



SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
September/October 2014

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day." Genesis 1:31

Expectations. We live our lives around them, we look forward to their fruition, we reflect back on lost opportunities. We understand that 'expectation' may not be a good thing, because they so often lead to disappointments and can place undue burden on ourselves or another; but we can't help ourselves, can we?

God, in creating a vast and diverse world, seemed to have something in mind. Whether tied to a literal seven day event or an infinite timeline of slow determination - we humans need a parameter we can grasp - our Creator took care of every detail, and only 'asked' that we use it and tend to it and one another. That seems like a fair expectation, but it sure didn't last long, from the Fall in the garden to a flood over the earth to a people in exile to.....



Or, was there what we call expectation? Maybe that's a designation assigned when we try to parse God's intentions for us. For a force of such infinite grandeur, an 'expectation' would hardly be needed when so awesome a gift is given: Our very being, our very environment, our very future Forming out of the void in a flash of light and love. Perhaps we are called to be attentive to our very sense of 'being' in every moment of every day. A way of living that fulfills the true nature of our earthly existence, which is minute to minute, even as our eyes look up into the infinite, star-filled heavens. Gods chosen knew this, know this, through every step of life.

As I prepare to 'go forth' on my vacation and study leave, I can't help but feel a sense of expectation. For my travels, certainly. That I will see friends, dig in a garden, ramble around open markets. I expect it to be good. Then, I will head far north, and experience vast wilderness and hopefully a couple surprise adventures. During a climate change conference I will explore claustrophobic tunnels filled with air and fossils forty million years old, walk on retreating glaciers, listen to Inuit Elders. Consider. Pray. I expect it to be good. Yet, though the surrounding nature will be glorious, the experience must be met without the boundary that places a responsibility where none can be assigned. For, in situations such as this, it is our own hearts that set the bar, and our own hearts that will interpret it. This paradigm can only make it better, because it is dependent upon the faith that how we frame an event in our lives will have an affect on the outcome and imprint the wholeness we might experience. This does not count if I am eaten by a bear. It will count if I see one and he eats all the fish I have caught.

God loves us, God loves what he has created, God looks down upon us and in more circumstances than we know, declares that 'it is good.' We can't control the chaos of tribal violence that is a scourge upon the planet. But we can walk forward and leave a footprint in the soft mud of a new day, appreciating every blade of grass or grain of sand we see, look for the positive in the heart of something feral; unafraid, open, trusting that in this moment, it is, indeed, good.

And so, it is fall. The skies hold thunder and some rain. A miracle. Friends present take a last respite from desert heat, while friends away begin to dream of winter skies reflecting southern rose colored hills. I will lean and run my hands through dark green water, wondering at what might swim below, while you might look into the night, wondering at the same moon that shines over us all. God's moon. All part of a day without expectation, but filled with the assurance of our Maker's love. It is, good.

UPDATE! Since circumstances have led to a Sept/October issue, it seems a good idea to confess that I wasn't eaten by a bear :-), missed the Coho fishing season :-), but DID have a very close encounter with a couple of very large moose :-/ !! And yes, it was good, all of it.

Peace always, *Christine*



I'm looking forward for our season to start. We're looking for some trips starting mid-September and through October. The following are ideas to look towards:

Mid October - a visit to Palm Springs Art Museum
The Living Desert has been popular,
also a Fall trip to Oak Glen and apple country.

Please contact me if you have interest in these ideas. Elder Don Shepherd



FEAST OF LIGHTS

This will be the 67th year the University of Redlands has presented the Feast of Lights. It is a service of worship celebrating – in spoken work, tableaux, song and instrumental offering – the birth of Jesus. It is a beautiful service. The performances are Dec 5, 6, and 8 at 8 PM and Sunday, Dec 7 at 4 PM. The tickets are \$25 for the general public, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students. If you are interested in attending, please let

Don Shepherd know. The tickets have already gone on sale and they sell out fast.

Recycling income was \$220 for the last quarter. Thanks for all your recyclable cans and bottles. You are helping the environment as well as the church finances.



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

The FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE COMMITTEE will be meeting soon to discuss this year's float in PS's annual parade. If you are interested in joining in the fun, see Dick Schultz or Dirk Voerman.



Another of Morella's journeys ... more tales and tails....

