



# SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church

December, 2012



“Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people...a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord.” Luke 8:10

Christmas! No matter how hard society works to make us believe it is a winter extravaganza built around big sales and secular greetings, the message of faith always seems to find a way to trump the cynical world we live in. It's a season when we can reclaim innocence feared lost in the chaos of living, and find opportunities to reconnect with our fellow travelers.

A lot of folks think we Christians are naïve; that we don't know the time to celebrate Christ's birth was chosen to coincide with ancient, traditional, winter festivals. But we do know that, and rejoice in the time set aside. A lot of people think we are exclusive, rejecting the celebrations of other faiths that fall in this season. But, we do not! On the contrary, the messages of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy that are at the heart of Christmas, are inclusive to all of God's children, and meant to be shared through greetings, working together towards our common goals, and being joy-filled and open as we journey towards Bethlehem.

Bethlehem. The manger trumps it all. Christmas: Shepherds and their flocks, Wise Men and their camels; Mary. Joseph. Baby Jesus. The secret may be that, if we can keep our eyes on the star and let our hearts be increasingly filled with the light that begins to overwhelm our hearts as we draw close to that humble scene, the sense of innocence, of love, hope, joy and peace that *seem* so possible now can be possible throughout the new and coming year. Isn't that who we want to be? Isn't that who God *wants* us to be?

I am thinking of all those Palm Springs Pres. elves working on our float for the 'Festival of Lights' parade. Read: Christmas! Carols that will doubtless invite voices to join in all along the route. Joy! Families will open their homes to those who would otherwise be alone, individuals will stand long hours serving food to the homeless and hungry, toys will be collected to surprise wide-eyed children. Hope! Love! And, for a time, hearts hardened by generations of struggle will dream a dream that in this season seems possible. Long sought and yet so elusive: Peace.

Nothing is impossible in Christ, and with every breath we take this December, we can give thanks for a tiny new life, a first breath, that will grow into the man, God-With-Us, who will offer as a gift something that makes the huge piles of holiday fare no more than ashes in comparison.

So, embrace the season! Embrace the word GIVE, in whatever way you can! Receive the word LOVE, because it's all around you now and meant just for you! Believe the word, PEACE, which flows from God to Christ to Spirit to you, and is meant to be the way of life. Live the word HOPE, it rests beneath the Star we now follow. And, sing the word JOY, as loud as you can, so all the world can hear and believe! There is nothing that can

stand against such simple, pure, goodness. Hello, baby Jesus! Good News! Great joy!  
Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas!

Peace, *Rev. Christine*



### Festival of Lights Parade

Many, many thanks to the Festival of Lights Committee, Dick Schultz, Chair, Dirk & Erika Voerman, Donna Genett, Harry Horde, Phyllis Burrows, Marge & Larry Harris, and Pauline Gregg. Thanks also to the many volunteers who worked so hard to build and decorate the float, thanks to Nancy Spencer for driving her truck to pull the float, thanks to all who helped to finance the float and to Harvey Stephens for the use of his flat bed trailer. The float was beautiful and a great way to get our name out in the community. Thanks again to everyone who worked so hard it make it possible







## Session Meeting

Session met on Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at 9:36 a.m. Session was opened with each member relating what they were thankful for followed with prayer. All members were present with Bob Wulf and Frances Gotenstein excused. The Deacon's were represented by Deacon Robert Kemp.

Establishing a Committee for our upcoming Photo Directory was discussed with a request for volunteers placed in the Sunday Bulletin. The Committee will plan the layout, selection of church pictures to be inserted and handle appointments for the picture taking on February 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Christine reported positive comments on the Session & Elder retreat on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and the New Member luncheon on November luncheon with special thanks to Randy Bruno for the excellent food he prepared. She also thanked Jim DeHart for the 5:59 Thanksgiving dinner. Thanks were also given to Ernie Moore and Bob Wulf for their hard work that resulted in a successful Stewardship Drive.

Elder Ernie Moore reported that the Mission Committee will be having a table set up after the Service for the next 3 Sundays featuring the Heifer campaign. Elder Moore reported that with the help of many people, the Stewardship Drive closed with pledges received so far at \$101,892.

Pastor Christine and Elder Don Shepherd attended the Presbytery meeting in Beaumont on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The Treasurer's report showed a **loss** for the month of October of **\$3,013** and a **loss** year to date as of September 30<sup>th</sup> of **\$4,765**.

Session was adjourned at 11:45 AM with prayer. The next Session will be on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

If you have concerns you wish the Session to consider, please speak to one of our Session members, to Jim DeHart, Clerk of Session, or to Pastor Christine.

*Elder Jim DeHart*, Clerk of Session



A Prayer for the Troops

I think of you, committed, willing to sacrifice your life for me. Because of you, I can Believe, I can pray, I can let my voice be heard. You are of all ethnicities, many cultures and persuasions, of all faiths, and yet you stand for me. You are Americans who have set aside your lives so others might live theirs. Some of you are Stateside, serving here or waiting to deploy. Others camp in far away places, so far from home, often in exactly the scene of a long-ago birth that changed the world forever. Maybe you are looking for a little child you will kneel before to offer some food, or comfort, or heal a wound, or erase a fear. Because of you, I am free to say Merry Christmas to a neighbor, and celebrate the birth of Jesus, cornerstone of my faith and joy of my heart. Whoever you are, and wherever you are, I thank you, and I pray that God will keep you safe and warm, and fulfill your hope that what you do will one day be a job completed, creating a world where all might, together, live in peace. I give thanks in Jesus' name, Amen.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church will welcome your donation of money and new toys which they will give to needy families in Coachella Valley. See the brochure on the bulletin board in the Social Hall for more information.



