

The Parish Caller

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

November 25, 2015

First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott



FEATURED THIS ISSUE

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This Week at a Glance...

- ◆ **Light Parade** Saturday 7 pm
- ◆ **Exploring Faith** Sunday Discussion Group 9 am
- ◆ **Choir Practice** Sunday 9 am
- ◆ **Exploring Faith** Monday Night Discussion Group 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Knit Wits** from 1-3 pm Tuesday
- ◆ **From Grief to Grace World AIDS Day** 5:50 pm
- ◆ **Bell Choir Rehearsal** 11 am Thursday
- ◆ **Funky Friday Game Night** 7 pm Friday

From the Pastor

We have “adopted” Washington School next door. Our member Judy Ely teaches there. In addition, special needs children are welcome there, so this fits our theology of radical welcome to all God’s children. Here is a description of the school from their website:

*Discovery Gardens, Prescott Unified School District’s preschool, offers a variety of services to preschoolers, ages 2 to 5 years:
Developmentally Appropriate preschool classrooms
Early Intervention services for children with developmental delays*

The preschool program is Arizona Department of Health Services licensed. We follow developmentally appropriate practices and the curriculum is aligned with the Arizona State Standards for Early Childhood Education.

*Children with special needs may also receive services in the following areas:
speech/language
cognition
motor
social/emotional
adaptive/self-help
vision
hearing*

Free monthly developmental screening is provided, including vision and hearing, plus diagnostic follow-up evaluations, if needed.

The Discovery Gardens preschool program offers child directed, developmentally appropriate practices in a center based early childhood environment.

If you are interested in volunteering in the classroom, please let me know. There will be an orientation in Perkins Hall Wednesday, December 10 at 10 am. The volunteer coordinator of the school system will be here to show us how to get involved. She will also do fingerprints at that time as well.

Here is a wish list of items from the school that we can provide:

Paper cups
Googly eyes
Wipes
Dust buster
Crackers of any kind
Plastic spoons
Napkins
Baby wipes
Fresh fruit

Please bring items to Perkins Hall – look for the school display. Blessings, Pastor Jay

History of
Washington
School and FCC of
Prescott

The Prescott Free
Academy in the
foreground and
Washington School
almost completed in
the rear. First
Congregational
Church shows in the
lower left of this
photo.

History of Washington School and First Congregational Church of
Prescott

By: Jay Eby

With the resumption of classes at Washington School it seems a good time to look back to early education pursuits in the Territory of Arizona. Arizona became a

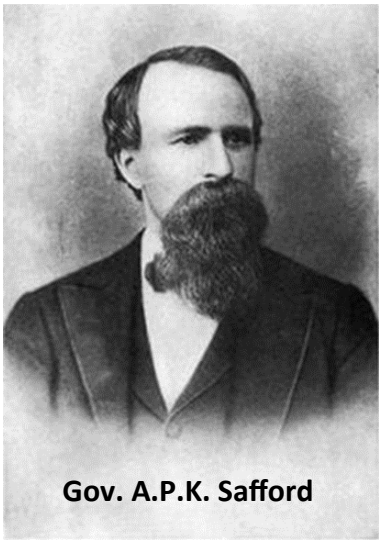


separate territory of the United States in 1863 and Prescott its capital in 1864. There were not many children here at that time but the effort to educate our children was undertaken as soon as practical.

As Sylvia Neely told us in her Days Past article of 29 August 1999, Washington School was not the first school building on

the corner of Alarcon and Gurley Streets. The first building there was the Prescott Free Academy. The photograph shows the Academy building, soon to be torn down, with Washington School completed just behind.

The Academy was the first graded school in the Arizona Territory and the upper floor was used by the Territorial Government until the Territorial Capitol building was completed across the street, on the lot in the next block to the west.



Gov. A.P.K. Safford

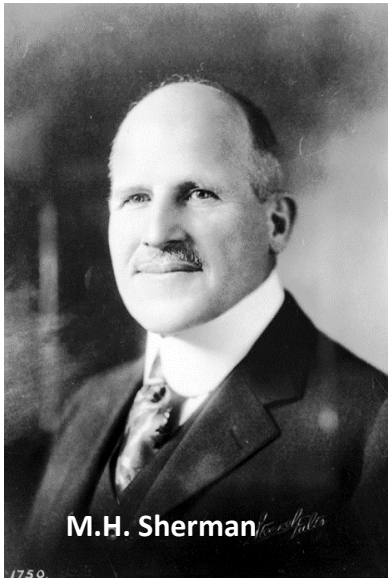
There had been schools before, one of which was built and taught by Samuel C. Rogers and located on Granite Creek where the current Mile High Middle School is now located. A replica of that structure is at Sharlot Hall Museum for us to see.

