

THE EVANGEL
Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church
11273 E. 40th Street
Yuma, Az.

December 2023
Volume 31, Issue 12



MISSION STATEMENT

Walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person

TO ALL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS:

A time to welcome the Prince of Peace

We live in a world that talks about peace and makes war. In the past 6,000 years of recorded history, only 200 of those years have been peaceful.

It is estimated that between 90 and 95% of all known societies have engaged in war on a fairly regular basis. And yet we talk peace. And all sorts of smart people have claimed we were on the verge of utopia.

In 1897, Hiram Maxim invented the fully automatic machine gun. He predicted that it would bring about worldwide peace because his gun had such devastating effects. I wonder how that worked out.

Orville Wright believed that when he and his brother invented the airplane, it would 'make further wars practically impossible'. In 1912 Marconi, the inventor of the radio, predicted that 'the coming of the radio will make war impossible'. Two years later, we had World War I.

In 1871 Alfred Nobel, the man who started the Nobel prizes and was the inventor of dynamite believed that his invention would usher in world peace. It seems that despite all well-meaning intentions we humans keep on going to war.

Not long ago, the new Speaker of the US House of Representatives said that "the problem is the human heart"...and he was mercilessly ridiculed in the press.

Yet as followers of Jesus, we know that people do not change unless their hearts are changed!

Christmas Eve Worship Invitations. Over 60% of people currently worshipping at GdC are here because a member or friend invited them! Perhaps you were personally invited to Christmas Eve worship!

God can and will work through your personal invitation. Special business cards are being printed for this purpose and will be handed out after worship at all services in December.

Please give God a chance to work through your invitation to Christmas Eve Worship on December 24th at 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm, and 8 pm.

See you in worship!
Pastor Bill Timm



“I AM THE CHURCH, YOU ARE THE CHURCH, WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER, ALL AROUND THE WORLD, WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER.....”

Did you sing that song as a youth? The mission pastor used that old hymn in her remarks while sharing the organization process of Maricopa Lutheran Church. Four of us, representing you, attended the celebration of their 10 year anniversary. What an exciting time for them, it is a gift to be a part of a new congregation; we at GDC share their ministry growth, financially, in prayer and our famous quilts. They share their mission story with us when Pastor Schlect comes to worship with us in February.

While we are happy how their mission congregation has grown, we know, it took forward thinking people, people who invited old friends, new friends, neighbors and relatives to worship with them. We, at GDC know that the same process for creating a new, dynamic congregation is necessary to maintain and grow a congregation that is 30-40-50 years old. Can we look to Maricopa to encourage us to move forward boldly in the next 10 years? A committee of 12 spent over a year working on our mission field, you are a part of the mission...REMEMBER...“I AM THE CHURCH, YOU ARE THE CHURCH, WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER, ALL AROUND THE WORLD, WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER...”

This Christmas season instead of worrying about what to buy for a neighbor, friend or family; invite them to come to church with you, it could change both your lives. Whatever you do, wherever you go, we are praying for you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your church council, see you in church!

We are entering Advent season. While it honors and remembers the first Advent when Christ was born, it beckons the Lord to rend the heavens and come down. He permeates humanity with His almighty incarnation, and He paid for our sin and unrighteousness. As God's people, we plead for mercy, and we are declared guiltless through the grace of Christ Jesus. It also looks for Christ's second Advent. With the myriad of saints, we eagerly anticipate the coming of Christ, singing, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Behold, God comes, unleashing undeserved comfort and pardon to His people. This sure word of promise stands forever. Like a thief in the night, the Lord will return unannounced, eager to grant salvation and peace to those who are repentant. As the hymn-writer says, "Maybe Today, My Lord Will Come Again." As John the Baptist proclaimed a Baptism of repentance, so also the Church continues to baptize with water, that repentant faith may abound, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

God alone balances Law and Gospel with strict justice and beautiful grace. His hatred for wrong is eclipsed by His everlasting covenant of love. In response to His judgment and righteousness, we rejoice in all circumstances, knowing that God alone is faithful, sanctifying us and keeping us blameless. John, the forerunner of Jesus, never claims to be more than he is—not a prophet, not Elijah, not the Christ, but the one who prepares His way.

