

I shared these thoughts with the congregation on April 16th at the congregational meeting. I want to share them here as well.

I was raised in a Presbyterian Church, baptized as an infant, accepted Jesus as my savior at age 5 and was confirmed and joined the church in 6th grade. My work life began around age 10 doing odd jobs like mowing lawns, by age 11 I had opened my own Window Washing Business. That led to working at the local "Donut Hut" from ages 12 -16. At 16 I became the stock/delivery boy at the local drug store.

My call to ordained ministry began in High School. It was continually reaffirmed by church leaders and through service to the church. In high school I volunteered at Calvin Crest, a Presbyterian Camp as a counselor for a month. I worked under David Kerr, who was the son of Kenny Kerr (some of you may remember Kenny) he joined SVPC shortly after I arrived. Kenny and I often laughed about the connection with his son. It was in High School, I preached my first sermon.

In college I worked at a couple of churches, and two different Christian Summer Camps, Calvin Crest and Hume Lake.

After college I went to Fuller Theological Seminary and received two Masters Degrees. I received my MDIV from the School of Theology and a MA in Marriage and Family Therapy from the School of Psychology. I also worked at three different churches doing internships; Mt Olive Presbyterian Church (doing Youth ministry for 15 months), La Canada Presbyterian Church (doing Counseling for 2 years), and Highland Park Presbyterian Church (as the full time Pastoral Care intern for 15 months).

After graduation I had three calls simultaneously and had to choose which one to accept. Once Shelley and I decided, I was ordained in my home church, Dinuba United Presbyterian Church. Shelley and I then moved with our newborn daughter Sarah, to Johnson City, TN where I served as Associate Pastor for 5 years. We moved back to Texas (Fort Worth) where I served for 6 years as Pastor at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church. In 1999 I accepted the call to Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church and began work on Sept 1, 1999.

It has been my honor and pleasure to lead you in worship and witness and in service to our Lord Jesus. I have had the joy of baptizing your children, marrying some of you, and the privilege of burying many in this congregation over the years. Three members of the Search Committee are still active members of the church, Glen Moss, Harold Maxwell and Judy Apple.

Over the years, I have had six administrative assistants, three youth workers, and one organist. In 2000, Brian became our Director of Music Ministries. And our friendship has grown over the years. It has been a great joy to work with him in church.

Together as SVPC we have created Mission Partnerships, done Mission Projects and impacted our community and our world for Jesus. Some of the highlights which stand out for me include:

Wonderful Wednesday Night Bible Study.

Taking "Home Communion" regularly to those who were unable to attend worship.

The many years of VBS.

Movie nights

Being part of the team that in 2002, brought J. I Packer to Yuma, where he spoke at SVPC and had dinner with our congregation.

Receiving my DMin degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2010.

If you asked me what I am most proud of our church accomplishing during that time I would say:

How we do mission through "Mission Partnerships". We accomplish so much more through the relationships we have built than we could ever have done alone.

Your allowing me to help bring the "Care Portal" to Yuma.

And, the community service you have allowed me to do through my involvement in First Things First as a Regional Partnership Council Member and serving on the State Board.

Now, after 24 years of service to SVPC; 35 years of ordained ministry; 43 years of working in Churches; and 53 years of working I once more hear God's call, this time to something different. It's called retirement. And after prayerful consideration, once more I am answering God's call.

I know ministry will continue, I just don't know what it will look like. But I am certain that God has a place for Shelley and me to serve and that God has prepared someone to follow me here.

I will preach through the end of June. During July, August and September I will be taking vacation time and a sabbatical that was included in my terms of call. During that time I will make certain that the pulpit is filled and I be on call for an emergency (provided I am in town). Finally, at my request, I will return on October 1, 2023 to preach a final sermon and serve communion a final time with you all on World Wide Communion Sunday.

I am grateful for all our years together.

Darren



Lenore Maxwell; Crystal Echols; Mary Ellen Cultip;  
Mary and Bob Schaal; Missionaries around the World,  
Leonard Troxel; Betty Hammann; Makyla Ruttle; Lynn Bell;  
Cindy Michels; Kylie Rivera; The Unrest in our Country; Police  
and Law enforcers; Total Recovery Ministry; leaders of our  
country; the unsaved; our military and their families;  
all those affected by COVID-19; Border Patrol;



## May BIRTHDAYS

### MAY

3 Bob Anderton  
9 Glenda Newcomer  
14 Shelley Hawkins

### SCOUTS MAY

6 Kalizza Peynado  
6 Maddox Rabun  
9 LillyAnne Hatley  
19 Zoey Moreno  
22 Jeb Vaughn  
29 Mikayla Williams



## June BIRTHDAYS

### JUNE

3 Esther Howe  
7 Harriet Brown  
9 Ed Maxwell  
12 Colleen Foland  
21 Mary Ellen Cutlip  
24 Jordan Hill

### SCOUTS JUNE

3 Marshall Claridge  
9 Angel Delgado  
13 Azariah Cohen  
13 Lance Westmoreland  
16 Daniel Gomez  
16 Jaiden Acosta  
23 Erin Little  
27 Shylynn Harold

## May ANNIVERSARIES

21 Marlatt Myrle and Karen  
31 Anderton Bob and Marty

## June ANNIVERSARIES

8 Glen & Barb Moss  
8 Bill & Sandii Ieeper.

# ROAR

## REACH OUT AND READ

Thank you to those who donated books or money  
to Reach Out and Read!

We collected over 200 new and used books

*We raised over \$585 for new books*

Thank you for your help with the  
early childhood literacy program!



## SUMMER IS COMING TO YUMA

That means it is A/C time at the church.