Governor Safford, our third Territorial Governor, was effective in supporting public education and signed into law a property tax bill in 1871 dedicated to public schools and used his own and other private funds to attract qualified teachers to Arizona Territory. One such person was Moses Hazeltine Sherman.

M. H. Sherman, a graduate of Oswego Normal School, arrived in Prescott in 1873 to teach and later to be Superintendent of the Prescott Free Academy.

I have no direct information to indicate that the Congregational Society of Prescott or the New West Educational Commission of the Congregational Church was directly responsible for this school in Prescott, Arizona Territory. Obviously the Prescott Free Academy did not just appear as the first graded school. The people of Prescott had, for some 12 years,

provided for public education for their children. Samuel C. Rogers, the first public school teacher, had organized a school district in San Jose, California years before to support his school there and helped organize such in Prescott. R.H. Burmister, later a member of the Congregational Church, and Will Buffum served as trustees. Surely some funds and much encouragement came from the Territorial Government since the Governor and his staff occupied the



Continued on page 2

History of Washington School and FCC of Prescott continued

second floor of the school building for some time. Many of the funds may have come from private subscriptions.

The New West Education Commission of the Congregational Church was busy at this very time establishing public schools throughout the southwest. By 1880 they had already established the Salt Lake School, the Santa Fe Academy, the Albuquerque Academy, the Pueblo Colorado Free Academy, and the



Mary S. Snyder

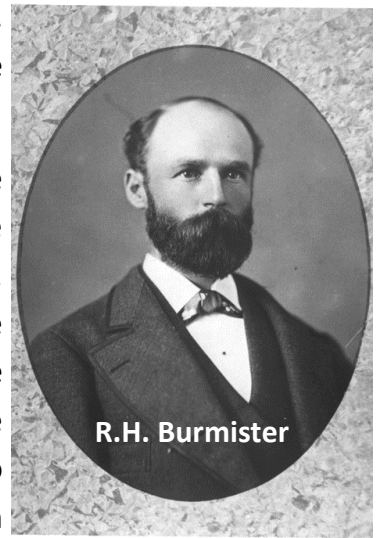
Las Vegas, New Mexico Free Academy. William

Emory Hazeltine, a

member of First Congregational Church of Prescott a banker, and older brother of Moses B. Hazeltine, was on the board of trustees of the Albuquerque Free Academy. Mary S. Snyder was a teacher at the Albuquerque Free Academy in 1879 and 1880. She then came to Prescott, joined the First Congregational Church, and in 1882 married Will

Hazeltine. I do not know if she taught at the Prescott Free Academy.

Moses H. Sherman joined the First Congregational Church and was superintendent of the Prescott Free Academy. His sister Lucy Hazeltine Sherman, a graduate of Oberlin College, came to teach with her brother and married Eli Clark in 1880. Eli was a graduate of Grinnell College and taught school in Iowa and Missouri before coming to Prescott. Mr. Clark was a member of First Congregational Church, a partner in a saw mill at Lynx Creek, Territorial Auditor and later a partner with M. H. Sherman in many development ventures. His partner at Lynx Creek was Amos D. Adams, a fellow church member who married Kate Dunning, a teacher at the school and also a member at First Congregational.



R.H. Burmister



William Hazeltine



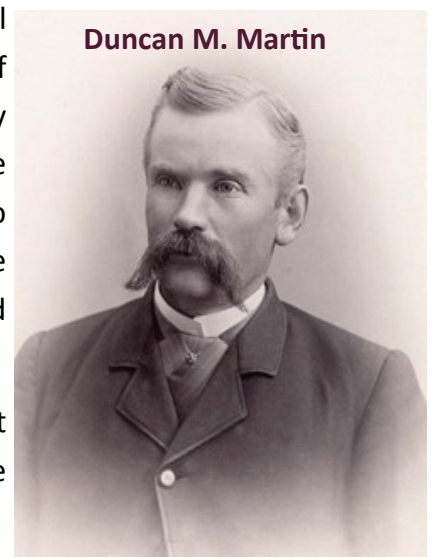
Angeline Brigham Mitchell

serve on the Territorial Board of School Examiners.

In 1898 Duncan M. Martin, a member of First Congregational Church, was superintendent of the Prescott Free Academy.