Here are some Advent titles from our hymnal. You can expect to see some of them in our worship services this season:

He Is Coming Again; Arise O Christian People; Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus; Hail to the Lord's anointed; Hark the Glad Sound; Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness; Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness; O God of Love, O King of Peace; Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers; Comfort, Comfort Ye My People; O God, O Lord of heav'n and Earth; On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry; When All the World Was Cursed; Come We that Love the Lord; Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment; Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten; On What Has Now Been Sown; Once He Came in Blessing; Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness; The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation; The Night Will Soon be Ending; The Only Son from Heaven.

May our prayer be, "Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. Make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen"

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Adult Vacation Bible School January 23, 24, 25 2024

Sign-up slips will be in the bulletin starting January 13/14



Welcome Sandra Arceneaux and Leith Patnaude to the committee. Marge Hollandsworth and I so appreciate your participation.

There is always room, on any committee, for those of you interested in joining.

Diane Lee, Chairperson



GLORIOUS QUILTERS

Oh my goodness !!! 2023 is coming to an end. We're all anxiously awaiting the birth of baby Jesus. What a joyous time it is!

Your Glorious Quilting Ladies have been turning out quilts faster than I can count. There is so much laughter going on it warms my heart.

We have picked up another group to help out, Cancer Resource. I've already taken quilts to them.

We are so grateful to all of you that have donated to us, allowing us to continue this outreach to others. It seems the need is getting larger all the time.

Remember you are always welcome to stop by any Monday, have some coffee with us, visit and see what we're up to. Please join us in the fun.

Text me at 503-338-9358

Carol Schock



FELLOWSHIP

One of my good experiences this past month was a trip to Maricopa with other Council members to attend the 10th anniversary celebration for the Maricopa Lutheran Church. It was held in a beautiful clubhouse and they had a great program, with a mens' choir, a bell choir, their instrumental group which led us in singing various songs, memories by their initial pastor, second pastor and their current pastor. The food tables were laden with fantastic pastries, and the entire event was very memorable.

We are getting closer to December 2, when we will be having our Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale. We have been very busy on Thursday mornings making many beautiful items which we will be selling at our bazaar. We are asking our members to contribute to our bake sale, and if it is like other years, we will be selling a wide assortment of cookies, candies, and other baked goods. We are also looking forward to having Jim and Linda Bryant make lefse for us this year. If you have never had lefse, plan to pick up a package and try it – you will like it!!!

Sunday morning after church, we are seeing more and more of our members attending fellowship; it is so good to see the familiar faces returning from their summer homes and travels. And I have been blessed with many of our ladies baking cookies for the freezer, so we have a good assortment of goodies for after church fellowship. I still need more people to volunteer to help with clean up after Fellowship, it does not take long, but it needs to be done.

Thanksgiving Dinner was a great success. Thank you to Lynette, Sandra and Dee who took charge thus allowing me the chance to be with my family in California that day.

I am looking forward to all the festivities of December: The Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale, decorating the trees, the church and the Fellowship Hall. We will be having a Christmas dinner for all of our members and fellow worshippers who don't have family to be with; it is always a good day with lots of yummy food, fellowship and fun.

A blessed Christmas to all of you. And, even though it seems so far away, Happy New Year too!!

Cheryl Preul, Fellowship Chairman

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

October 2023	Year to Date		2023 Budget
	2022	2023	
Revenue	\$232,573	\$256,358	\$342,385
Expense	\$242,981	\$279,621	
Net Increase	(\$10,408)	(\$23,262)	
In-Person Attendance	5898	6581	
On-Line Connection	4465	5235	
Additional Persons	950	1087	

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

MINDFULNESS: CALMING THE BRAIN, SOOTHING THE SPIRIT

Mindfulness, simply put, is focusing on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging one's feelings, thoughts, bodily sensations without judging it as good or bad. Mindfulness reminds us to live in the present, not the past or futures. The goal is to bring us greater peace of mind.

Mindfulness is helpful in reducing stress, anxiety, depression, and pain or just be more relaxed. Practicing mindfulness involves meditation, deep breathing, guided imagery, visualization, and progressive muscle relaxation.

Christian mindfulness and meditation include the above practices plus prayer, scriptural meditation, and contemplation. The focus is on God and cultivation a deeper understanding of His loving presence. He understands our pain and suffering and can bring us peace.

