



# SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church  
October & November, 2013

"As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the maker of all things."



Some part of me wanted to discover a passage that hinted at a fall season, or the smell of burning leaves, or the gathering of bags of candy; something that would trigger memories and a sense of historic continuity. Well, for at least one person, anyway? What I realized as I read (unrelated to the scripture that was before me) was that, like the more famous Ecclesiastes passage: "...for every time there is a season." Thankfully, life is not static but instead flowing. Whether through the movement that is our unique river of life, or the revelation of discovery and understanding, while we remain God's faithful people we are not exactly as we were thousands of years ago.

The moon, as it rotates through its phases, changes drastically from our earthly perspective. The other evening, it was a most perfect and beautiful crescent. Even so, one recognized that the whole moon was still there, waiting its turn to be revealed by the sun's light, released from the earth's shadow. Our lives, in the communal sense, have increased from the knowledge of time and science; but through all of humanity's phases, God remains constant, as secrets are uncovered and revealed. This is how the document that informs our lives remains relevant, meaningful and consistent. This is why the Word is living, not stagnant and static. A living and revelatory Word is able to sustain our integrity as God's people even as we negotiate a world filled with meteors that would tip lesser dogma off its axis.

We know how humans are formed in the womb, and we can not only tell the direction of the wind, we can foretell it. Subtleties of nature whether flora or fauna, are no longer secrets. The human condition has been revealed as far more complex than ever imagined. One might think that the fullness of God presented in biblical terms could be reduced to a sliver like the waning moon because of scientific revelation. But the opposite is true, because the bright, sustaining light of the Resurrection reaches across the millennia, forever exposing the fullness of Creator and Creation, and our relationship with the unassailable truth that can't be denied: Love.

The mysteries of life are deeper than a genetic structure and the changes borne on a wind are broader than a weather cell. That love can't be seen, or touched, or understood in any narrow way helps us to remember the mysteries of the Infinite and surrender ourselves to God's living will and desire for us, setting aside our worldly claim for exclusion and judgement. Jesus loves me. Jesus loves you. Jesus, loves.

As God sacrificed his heart for our shortcomings, so we should open ours and listen for his Will. Fall is a good time for this, as we experience fellowship renewed by cool winds, wonder for the laughter of children multiplying in our midst, joy for those who curiously enter into a spiritual community for the first time, or in a long time; and maybe, just maybe, the memory of a fallen leaf or a Snickers bar will remind us that our hearts, once burdened by the need of knowing, are set free to experience the unknowable freedom of our living faith.

In His Service, *Rev. Christine*

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ART MUSEUM

Day Trips By Two  
How about going to the  
LIVING DESERT  
Thursday, November 7 at 10:00 AM



OR  
PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM  
Thursday, November 14 at 4:00 PM

Give me a heads up with a phone call, 760-340-9432 or talk with me at the church.  
Elder Don Shepherd

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PSPC will again be participating in the 2013 Festival of Lights Parade which takes place on Saturday, Dec. 7th. This year commemorates a 22 year parade tradition as well as Palm Springs 75th anniversary! The fun of decorating the PSPC float will commence on Dec. 2nd at the church around 8 a.m. and will continue through the week. If you were a volunteer last year, we would like to see you again. If you were not involved, but would like to join us this year, we welcome all new participants. Watch for special fund raising events and remember any and all monetary donations will be appreciated. I'm confident you'll find the rewards of being involved; priceless! For all those who are interested or with questions, contact: Dick Schultz : 760-565-6230



(Leave a message.) Dirk/Erica Voerman: 760-778-3473

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## PIANO CAMPAIGN CONTINUES!

We have been advised that our piano, which has faithfully provided wonderful music for several years, is on its last legs. Since the piano campaign began, you have given \$2355 towards the purchase of a new or new to us instrument. Thank you.



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)



## 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 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. We will be on hiatus in October.

Yoga Classes Tuesday, 11: AM (except on Women's Birthday Luncheon day) and Thursday at 5:30 PM (except on 5:59 Gathering Thursdays) in the Social Hall.

Thanks to Harvey Stephens for all his work with our recycling program. You brought in \$182 in recycling for the Oct, 2013.

The total income received this year is \$1058! That is up from last year. Thanks to everyone.

We are not only helping the environment, but you are significantly helping the budget. Keep up the good work.



