



# SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church  
May 2013

“ (The kingdom of God) is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when it is planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.” (Mk 4:31)



As I write this, I am preparing to make a trip north to take care of business surrounding my house. It is likely I will prepare it for sale, and while this is a difficult thing, it is a good thing. My neighbors keep me apprised of its state, but an empty house is a lonely house. So, my mantra for the journey has become, ‘paint, prune and plant.’ But if I list it for sale, the mantra can be, ‘paint, prune, plant and post.’ And, if I invite some friends over to celebrate the years spent there, it might be, ‘paint, prune, plant, post and party!’ Seeing those words stacked together reminds me not only how hard it can be to declare a purpose, but if the naming all begins with the same sound, it can be downright impossible! Not unlike life, in general.

It never ceases to amaze how the bible speaks afresh every time it is opened, no matter the number of times. The parable of the mustard seed resembles the well-worn edges of a beloved book, and still touches the center of our purpose, as God’s own. We are, ourselves, much like a house, aren’t we? Our bodies are bearers of the soul; yet we, too, can fall into disrepair and loneliness. Even if our lives appear to be fulfilling, we may have a feeling of emptiness, a sense that something is amiss or missing. A thought comes to mind that it could be healing if, at intervals throughout our lives, we painted, pruned, planted, posted and partied. If we remembered the seed of our faith, the root of our souls and tended to the garden that we are, God’s garden.

So often life chips away at the very thing that can bring us the most joy, the simple nature of faith. While we may know and celebrate God’s love for us, the living nature of that grace can be obscured, as we forget our child-like hearts. By renewing our faith through purposeful attention, by working on letting go of what is oppressing in our lives, by opening ourselves to new ideas that will nurture the mustard seed of our faith, by sharing our journey with others and, finally, by celebrating with a joy that is at once past, present and future, we can experience the intention and fulfillment that is God’s desire for us.

As God’s Word is a living word, so our faith is a living, faith. The seed of that truth will not go away; it is just waiting to be watered. Each of us will go about a purposeful renewal in our singular way. The important idea is, to ‘go about it!’ Let the roots of your faith find freedom; find new paths, around the stones and clouds, around complacency, doubt, or challenge. And don’t be surprised when you feel shoots of new life lifting you upward and forward, and shading you along the way.

Summer is coming!

In Christ, Rev. Christine



## PIANO CAMPAIGN CONTINUES!

We have been advised that our piano, which has faithfully provided wonderful music for several years, is on its last legs. There are problems with the 'felts' and major problems with the sound board. Put simply, we are in need of a new instrument!

Since the piano campaign began last month, you have given \$530 towards the purchase of a new or new to us instrument. Thank you.

All financial donations offered to this campaign are gratefully welcome. Should we be so blessed as to be gifted a fine instrument, excess funds will be set aside for our music program and overseen by Session.

Somewhere out there is a wonderful piano waiting to call PSPC home! If you know of an opportunity we can check out, please let us know! Between Sundays and our Classical and Jazz Concerts, it will be well used, cared for and appreciated. Dreams DO come true!

Donations to the campaign may be sent to Jim at the church office; except, of course, actual pianos in which case let one of our team and Pastor Christine know!

Thank You and God's Peace,  
The Worship and Music Team (Susan, Alex, Jim and Christine)

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Two months ago I began what is intended to be bi-monthly "news" on the financial health of PSPC. Monthly financial summaries are available in Sunday bulletins, but space does not allow much comment to accompany the numbers. We are pleased with Church activities and with Reverend Christine's leadership of our small and growing membership. An indication of this was combined (two services) attendance on Easter Sunday of over 300 worshipers. The packed services, by far the greatest attendance I believe we have had in years, were amazing!

Pledge payments and other Sunday contributions have given PSPC a good financial start to 2013. Through April I believe we were slightly behind budget in pledge receipts and plate offerings, but also slightly positive to budget in controlling expenses. We are about "on track". The principle point is that as we enter the warmer and slower summer months it is imperative that we continue to focus on the financial needs of our PSPC home. We must keep our pledge payments current. We hope and pray that our seasonal visitors will contribute to their "winter" church home while enjoying summer in cooler climes. And we need some positive, non-budget revenue surprises. PSPC is open 52 weeks a year, with costs to be paid for weekly.