Gloria de Cristo offers a Christian Meditation and Mindfulness group on the second Wednesday each month. Come join us.

Evelyn Trone, Facilitator

Source: Psychology Today

Christian Meditation, Joshua K. Knabb

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Promote understanding of the human needs and social problems within our congregation, the community, and beyond

Our committee has been involved in helping to spread cheer to residents at Rose Garden Assisted Living. It is a small home with 8 residents. In November we celebrated 2 birthdays with a gift of a quilt, cake (flavor of resident's choice) and balloons. This is really appreciated and brightens their day - ours too. We would invite other people to participate. You are not asked to join a committee to do this. A committee member (s) will be with you to on our visit. In December along with the birthday celebration we plan to have an afternoon of cookie decorating. If you would like to come with us contact Carol Schock, Barb Blank or me.

The ELCA - Good Gifts program will be the focus December 12/9 through 12/17. This is an annual drive when you have the opportunity to purchase and animal or other items for ELCA missions. Volunteers will be needed to sit at the table at each service. Contact Evelyn Trone (928-783-3706) if you are willing to help.

Food bank donations for November totaled 224 lbs. This may be some sort of record. Thank you for your continuous and generous contribution of food items. We can always use a volunteer to help deliver food. We do this on a rotating schedule so no one person does it all. If you would like to help, we can arrange a ride-a-long. Contact me or any committee member.

Birthday cards and Anniversary cards are being sent. Hope you enjoy the greeting. A special shout out to Lynette Layton for sending the cards, and Lola Miller for her hand made cards. Of course, we still need your donation of greeting cards to keep this fun project going.

Collections (the good kind): We will again accept aluminum tabs. We now, through Dave Donaldson, have a contact who can accept tabs for the benefit of veterans.
(con't. next page)

Please no magazines. Since Covid and everyone using their phones, magazines are not used at the hospital. We continue to accept pill bottles, glasses, used print cartridges, travel kits.

And during this season of giving let's continue to remember the best gift of all - our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Evelyn Trone, Chairperson
928-210-8015

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

As each received a gift, use it to serve one another, as stewards of gods varied Gifts.



NEW MEMBERS

Don & Suzanne Hormann
10460 E. 34th Street #130
Yuma, 85365

815-370-5500

Suzanne L. Hormann...I was born December 3, 1952 in Jamestown, North Dakota. When I was 13 we moved to Florence, Montana (25 miles south of Missoula). I graduated from Florence-Carthon High School in 1990 and went to work for the FBI. After that I learned how to drive semi tractor/trailer and drove over the road and drove in all but Maine of the 48 adjacent states. On August 20, 1983 I married Donald Hormann. We don't have any children but I have 2 step-daughters, 8 grand children and 14 great grandchildren.

I'm retired now and take care of our home in Bourbonnais, Illinois and dog Saddle. I love coming to Yuma and Gloria de Cristo.

Don Hormann... Born 7/26/1948 in Ft. Wayne, Ia. Baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church. Attended 8 years of School at Trinity. In 1965 we moved to Ottawa, Ia and graduated from Davis County Community H.S. in 1966. Started driving truck over the road in October, 1969. For the next 49 years I was in the trucking Industry as driver, dispatcher and truck owner.

NEW MEMBER'S (con't.)

In 1981 I moved to Chicago, Ia to dispatch for an LTL Refrigerated carrier. Met my wife Suzanne over the phone. We were married 8/20/83. I have 2 daughters by a previous marriage, 8 grandchildren and 14 great grand children. Suzanne and I do not have any children. Since I retired in 2018, I am mowing grass at 20 residences and 1 large cemetery. April to October we are in Bourbonnais, Ill and from October to April we come to Yuma. We like the friendliness of Gloria de Cristo.

Jerry Palmer

928-798-0868

13275 E. 53rd Lane, Yuma 85367

I was born in Illinois and raised in the Methodist church. Been born again for 40 years. I've been to Israel and walked where Jesus walked. I am a retired Allstate Insurance broker of 24 years and have lived in Yuma for 4 1/2 years. I am very excited about the journey ahead with Gloria de Cristo. May God's Blessings reach all of us!



