



Stay on the Wall

April 2014

Ministry Leaders:

Senior Pastor La'Tresa Jester and Deacon Bryan Jester



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Worship Times

Morning Worship: Sunday at 10:00 am

Midweek:
Prayer at 6 pm and The Word at 6:30 pm

Editor's Corner

As the year marches on, I want to first and foremost thank God for all of the blessings He's bestowed on me.

I hope you enjoyed our first newsletter and that you encouraged the people who were featured. If you have something to share, such as a testimony that shows the transformation of your life as a result of accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior, how being part of the Gideon family has improved your life or a praise report, please contact me on: rpurdie@gideonmbc.org.

One of the things I've learned from Pastor is that everyone has a backstory and it's often that story that can help release someone else from the bonds that you were under. Be **bold** enough to share your story. As one of my best friends says: "It's not about us; it's about Jesus!" Amen, Sister Elaine. Amen!

Your sister-in-Christ
Renée Purdie

New Member Spotlight

We love all of our Gideon family, but we especially want to show some love to our newest members. Please welcome them and be sure to connect with them.

✚ Tabitha Bowens

✚ Julie Cardenas

✚ Savannah Cardenas

✚ Sandra Heath

✚ Jessica Leyvas

✚ Angela Pittman

✚ Frances Taylor

✚ Kristina Taylor

Joshua 24:15 ... "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."



On February 15th, Pastor's brother, Terry Cook, became Deacon Cook. I loved the story of how Terry was Pastor's first member at Gideon and that he literally bounced down the aisle! I also enjoyed the story about how Terry Cook apparently used to terrorize at least corners of the south side. That's God right there!

Children's Church has become a thriving part

of our church services! This month, the kids will be honoring God with an Easter play so be sure to be there!

Spring Cleaning! This month, we will be cleaning up our branch of the Lord's house! To volunteer time, goods and/or funds, please see Sister Rori for the sign-up sheets.

Coming up



Shift happens when you elevate your ask!

Proverbs 31:10: Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

Sister Levator is one of the loveliest people you will ever meet. She blends a truly breathtaking love for God with beauty, joy, style, care and love of her fellow human beings. Originally a native of Texas, she moved to Arizona in 1964 and has resided in Tucson since about 1967. Sister Levator has been a faithful member of Gideon Baptist Church for over 30 years! She has been a chef, a caretaker, a seamstress ... and she has one of the most beautiful homes I've ever seen! I could go on and on about this amazing woman of God, but I will close by saying that Gideon is better—I am better—simply by knowing her.



One of our Elishas

When I looked up “men of the Bible,” this is one of the first entries I found: “Making Our Lives a Blessing to Others ... Elisha: the power of love.” That pretty much sums up Brother X (Charles Merriex). He always has a broad smile and a hug to offer folks who are in need of them and is a true example of a man who looks after his family and formerly served his country in the armed forces (He also has quite a sense of humor, as he's the one who first told me what SOS means when he helped cook a great meal for one of our Gideon get-togethers!) The fruit doesn't fall far from the tree in that both of his daughters are talented members of the Music Ministry and his wife Pat (more about her in future editions of Proverbs 31 Women!) taught Sunday school for 11 years. I feel like an honorary member of his family and even have a nickname (NaNa), notably my nickname from my family! I'm really honored to be in the same Gideon family as this strong man of God.



Q&A with Minister Ravyn Brooks

What attracted you to Gideon Baptist Church?

Honestly, it wasn't the church. It was all Pastor. I saw her at Rising Star and immediately I knew I had to be where she was. When I got there, I was like: “Are you sure this is her church?” because it didn't look like her, but no matter, I knew this was the Pastor I needed to be under so I just stuck here.

What is one of the best things you have learned from Pastor?

I learned how to be obedient and on the back side of that, I learned to trust His word and believe in Him, more than myself. She drilled that into me.

What is your passion?

My passion is to help youth, especially at risk youth, ones that aren't fortunate enough to have a mother or father or an aunt or an uncle to encourage and push them, not only in the world, but to do better for God, to build a relationship with Him.

What is your ministry?

My ministry and my passion are connected. I really just want to touch all people who are out there who don't really have what I've been blessed with: people to seed into me. I want to touch those people as much as I can, especially the kids because they are the future and they're going to be in charge of this world we live in one day.

Is there something else you want to share?

No matter where you're from, what you've done, what you are and what you are not, Pastor can love on you and teach you, if you're just willing to come and see and listen. She can open your eyes and your heart to so much more than you think you know. She will provide you with all the love that you can imagine. Once she touches you, God will do the rest. I think it's just a great experience to be connected to Gideon and to Pastor.



Book Review: *The Joy and the Pain of the Single Christian?? Woman* By Sheree Carradine

This is an eye-opening book of (keepin' it) real stories about women who have found (or led) themselves in situations of great spiritual and sometimes physical danger. It is not a book of judgment, but rather of warning. The book explores so many pitfalls and describes them all in a clear, candid fashion. For these reasons and more, I strongly recommend that ALL Christian women buy this book and share the bits that are relevant with their daughters, nieces and all other women they care about. If we can save one woman (including ourselves) from heartache (or worse), then that'll be a fantastic start. For more information, and to order your copy, visit:

www.personalizeit.com/books.html.