



# SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church September, 2012

“Yet I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.” (Psalm 70)



From Pastor Christine,

These may seem like odd words to share on the eve of our annual ‘season of renewal,’ on the front porch, so to speak, of the inspiration and energy that accompanies the return of our seasonal congregants! We have had a positive summer experience, welcoming new ‘local’ members, enjoying great music, and continuing to transition and grow in positive ways. So why, you might ask, would one write of being ‘poor and needy’ and calling out for deliverance and help?

In the midst of the best of times, a soul needs renewal. The world swirls around us, and we dance on the wind, caught up in a maze of days. Eventually, there are moments of stillness, and in these one becomes aware of a longing for an absent friend, the Sustainer who gives meaning to even the brightest sunlight. This is the rhythm of life.

By the time of this printing, I will be well back from a period of renewal and personal discovery. Yes, I hope to have hugged a few trees, and enjoyed stillness by a rushing stream and the powerful waves of a remote beach. I’m not sure, actually, for I’m heading out with no distinct plan. This is a journey of the Spirit and the soul.

I am trusting God to lead me to the right places, and to ignite the small, still voice that grounds us all.

It is easy to let one’s world become limited. Even as we grow as a community of faith. As we rejoice in successes, or worry about bottom lines, our focus narrows even with the best of intentions. Our dependence on the parochial world of history distorts the mystery of God’s Promise, and the visionary nature of faith. We become as those we must serve, ‘poor and needy.’ None is exempt; it comes to us all, individually and as a family. What will be discovered, can be discovered, if we not only call out to our Creator, but if we listen as well?

As a church, and as the body of Christ, we need to recognize where we may hunger and be in need: Not just physically, but particularly, spiritually. Are we reaching beyond ourselves, and fulfilling the Father’s desire that we care for all His children? Are we visionaries, inspired by the Word? Do we dare to take chances that will manifest in works of joy and participation in God’s desires, over our own? Are we seeking to ignite the small, still voice that grounds- and inspires – us all? Is there an awareness of the Holy Spirit in all that we do?

Yes, as a church, we are in need of increased support and giving at this crucial time in our ministry, poised, in Olympic terms, on the edge of the springboard. I fully believe that if we each take the time to attend to our souls and the Spirit within us, if we take time to listen, and renew, if we allow ourselves to be inspired and unafraid, what we need will manifest and our ministry will prosper. Our ministry, that flows OUT from these doors and into the far reaches of God’s kingdom.

Imagine a beach, and your presence upon it. You stand at the oceans' edge; arms spread wide, facing infinite blue. You can feel it so fully, within and without. It is freedom, it is joy, it is love. It is appreciating the gift we are given, and the gift we can give, with vision, with imagination, with confidence, to every shore that we face.

And always, sends to you God's Blessings. Peace, *Rev. Christine*

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## STEWARDSHIP



We on the Stewardship Committee and Session thank the congregation for your response so far to our letter asking for financial help through the summer months. The summer doldrums are not over yet, and until our winter members and snowbirds return, we again ask for your continuing help.

There are two parts to stewardship in the Bible that we on the Committee get to see. One is the blessings in gifts and talents the Lord bestows on us and the other is the sharing which Jesus Christ speaks of throughout the New Testament. Those who open their hearts and share what the Lord has given them become the good stewards of which Jesus continually speaks. As God sees this in us he responds by giving us even more to share with others.

We will be starting our fall stewardship campaign on October 7<sup>th</sup> and completing the campaign prior to the Holidays. During the campaign we will explain how session works together to develop a budget, the workings of our business office and our interaction with Presbytery. We plan an informative and vigorous Fall Campaign, and look forward to working with all members as Palm Springs Presbyterian Church charts a firm financial plan as its path to the future.

*Ernie Moore*

*Bob Wulf*





## Session Highlights

Session met on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at 9:32 a.m. Pastor Christine opened with prayer followed by Elder Ernie Moore reviewing a chronological table on understanding the various influences that the Greeks encountered from 158 B.C. thru 1945. All members were present with Elder Susan McGuire being excused.

Session approved Robert Tryce's request for transfer of membership to the Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley, CA and acknowledged the death of Charles Walker, an affiliate member, on July 3, 2012.

Session approved the following:

- Presbytery's request for Pastor Christine to preach in Temecula on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and Rev. Narcissis Tucker as replacement in our church.
- Setting up an account with Simple Give for processing donations and tithes thru our internet website ([www.pspresby.org](http://www.pspresby.org)).
- An agreement with Lifetouch photography (formally Olin Mills) for a photo directory with pictures being taken in February.
- Cathedral City Community Presbyterian Church's request for them to hold their Session Retreat at our church to be on Saturdays September 22<sup>nd</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- For Pastor Christine to conduct the baptism of Everett William Ivan, great grandson of Harvey & Barbara Stephens.

Session voted against participation of Rev. Christine on a Presbytery hosted mission trip to El Salvador for one week in September.

