



SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
April 2014

"A new command I give you: love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13: 34-35

It would probably have made more sense to have found a Biblical quote referencing Creation or flowers, since this is being written on the first day of Spring, a time of regeneration, of renewal and of nature wearing its best new clothes. But, as typically happens as I write, something on my mind and in my heart demands precedence; and, actually, points right back at the rites of spring and further, to the One who died that we might live.



Even as I become aware of the increasing songs of birds and presence of fresh flowers, I am also nagged by a shadow of winter that tugs at the edges of civility and the center of the Christian conscience: If Jesus commands us to love one another, to love our neighbor as ourselves, how can judgement, fear and exclusion enter into the dialogue of the Believer? And yet, it has, and does, and will, as long as we turn to our own resources instead of trusting the simple grace and truth of the Gospel.

There is irony to be found during this Lenten season, for even as we near the cross and accept the saving death of Jesus, many in our Denomination are claiming that Cross as theirs alone. The cross of the self-righteous rather than of the common sinner, the latter of which I have always understood as 'all of us.' I have also always understood that when Jesus said to love one another, and our neighbor as ourselves, he meant everyone and not just 'some ones.' Or is that, 'same ones?' What lesson is this, presenting itself in the shadow of Gesthemane? Perhaps a cautionary tale, not to take the Joy out of Easter by removing Unconditional Love from God's sacrifice of his only son for us. All of us.

It strikes me, on this Spring day, 'how can a garden bloom without the gardener?' Not too well! In nature, the serendipity of wildflowers paints the canvas of all creation, and in our gardens, we thoughtfully work to tend to every different need, hoping for the healthiest, best and brightest. Whether by God or humankind, love guides the hand, protecting the garden and a beauty magnified by the differences that transform the sameness of barren ground. This isn't the context of a parable of weeds to be destroyed; this is a reflection of ourselves created in God's image, recognizing this, hearing Christ's confirmation of this love, living his command to exercise the same love, and shouting out the joy of Easter morning: Understanding, believing, receiving a gift *beyond the comprehension* of our finite minds. A gift, given that *all* might live, be reconciled to their Creator, and fully loved as Jesus loved - and loves - us. All of us. God's love is an inclusive love, and even when we falter, that love reaches out to draw us closer. It never pushes us away.

On this Spring day, and on a Resurrection morning, dwell on God's love for *you*. Dwell with confidence! And pray for one another, especially those 'neighbors' you may find hard to love. If we only love, we will have done our very best gardening. Our Creator will take care of the rest. Jesus said so; for God so loved the world. indeed!

May the true and complete Joy of Easter surround you, renew you, and free you, a beloved child of God.

In His Service, Rev. Christine

Once again the Women's Retreat was a true blessing to all of us who attended. We had over 50 women in attendance and the spirit of the Lord was present in all we heard, did and experienced. So many times during the preparation for this weekend event the committee paused to say "Thank You, Lord" because every step seemed to always go so smoothly. The program, the luncheon and the communion all melded together to help us, as women, to both realize our role and our potential in this wonderful world we live in. The committee is already at work planning next year's program. Suggestions for speakers would be greatly appreciated. So mark the first Saturday in March 2015 for another wonderful day in the life of the women of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church. Let your light continue to shine. The retreat committee thanks you for this opportunity to serve. Gail K. Jones, Facilitator





April 17 Maundy Thursday
 5:59 Gathering
 7:00 PM Tenebrae Service
 April 20 EASTER SERVICES
 8:00 AM Service
 10:00 AM Service



Attention: All Seasonal Friends, Visitors or if you just miss a Sunday

You can listen to the Sunday worship services on PSPC's website, pspresby.org. Alex has the current Sunday Service available by Tuesday of the following week. Even if you are away you can still enjoy Rev Christine's sermons, hear our great choir and keep up with what's going on here.



Music Schedule for April

- 6th Communion Sunday
Anthem or offertory - The Power of the Cross - Choir
Offertory or Anthem - Solo - Kelly or Alex
- 13th Palm Sunday
Anthem - The Holy City - Solo - Matt
Offertory - Comes the King of Kings - Choir
- 17th Maundy Thursday
Cantata
- 20th Easter
Anthem - For This Glorious Easter Morning - Choir
Offertory - Christ Arose - Choir

“saying GRACE
Blessings for the Family Table”
edited by Sarah McElwain

Give me a good digestion, Lord.
And also something to digest.
Give me a healthy body, Lord.
With sense to keep it at its best.

Give me a healthy mind, Lord.
To keep the good and pure in sight;
Which, seeing sin, is not appalled.
But finds a way to set it right.

Give me a mind that is not bored.
That does not whimper, whine, or sigh.
Don't let me worry overmuch
About the fussy thing called "I".

Give me a sense of humor, Lord;
Give me the grace to see a joke;
To get some happiness from life.
And pass it on to other folk.

A prayer found in Chester Cathedral,
circa 1850



Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around

the world. Your generous gifts to this Special Offering helps provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. PSPC has a special bond with PDA as Morella Larsen does so much to help through PDA in times of tragedy and need. PDA depends on this offering to fund their good work. This offering will be taken on Palm Sunday. Look for the special offering envelopes for One Great Hour of Sharing in your bulletin on April 13th.





