



# SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church  
November 2014

"O, Israel, put your hope in The Lord, both now and forevermore.' Psalm 131

These words of reminder continue to speak to all children of God today; without the One who formed us, loves us, constantly renews us, how could we maneuver in a world that often seems bent on driving us to distraction? And who, in the midst of distraction, always provides us with the hope we seek.



In the normal scheme of things, humankind assigns the idea of hope to the season of Spring: verdant greens, budding flowers, nourishing rains. New life. And yet, I have always found that the bright leaves, crisp air and wild skies of fall are invigorating and life giving, coming as they do following the languish of warm summer days. In life terms, this may relate to a couple things: we experience our birth and youth, but even as cycles of life continue, nature rewards us with renewed energy even as we face the winter, through the absolute beauty of the world we experience. Not the world of negative distraction, but the world as it should be and is at its core. Gods world.

November ushers in our celebrations of Thanksgiving and points us towards advent and Christmas. We often long for our past memories, but can't help but be captivated by the sense of present hope and joy, especially if we aren't dissuaded by the inevitable doubters that such hope and joy are possible or meaningful! In our delight at an opportunity to rise above the fray, we will make it through family dissonance, eat too much, and perhaps favor jellied cranberry for leftover sandwiches.

Church is like that, too. We can focus on the hard parts or celebrate the best parts. We can be afraid or place our hope in the Lord. During a season when our life source seems weak, we can fall to doubt or reach forward in joy. God is with us, the Spirit moves among us, Christ leads us. Always, no matter what!

As we celebrate a filling sanctuary, we also rejoice in a generosity of the matching fund that will renew our depleted account and begin an endowment for the future. Soon, we will consider how our offerings of annual Stewardship pledges will keep Gods work alive in our community of faith. We will come forth with ideas and helping hands. And, we will gather and celebrate prayers and praise with new friends and old. We are a vibrant, constantly renewing congregation, one which was reborn of faith, has carried our song through years of loving community, and now reaches further towards a light of welcome and hope that, through generosity and faith, will shine ever brighter to all who seek the Word of Life and the joys of friendship that transform our busy world into something safe and always, beautiful. That was quite a sentence! But, so true: choose to see the colors of creation, the possibilities all around you, and your heart will be filled.

Happy fall, Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, and thank you for being who you are.  
Always, our Hope is in The Lord.

In Christ, Rev. Christine

MISSION AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

This season in the life of our church is an opportunity we have to interpret and promote **Cents-Ability** FEW CENTS A MEAL (2 CENTS, 4 CENTS, A NICKLE, A DIME) which includes both committees. One of our difficulties we encounter in dealing with problems like hunger is that they are so immense and seem unending: **hunger** has so many roots and **ramifications that we don't know where to begin.**

I introduced this concept with our Sunday School class by having the children make and decorate cups to place on their tables at home by putting into them their coins or whatever monies they want to share at each meal for **hunger.** They were encouraged to bring them back with them each and add to the "hunger Jar" which is for now a glass container that is placed in the Narthex for those who want to share along with the offerings that we collect in service. Hopefully, this container will be placed in Fellowship Hall were we join together to eat and celebrate our love for God's blessings. At some point and time, we can hopefully fill it to capacity. This is to be a constant reminder to us and encourage us to pray for new guidance in our lives as we try to minister to the poor in God's name.



The Mission program does the Heifer Project every Christmas. Christian Ed program is more than just Sunday School for kids. We have the Kerygma class, and women's and men's bible study. The two committees are so closely related. There are so many other ways for us as a congregation to do and learn by serving on one of or both of the Mission and Christian Educations committees. This is just another way to start. I believe we can do it and more! In His service, Elder Virginia Ross

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The art of Allen Perrier is finally having it's day. No, it's Saturday evening on November 29th, Thanksgiving weekend. The party is at Heath Gallery, 222 E. Amado Rd., Palm Springs in downtown Palm Springs across from the Post Office. He will also be signing his new book titled "Painting Behind the Picket Fence". See you there. - 6 to 9 in the evening.



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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



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](http://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.



The Morgan family wants to thank everyone for their phone calls, cards, food, flowers, good wishes and prayers during the past few months. It has meant so much to us. Jeff & Jackie



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.



Each Fall, our Stewardship team considers the coming year and, informed by the financial needs and goals of the church, begins a **Stewardship Drive**. Traditionally this includes all sorts of creative events to encourage the giving necessary to support the life and ministry of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church. As with so many things, times change traditions, and these changes include the way congregations approach Stewardship "drives." This year, the approach will be more low key but with no less urgency! As a small (but growing!) congregation, we operate on a month to month budget, so corporate faith and individual generosity shape our worship experience, mission and structural needs.

This season, we have been blessed with the **Matching Funds** donation and drive, which, if successful, will provide a more solid foundation moving forward. Still, this fund is not meant to provide operating expenses or staff salary, or purchase necessary improvements or repairs. Yes, it may help during our leanest months and certainly will help insure we are here in ministry for generations to come.

Last year our giving increased an average of ten percent. This, combined with our Sunday tithes and offerings, brought us close to reaching our budgetary needs, but we still struggled and fell behind during the summer months. This year, we hope to turn the corner, with the goal of a positive operational balance throughout the year. The Stewardship Team will be providing our goals/needs for the coming year as we look forward to transforming ministries, powerful worship, outreach opportunities and needed repairs and upgrades. We are so close to true financial stability, and if each member and friend claims their level of participation, we will continue on the positive, exciting path the energy of our loving congregation is creating.

More news and information from your Stewardship Team will be presented in the coming weeks. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give to sustain the life and ministry of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church.