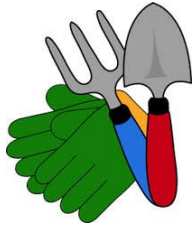
Mathew 2

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11 And when were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. {presented: or, offered} 12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way...

13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word:

Even in the time when Jesus was born they had to flee to Egypt. Egypt has a long history of dealing with the Jews. Now with the war with Gaza, Egypt still has a role in this conflict. God always has an answer and a plan as the angel told Joseph what to do.

Not a lot going on in outreach. No highway cleanup until road construction is complete. Welcome back bash will happen on December 6th. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!



PROPERTY



"Thank You" to Dave Donaldson and Eric Werner for all the work done to keep the Gloria de Cristo property looking great! The barrier of fence, plants and bales at the south side of the property has kept lots of sand off the parking lot!



The year seems to be slipping by far too quickly. We are about to enter into the Advent season, which means Christmas will be here before we know it. It is my most favorite time of the year and I'm excited to see it come. A time to again hear 'the greatest story ever told'...the birth of our Savior.

As you have already seen, the Sanctuary is decorated all in blue for the Advent season. I would like to thank those that help get everything in its place... Ted & Niki Duffy, Mike & Sandy Corless, Joanne Ausing (co-chair), Jan Klipfel, Nancy Griffiths, Brian Suess, Chris Brown and I helped direct traffic. Also, thanks to Gary Raasch for setting up the nativity outdoor.

They also helped get the tree in place in Fellowship Hall for Cheryl's group to decorate.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all those that have stepped up to help as worship assistants. There are times when I have to catch someone as they come to worship to pinch hit...if someone is sick or I've slipped them in without letting them know I have done so. Everyone is most gracious to be a part of our service, so 'Thank You'.

Within the next month, I will be sending out a schedule for the months of January thru April. If you would like to help out and haven't done so before, please call the church office and let me know...I could especially use people at the Saturday service and the 7:45 service. It's not difficult and it gives you a good feeling.

I hope God blesses each of you this Christmas season and shines on 2024 with Peace and Good Will!!

Char Schomis, Worship Co-Chair



WELCA HAPPENINGS

The fall gathering was well attended. Our speaker, Shari Jones, shared with those attending what's happening with all the kits that are made at the 'Days for Girls' workshops and where they are being used. She was presented with a quilt that was made from the scraps of those kits.

So what's happening in the coming month for WELCA:

December 9th and 23rd: Days for Girls, 9-1 in the Fellowship Hall

Dec. 13th: WELCA Planning Committee, 1-2 pm.

Looking at a January Gather potluck dinner.

All ladies of GDC are members of WELCA, so plan to join us for fellowship and fun at their activities.



Mens' Breakfast will meet on the first Saturday of the month at 8am at Daybreakers. Please join us for a time of food and fellowship!!

This next date is December 2nd

HAVE YOU INCLUDED GLORIA DE CRISTO LUTHERAN CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Many churches, including Gloria de Cristo, are blessed by members who have conscientiously included the church in their estate planning because these planned gifts enable some very important and powerful ministry to occur.

Please consider including Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church, which has served you these many years, in your estate planning.

You will enable this congregation to serve many, many more people in years and generations to come!

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 9:30 am Set Up for Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale	2 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast at Day- breakers CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & BAKE SALE 8 AM-2 PM
3 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 Potluck following 9:30 Collection of Food for Food Pantry 12:00 pm GriefShare Fellowship Classroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	4 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare Class, FC 12 pm Worship Mtg. 12:30 & 3:00 pm Bible Study,Pastor's home	5 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social 4:00 pm Mental Health Ministry	6 8:00 am Staff Meeting 9:30-12 pm Stephen Ministry Class 1:00 & 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	7 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 5:00 pm TOPS	8 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	9 9AM- 1PM DAYS FOR GIRLS 4:00 pm Worship
10 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 12:00 pm GriefShare Fellowship Classroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	11 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare Class, FC 12:30 & 3:00 pm Bible Study,Pastor's home Fellowship Mtg, 2 pm	12 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social	13 8:00 am Staff Meeting 9:30-12 pm Stephen Ministry Class 10:00 am Christian Mind- fulness group 1:00 & 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	14 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 5:00 pm TOPS	15 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	16 4:00 pm Worship
17 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 12:00 pm GriefShare Fellowship Classroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	18 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare Class, FC 12:30 & 3:00 pm Bible Study,Pastor's home	19 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social 4:00 pm Exec. Council 4:30 pm Council Meeting	20 8:00 am Staff Meeting 9:30-12 pm Stephen Ministry Class 1:00 & 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	21 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 5:00 pm TOPS	22 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	23 9AM- 1PM DAYS FOR GIRLS 4:00 pm Worship
24 Worship 9:30 am Christmas Eve Services 2,4,6,8 pm	25 Christmas Day Office is Closed	26 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social	27 8:00 am Staff Meeting 9:30-12 pm Stephen Ministry Class 1:00 & 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	28 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 5:00 pm TOPS	29 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's	30 4:00 pm Worship