Angeline Brigham, a school teacher, graduated from Mt. Holyoke Seminary. She served as Master of the Young Ladies Seminary at Bridgewater, MA, and Precepts of Botterboro Academy, Vermont. She married Daniel F. Mitchell and in Prescott joined the First Congregational Church. While M. H. Sherman was

Territorial Superintendent of Schools, appointed by Governor Freemont, he asked Angeline to develop a territory wide graded curriculum and



Duncan M. Martin

What's Happening!***"From Grief to Grace" and World AIDS Day Commemoration December 1, 5:30 pm***

Join us for a healing service for those who are grieving and lonely this time of year and also to commemorate World AIDS Day. This is a time to express personal grief and hope, to unite with people worldwide in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and to remember those who have died. A soup supper will be served afterwards. The Reverend Marti Garrison and Julie Jaquette will lead.

Lil Jorgenson Memorial December 7, 11 am

A Thanksgiving for the Life of Lillian Jorgenson will be at 11 am on Dec. 7, at our church, with a luncheon to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Yavapai College Foundation, 1100 E. Sheldon St., Prescott, AZ 86301 for The Lillian M. Jorgenson Nursing Scholarship.

Agape Soup December 9, 5:30 pm

Agape Soup Supper is back! Join us for soup and fellowship December 9 at 5:30 pm. Sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall.

Washington School Volunteer Orientation December 10, 10 am

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer at Washington School is invited to this orientation with school volunteer coordinator Lisa Garnes. She will accepting applications and providing fingerprint services.

Acker Night December 11, 5:30-8:30 pm

This year our church is hosting musical performances by "The Prescott Opry" and the Girl Scouts in the Acker Night "Tips for Scholarships" event. We need volunteers to act as hosts. Sign-up sheet for hosts and cookie donations is in Perkins Hall or please let Julie in the office know if you would like to help us out. 928-445-4555

Christmas Family Dinner December 20, after Worship Service

You wont want to miss this Christmas Family Dinner! Bring a festive dish or dessert to share! This is your chance to get decked out and wear your favorite Christmas sweater, or holiday outfit! More information to come!

Christmas Eve Service December 24, 7 pm

We will be having a Christmas Eve candlelight service here at the church at 7 pm! This service is well attended by our local community.

November Outreach Ministry

We are still collecting Christmas gifts for the Coalition for Compassion and Justice. Choose a gift for a child or adult from their Christmas Wish List. A list of gift suggestions are posted in Perkins Hall. If you have a last minute gift to drop off, let Julie in the office know. 928-445-4555

Ongoing & Weekly Events

CHOIR PRACTICE meets
Sundays at 9 am in the
Sanctuary. See Jane Osborn if
you would like to join the choir!
BELL CHOIR PRACTICE at 11 am
on Thursdays

KNIT WITS meets
the 1st & 3rd
Tuesdays of every
month from 1-3
pm in the Office
Conference Room.

LAS FUENTES
1035 Scott Dr., Prescott
SPIRITUAL LIVING Class is
held the 3rd Thursday of
every month at 10 am, led
by Called to Care Ministry.
~And~
Worship Service is also held
the 2nd Sunday of every
month at 3 pm, led by
Pastor Jay.

Living the Questions
Study Group
Sunday Mornings at 9
am in the Church
Library starting on
November 8
~And~
Monday Evening
Discussion Group
meets at 6:30 pm in
the Church Library

First Congregational Church,
UCC
216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
928-445-4555
fccprescott@gmail.com
Administration Office Hours
Mondays: 9:00 - 4:00
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 1:00
Pastor Jay
Monday - Thursday
9:00 - Noon
Other times by appointment
Cell: 928-899-9066
jayfccprescott@gmail.com

PFLAG SUPPORT
GROUP meets the 3rd
Friday of every month
at 6:30 pm in the
Church Library. See
Julie J. for more details.

Funky Friday
Game Night
Hosted by PFLAG
Everyone
Welcome! 7-9 pm
1st Friday of
every Month
starting in
November

CABINET MEETING
meets the 4th
Thursday of every
month at 6:30 pm in
the Office
Conference Room.

CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY meets
the 4th Tuesday of every month
from 2-4 pm in the Office
Conference Room. If you are
interested in being part of this
ministry, see Marilyn Kerstine.

PASS MEAL is a once-a-month ministry
where we provide a meal for the
Prescott Area Shelter Services the 3rd
Wednesday of every month at 5:30
pm. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.