



# SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church  
May 2016

"A cheerful look brings joy to the heart; and good news gives health to the bones." (Proverbs 15:30)



Last week I had an epiphany. I shared it with several people, not because it meant so much to me (although it did), but because I felt enthusiastic about the experience and hoped that in sharing it, others might be open to experiencing the same thing. It was positive, and we certainly need some positives possibilities in this nutty world.

Every Sunday, no matter my mood when I arrive at the church, I leave, happy. REALLY happy. Why didn't I feel that way all the time? The realization that hit me then, the 'epiphany,' is that too often I was beginning to let little things drag me down; when looking around in general, the first response wasn't, 'what a pretty new building - or whatever - it was, 'they're ruining the neighborhood' or, 'why can't parents keep their kids quiet in restaurants,' or.....fill in the blanks. I have no doubt that many of you already have a good grasp of the brighter side of life, and I also suspect more than want to admit it get taken down by the chatter that draws us to the darker side of emotions. It's a human dilemma. I am human.

Out of nowhere, on a sunny desert afternoon last week (!), it struck me: Who in the world am I to be 'down' about anything, given the simple blessings of everyday life? Why did I leave God in church? How could I have not taken his love home with me?! Throwing my hands up in the air, I declared OUT LOUD, 'Thank You God! Thank You for life! Thank you for breath! I have a roof over my head and food on the table! I have the best church in the whole wide world! I love what I do! I have friends and family! I have water!....' and on and on. The point was, life has setbacks and it is sometimes difficult if not seemingly impossible to pull oneself out of a hole of despair, grief, frustration or fear. Sometimes we may be without a roof over our heads or enough to eat, or friends seem alarmingly absent. Our sight is failing, our health. There's a hole in our hearts. It can even be tiny, the thing that drags us away from light, an expectation not met: Some seem more 'blessed' than others.

Oh, but not really. We are ALL blessed, and blessed mightily, by the love of God in Christ and the presence of the Spirit. It is a realization, an epiphany, that brings cheer to a mind lost in struggle and health to a heart broken by life's hits. And, *it is always, always, with reach.*

Last month I wrote about every day being a Resurrection Sunday. Like that possibility, the living presence of love, joy and Good news can heal us and through us, heal others. I've been trying it: instead of smugness, a smile. Instead of a shout, a wave (that's for crazy drivers). Just now I had a vision of Jesus being baptized in the river Jordan, the beginning of his sacrificial ministry and on the heels of that, Ghandi, having divested himself of his former life, sitting simply at a spinning wheel. Images not of comparison, but of simplicity and the understanding that what matters most is our relationship to each other and a bigger perspective that strips away everything but the awareness of touching the weave of a cloth or feeling the water wash you clean as your eyes literally grab the vision of living, fully restored. Choosing life, *choosing happiness*. Choosing the joyful look that brings joy to the heart and living the good news that gives health to the bones. The bones that are the structure of who we are, the beloved children of God.

Give it a try. No matter what is going in your life, throw your hands up in the air and declare, OUT LOUD, 'Thank you God, for the things I DO have; especially, YOU.

Joyfully in Christ, Rev. Christine.



The Concert and Silent Auction held on March 9<sup>th</sup> was a huge event for our church in every sense of the word. Donations abounded, attendance astounded and music resounded. If the count is correct, approximately 115 people packed in for an exciting evening of bidding, buying and being bedazzled by the music of Bill Evans. There are so many people the Outreach Committee would like to thank for the success of this event, including:

- George Cebra and his fellow musicians who played for peanuts;
  - All those who donated auction items;
  - All those who bid on and purchased auction items;
  - Those who volunteered to help – Pauline Gregg, Alicia Gonzales, Bonnie Koster, Carole Rogers – the night of the event;
  - All those who brought friends and family from near and far to attend the event;
  - Jackie Morgan and Jim DeHart, who provided much needed last minute administrative support;
  - The individual who found out his credit card charge did not swipe properly and came in with a check for the purchased items, and;
  - One last bullet for anyone we may have accidentally overlooked whoever you may be!
- Thanks to all of you more than \$4000 was raised; the largest amount ever garnered by one event.

### ***Summer Funding' Stewardship Update***

Thank you, thank you to all who have responded to a Pastor's plea for an extra giving gift to finance Palm Springs Presbyterian Church through the summer! While we have a ways to go to meet our goal ( an average of \$200. from one hundred donors or \$100. from two hundred donors), we are off to a good start. Summer is traditionally a difficult time for all our area congregations, and your gifts will be used to continue our ministry at PSPC. If you're still on the fence, be assured we need your help whatever the amount. Gifts may be sent to: Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, 815 S Camino Real, Palm Springs, CA 92264, or made online at [pspresby.org](http://pspresby.org). We will joyfully let everyone know when we've reached our goal!