To conclude with a particularly positive note: In late April we received just such a positive, non-budgeted gift in the form of a \$4,000 check from Riverside Presbytery. The funds came from a small reserve established (at least in part) to subsidize small-church budgets, where congregations are struggling to afford a full-time salary for a new pastor. What a wonderful gift! You will remember that earlier this year we increased Pastor Christine's salary to Presbytery minimum from three-quarters salary previously. This qualified PSPC for such Presbytery help. Now it is our responsibility to continue our increased giving, so that we earn anew the trust Presbytery has placed in us, and to keep looking for, or developing, those non-budgeted gifts. Bob Wulf, Administration Committee

Our Cal



Cal was one of eleven seniors in the Coachella Valley who were honored before a sellout crowd of over 600 people at the Marriott Desert Springs Resort on April 12th. This is the 21st year that the Senior Inspiration Awards recognized valley residents for their outstanding volunteer service to their community. Cal was one of the first members of the Rancho Mirage Traffic and Safety Commission, which he still serves on today. He is also an original member of the Rancho Mirage Citizens on Patrol program and has been trained to participate in the Community Emergency Response Team. He has served as an elder at PSPC and sings in the choir and we know him to be an all around good guy. Congratulations Cal, we are proud of you and are so glad that you are a member of PSPC's family.

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Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study has been led by Allen Perrier for the last 20 years. They meet at 7 AM on Tuesday to review books of the Bible by discussing and analyzing the scripture. After Bible Study, they go to breakfast to feed the body as well as the soul. New members are always welcome. Come and join this interesting group and explore the Bible.



Congratulations Suzanne

Suzanne Swartz has passed all of her exams and has been certified ready by the Presbytery of the Pacific to accept a call. Yea Suzanne!



Women's Birthday Luncheon



for April

Best wishes and a safe move to Geri Bintliff as she returns to Washington. We will miss you!



## RUMMAGE SALE

Thanks to many persons



1. The many who donated items
2. The many workers, about 35, who gave days and hours
3. Our staff who gave their ideas and time.

At this point we have netted \$1550 and there may be more. This money will be used for special projects to be determined.

The money earned is good for us, but even more important was the fellowship shared by all of us. By working closely together we shared and formed new friendships and had fun doing it.

Also the items that were not sold went on to benefit many charities; the good men's clothing went to a men's rehab facility in Desert Hot Springs so that men applying for jobs will be appropriately dressed, ladies clothes went to Hacienda Valdez, men's casual clothes went to The Well in the Desert for the homeless, the Friends of the PS Animal Shelter took the things that they can sell in their thrift shop that benefits the animal shelter and Revivals took the rest. Your generous donations benefited many in the valley.

We will do this another time and hope you will want to join in the fellowship and, yes, the work.

Don Shepherd, Elder





## 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.



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.

Yoga Classes Tuesday, 11:00 AM and  
Thursday at 5:30 PM (except on 5:59  
Gathering Thursdays) in the Social Hall.

Session met on Wednesday, April 17, 2012 at  
11:04 a.m. Session  
was opened with  
Pastor Christine  
read the "Prayer of  
Tragedy" from the  
Book of Prayers in



consideration of the unfortunate events in Boston  
& Texas which was followed with prayer. All  
members were present with Elders Kathy Smith  
and Bob Wulf excused.

Session approved looking into acquiring or  
making a kiosk or reader board style signage for  
listing church events.

Session approve having a Desert Chamber  
Orchestra concert featuring Lawrence Spector ,  
Classical Guitarist, on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00  
pm.

Session approved a week vacation for Pastor  
Christine beginning April 29<sup>th</sup> with guest minister  
filling in for May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Elder Jim Chabot reported that he, Dennis Parker  
and Tom Kutras have been working on restoring  
the windows around the church and Elder Ernie  
Moore fixed the fountain .

Elder Don Shepherd reminded everyone of the  
Rummage Sale coming up on Saturday, March  
27<sup>th</sup>. Session also approved having the next 5:59  
dinner on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Elder Frances Gotenstein reviewed the  
Treasurer's report which showed income for the  
month of March of \$6,201 and a year to date  
income as of March 31<sup>st</sup> of \$5,157.

A Sexual Misconduct policy approved by Session  
as mandated by the Presbytery of Riverside will  
be printed shortly and available upon request.

Session was adjourned at 12:51PM with prayer.  
The next Session will be on May 15th at 11:00  
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.

## From the Kitchen of Kay Chabot

### Turkey Salad

1 package Uncle Ben's original long grain and wild rice (don't use "fast cooking" one)

Prepare to package directions with spice packet and all and then chill)

2 generous cups cubed cooked turkey breast (I use the Costco one)

1/2 pound sliced fresh mushrooms

1 chopped red pepper

2 cups firmly packed spinach leaves cut into strips (I use more)

6 green onions with tops, sliced

15-20 cherry or grape tomatoes, halved

Dressing:

1/3 cup dry white wine (chardonnay is fine)

1/4 cup olive oil

2 t sugar

1/2 t salt

1/4 t pepper

Add all ingredients except tomatoes to chilled rice, add dressing, mix well, and chill several hours or even overnight is fine. Stir before serving and then add cherry tomatoes or use them for garnish.



### May

Jim Chabot	1
Elizabeth Morgan	5
Kathy Smith	10
Hugh Ash	13
Don Mac Ewan	20
Dick Schultz	21
Charlotte Crisp	24
Helen Davis	26



May 27





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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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