



MERRY  
*Christmas*



DESERTSCAPE

PHOENIX, ARIZONA



A COBBLESTONE COMMUNITY

# FROM THE DESK OF

*Peter Nguyen, Desertscape Park Manager*



Hello Everyone,

This year is coming to an end. I cannot believe how time flies. I have been working at this resort for over a year now. On this journey I met many wonderful residents, but there are still a lot of residents I have not met. I hope to one day be able to meet everyone who lives here. We are all excited

to share the new clubhouse with all residents. I know it has been a long journey, but it was well worth the wait. Everything is brand new and now updated. I hope you all enjoy the new clubhouse. We are in the pursuit of planning more events for the new year so please stay tuned. My goal is to focus on the joy and happiness of all residents. We are always looking to improve the resort, and any feedback and suggestions are always welcome. I will keep it short this month and I wish everyone a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year.

Thank You Everyone.

Respectfully,

Peter Nguyen  
Desertscape Community Manager  
Phone: 602-943-5833  
Email: [Desertscape@cobblestoneassets.com](mailto:Desertscape@cobblestoneassets.com)



**DESERTSCAPE**  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



**DESERTSCAPE**  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

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9-4 Monday-Friday, Closed Saturday,  
Sunday by Appointment Only

2050 W Dunlap Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85021  
[desertscape@cobblestoneassets.com](mailto:desertscape@cobblestoneassets.com)

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Peter Nguyen, Desertscape Manager .....(602) 943-5833  
Twila Dawson, Sales .....(602) 943-5833  
Gail Brazell, Activity Director .....(602) 327-8125

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DESERTSCAPE'S ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

*Patrick McCombs*



So, this is the last newsletter for 2024. The end of off-and-on construction for what seemed like years but was really only about 18 months. The resumption of normalcy. As we head into the last month of the year, we should look back on the accomplishments, the highlights, and the low lights too, that were 2024. But we won't. There were good times, and not

so good times. But what was done was done. What was said was said. Let it go! Besides, I don't remember what happened last week let alone last January.

So we look forward! The Clubhouse is done, or at least completed to what the plans called for. I'm sure there will be improvements and additions that will be made as we

move along. The activities that were a mainstay will be starting up this month. Breakfast in the Park, Potlucks, Bingo, Karaoke, Holiday Dinners. What do you think of the new signs for activities we have around the park? Pretty neat, I think. There will be a Bake Sale sponsored by the Woman's Club on the 14th and a Christmas Cookie decorating party and exchange on the 7th, The best part is all activities can be inside our newly remodeled clubhouse. Maybe some new activities as well. Monday and/or Thursday night football? Movie nights?

This is the last month the outgoing board will be on duty. So as we wind down the year and gear up for the next one, we can be thinking of the good things that we can accomplish in 2025. What new activities and events can we have? How can we get more residents involved in these activities? These are questions we will answer in the months to come.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAY BASH



### Let's celebrate December birthdays!

Take it from me, it's not easy having a December birthday. Even more reason to show up and help us celebrate at the December Birthday Bash at Longhorn Steakhouse on Tuesday, December 10th at 5:30. Please give Gail a call if you will be attending. 602-327-8125.

## Desertscape December Birthdays

# HAPPY Birthday

FROM ALL OF US!

12/4 - Gary Tindle	12/9 - Mitzi Wrona
12/5 - Tom Bohn	12/13 - Terri Pittman
12/5 - Teri Willett	12/17 - Storm Baker
12/5 - Allison Hawley	12/21 - Maria Rubio
12/6 - Dan Jenks	12/27 - John Koch
12/7 - Chino Barrios	

WISHING ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS WHO WERE BORN IN DECEMBER A HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



# ACTIVITY DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

by Gail Brazell



I hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving and let me be one of the first to say, "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Hanukkah". It seems like I was just writing my December newsletter and wishing all a happy holiday. How fast this year has gone. At last our beautiful new facilities are open and ready for some happy times for us

to enjoy. If you have not seen them, you should definitely take the time to go take a look.

