwight Peters; Helen Price, mother of Mickey  
Price; Bill Sejen; Loreta Snyder; Randy Stauth,  
son of Mike and Helen Stauth; Ed Sucato,  
father-in-law of Courtney Sucato; Bradley  
Sullins, nephew of Liliana Sullins; Diane Taylor;  
Rev. Dan Turner; Carolyn Woods, mother of  
Deborah Esquer

## Our Community and State:

Those seeking God's comfort  
Safe travels during the holidays  
Bells of Paradise caroling at MIM and  
The Terraces  
End of semester stress and break for  
students and teachers



To make a prayer request,  
go to our [website](http://pvumc.org/contact/prayer-requests/)  
at [http://pvumc.org/contact/  
prayer-requests/](http://pvumc.org/contact/prayer-requests/) or fill out  
a prayer request card in  
the pew pocket and place  
it in the offering plate.

To join our prayer team and receive prayer  
requests via email, contact [gholt@pvumc.org](mailto:gholt@pvumc.org).

## Pastors on Call 24/7

We have a pastor on call 24/7. When you  
call the office, 602-840-8360, after hours,  
follow the instructions or press “2” and leave  
a message to have a pastor return your call.

## Chancel Flowers

Flowers are given by Colleen Hatfield,  
in loving memory of her husband, Dean.  
*NOTE: To donate and dedicate flowers in  
honor or in memory of someone, please call  
Ginny Andrews at 602-996-4494.*

## Assist Arizona's Working Poor and Receive a State Tax Credit

Did you know you can make a contribution to PVUMC-supported charities and receive a dollar-for-dollar Arizona state tax credit in 2014? A single individual can receive a tax credit of up to \$200 and a married couple can receive up to \$400. And you don't need to itemize deductions to claim the tax credit. Just mail your check directly to one of the following charities (not to PVUMC) or go to their websites by **December 31, 2014** and make your contribution online. These are just a few of the charities able to receive donations via the working poor tax credit program. For more information about qualifying charitable organizations, go to <http://www.azdor.gov/About/FAQs/QualifyingCharitableOrganization.aspx> and for a list of organizations, go to <http://www.azdor.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=V6hWbHqzqfw%3d&tabid=242>.

- **Wesley Community Center**, [www.wesleycenterphx.org](http://www.wesleycenterphx.org), 1300 S 10th St, Phoenix, AZ 85034, operates a medical clinic & more for impoverished south Phoenix residents.
- **Justa Center**, [www.justacenter.org](http://www.justacenter.org), 1001 W Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ 85007 is a respite day center for homeless people who are age 50 & up.
- **UMOM/Next Step Housing**, [www.UMOM.org](http://www.UMOM.org), 3320 E Van Buren, Phoenix, AZ 85008, offers shelter and other services for homeless families and adults.

Each individual's tax situation is unique. Please consult your tax advisor before making any tax-related decisions. Both the Wesley Community Center and UMOM's Next Step Housing Program (along with the PVUMC Emergency Relief Fund) are recipients of our annual Christmas missions offering. We support all three, and others on the list, through volunteer hours and our missions ministry.

## Living the Questions Class Begins January 7, Following the Feast

Our Community Feast returns in the new year on **Wednesday, January 7, 2015**. Dinner is served from 5:30-6:15 pm, and catered by UMOM's Helpings Café, Market and Catering. Suggested donations: \$7.50/adult, \$3/child (12 and under). Following the feast, we invite you to join us for a new seven-week class offered by Keith Sobraske and Martha Rinne. This Living the Questions class is called *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith*, and will meet in H5 from 6:30-8 pm. All materials will be provided at no cost.

## Join the Alpha Course for Discussions about Faith in the New Year

Another class offering on Wednesdays will meet in the Fireside Room, F8, for 10 weeks, **January 7-February 11, 2015**. Join us for Alpha, guided by a leadership team that includes Rev. Eve Williams. Please contact Pastor Eve at [pastoreve@pvumc.org](mailto:pastoreve@pvumc.org) if you're interested in this class that begins with sharing a meal at the Community Feast, and moves into a discussion time on different aspects of the Christian faith each week. The course includes a DVD and encourages participants to share their thoughts and ask questions in a non-judgmental and relaxed setting. If you have questions about Jesus, the Bible, prayer, the Holy Spirit, God's guidance and how to have a sustaining faith, come to Alpha. All are welcome.

## Website / Social Media



Scan the code to the right to go directly to our website at [pvumc.org](http://pvumc.org). Our bulletins are online at the "News" tab. Click on this web address: <http://pvumc.org/news/newsletter-e-news-and-bulletins/> to access them online. The *Desert Scroll*, our bimonthly newsletter, and the weekly *Looking Ahead* are available there too, as is the weekly *From Paradise E-news*, which is emailed every Friday.

Subscribe to our email list via the  
subscription form on our website.