NICK VUJICIC

FOUNDER OF THE ORGANIZATION
LIFE WITHOUT LIMBS

DOING THE MOST GOOD

INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER

COME SEE NICK SPEAK



LOCATION	DATE	TIME	TICKETS
SOUTHWEST CHURCH 77701 FRED WARING DR. INDIAN WELLS, CA 92210	2014	12 APRIL 10:30 AM	\$10 YOUTH \$20 ADULT

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PURCHASING TICKETS, PLEASE CONTACT LT. SEAN KELSEY OF THE SALVATION ARMY AT 760-324-2275 EXT. 316
EVENT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT SALVATIONARMYCV.ORG

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The regular monthly Session meeting was held on March 19, 2014 at 11:10 am. Pastor Christine opened the meeting with prayer. All members were present with Randy Bruno being excused. Previous Elder Jackie Morgan was there as a guest.

Session appointed Elders Kathy Smith and Virginia Ross as delegates representing the church at the Riverside Presbytery. Elders Don Shepherd and Dick Schultz were appointed as alternates.

A new prayer chain list was distributed reflecting the addition of new Elders and Deacons.

Pet Services on the lawn was discussed and felt appropriate considering the amount of dog walkers going by the church daily. Elder Jackie Morgan volunteered to research the project.

Pastor Christine reported that the month had been a busy one with the various Presbytery Committee meetings, Women's Retreat, the Church Leadership Retreat, Ash Wednesday Service, officiated the memorial service for Jack Hansen and regular visitations and calls.

Elder Virginia Ross reported that she was reviewing various programs and materials she received from the Presbyterian Church USA.

Elder Frances Gotenstein reviewed the Treasurer's report. Financial Statements for month ended February 28, 2014 showed total revenue of \$16,788 and expenses of \$15,468 for a net profit of \$1,320. Year to date revenue was \$31,613 and with expenses of \$31,920 for a net **loss** of **\$307** from operations.

Elder Dick Schultz reported that he was forming a committee for a "brain storming" session for the purpose of soliciting new and innovative ideas for the developing of an effective outreach program.

Elder Jim Chabot reported that the new information sign would be installed and Session approved the location for the sign in the front of the church between the church and the parking lot. The security screen door was also being installed. Repairs were made in the women's and men's rest rooms.

Elder Don Shepherd reported that he had purchased 13 tickets for the "Open Call" talent contest at the McCallum Theater for a group event and the next 5:59 dinner will be Maundy Thursday, March 17th.

Elder Susan McGuire reported that the choir will be singing a cantata for the Maundy Thursday service that will be following the 5:59 dinner. Communion will be by intinction.

The next Session will meet on April 16th at 11:00pm.

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.





The Trio Concert, Bill Kuyper, French Horn, John De La Paz, Clarinet and Robert Miller, Piano performed at PSPC on Wednesday, March 19th was a great success. Our new (to us) Steinway sounded incredible. About 80 people attended, many from the neighborhood. We hope to host more concerts in the future.

photo by Cindy Anderson

Kristi Van Nostran is a PC(USA) Mission Worker with *Joining Hands Against Hunger* in El Salvador. The Presbytery of Riverside has been exploring a partnership with *Joining Hands* for the past several years and is planning a visit to El Salvador in July. They are looking for people with our Presbytery who may be interested in going to El Salvador and may find it beneficial to meet and talk with Kristi when she is here in April. *Joining Hands* is a global ministry working to address the root causes of poverty and hunger through:

- * listening to partner's lives
- * learning about the causes that perpetuate poverty,
- * advocating issues of justice,
- * working together to find solutions,
- * teaching others about the effects of the global economy on the poor.



She will speak on
Wednesday, April 23, 2014
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Calvary Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
4495 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, CA 92501

A catered dinner is included at a cost of \$8.00
RSVP to Reba Woller, PWP Moderator by April 16, 2014
Email: rebawoller@yahoo.com or Phone 951-522-4533

Save your gently used items for our Spring Rummage Sale. We need clean clothing, household items, electronics, books, furniture and any items that are still useable by someone else. Keep watching for the date. See Don Shepherd if you would like to help with the sale or if you need help getting your sale things to the church.



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

PSPC cookbook, Love Feast, is for sale for \$5. See 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 1/4 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.

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 and Bible Study.

Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Yoga Classes Tuesday, 11: AM (except on Women's Birthday Luncheon day) and Thursday at 5:30 PM (except on 5:59 Gathering Thursdays) in the Social Hall.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Matt Lashey	2
Leslie Lutke	5
Jeff Morgan	5
Melissa Yezek	6
Lynn Hamilton	6
Kate Weezorak	15
Marilyn McMillan	20
Robert Kemp	23
Allen Perrier	23
Angie Hempy	27
Kay Chabot	27

EASTER FACTS

Why Does Easter's date change every year? The Early church debated whether they should celebrate Easter on the same day each year like Christmas or whether it should be a "moveable feast." Since Sunday was associated with the Resurrection (3 days after the crucifixion), in A.D. 325, the church decided to make Easter the first Sunday after the first full moon that follows the March equinox.

What is Maundy Thursday and what does "Maundy" mean? Maundy Thursday, which occurs 3 days before Easter Sunday, comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, which means "new commandment." At the Last Supper, Jesus told His disciples: "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another." (John 13: 34) Jesus expressed that love by washing His disciples' feet.

What is Pentecost? Pentecost Sunday celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit 50 days after the Resurrection. Before Jesus was crucified, He told His disciples (John 14: 16-18) that the Holy Spirit would come after He died. Fifty days after Jesus was resurrected, His disciples felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim the Gospel of the risen Christ. (Acts 2: 1-41)



Online giving is now up and running. Just get on our website, and click on the button in the upper right hand corner. The website will guide you through the steps to take advantage of online giving. It can be used to make regular tithes to the general fund or the piano fund. You can use this option weekly, every two weeks, monthly, quarterly or a one time basis.