The Halloween celebration was a huge success starting with our Halloween Parade. There were 15 different decorated golf carts along with several other residents on different wheels! The winner was Ron Bonanni, you did an outstanding job. "Ghoul-Ash" and baked potatoes along with pumpkin pie was served. We gave out eighty free dinner tickets.

Now, as we get ready for Christmas, Desertscape will hold the annual Christmas Decorating Contest and encourage all residents to participate. Voting will be done by the residents who will contact the office with their votes. The winner will receive credits on their January rent in the following amounts:

First prize is \$100.00 rent reduction

Second prize is \$75.00 rent reduction

Third prize is \$50.00 rent reduction

Winners will be announced in the January Newsletter.

Gail Brazell  
Activities Director  
[Gailbrazell61@yahoo.com](mailto:Gailbrazell61@yahoo.com)



## December Resident of the Month

### Mary McDougale



Mary is a pillar of kindness and dedication in our community. She consistently goes above and beyond, arriving early to set up events and staying late to clean up. With years of experience running high-stress commercial kitchens, Mary brings exceptional organizational skills and leadership to everything she does, but it's her patience, loyalty, and

care for other volunteers that truly sets her apart. Mary's commitment to the community and her nurturing spirit make her a rare and invaluable presence. Thank you, Mary, for always taking care of us like family and for making the best coffee ever.

coffee  
&  
DONUTS  
for you

**Every 2nd and 4th Friday**  
**Location and Time TBA**

Open to Desertscape residents. Stop in for a sweet treat and coffee.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



## MESSAGE FROM DESERTSCAPE'S "NEW" SALES ASSOCIATE *Twila Dawson*



Patience visited me  
And it reminded me  
That good things take time to come to fruition  
And grow slowly with stability

Peace visited me  
And it reminded me  
That I may remain calm through the storms of life  
Regardless of the chaos surrounding me

Hope visited me  
And it reminded me  
That better times lay ahead  
And it would always be there to guide and uplift me

Humility visited me  
And it reminded me  
That I may achieve it  
Not by trying to shrink myself and make myself less  
But by focusing on serving the world and uplifting those around me

Kindness visited me  
And it reminded me  
To be more gentle, forgiving and compassionate toward myself  
And those surrounding me

Confidence visited me  
And it reminded me  
To not conceal or suppress my gifts and talents  
In order to make others feel more comfortable  
But to embrace what makes me me

Focus visited me  
And it reminded me  
That other people's insecurities and judgements about me  
Are not my problem  
And I should redirect my attention  
From others back to me

Freedom visited me  
And it reminded me  
That no one has control over my mindset, thoughts and wellbeing  
But me

And love visited me  
And it reminded me  
That I need not search for it in others  
As it lies within me.

—Artist unknown



## A NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER CONTENT CONTRIBUTOR *Allison Hawley*

Just wanted to take a minute to fill you in on some upcoming events, The Holiday Dinner will be Wednesday, December 18th at 6:00 in the Clubhouse,. The cost is \$12.00 for residents and \$14.00 for guests. Get your tickets soon before they are gone! Bingo, Karaoke, Breakfast-in-the-Park, and Potluck are slated to return this month along with Patrick's Cookie Decorating event and the Women's Club Bake Sale.

Get ready to break out those Holiday decorations and show off your mad decorating skills! The Annual Holiday Decorating Contest is back and you get to be the judges – just give the office a call to let them know your picks. Winners will receive credit toward their rent (See Gail's message for more information).

Please keep in mind that these events are subject to change depending on progress with the buildings and permits so keep an eye out for changes by checking the community Facebook page and our website, [www.Desertscape.life](http://www.Desertscape.life) along with emails from Peter, At this time we are waiting for new equipment for BINGO and have not gotten word about when Karaoke will resume. We are almost there folks and are looking forward to seeing you at the December events.



## December Home of the Month

Congratulations to John Simich, Lot F-293 on a much-deserved win. You had a vision and went for it and the results are stunning! As a result, your lovely, revamped home is the winner of the December Home of the Month. Please see the folks at the Desertscape office to receive a \$50.00 credit toward your January rent.