### ONGOING PROJECTS

We recycle! Bring your empty aluminum cans and glass and plastic bottles to the church office. Thank you for helping our budget and the environment.

PSPC Aprons for sale "Have You Hugged a Presbyterian Today" - \$16.75 - See Morella, Jim or Jackie

Save used ink cartridges for Palm Springs High School Band fundraiser. Collection jar is on Jackie's desk.

Save Box Tops for Education for Sabella's school. You can leave them in the office.

Bring a package, can or box of food for The Well in the Desert. Leave it in the bin by the front door. They can also use warm clothing.

Save used stamps and Campbell's soup Labels for The Tecate Mission. Leave a ¼ inch border around the stamp when you cut them out. Leave them with Jackie.

Bring in your gently used women's clothing for Hacienda Valdez.. You can leave it in the office with a note on it.



**5:59 Gathering**

**THE CHRISTMAS 5:59 GATHERING  
WILL BE THURS,  
December 13th**

It will be a wonderful time of good food,  
fellowship and singing carols.



### ONGOING MEETINGS EVERYONE WELCOME

Sunday Morning Kerygma class with Ernie Moore – Fellowship Hall 8:30 AM

Men's Bible Study with Allen Perrier – Fellowship Hall Wed 7:00 AM  
Breakfast after Bible Study.

Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday at 9:30 AM. We are studying the Book of Job.



The **Christmas Joy Offering** is taken during the Advent Season and is an important part of the worship of Christmas. One-half of your gift to Christmas Joy benefits active and retired church workers and their families and one-half goes to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please give generously to those in need.



**New Photo Directory** is coming. The photographer will be here Feb 8 & 9, 2013, to take our pictures. We need a committee to plan and organize the layout. Please see Jim DeHart if you would like to help.



Desert Chamber Orchestra and make **YOUR** mark



present

Desert  
Chamber  
Orchestra  
in concert

Christian Chalifour  
Music Director & Conductor

*"Can You Handel It?"*

Handel Harp Concerto

also

Mozart, Bach, Ravel, Vivaldi  
Gershwin, Chip Davis, Bill Holcombe

Light classics and some Christmas favorites with a twist



featuring



*Vanessa Sheldon*  
Harpist

Sunday, December 9, 2012

3:00 pm

Palm Springs Presbyterian Church  
815 South Camino Real  
Palm Springs, CA 92263



RSVP (760) 320-2769

or e-mail [info@pspresby.org](mailto:info@pspresby.org)

Suggested donation \$10

Proceeds to benefit Desert Chamber Orchestra and  
Palm Springs Presbyterian Church music ministry



**THE HEIFER PROJECT** is a great gift because it benefits people in need around the world. It provides the gift of an animal that will help the needy with better nutrition for their families and an extra income by selling excess products like milk and eggs. The gift of an animal comes with training of how to care for it and the first offspring will be given to another needy family. Your one gift will help many impoverished people move toward self-sufficiency. Look for the Heifer project table in the social hall Dec 3- Dec 16.

Remember to bring a can or a package of food for **THE WELL IN THE DESERT**. This is a time of need for The Well. Their cost of buying food has gone up and the need is great. They especially need canned fruits, vegetables and soups. This is a wonderful Christmas present to those less fortunate. WWJD! (What would Jesus do?)





## From Jackie Morgan's Kitchen

### Zucchini Bread

#### Ingredients:

2 eggs, beaten  
1 1/3 C sugar  
2 tsp vanilla  
3 C grated fresh zucchini  
2/3 C melted unsalted butter  
2 tsp baking soda  
pinch salt  
3 C all-purpose flour  
1/2 tsp nutmeg  
2 tsp cinnamon  
1 C chopped pecans or walnuts (optional) (I don't use nuts, because Jeff can't eat them.)  
1 C dried cranberries or raisins (optional) (I use golden raisins, yum)

Preheat the oven to 350 F (175 C). Butter two 5 by 9 loaf pans.

In a large bowl, mix together the sugar, eggs, and vanilla. Stir in the grated zucchini and then the melted butter.

Sprinkle baking soda and salt over the mixture and stir it in. Add the flour, a third at a time, stirring after each incorporation. Sprinkle in the cinnamon and nutmeg over the batter and mix. Fold in the nuts and dried cranberries or raisins if using.

Divide the batter equally between the loaf pans. Bake for 55 minutes (check for doneness at 50 minutes) or until a wooden pick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool in pans for 10 minutes. Turn out onto wire racks to cool thoroughly.

Makes two loaves.



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
JESUS!**



### December

Rev. Bill Johnson	2
Dorothy Hollerback	4
Tom Kutras	6
Ruth Ash	14
Margaret Norton	15
Fred Lynn	20



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

PDA has people coordinating relief efforts for Sandy victims and has provided money to help in the relief. If you would like to help, you can make out your check to PSPC and designate it for Sandy relief and we will forward it. You can also use [www.presbyterianmission.org/give/DR000187](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/give/DR000187) or text to 20222 to make a \$10 donation.



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#### OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the Good News of God by reaching out to others and inviting them into a new relationship with Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to be a center for spiritual growth and friendship, where the teachings of Jesus are faithfully received and God's grace is joyfully celebrated.

Pastor:

Rev. Christine Dickerson

Music Director:

Alex Danson

Office Administrator:

Jim DeHart

Church Secretary

Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editors:

Jeff & Jackie Morgan



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