Bookends "2013" and "2014" and in between: "Traveling experiences that go from one extreme to the other".... this reflective thought came to mind on the long flight home from Fiji last month. 2013 trips were both with limited creature comforts. As you may recall (from last year's article in this publication) the summer Amazon River trip in Peru had accommodations that (if lucky) were a minus-two star. And, in the fall, Mongolia, and Gobi Desert offered their variety of challenges ('privacy' was just a word in the dictionary), although, the trip closed out in Lhasa, Tibet with a marvelous view from my hotel room of the Potala Palace... of which I climbed the hundreds of steps to the top. (Google it, you'll recognize it.) Both enlightening trips for the "traveler" out to see the world and its curiosities. — just not for the "tourist" seeking leisure, comfort, or pampering.

The 2014 two-cruises (back to back) were perfect for the "tourist" with the finest in luxury, French cuisine, and accommodations on the 5 ½ Star, and highly awarded *m/s Paul Gauguin*. With a thoughtful and responsive staff, Janet, my co-traveler and I cruised 26 days from Singapore to Fiji, with fascinating stops along the way in Indonesia, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal) and Vanuatu. Not the usual itinerary for the *Gauguin* which was trans-positioning back to its normal routes in Polynesia after a trip to Singapore for refurbishing, updates and routine maintenance. We cruised east and south on this small ship and because of this ship's small size (504' x 72') and fewer passengers (332 maximum) with 217 crew members, we were able to call at ports not available to larger vessels (size and/or number of passengers.)

There were several stops on this cruise of special interest to us. One of those Komodo Island, Indonesia, is the home of the Komodo dragon (the largest lizard on the planet). Declared a National Park, the dragons live in the wild and no one can enter the island without advanced arrangements. Using our *Gauguin* tenders, we went ashore at one of the seven pink sand beaches in the world. After gathering into groups of 25 (big enough to intimidate the dragons?), we started on the path through the dry sparse brush, along with our three guards, and a lecturing guide. While walking and talking with the front guard, he and I were both surprised, when a dragon, about 15 feet away, jumped out of the brush at the base of a tree and made a fast exit away from us (thank goodness.) So, then with everyone on alert and talking quietly and staying close together, our next encounter was a 10' specimen, who was content to continue his repose 40 feet away, while we took pictures under the watchful eyes of our guards. Their protective weapons did not engender much confidence. It was a forked stick little over an inch in diameter, about 6' long with two sharp points on one end. We were just pleased they did not have to show us how they were going to keep at bay with a stick, a huge 10' lizard, which can run up to 12 mph with a big mouth. Although, when an 8' dragon on a mission came towards us from our right flank, all guards again placed themselves between us and the moving object, with lots of soft orders: "be quiet", "stand still", "don't talk", "don't move". A gentleman from the group ahead of us was lagging, and the guards got quite excited with him wandering alone, particularly in the line of sight of this dragon that was crossing our path to the other side. They hustled him into our body of bodies. The last time they lost a tourist was 3 years ago and they didn't want a reoccurrence in August 2014, nor did we. There was a large number of deer, which served as "meals on wheels – hoof?" for the dragon. With glands in

the lower jaw secreting toxic proteins (anticoagulants) a bite is lethal but death comes slowly and it is 3 days before becoming nourishing carrion for the dragon. A dragon eats a whole deer. Their tongue (continually flitting) is their means of detecting, tasting, and smelling (carrion 2 to 6 miles away). We returned to the ship with the same number of people that we began.

The most northerly point of Australia is Thursday Island (TI). We met a lady, while perusing a grocery store, who offered to give us a tour of the island which is a mix of 3500 Australians and Torres Islanders. Passing a cemetery, we saw tombs totally covered with blue plastic tarps and secured. The custom is after the burial and the headstone and other marble slabs in place, it is covered and secured. A year, or so, later when the family is ready, they all go to the ceremony for the unveiling and to celebrate the life with fellowship and food around the grave. This island is also the head waters of the narrow Torres Strait which requires an expert Pilot to traverse channel between the numerous reef and the mainland. The rule is you beach the ship before you damage the reef. Cairns, Australia ended the first cruise in the morning and began the second cruise in the afternoon. To be continued.



Transitions



With gratitude and thankfulness for his work and dedication, church leadership accepted the resignation of Elder Jim DeHart as Clerk of Session. Elder Dick Schultz was elected to begin as Clerk for the October meeting, and will be tutored by Jim in preparation for his new role. Jim will also be stepping away from his work as Church Administrator at the end of the year. During the next few months, all are encouraged to celebrate his many years of service 'above and beyond,' as we discern how to move forward in this period of transition. As a treasured member of the Palm Springs Pres family, we pray Jim will continue to play a role in the life and leadership of PSPC.