## Recipe of the Month

### GRANJAN'S BANANA BREAD

#### Ingredients

- ½ stick of butter, room temperature
- 1 c sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 Tbsp sour milk
- 1 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- 1 ½ tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 4 large very ripe bananas
- 2 cups flour
- 1 ½ cups pecans or walnuts

Preheat oven to 350. Grease and flour two loaf pans.

Cream butter sugar and eggs in bowl using electric mixer. Add remaining ingredients and beat on low until blended. Turn into pans and bake for about one hour.

## POTLUCK DINNER

We know we have some awesome cooks at Desertscape and we can't wait to sample all of your dishes at the first Potluck Dinner in the new Clubhouse on December 14th. Please bring your dishes to the Clubhouse by 5:30 so we will be ready to open the doors by 6:00. This list will rotate monthly.

If your last name begins with:

A-I bring an appetizer, salad or side dish

J-R bring a main dish

S-Z bring a dessert.





# THE GARDEN GUYS,

*brought to you by your neighbors, Michael and Dan at C-III*



year. So many beautiful plants are available right now.

The POINSETTIA was first brought to the United States about 1836 By Joel Roberts Poinsett, a botanist and also the U.S. minister to Mexico, from where the plant is native. Your holiday poinsettia will do best in a sunny window but avoid sudden temperature changes. Keep the soil moist but don't let any water stand in the pots saucer. Any foil wrapping that might have come with the plant should be removed. This plant needs to be able to drain. When leaves drop in late winter or early spring cut stems back to 2 buds per stem and reduce watering. Your poinsettia can now be transplanted into a larger pot and moved to your patio area. It will do best outdoors with indirect or diffused light.

One longtime favorite is the CHRISTMAS CACTUS also sold under the names "Zygocactus" and "Schlumbergera". This houseplant has arching, drooping, bright green branches of flattened, scalloped edged, smooth, spineless 1 and one half inch joints. Exotic looking flowers with two tiers of reflexed petals and forward thrusting stems. Blooms can grow to 3 inches long and are borne on the tips of the shoots. Bloom color can vary from bright violet, purplish red, orange, lilac and white. This plant should be kept moderately moist and misted regularly. Feed with a liquid fertilizer. Moderate light.

If there were only one flower that could be described as the "Queen" of holiday blossoms it would have to be the AMARYLLIS. This bulb has strapped shaped leaves and large lily like flowers. The bulbs can be found at garden centers, supermarkets and big box stores. Amaryllis leaves can get long, heavy and be prone to tipping. We use a 6-inch terra cotta pot. Make sure your pot has drainage holes. Use a good commercial potting soil mix. Plant the bulb,

pointed end up, keeping the top third of the bulb above the soil surface. Allow a 2-inch space between the bulb and the edge of the pot. Firm the soil around the bulb and keep soil barely moist until plant growth begins. Certain to bloom the first year, it grows well both indoors and out. Bloom colors range from white, pink, rose, red and many other variegated colors and varieties. This is one real stunner of a blossom.

HOLLY, with its dark evergreen leaves, has been a seasonal favorite for centuries. Sometimes used in wreaths, along with laurel and pine boughs, this plant has a history that dates back to well before ancient Greece and Rome. The Holly family is quite large and includes many different evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs.

Let's deal with two varieties: A houseplant, here in Phoenix, ENGLISH HOLLY (ILEX aquifolium) is the most familiar in song and legend. A slow growing plant that does best in diffused light. Most Hollies tend to be dense and symmetrical. Prune mainly to remove poorly placed, broken or dead branches. CHINESE HOLLY (ILEX cornuta) is classified as an evergreen tree or shrub. This Holly does best as a patio plant in a shady or semi-shady area.

As with all Holly plants the leaves are typically glossy, leathery, nearly rectangular with spines at the four corners and at the tip with large, long lasting bright red berries. This is a plant that can grow to 10-foot or taller. It should be planted in a container and kept trimmed on a regular basis in order for the plant to fit your available space. Varieties that do well here include "Berries Jubilee", "Dazzler", "Carissa", "Dazzler" and "Willowleaf". A northern or eastern exposure is where the plant should do best. All Hollies prefer a rich, slightly acid soil. Good drainage is essential. A good mulch of about one half inch of mushroom compost on your Holly will do wonders.