Pastor Christine informed Session that Bob Barrett would be our representative from the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery replacing Anne Smith who's term had expired. As a member of the Committee on Ministry, Pastor Christine has been appointed

representative to the Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church and also the Spirit of the Desert Fellowship.

Deacon's sent flowers on behalf of the church to the family of Charles Walker upon his passing on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and purchased bus passes for a member of our church family.

The Treasurer's report showed a **loss** for the month of June of **\$4,284** and a **loss** year to date as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of **\$150**. In July, in response to the Summer Appeal's letter, \$3,875 has been received. During July, Pavers were installed at the gate for better access for disabled and palm trees were trimmed and skinned. The new Nominating Committee has been meeting to select replacements for the Session. Christian Education now has 4 on the committee and Congregational Life now has 6 members.

Session was adjourned at 11:00 AM with prayer. The next Session will be on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 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.

*Elder Jim DeHart*, Clerk of Session



Gail Jones has moved. Her new address is 31435 47<sup>th</sup> Ave. So, Auburn, WA 98001, phone number 253-735-1709.

Fran Gotenstein has moved. Her new address is 39905 Via Scena, Apt 100, Palm Desert, CA 92260. Her cell phone is 310-780-2230.



WOW. WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE GANG WOULD GET TOGETHER IN TACOMA. YES, JAN SNYDER AND HER DAUGHTER, SALLY, CHARLENE COATES AND GAIL JONES WITH HER DAUGHTER, KATHY ALL GATHERED IN TACOMA ON JUNE 28. WE HAD LUNCH AND GOT IN SOME GOOD CHIT CHAT . WHAT A TREAT. SO THE JOY OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CONTINUES AND WILL DO SO IN PALM SPRINGS COME FALL. HOPE OTHER GROUPINGS ARE OCCURING AROUND THE COUNTRY. MISS ALL OF YOU . GAIL JONES



I would like to thank my Palm Springs Church family for all the sympathy cards and condolences that were sent to Wendy, Bud and me at the time of Chuck's passing. He loved this Church and all the parishioners.

I think of you often and just want to convey my deepest love and appreciation for the phone calls, notes and sympathy cards sent to me and our family. I will cherish your loving concerns and remember you forever. God Bless You,  
Marilyn



Thank You to Fran

Thanks to Fran Gotenstein for the gift of the beautiful desk in the reception office. It looks great, we have more room in the office and it is more efficient. Thanks again, *Jackie*

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PSPC had the joy of celebrating the baptism of Harvey & Barbara Stephens' great grandson, Everett William Ivan, on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> along with his mother, Jennifer Ivan and big sister, Kayley Lillard.



## 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.



**5:59 Gathering**

**THE NEXT 5:59 GATHERING WILL BE THURS, Sept 13**

It is always a wonderful time of good food and fellowship.



## ONGOING MEETINGS EVERYONE WELCOME

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 is on hiatus for the Summer. Please keep watching for the date it will resume in the Fall. This is a wonderful time for learning, sharing and prayer.



Many thanks to Ernie Moore for the great new bulletin board in the Social Hall. We can now share news in the life of the church, letters from friends, announcements & opportunities.

Also, thanks to Ernie and Rocky for laying the pavers going into the parking lot. It looks great and makes the transition from the parking lot to the sidewalk much better.

**From Don Sshepherd's**  
**Kitchen**

**Pecan Pie Graham Cracker  
Chewy Bars**

Crust: 3 C graham cracker crumbs  
1 ½ sticks butter at room temp  
¼ C sugar  
2 T flour

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl with an electric mixer or in the bowl of a stand mixer, beat the graham cracker crumbs, butter, sugar and flour until moist and well-blended. Press the mixture firmly and evenly over the bottom of a 13" x 9" baking pan. Bake until the crust is golden brown, 10 to 15 min.

**Topping and Assembly:**

2 ½ C brown sugar  
4 extra-large eggs  
2/3 C graham cracker crumbs  
1 T vanilla  
¾ t salt  
½ t baking powder  
1 C pecans, chopped  
1 prepared crust  
powdered sugar, if desired

1. While the crust is baking, in a large bowl, whisk together the brown sugar and eggs to blend. Whisk in the graham cracker crumbs, vanilla, salt and baking powder until well-blended. Stir in the pecans.
2. Spread the mixture over the baked crust and return to the 350 degree oven until the filling is dark-golden on top and jiggles slightly when tapped, 20 to 25 minutes. Transfer the pan to a cooling rack and cool completely.
3. Sprinkle a light coating of sifted powdered sugar over the pan if desired, and cut into 24 bars. The bars can be made 1 day in advance. Wrap in plastic and keep at room temperature.



**September**

Larry Harris	4
Howard Webb	7
Morella Larsen	9
Richard Brenner	17
Bruce Smith	19
Sharon Ratliffe	23
Barbara Stephens	30
Jenny Newell	30



**September 3rd**



Palm Springs  
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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



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