The Ordination Ceremony for Reverend Suzanne Swartz



On Saturday, September 6th, we attended the Ordination for Suzanne at Santa Monica Presbyterian Church. It was a wonderful celebration of her journey to this important milestone in her ministry. The service included beautiful music, scripture readings from friends and co-workers that she serves with as a Chaplain at UCLA, and lots of laughter. The sermon entitled "Now is the time for singing" was delivered by her good friend, Reverend Sue Fisher. The speakers all referred to Suzanne's generous spirit, her joy, and her love of the Lord.

Fran and Stacie presented Suzanne with a beautiful stole and robe at the end of the service. Then we all enjoyed a lovely and delicious buffet dinner in the courtyard. There were over 200 people in attendance – a testimony to all the lives she has touched.

Congratulations to Suzanne on this monumental achievement! The best is yet to come.

Kathy & Bruce Smith



John Robilette

In Concert

Wednesday, October 8

6:00 pm

Hosted by

Palm Springs Presbyterian Church

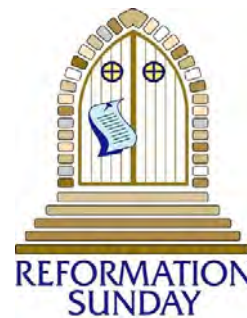
New Hymnals

Session approved accepting donations for new hymnals.

(The Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal) @ \$20. each. They can be dedicated to someone by the donor. We will order when we reach a goal for 100 hymnals. Order/dedication forms are available from the office or call us to make your order.



PEACEMAKING OFFERING
October 5th



REFORMATION
SUNDAY

OCTOBER 26TH

OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 2 cents a meal offering Potluck Luncheon 10:00 am 16th Sunday	29	30 11:30 am Women's	1 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	2 1:00 pm Ukulele Practice 5:30 pm Yoga Class	3	4
W41 5 Peacemaking Offering Hurkey Creek camping trip 8:30 am Kerygma Bible 10:00 am 17th Sunday	6 7:00 pm CMA group Hurkey Creek camping trip	7 9:30 am Women's Bible	8 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm John Robilette	9 1:00 pm Ukulele Practice 6:00 pm 5:59 Gathering	10 10:00 am Choir Practice 5:00 pm Carney Wedding	11 2:30 pm Carney Wedding
W42 12 8:30 am Kerygma Bible 10:00 am 18th Sunday	13 Pastor's Retreat 7:00 pm CMA group	14 Pastor's Retreat 9:30 am Women's Bible	15 Pastor's Retreat 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 11:00 am Session Meeting	16 1:00 pm Ukulele Practice 5:30 pm Yoga Class	17 10:00 am Choir Practice 5:00 pm Rapp/Black	18 6:00 pm Rapp/Black
W43 19 8:30 am Kerygma Bible 10:00 am 19th Sunday	20 7:00 pm CMA group	21 9:30 am Women's Bible	22 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	23 1:00 pm Ukulele Practice 5:30 pm Yoga Class	24 10:00 am Choir Practice	25
W44 26 Reformation Sunday 2 cents a meal offering 8:30 am Kerygma Bible 10:00 am 20th Sunday 11:30 am Potluck	27 7:00 pm CMA group	28 9:30 am Women's Bible 11:30 am Women's	29 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	30 1:00 pm Ukulele Practice 5:30 pm Yoga Class	31 10:00 am Choir Practice	1

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 after Bible Study.

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

Yoga Classes Tuesday, 11: AM. Keep watching for the date Tues classes will begin again. The Thursday at 5:30 PM class (except on 5:59 Gathering Thursdays) will continue through the summer in the Social Hall.



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.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kristy Cordell	3
Larry Harris	4
Joye Schultz	4
Morella Larsen	9
Ric Grenell	18
Bruce Smith	19
Sharon Ratliffe	23
Don Mowat	26
Barbara Stephens	30

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Fae Custer	4
Rev. Ken McCullen	8
Marge Harris	8
Winnie De Vries	10
Elma Griffin	12
Charlene Coates	17
Lea McCoy	17
Rev. Christine	21
Peggy Lynn	26
Donna Genett	29

saying GRACE

Blessings for the Family Table

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



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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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