Best holiday wishes to all our friends and neighbors. Thank you for all your wonderful comments and questions. Special thanks to Allison. You are the ones that have made this column possible. May you all have a joyful holiday season and a prosperous and healthy 2025!

*Happy Gardening!*



## GOOD TIMES *at DesertScape*

Happy times come and go, but the memories stay forever. Enjoy our collection of photos featuring DesertScape events and residents!



### DesertScape Halloween Celebration



## THE ANNUAL COOKIE DECORATING PARTY

On December 7th at 11:00 the Annual Cookie Decorating Party will be happening. Hundreds of Sugar Cookies will be provided along with frosting and sprinkles. This will be the third Cookie Party and each has been better than the last. You are encouraged to bring some of your own Christmas creations and participate in the exchange, or just come and watch the fun and take some cookies home. Nobody should not have cookies at Christmas. What would you leave Santa if you had no cookies? Yeah, I'm sure he liked that Vodka Tonic you left last year, but it's really the cookies that make the Christmas Spirit sing. So come on down to the newly remodeled Clubhouse and get in the spirit.







December Pet of the Month

**WINNER!!!**



**Chata**

**Shirley Salinas-Edwards, owner**

Meet Chata! Chata is as adorable as she is fortunate that Shirley Salinas-Edwards was able to make Chata a part of her family after she spotted her on Facebook. Chata had been found abandoned and roaming the streets of south Phoenix and Shirley went and picked her up and gave Chata a loving forever home where she loves to play zoom-zoom with her feline sisters every single day! Shirley makes sure Chata gets her daily treats and says "She's a happy-go-lucky girl. Watching her chasing red dots around a cardboard box had me laughing out loud!" Sounds like Chata is loving her home and knows she lucked out when Shirley scooped her up and made her part of the family,

## WOMEN'S CLUB PRESIDENT *Cheri Kramer*

For the Fiscal Year of September 2023 to September 2024, the Desertscape Women's Club had several money raising events which provided funds to donate to local non-profit agencies in our community.

The following non-profits were chosen to receive donations from the Women's Club:

1. Maggie's Place in the amount of \$200.00. Maggie's Place provides safe housing for pregnant mothers in need. Maggie's Place is located on 30th Street in Phoenix.
2. Phoenix Small Dog Rescue, located on Hatcher Avenue in Phoenix, in the amount of \$50.00.
3. Operation Christmas Shoeboxes/Samaritan's Purse in the amount of \$100.00. This is a project our own Carol Sparks and her family have been involved with for many years.

### UPCOMING WOMEN'S CLUB EVENTS

On November 30th the Women's Club will be holding The "Fall Harvest Wine and Cheese Night" in the new Clubhouse, a free event held for the community in appreciation of their support throughout the year. The community support for the Bake Sale and Soup Sale enables the Women's Club to give financial support to local agencies.

Women's Club Bake Sale -December 14, 2024, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Club house.

Women's Club Soup Sale, time to be determined.

The Women's Club looks forward to seeing all of you at our events this coming year.

## FOOD PANTRY LOCATION CHANGE

The Pantry will relocate to the Clubhouse at some point the next few weeks. Unfortunately, we will not have as much space for donated items in the new building and will probably not have access to a refrigerator.

After December 15th, we need you to hold off donating dry goods as we have more than the new space will allow. Perishables will be accepted in small amounts for the next few weeks. Thank you for all of the donations to the Pantry over the last months. Your generosity and donations is what made the Pantry a success.





# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

## ARIZONA WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Maricopa County, Human Services Department Community Service Division  
234 N Central, Suite 3000, Phoenix, AZ 85004  
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[www.maricopa.gov/4119](http://www.maricopa.gov/4119)

## A/C BENEFITS AND RESOURCES

Community Action Agencies are located throughout Arizona.