### **A Surprise Opportunity for Giving!**

On the heels of the 'Summer Funding' Campaign, or perhaps because of it, a generous friend of PSPC has offered a "matching funds" challenge! a 'Secret Santa' has offered to match, 'dollar for dollar,' to a maximum of \$2, 840.00. This opportunity will start immediately and end on July 1, 2016. All funds received in this 'mini campaign' will be added to the Summer Fund. We give thanks for this additional opportunity, offered in love, to help the ministry of our church. 'Matching funds' gifts should be so marked and sent to the above address or given online and noted to Jody Allen (Treasurer) or Jackie in the office.



**May 8th**



**May 30th**

## Sessions Notes from April 20, 2016 Session Meeting



Pastor's Report - Thanks to everyone for all they did during the busy Lenten season.

Deacon's Report - Peggy Lynn will be gone for the summer and Jackie will monitor and advise the deacons if they are needed during the summer.

Financial Report - Income in March was \$23,857, March expenses \$15,315.

Building & grounds - Breaker box has no cover, box is old and electrician recommends that the electrical box and wiring be replaced. One estimate was between \$1500 - \$4500. Consensus is to get 3 estimates. Jim Chabot will also be asked to look at it.

Outreach - The sign board out front is a replica of the church and needs a cross on top to match the church. Donna has a cross and the session approved the use of Donna's cross for the sign board by consensus.

Meeting closed with prayer. Next session meeting will be May 25, 2016 at 5:00 PM.

*Chamber Music &  
Modern Men Choral Group*

*Saturday, May 21st*

*3:00 PM*

*Palm Springs Presbyterian*

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Men's Bible Study with Allen Perrier – Fellowship Hall Wed 9:00 AM

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

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

### ONGOING PROJECTS

We recycle! Bring your empty aluminum cans and recyclable plastic bottles (look for CA CRV on the bottle) to the church office. Thank you for helping our budget and the environment.

PSPC Aprons for sale "Have You Hugged a Presbyterian Today" - \$20. – See Morella or Jackie

PSPC cookbook, Love Feast, is for sale for \$5. See Jim or Jackie.

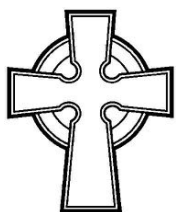
Save used ink cartridges for Palm Springs Presbyterian Church. Collection jar is on Jackie's desk.

Save Box Tops for Education for Desert Hot Springs schools. 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.

## 'Holy Listening' Presbytery Event,



On Sunday, April 24, Palm Springs Presbyterian Church hosted a Presbytery event for three Coachella Valley worshipping communities: PSPC, Cathedral City Community Presbyterian Church, and Spirit of the Desert Presbyterian Fellowship. About thirty were in attendance. The meeting was led by Marilyn Gamm, Transitional Presbytery Executive for the Presbytery of Riverside. Our Denomination structure includes:

Congregations (a group of congregations within a geographical boundary that makes up a Presbytery, ours is Riverside), a group of adjoining Presbyteries that makes up a Synod (middle governing body) and finally, the General Assembly, (our national governing body located in Louisville). With the future of Riverside Presbytery in mind, planned questions included new ideas for funding Presbytery, participation in Presbytery by area congregations, and how we felt about the Presbytery and its operations. Those present had some good ideas, and were able to express not only what they believed might be 'good' about this piece of our church governance, but also expressed their feelings on what could be improved: How can Presbytery help the churches?! Hopefully, this time of questions and sharing will result in a better relationship between Presbytery and our far-flung congregations. I am deeply grateful to all who took time out their Sunday afternoon to attend and participate and for our Deacons who provided a light lunch for those in attendance. God's Blessings!!

### May BIRTHDAYS

Jim Chabot	1
Jere Ring	4
Elizabeth Morgan	6
Kathy Smith	10
Hugh Ash	13
Donna Mead	13
Dick Schultz	21
Doris Butler	26
Siegfried Elles	30
Manuel Mercado	31

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.

## Second Service Will Return in the Fall!



There were a lot of sad faces when it was announced that our meaningful and successful 8:30 am services were ending on Sunday, April 24.

While it will return with Matt Lashey as team leader in the Fall, many will miss not just the opportunity to worship earlier on a Sunday, but also the personal and dynamic experience of this growing ministry. Starting with an average of 20 - 25 worshipers, it quickly grew to an average of 40! Everyone is hopeful that next year even more folks will discover our church through this early morning service of praise and prayer.

Matt deserves our deep gratitude for answering the 'invitation' to participate, and excelling at creating a welcoming and Christ-centered service. His gifts are clear and very special. We wish him a summer of rest and renewal!

We also hope those who've been attending the early service will find their way to our 10:30 worship. Together we will praise the joy and grace of a loving God through the special months of summer!



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 on a one time basis.





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.

You can listen to the Sunday worship services on PSPC's website, [pspresby.org](http://pspresby.org). They are available by Tuesday of the following week.



Pastor:  
Rev. Christine Dickerson

Music Director:  
Alex Danson

Office Administrator:  
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editors:  
Jeff & Jackie Morgan