



SONSHINE

ar,
and

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
February 2015

"Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again..." Ecclesiastes 11:1

It may sound like a broken record, but how blessed we are at Palm Springs Presbyterian! During a time of divisions in cities, nations, and yes, churches, we find ourselves celebrating and exemplifying the meaning of having Christ in our lives. From our many 'places' of thought and origin, we come together as one in song and prayer, and in so doing live lives of transformation and hope.



As a congregation, you have stepped forward in faith over and over again, demonstrating a generosity of time and giving. Your support of my part of this ministry we share is humbling, and I thank you in your encouragement! As we go forward into this new season, I am assured that our faith will lead us, and the joy we share will be contagious in ways that will surprise, support, and sustain PSPC as a community of faith, mission and fellowship. You are, indeed, awesome!

It can be so easy to live with our arms wrapped tightly around our 'selves.' Particularly when the world is so unforgiving if we misstep or are caught unprepared. It is understandable that it feels safer to live without risk. Yet, faith itself IS risk; by believing in a Creator that can't be looked upon, a Savior who walked among us over two thousand years ago, a Spirit that weaves its way among us like a whisper on the wind. We must unfold our arms and face the sun, surrendering to the unseen.....unseen, but known.

Known by the Grace we receive. A flower that blooms. A song that moves our heart, a friend that brightens our day. The unexpected favor. So much of what makes life worth living is an imagined desire that becomes, that is then, reality. When we unfold our arms and let ourselves be released into God's world, we see God, and encourage his presence in all creation for all created. It's the old saying that what you give comes back to you, never lost but truly found.

Our community of faith is like that, willing to be generous, excited to risk, born through Christ to transform. If our arms are like the wings of angels, then we know that to hold them tight is to fall like Icarus from the sky; but to leap with joy towards our goal is to fly! Alive, living, unbound, ready to receive the future of hope.

You, my church family, are flying! Each moment of time or gift of financial support. Every special event dinner or a prepared pot of coffee. One prayer so deeply needed. You are honored and beloved, and the bread you cast upon the waters enriches the lives of so many.

God is good, and while we may reside in a desert valley geographically, we are surrounded by the Living Water that renews and refreshes our inmost being.

May your February be blessed and filled with love!

In Christ, *Rev. Christine*

HEIFER PROJECT

Thanks to everyone who gave to the Heifer Project. Those who gave provided goats, llamas, rabbits, bees and a biogas stove. A gift to the Heifer Project helps the world's poorest, become self-reliant. The Heifer Project gives a suitable animal to a needy family, gives them training on how to care for the animal and gives with the stipulation that they give an offspring of their animal to another needy person. It is a gift that keeps on giving. Thanks to everyone for their generosity. This was our most successful year for giving to Heifer.



The annual Women's Retreat of our church will be Saturday March 7, 2015. The committee is very happy to announce the speaker will be Martha Miller, a well known author and dramatist from southern California. Her message will be inspirational and full of her special talents of sharing the word. This year the day will begin at 9 A.M. and end at 1 P.M. This will allow those who wish to participate in the art

shows or the many other events of that weekend to do so. Brunch will be served at 10 A.M. The enthusiasm for this wonderful experience continues to be very encouraging to the women who plan and execute it. So, women of the church and your friends, plan to participate. The cost is \$15 per person. We do have scholarships for those who might like assistance with the fee. Donations are appreciated to help with that. We know God is shining a special light on this day. He has for 22 years. Registration will begin on February 8 and end on March 2. Space limitations require us to limit the registration to 50 women. So sign up early. Jim de Hart and Jackie Morgan will accept payment. Needless to say, your prayers for this special day will be much appreciated.



Ash Wednesday Service
February 18 at 5:30 PM
at PSPC. Cathedral City
Community Presbyterian
is invited to join us and
the service will be jointly
conducted by Rev Christine
and Rev. Lee Ireland.

Gaze at the Stars!

Join us as Bob Victor, local astronomer, shares the wonders of our universe and a telescope to extend the limits of our vision. Bring binoculars if you can.