Community Action Agencies or Programs are administered through counties, cities, councils of government, and private non-profit organizations. Community Action Programs and Agencies throughout Arizona provide a variety of services, which may include:

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- Utility Assistance
- Utility and Telephone Discount Programs
- Rental/Mortgage Assistance
- Housing Repair, Rehabilitation and Weatherization
- Food Boxes and Other Food and Nutrition Programs
- Case Management
- Advocacy and Referrals
- Childcare / Head Start
- Housing and Homeless Assistance

<https://wildfireaz.org/find-help/community-action-agencies/>  
OR CALL 602-604-0640

<https://benefitscheckup.org/> OR CALL 1-800-794-6559

<https://www.maricopa.gov/5214/Apply-for-Home-Improvement-Programs> OR CALL 602-285-1800

<https://www.phoenix.gov/nsd/homerepair> OR CALL PHONE: 602-534-4444

YOU ALSO CAN CALL 211 FOR RESOURCES. This call you can get referrals to many things.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES THROUGH SAMARITAN PURSE

My family packs these boxes every year in Payson; generally, we pack from 300 to 400 boxes each year.

We would greatly appreciate any of the items I have listed below:

- Shoe boxes up to size to 10, stuffed animals, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners
- Hats, socks, washcloths and Ivory bar soap, combs and toothbrushes

\$10.00 for shipping around the world

Thank you,  
Carol Sparks B162

Do you know someone who is sick or in the hospital? Let Leslie Nielsen know and she'll send them a card. You can reach Leslie at 602-708-7754.

Thank you!  
Allison

## SOLDIER'S ANGELS DONATIONS

Please join me in supporting our military and veterans. I have supported our military and veterans through Soldier's Angels since 2005.

My particular involvement is sending cards and letters.

I write to you to join or help me help them by donating greeting cards. The cards can be on any subject or blank. Please feel free to write your own message inside the card if you'd like to. Also appreciated are craft store gift cards and cash donations to purchase supplies and postage stamps for mailing bulk packages to Chaplains.

[SoldiersAngels.org](http://SoldiersAngels.org)

Thanks a lot for your support!  
Sheila Thomas A 190

## TEMPORARY A/C UNITS

The Desertscape/Cobblestone team has agreed to take over management and distribution of the portable a/c units in the Park. If you need one of the units contact the office at 602-943-5833. For after-hours help, call Bill Hegwood at 720-224-5190. You may also email the office to request a unit.

Peter: [desertscape@cobblestoneassets.com](mailto:desertscape@cobblestoneassets.com)

## MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The Medical Equipment Lending Closet will continue to be handled by the Association.

For assistance call:

