



SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
January 2013

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth”
John1:14”



Several years ago, the singer Jewel wrote a song titled, ‘What If God Was One of Us?’ I really liked the song, even though I could never figure out why anyone would write such a thing since God WAS one of us! So, whenever I heard it, I would sing along, and then at the end, shout out the obvious. In the alternative, I thought about the many who loved the song and sang along, and wished God would be a part of their earthly lives. Guess it’s up to us to give them the Good News they are looking for!

As 2013 begins, we can look back on a year well spent. Our little church is growing and transforming, building on the foundation of the faithful who have come before. Our Christmas Eve service provided a glimpse of ‘can-be,’ the sanctuary filled to overflowing with the rich diversity of our community. The sense of love and well-being was overwhelming; the knowledge of ‘this is who we are’ was profound and humbling. God is at work here, in this place.

I love the Book of John because it has such a sense of mystery about it. John’s words reveal shadows and light, an extraordinary sense of the spiritual nature of our lives as Christians. Stating that, ‘the Word became flesh,’ reveals more than the images we often conjure up of Jesus, usually dressed in white, standing on a hillside or in a garden ‘all-aglow’. John’s words make us realize the true nature of Jesus, as *the Christ*. Of God. God. Whose very presence in the world gave us a glimpse of our Creator, the One and Only – I love that part – and more, the nature of our Creator, the fundamental importance of grace and truth. God. The Word. The I Am.

And, in an evening like Christmas Eve, the ‘I Am’ was all around us. It revealed that our best successes come not out of ourselves, but out of the presence of the One and Only, expressed through the Spirit that wove its way in and around all who gathered to welcome love and light into the world. It was a reminder that we are at our very best as Christ’s people when we *react* to that presence rather than believing we create it, allowing God, then, to renew us and our ministry with the breath of life.

By letting go, accepting, fully, ‘all comers,’ we are making room for something more powerful than any of us to work *God’s* desire for us. It’s all about trust, and an easy choice to make. As we enter this new year, we can continue to embrace God’s grace and truth like a roadmap for ministry. We are already a friendly church, a congregation based on the joy of the Spirit. We can go even deeper, if we listen intently to that voice within us, and reach beyond our own comfort zones to embrace the places God will lead us.

Let us run joyfully into this new, God-given year, rejoicing in the freedom our Spiritual center - our faith in the future - gives us; and, as those little red pencils in our pews remind us, "Jesus Never Fails." All Blessings for 2013!

Peace, *Rev. Christine*



Palm Springs Jazz at the Church (PSJATC)

Inspiring! Innovative! Improvisational!

We are bringing in the year 2013 with the exciting commencement of **Palm Springs Jazz at the Church (PSJATC)** concert series. We will have jazz performances every 1st and 3rd

Sunday afternoon. Get ready for afternoons filled with exceptional talent and fun. **January 20th** will feature **Mike Johnson and friends** with an open jam session.

On **February 3**, we are excited to feature the incredible **Yve Evans!!!** If you would like to be a part of the PSJATC planning team or want to share ideas, call Mike Johnson or Gina Ross at 760-992-5783.

LOOK HOW GREAT PSPC LOOKED ON CHRISTMAS EVE



The church was decorated with luminarias. We welcomed 150 members, friends and visitors to the Christmas Eve service. The service was Lessons and Carols and was a beautiful and moving story of the birth of the baby Jesus told in scripture and song.



Thanks to Harvey Stephens for all the work he does for the recycling program and thanks to everyone who brings in their recycling. PSPC received \$1224 from recycling in 2012!



You donated \$762.95 to Christmas Joy in 2012 and over \$1500 that was divided between Well in the Desert and Presbyterian Hunger Project. Thanks to everyone who was so generous.



Session Meeting

Session met on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at 9:45 a.m. Pastor Christine open Session with prayer. All members were present with Bob Wulf and Kathy Smith Session excused. The Deacon's were represented by Deacon Robert Kemp.

Session approved the following:

- * The Baptism of Christen Lawson, 1 year old daughter of Annie Lawson and husband from Connecticut, during a Family reunion being held in Palm Springs.
- * Wedding & reception on March 2, 2013 for David Bintliff & Patty Smith. David is the son of Geri Bintliff, a member of our church.
- * Request for using the facility as a fruit drop off for charities provided it was maintained by the organization.
- * By poll vote to build a riser platform to elevate the back row of the choir.
- * Gina Johnson to put together several more Sunday afternoon concerts.
- * The changing of the main lights in the Sanctuary with dimmers.
- * Canceling membership in the Greater Palm Springs Wedding Association as it is geared toward large venues and large resorts.
- * Membership in the Wedding Warriors geared toward smaller venues more fitting for our church.