Morning Gazing 5:00 AM - 5:45 AM Feb 11th
Evening Gazing 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM Feb 22nd



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.



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.



Prayers answered. A miracle. Angelic intervention. Call it what you will but this is what happened the morning of Monday, December 8th. I'm referring to the enhancement of our new church sign donated by Jim and Kay Chabot and installed by Jim Chabot and Tom Kutras.

Preparations for the enhancement were complete - sketches were drawn, approval by the Session was obtained, materials were purchased. The only thing missing was enough hands to build it. The scheduled builders were unfortunately called to other obligations. While I was confident about building the design I was quite literally left short-handed for the start of the project on Monday morning. I prayed and thought, "if

only my brother Bill (who was driving cross-country from Wisconsin and was due to arrive Monday night) was here." Bill is the handiest person I know. Then, as if in answer to my prayer, Roger called out, "a car just drove into our driveway - someone's here." And there was Bill. He had driven straight through from Colorado Springs to Palm Springs and wanted to surprise us. Surprise us he did! But I had a surprise for him too as I immediately recruited him to help build the sign! It didn't take long for him to take charge of the project, perfect the design and direct his apprentices - Roger and me - in our jobs to do. He is awesome and while I would never have called him an angel when we were kids (as a typical older brother, he picked on me mercilessly), he is my angel now. Hallelujah!

While we worked on the enhancement to the sign we were delighted at the number of curious people who stopped as they walked by to comment on it. Everyone who stopped loved the sign and several said they wanted to come to an event or a service. How perfect, because that was the reason we enhanced the sign, to draw attention to the sweetest little church in the valley. We hope the quote from the movie "Field of Dreams" rings true for our church: Build it and they will come!"

Donna Genett, Elder



Italian Night was the launch of the Outreach Committee's events for the year and they had a sold out crowd! Many thanks to Randy Bruno for the delicious lasagna dinner he prepared. The soloist was Gerald Colucci and he put on a great show. What a voice! Keep watching for more exciting things to come from the Outreach Comm.



FROM THE KITCHEN OF
BARBARA STEPHENS



"Tortilla Soup"

- 1 can mixed vegetables
- 1 can corn

- 1 can green beans
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 can stewed tomatoes
- 1 large can chicken
- 1/2 to 1 envelope taco seasoning

Combine all (including juices) in a large pot. Cook for 45 minutes.

Serve with tortilla chips and shredded cheese in bottom of bowl and again on top of soup.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

George Cebr	3
Frances Gotenstein	9
Cal Custer	9
Stephane Wallace	10
Ellie Cushing	11
Roger Taff	13
Kate Walker	15
Pauline Gregg	18
Harry Horde	20
Arlene Fleischer	22
Jim DeHart	24
Geri Bintliff	27

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 Friday at 1:00 PM.

- Session Notes From January Meeting
-
- The Elder and Deacon Planning Retreat will be held on February 7th.
- A new slate of Elders and Deacons was approved by Session and the Congregation
- Catechism materials are here for our young adults and plans are underway for starting them on the road to becoming members.
- Rev. Dickerson's salary and benefit package was approved by Session and the Congregation on February 1st
- The 2015 Budget is slightly delayed but will be available to all in early February.
- The outdoor Community Event sign has a whole new look thanks to Donna Genett and Roger Taff.
- "Italian Night" was a great success and we will have extra funds for future Outreach committee events.
- The Building and Grounds committee is getting bids for interior painting and refurbishing the damaged stained glass windows.
- The Stewardship committee sent the original "call to action" letter. We will reinstall the GIVING Thermometer to track our progress.
- Our Deacon Chairperson, Peggy Lynn, reports that the Deacon Fund is healthy
- Jody Allen was elected Treasurer. We are grateful for her gifts, talents, and the generous donation of time that will be needed for this position.



Palm Springs
Presbyterian Church
815 S. Camino Real
P.O. Box 582
Palm Springs, CA 92264(3)
760-320-2769

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



If you have received this issue of the SONSHINE in error or wish to be removed from our mailing list, please fill in your name and address below and send it back to us. Thank you.