Patrick McCombs 623-703-1149

Gail Brazell 602-327-7125





## November Birthday Bash at Timo's Wine Bar

Looks like everyone had a great time celebrating November birthdays at Timo's



## MONTHLY CHUCKLE



## Updated photos of our pretty new Clubhouse and Card Room





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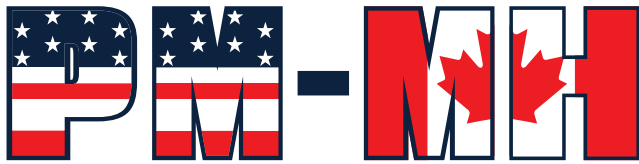
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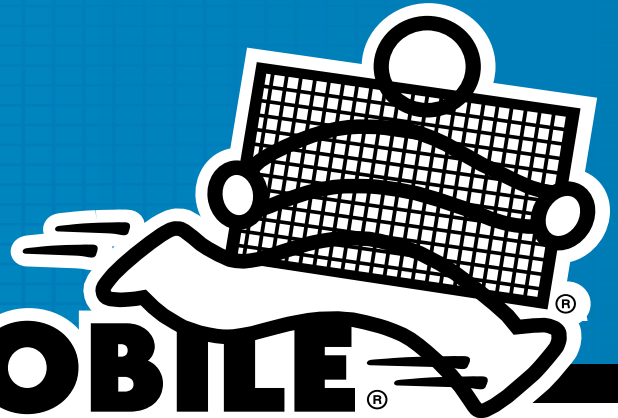
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**Freedom From  
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I am Dr. Patrick Sartz, DC, BCN, and I lead the Neuropathy Treatment Center of Arizona. I hold a Board Certification in Neuropathy from the American College of Physical Medicine. Since 2008, my focus has been on treating neuropathy without the use of medications, injections, or surgical procedures. My goal is to alleviate and, in many cases, completely eliminate the numbness, tingling, burning, pain and balance issues commonly associated with neuropathy. My journey with neuropathy began in 1966 when I was just 12 years old, watching my mother endure the challenges of this condition, which ultimately led to her being confined to a wheelchair for the last 16 years of her life. Many healthcare providers often assert that effective treatments for neuropathy do not exist, typically prescribing medications that may only provide temporary relief without addressing the underlying issues. Throughout my 16 and a half years of experience in treating neuropathy, I have witnessed numerous treatments come and go, often rebranded due to their failure to deliver lasting results. While I do not claim to offer a cure—no one can—I do provide a highly effective at-home treatment that empowers patients to manage their condition and achieve long-term relief, allowing them to maintain their independence. I understand that many patients prefer a doctor nearby, but since my treatment can be easily performed at home, I remain accessible to my patients via phone from 7 AM to 8 PM, seven days a week. Over the years, my approach has evolved alongside advancements in technology, and since 2020, 98% of my patients have reported experiencing between 65% to 100% relief from the symptoms of neuropathy. Joanne's experience is typical. Please feel free to call me as I would be delighted to share how we have achieved such remarkable results. My website is dedicated to educating individuals about neuropathy and detailing the successes we have experienced over the past four years. Please scan the QR code below.

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PHOENIX, ARIZONA

# December Activities Calendar

SUNDAY	1	MONDAY	2	TUESDAY	3	WEDNESDAY	4	THURSDAY	5	FRIDAY	6	SATURDAY	7
6:00 Marbles & Jokers		10-12 Pantry Open TIME/LOCATION TBA 6:00 Hand & Foot	11:00 Craft Corner 12:00 Bible Talk	8:30 Men's Breakfast Moon Valley Café 5:30 BINGO 6:00 Mexican Train	9:30 Board Meeting 1-3 Pantry Open LOCATION TBD	11:00-1:00 Desert Angels 7:15 Bible Study 6-10 KARAOKE	8:30-9:30 Breakfast in the Park 11:00 Holiday Cookie Decorating Party 12-2 Pantry open TBA						
6:00 Marbles & Jokers	8	10-12 Pantry Open TIME/LOCATION TBA 6:00 Hand & Foot	11:00 Craft Corner 12:00 Bible Talk 5:30 Dec. Birthday Bash Longhorn Steak - Metro	8:30 Men's Breakfast Moon Valley Café 11:00 Women's Club Meeting 5:30 BINGO 6:00 Mexican Train	1-3 Pantry open LOCATION TBA	Coffee and Donuts TIME/LOCATION TBD 1:00 Bunco 7:15 Bible Study 6-10 KARAOKE	10:00-1:00 Women's Club Bake Sale 12-2 Pantry open LOCATION TBA 6:00 POTLUCK DINNER See page 6 for details						
6:00 Marbles & Jokers	15	10-12 Pantry Open TIME/LOCATION TBA 6:00 Hand & Foot	11:00 Craft Corner 12:00 Bible Talk	8:30 Men's Breakfast Moon Valley Café 5:30 Holiday Dinner See page 5 for details 6:00 Mexican Train	9:30 Board Meeting 1-3 Pantry open LOCATION TBA	11:00-1:00 Desert Angels 7:15 Bible Study 6-10 KARAOKE	10:00 ASSOCIATION MEETING 12-2 Pantry open LOCATION TBA						
6:00 Marbles & Jokers	22	10-12 Pantry Open TIME/LOCATION TBA 6:00 Hand & Foot	11:00 Craft Corner 12:00 Bible Talk	 Christmas Day	1-3 Pantry open LOCATION TBA	Coffee and Donuts TIME/LOCATION TBA 7:15 Bible Study 6-10 KARAOKE	12-2 Pantry open LOCATION TBA						
6:00 Marbles & Jokers	29	10-12 Pantry Open TIME/LOCATION TBA 6:00 Hand & Foot	 New Year's Eve										