Find us on Facebook  
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ParadiseValleyUMC](http://www.facebook.com/ParadiseValleyUMC) or follow  
us on Twitter @PVUMC

# Events this Week at PVUMC

## Sunday, December 21, 2014

Adult Bible Study	8:00AM A2
Worship Service	8:00AM C1
Children's Sunday School Classes (Birthday Party for Jesus)	9:30AM E10 E11   E12   E4   E7   H1   H3   H4   H6
Home Improvement	9:30AM G2
Modern Family	9:30AM H5
SPIRIT Sunday School	9:30AM F8
Worship Service	9:30AM A1
Children's Choir	10:30AM H1
MiniSingers	10:30AM E9
Farewell Reception for Brett Robinson	10:30AM Patio
Covenant Group	11:00AM F8
Wesley SS Group	11:00AM G2
Ignite Worship Service	11:15AM C1
Young Adult Christmas Party	12:30PM H1
Combined VIBE: Progressive Dinner	5:00PM Off-campus

## Monday, December 22, 2014

Mustard Seed Bible Study	9:00AM F8
Pastor/Music Planning Mtg	1:30PM A2
Men's Emmaus Covenant Group	5:00PM F8
Open Table #9/Veteran's	6:00PM H3

## Tuesday, December 23, 2014

Staff Meetings	9:00AM G2
Open Table/St. Patrick's	10:00AM H4
Caring Bible Study	10:30AM A2

## Wednesday, December 24, 2014

Christmas Eve Ignite Service	3:00PM C1
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	5:00PM A1
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7:00PM A1
Women's AA	7:00PM F5/6
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	9:00PM A1
Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons & Carols/Communion Service	11:00PM A1

## Thursday, December 25, 2014

Christmas Holiday - Office is Closed.

## Friday, December 26, 2014

Christmas Holiday - Office is Closed.



### Love Gift and Reception for Brett Robison

Express your love and appreciation to our outgoing Music and Arts Ministries Director

Brett Robison with a love gift. Include "Brett Robison love gift" in the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate. PSPRC hosts a reception for him on the patio TODAY following the 8 am and 9:30 am worship services. Beginning **January 1, 2015**, Brett begins a new position as Director of Choral Activities at Waldorf College in Forest City, IA, and joins his family — wife, Jennaya, and children, Elise, Grace and Benjamin, who are in Decorah, IA.

### Take a Homeless Care Bag Today

We encourage you to take one or more homeless care bags to keep in your car, where they will be ready to give to someone in need. If you can donate \$5 per bag, it will help keep this ministry to the homeless alive.

A1=Sanctuary      C1=Chapel  
G2=Library      E14=Youth Lounge  
F1=Fellowship Center      F8=Fireside Room

Scan this code →  
to go to our website,  
[pvumc.org](http://pvumc.org), and  
events calendar.



### Book Group Meets January 5 to Discuss *The Husband's Secret*

In September 2014, the Book Group was rained out, and never had the opportunity to discuss Liane Moriarty's novel, *The Husband's Secret*, so we're taking time in January to have that discussion. Join us on **Monday, January 5, 2015** in the church library, G2, 12:15-1:15 pm, or come at 12 noon for a chat. On **Monday, February 2**, we'll discuss a NYT Bestseller, *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh.

### Cindy and Kent Heltne Speak *On the First Tuesday, January 6, 2015*

Join us for *On the First Tuesday, January 6* at 5:30 pm when we offer dinner and conversation with some of PVUMC's most fascinating people, Kent and Cindy Heltne, who are passionate about missions and so much more. Garry Lozier is our chef, and all are welcome. See you in the New Year!

### Men's Breakfast Bible Study to Study Richard Rohr in January

The Thursday Morning Men's Breakfast Bible Study group is beginning a new study using Richard Rohr's Alternative Orthodoxy DVD as the primary discussion item. This will be a 10-week study and will begin **January 8, 2015**. We will have a methodology to view sessions that may be missed. Craig Prichard, who has studied with Richard Rohr, will attend when possible and give his insights. Please join us for this exciting bible study opportunity. The group meets at 7 am on Thursdays in F5/6 in the Fellowship Center.

### Interfaith Four-session Series Begins January 8, 2015 at PVUMC

Back by popular demand, the Salaam Chai Paradise Tri-faith Fellowship group offers "An Abraham Tri-ologue: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths," a four-part series on the role of Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The first part will be held 7-9 pm on **Thursday, January 8, 2015** in the Fellowship Center. Read more about the series online at the [pvumc.org](http://pvumc.org) website under "News."

### Centering Prayer Workshops and Classes Offered in January

Join us **Saturday, January 10**, 9 am-1 pm, for an Introduction to Centering Prayer. It will be followed by five weeks of practical experience every Sunday, **January 11-February 8**, 9:45-11 am. This simple contemporary expression of an ancient Christian practice of consent to God's presence and action within us allows us to take time every day to rest in God's presence and refill our "well of living water" so we can be more effective out in the world.

### Matthew Bible Study Begins Sundays, January 11 — Register Now

Garry Lozier will be leading a book study on a series by J. Ellsworth Kalas called *Immersion Bible Studies*, beginning **Sunday, January 11**, at 10:45 am in H7. The first book is on the Gospel of *Matthew*. Please register for the class no later than **December 22** by emailing [mfought@pvumc.org](mailto:mfought@pvumc.org) or calling her at 602-840-8360 if you would like to buy your book from us. The cost is \$8.