

Following is the article Pat Linder wrote for this issue of our church newsletter, the Vision.

An edited version, based on Pat's original words, was published in the July issue of the Oro Valley Voice; a new publication that reaches thousands of readers.

Thank you Pat, for helping to let people know about our congregation and our ministries. Pastor Jim

Pastor Jim calls us a community but we're more than that. We are a family, solid, busy and loving. We are not many in number but to anyone who has been part of his flock, our desires match our Pastor's; to preserve and keep intact a church that not only shelters us but keeps its promise to enlighten and teach us the lessons that help us to live straight on and get us through the up close and personal view of our own mortality.

We don't brave the parking lot and the summer heat every Sunday to relax and admire the view. Our reasons are deeper than that. As long as we live, we will wonder about ourselves and our lives. No one is ever completely satisfied with their own result. We listen to Scriptures that are, for some of us, sometimes hard to understand but as our Pastor explains, we learn to fit those words to our own realities. We leave wiser about the complexities of the world and where we belong in it.

And we serve. We figure out what needs doing and where we can be of value to this entity that is always there for us. Our reasons are our own, but the pleasure that comes along with helping our church far outweighs the inconvenience or the expense. Each Sunday gives us examples of devotion -- not only for the church itself, but through the music, the greetings and the people who are genuinely glad to see each other. We may be a little church, but we are big in heart.

So, our church becomes our legacy representing the best part of ourselves. It lives because of us and we in turn, are better for it. As in life, it is give and take. And it is good.

-Pat Linder