In His service, Rev. Christine

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### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The regular monthly Session meeting was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, one week later than scheduled due to lack of quorum.

#### Session Approved:

- Membership transfer to First Presbyterian Church, Portland Oregon for Robert and Evelyn Wulf.
- Building and Grounds will secure 3 bids for possible Solar Energy alternative due to electric bill doubling effective January, 2015.
- Investigate possible funding from Synod to move two free Portable buildings that have been offered to the church. Buildings to be used for Sunday School classes and for Music and Worship.

Elder Fran Gotenstein was absent so a formal financial report was not made, however, a deficit of \$4,703 was discussed as well as future fund raisers that would assist the church in preparing for future summer shortages.

Elder Don Shepherd has given his retirement notice effective Dec. 31, 2014. Don has done a terrific job as head of Congregational Life and will be sincerely missed.

Elder Randy Bruno was encouraged with the two successful weddings that took place in October and the next scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This a great source of additional Income for the church as well as great exposure for Palm Springs Presbyterian church to the general public.

Next Session will be November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

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



## Another of Morella's journeys ...more tales and tails... Part 2

So with a Pilot at the helm, we crossed the Great Barrier Reef, on our way to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG). Arriving after a day at sea, we were now in a part of Oceania known as Melanesia. The Melanesians have inhabited the island since before Christ... some 2500 years. The second largest island in the world is New Guinea, and it is divided: the west is Indonesia and the east being PNG (formerly Papua and New Guinea) which also encompasses over 600 other islands, atolls and coral reefs, now with a population of over seven million, and over 800 different dialects. Being a British Commonwealth, English is the official language and most residents are bi-lingual.



On to the town of Kieta, Bougainville was an educational and fascinating stop. The island was the site of a civil war in 1990 which claimed 15,000 - 20,000 lives (1/8 of the indigenous population). On this island of lush greenery and fruits, the effects and wounds of the war are still raw but, now they are an autonomous island region within PNG. A copper mine has been closed because of the belief it caused environmental and personal health issues. This has necessitated the populace to become subsistence farmers as a matter of survival. They got their first bank last year, and the first Post Office was established this year. Many islanders turned out see the tourists and to use their English with us, which was very good. Henry and I chatted; he became my friend for which I was grateful later on. We went up a hill in a light mist on an irregular hard-packed mud path. They had obviously opened up the area by cutting the tall grass. Getting up the hill was not too difficult until near the top I stepped up on a sloped spot, and my foot slid right back down. One muddy knee later and two more tries with the same result, then with aid of pullers or pushers, I got my tread-less shoes on flatter ground ( and have banned those shoes from future travel). There were two school buildings: one basic, but with a roof and walls, and the original one more open with a blackboard on each end. Unfinished boards (approx. 2"x12"x 8') served at the work surface, with benches the same length (about 2"x8") on each side of the narrow table top, making it possible to face either the multiplication tables on the north end, or English on the south end. But, what caught our eye was the permanently posted Ten Commandments up in the corner for all to see. After being entertained with local dances, natives "attacking" from the jungle, and offerings of local fruits and juices, we started back down the hill. The husband of our tour guide was my steady right arm to keep my slick soles on the ground (instead of me) and then came my friend Henry who shoved his hand under my left arm and laced his fingers in mine to hang onto me. Although, I did not see his hands, what struck me was the feel of that calloused rough well used hand in mine. He was middle aged, and it made me realize how hard life must be for these people to survive the elements with few tools and very little outside assistance. But, they were hospitable, happy and so glad we came. It makes returning to a 5 ½ star ship more thought provoking..... from so little to so much. It was a big event for them and a very memorable event for us.

Thanks to Harvey Stephens and his crew for another wonderful yearly Welcome Back BBQ. The food was great, the fellowship was great and everyone had a great time.



### There's Still Time

to give to the **Matching Funds Donation**. This opportunity will continue until Sunday, November 16th. We have not reached the full gift of \$10,000 yet. If you are able, please consider a gift so we can take advantage of this extraordinary offer.



Matching Funds Drive

### 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 of 100 hymnals. Order/dedication forms are available from the narthex or call us to make your order.





FROM THE KITCHEN OF  
VIRGINIA ROSS



Baked Potato Salad

- 8 medium potatoes, boiled and diced
- 1 pound American cheese, diced (I use Cheddar also)
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 pound bacon, (partially fried) (1/4 pound if bacon is thick)
- 1/4 cup olives cut in halves

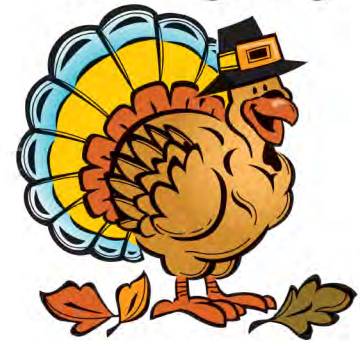
Combine potatoes, cheese, mayonnaise and onion. Mix well. Place in 9 x 13 baking dish. Break bacon into pieces and lay over potatoes. Arrange olive halves on top. May be prepared a day in advance and refrigerated. Bake @ 350 in oven for 30 to 35 minutes or until cheese melts and bacon cooks.

Serves 15

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Elvio Ditta	1
Fred Wallace	1
Christine Lutke	2
Bill Cushing	4
Kay Hansen	4
Susan McGuire	15

**Happy Thanksgiving**



**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, 11:00 AM and Thursday at 5:30 PM (except on 5:59 Gathering Thursdays). \$10

Ukulele Practice is Thursday at 1:00 PM.



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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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