We have had all units serviced by Esteban and we found two repairs that need to be made. The A/C for the nursery and the adult Sunday school room had quite working. Fortunately, all that was needed was a new thermostat

The real concern was the A/C unit for Don Francis Hall. That unit had lost all its refrigerant. The concern was that the refrigerant piping that runs underground to Don Francis Hall had developed a leak.

This would have required excavation of the piping to find and repair the leak or replacing the old system with a new unit located on the top of Don Francis Hall.

That cost could have been from \$10,000 - \$25,000.

Esteban found the leak above ground, fixed the leak, and recharged the system. The refrigerant was expensive but not the \$10,000 to \$25,000 repair bill that we could have been facing.



# Treasurer's Report

Glen Moss

MAY  
2023

The income figures include all giving, whether toward a pledge to the Annual Stewardship Campaign or donations to a Mission Partnership, a Special Offering, or any other type giving.

The expenses include all expenses incurred including the distribution of monies donated toward special projects or Mission Partnerships.

## YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS

	MARCH	YTD
INCOME	\$19,614.77	\$70,125.96
EXPENSES	\$25,852.09	\$75,363.61 *

\* Income includes gifts for special events and offerings and the Expenses also include where those special items have been "passed along" to the intended organization.

As you can see, our year to date expenses exceeded our year to date income. For the year, we were required to tap our Investment Account for about \$ 6,000 to meet our obligations. For this year, we know that we will see increased cost in utilities, pest control, liability insurance, and worker's compensation. These are the items that we know about. Unfortunately, we have no control over these increases so all we can do is suggest that if you can give more, then please do so.

As you plan for 2023, if you need a tax deduction when you file your taxes, please keep Sierra Vista in mind. We are a non-profit organization and donations to Sierra Vista are deductible for those who file itemized returns.



God is Good and we have been blessed. In all things God is faithful to us, let us be faithful to Him.  
These are the gifts of God from the people of God for the work of God.  
Let us be good stewards of His gifts.



## OVERALL PROGRAM

We are winding down another successful year. The final day of scouts for this activity year is May 24. We have reserved the giant water slide and have invited the Yuma Fire Department to visit us. Dinner that evening will be a pot luck from families and the program will provide lemonade, plates, napkins, and utensils, hamburgers and hotdogs and buns along with mustard, ketchup, and mayo. Each family is requested to bring a dish to share. Suggestions include lettuce, tomatoes, and any other popular fixings, desserts, chips, salads, and sides.

Early registrations for the fall program will be taken starting May 3. All returning Girl Scouts will be registered. Early bird registrations for Cub Scout registrations are also being taken. Any returning Cub Scout from the current scout year will receive a special rate. The benefit of registering now is that you can receive the "discount" and guarantee a slot in the program now.

The annual Labor Day family camp in the Laguna Mountains will not be held this fall. We were remiss in making a reservation in a timely manner and at this point, no weekends are available in July or August or Labor Day.

## GIRL SCOUT

The various levels of Girl Scouts are enjoying the fruits of their cookie sales. The Junior level enjoyed a trip to Sea World over the April 22-23 weekend. The Cadettes have scheduled a trip to Six Flags Magic Mountain over the May 19-21 weekend and the Seniors/ Ambassadors are developing trip plans for a summer excursion. The final Awards and Recognition ceremony for the Girl Scouts will be held on Wednesday, May 17.

## CUB SCOUT PACK

The Cub Scout pack enjoyed a Family Camp over the April 14-16 weekend at Balboa Park in San Diego. Approximately 40 Cub Scouts and their families attended this event. Reports re that all thoroughly enjoyed the weather and the setting in the edge of the world famous park and zoo. The final Pack Meeting for the Cub Scouts will be held May 11.

## BOY SCOUT TROOP

The Boy Scout Troop is very active. Registrations for next year will start on May 3. Several members of the Troop attended the Balboa Park event as members of Cub Scouts families. The boys were most helpful with the cooking and clean-up efforts and displayed their learned skills. A giant Thank You to those Troop members that attended and helped. There are quite a few scouts who will be attending Summer Camp at Camp Geronimo near Payson AZ this year.

# MAY 2023

**SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  Agnus - DEI 7am -3pm COM	<b>3</b>  6:00 Adult Bible Study Scouts 6pm	<b>4</b>  ABC NLPC OPEN HOUSE at 10:00 am 2363 S. Kennedy Ln  National Day of Prayer  Agnus - DEI 7am -3pm COM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  Food Sunday  Communion Sunday	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Agnus - DEI 7am -3pm COM	<b>10</b>  6:00 Adult Bible Study Scouts 6pm	<b>11</b>  Agnus - DEI 7am -3pm COM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  MOTHERS DAY  6th Sunday of Easter	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Agnus - DEI 7am -3pm COM	<b>17</b>  6:00 Adult Bible Study Scouts 6pm	<b>18</b>  Ascension of the Lord  Agnus - DEI 7am -3pm COM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  7th Sunday of Easter	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Agnus - DEI 7am -3pm COM	<b>24</b>  WATER FUN DAY  6:00 Adult Bible Study Scouts 6pm	<b>25</b>  Agnus - DEI 7am -3pm COM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>  Day of Pentecost	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  6:00 Adult Bible Study Scouts 6pm			



# JUNE 2023

**SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT**

				1	2	3
4 Trinity Sunday Communion Sunday Food Sunday	5	6	7 6:00 Adult Bible Study	8	9	10
11 2nd Sunday after Pentecost	12	13	14 6:00 Adult Bible Study	15	16	17
18 Father's Day 3rd Sunday after Pentecost	19	20	21 6:00 Adult Bible Study	22	23 Mary Ellen's 90th Birthday Don Francis Hall	24
25 4th Sunday after Pentecost	26	27	28 6:00 Adult Bible Study	29	30	