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

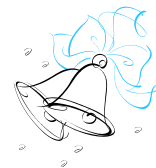
- 3 Cheryl Preul in memory of husband Robert AND
Mary Marsh in memory of husband Forrest
- 10 Jan Klipfel in memory of husband Dennis
- 17 In Memory of Johnny & Mary Doris Watson
- 24 Larry Unger in memory of Rose Marie
- 31 Char Schomisch in memory of her Mother



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Evelyn Trone | 6 Niki Duffy | 14 Carl Christensen |
| 3 Suzanne Hormann | 7 Cheryl Preul | 14 Charlene Jackson |
| 4 Margie Hollandsworth | 8 Roger Tracey | 23 Stan Goter |
| 4 Glenn Van Winkle | 10 Dennis Kasin | 25 Virginia Reisnaur |
| 5 Dorothy Pruett | 10 Bonnie Munson | 29 Harry Taylor |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 Alan & Becky Werner | 21 Stan & Ila Goter |
| 13 Don & Jolene Spaude | 24 Bill & Rita Kowalski |
| 19 John & Jan Achen | 28 Duane & Fay Weeks |
| 19 Dave & Gwen Hubenthal | |

PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

If you're struggling with money in retirement, there are a few programs and services you can consider. These programs can help with food, medical bills and employment.

The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP):

Provides benefits to low-income Americans to supplement their grocery budget. You have to qualify according to your income and assets. A household with an elderly or disabled person has to meet only the net income limit, which is gross income minus allowable deductions. September 30, 2023, is \$1,215 for a household of one or \$1,644 for a household of two.

If you're eligible, you will receive SNAP benefits on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which works like a debit card. Benefits are automatically loaded into your account each month. You can then use your EBT card to buy groceries at authorized food stores and retailers.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture runs the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Certain low-income people over the age of 60 are eligible for a monthly food package containing vegetables, fruits, cheeses, grains, protein, milk and more.

Medicare Savings Program:

Medicare Savings Programs can help pay your Medicare Part A and B premiums, deductibles, coinsurance and copayments to eligible recipients. You apply for Medicare Savings Programs through your state, and your state will determine which program or programs you qualify for.

To qualify, you must have income and resources below a specific limit. There are four Medicare Savings Programs: The Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) Program, the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) Program, the Qualifying Individual (QI) Program and the Qualified Disabled and Working Individual (QDWI) Program.

Senior Community Service Employment Program:

If you're struggling with money in retirement and are not disabled, you may be able to work part time. If the cuts have impacted you, part-time work can help supplement your Social Security income. The U.S. Department of Labor runs the Senior Community Service Employment Program. It helps subsidize part-time employment and training in community service positions so older workers can move to unsubsidized, private-sector jobs.



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DECEMBER, 2023



PASTOR: Bill Timm
ORGANIST: Dr. Shirley Ehler
PIANISTS: Marie Ritten, Lorie Rapp
BELLS OF GLORY: Lorie Rapp
CHOIR: Dr. Shirley Ehler

GriefShare Leaders:
Ted & Nikki Duffy
Mary Marsh
Lisa Crayne

Stephen Ministry Leaders:
Pastor Timm
Michelle Cegon
Jim & Sherrie Wehrer

Church Secretary: Char Schomisch

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VICE PRESIDENT: John Arnold
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TREASURER: Terre Munk

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OUTREACH: Joe Johnson
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WORSHIP & MUSIC: Char Schomisch