Session appreciated all the hard work of those that worked on the float. It was beautiful and a great success with great response.

The Treasurer's report showed a **loss** for the month of November of **\$2,264** and a **loss** year to date as of November 30th of **\$6,943**. Elder Jim DeHart noted that the Per Capita Fee for 2013 will be \$33.25 and that Annual Committee Reports will be due by January 24^t.

Pastor Christine informed Session that the Presbytery Office will be moving from San Bernardino to Rialto. Next Session will be January 16, 2013 at 9:30 AM.

Session closed at 12:00 with Elder Don Shepherd reading "The Night Before Christmas" followed with prayer.

The next Session will be on January 16th 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.

Elder Jim DeHart, Clerk of Session



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study resumes on January 15th. at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

They are studying Genesis. All are welcome.

PDA has people coordinating relief efforts for Sandy victims (Morella has been deployed to New York to help) and has provided money to aid in the relief. If you



would like to help, you can make out your check to PSPC and designate it for Sandy relief and we will forward it. You can also use

www.presbyterianmission.org/give/DR000187 or text to 20222 to make a \$10 donation.

Lord Jesus, be our guest;
Our morning joy, our evening rest.
And with our daily bread, and part,
Bring peace and joy to every heart. Amen

Traditional American Grace

From saying Grace, Blessings for the Family Table, edited by Sarah McElwain



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.



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 meets on Tuesday at 9:30 AM. We are studying Genesis.

JANUARY, 2013 CALENDAR

(This is a new version)

- Jan 1 New Year's Day
- Jan 2 2:00 PM Choir Practice
7:00 PM N Anon Meeting
- Jan 3 2:00 PM Life Touch Meeting
- Jan 6 8:30 AM Kerygma Bible Study
10:00 AM Worship
- Jan 8 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study
- Jan 9 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
2:00 PM Choir Practice
7:00 PM N Anon Meeting
- Jan 13 8:30 AM Kerygma Bible Study
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM Deacons' Meeting
- Jan 15 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study
- Jan 16 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
11:00 AM Session Meeting
2:00 PM Choir Practice
7:00 PM N Anon Meeting
- Jan 20 8:30 AM Kerygma Bible Study
10:00 AM Worship
- Jan 21 Martin Luther King Jr Day
- Jan 22 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study
- Jan 23 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
2:00 PM Choir Practice
7:00 PM N Anon Meeting
- Jan 24 5:59 Gathering
- Jan 27 8:30 AM Kerygma Bible Study
10:00 AM Worship
2 cents a meal offering
Potluck Luncheon
- Jan 29 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study
11:30 AM Women's Birthday Luncheon
- Jan 30 7:00AM Men's Bible Study
2:00 PM Choir Practice
7:00 PM N Anon Meeting





From Barbara Stephens Kitchen

Grandma Stephens' Apple Cake

Ingredients:

2 C flour
 ½ tsp salt
 3 tsp baking soda
 3 level T shortening
 1 egg, beaten
 2/3 C milk
 8 to 10 apples, peeled
 ½ c sugar
 1 T cinnamon
 Milk or Cool Whip

Sift flour, salt and baking powder. Work in shortening and mix to a light dough with the beaten egg and milk. Spread dough over bottom of a 9 x 13-inch pan. Cover with peeled and quartered apples. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle over apples. Bake 30 minutes at 400 degrees.

The Riverside County
 Department of Public
 Social Services is
 looking for volunteers to
 participate in the
**Riverside County 2013
 Homeless Count** on
 Wednesday, January 23,
 2013. For more information, please see the
 announcement posted on the bulletin board in
 the Fellowship Hall.



New Photo Directory

is coming. The
 photographer will be
 here Feb 8 & 9, 2013,

to take our pictures. Please see Morella
 Larsen, Kay Chabot or Jim DeHart to
 make an appointment for your picture.



January

Clay Robertson	3
Michael Lutke	6
Gina Johnson	9
Richard Cuthbert	11
Norman Ross	11
Annie MacEwan	13
Joe Sypus	17
Francis Spreitzer	31
Phyllis Burrows	31



THE NEXT 5:59 GATHERING WILL BE THURSDAY, January 24TH

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



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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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