## PEACEMAKING OFFERING



You generously gave the Peacemaking

\$237. to Offering

in October. This goes towards eradicating human trafficking and attention to gun violence as well other important programs benefitting lives and communities. Thanks for your support.

## Membership Class!



A class will be held for those interested in becoming members of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 24th following worship. These classes are also great if you are simply curious or have questions about who we are. All are welcome to participate! We will spend one to two hours discussing what it means to be a Presbyterian, how our church works, where we've been and where we might be headed. While we consider everyone who walks through our doors on a Sunday part of our church family, and encourage everyone to participate in the life and mission of PSPC, there is something pretty special about making a commitment as a member. And, even more chances to help lead us as Christ's people in The Coachella Valley! Please consider spending this time with Pastor Christine, and exploring where your faith might lead you. If you know you will want to be there, please give the church office a call; if you're not sure, all drop ins welcome!

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Pastor Christine's house in Seattle is for rent. If you know of someone in the Seattle area who is looking for a house to rent, have them contact her, 206-714-7511.



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session met on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 10:55 am. Session was opened with prayer by Pastor Christine. All members were present with Elders Bob Wulf and Jim Chabot excused. Guest was Randy Bruno.

Randy Bruno, representing the Wedding Committee, presented as a source of income for the church a proposal for various wedding packages including an open house for vendors to view the property and encourage referrals. During the ensuing discussion, same sex marriages which has become popular in our area was brought up. While Pastor Christine is not permitted to officiate these weddings, renting the facility for same sex weddings was questioned. the proposal was tabled pending further research with a special meeting to discuss the issue and postpones an open house till January or May.

Session approved having a Ministry Team Fair on November 17th following the service. Each committee would have their own table to inform members of the committee functions and encourage volunteers.

Session approved Pastor Christine to attend the Pastor's Retreat at Big Bear on October 7-9, 2013.

Elder Kathy Smith reported that teachers were needed for the children's Sunday School and requested an announcement at the service next Sunday.

Elder Frances Gotenstein reviewed the Treasurer's report. Financial Statements for month ended August 31, 2013 showed total revenue of \$14,830 and expenses of \$14,240 for a net profit of \$590. Year to date revenue was \$117,727 and with expenses of \$120,040 for a net **loss** of **\$2,313** from operations plus other income of \$11,256. Total income \$8,943.

The next 5:59 dinner was set for July 11<sup>th</sup>. Session approved Elder Don Shepherd's suggestion for a trip to a baseball game and also a trip to the Art Museum and to set up the dates & time.

Session approved deleting the word Evangelism from the current Committee title Evangelism & Outreach. Session also approved having a float again this year and sign up for the Christmas Lights Parade.

Session was adjourned at 12:45 PM with prayer. The next Session will be on October 17th 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.

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This is from someone who  
must love word games.  
PRESBYTERIAN  
When you rearrange the letters  
BEST IN PRAYER







When the mornings and evenings are cool and baseball is wrapping up and football is season is starting, it's the best time of the year.

What makes it even better is that it is Stewardship time. This is when we can reflect on our past year and start to look forward to the coming year. As we do this we look at how our relationship with our Lord and our church has been. This includes our financial relationship.

While our church has been succeeding very well, we need to try to do better in the times ahead. We will start our Stewardship campaign in the next couple of weeks and I'm going to ask all of us to think on this. We need to find increased funding for our future and I ask in this couple of weeks to see if you can't step up the amount you pledge to the church. If you pledge and can't do all of it, we understand, but please try.

Ernie Moore, Elder, Stewardship

### **Annual Barbeque Luncheon**

#### **Sunday, November 3rd after worship**

Come and bring a friend for a delicious barbeque lunch. There will be a 50/50 drawing and lots of fun. Please sign-up so that the cooks know how much food to prepare.



### **Come to the Ministry Team Fair**

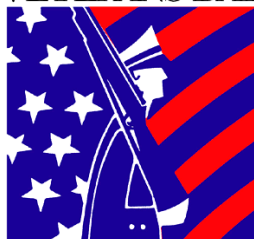
**on Sunday, November 17th!!** There will be tables set up with information about the committees and groups that are part of our church. Get information about what is going on in the life of PSPC. Ask questions and maybe you will find a outlet for your creativeness and passion. We, the members and friends, are the church doing God's work. Get involved.

### **HANGING O THE GREENS**

Christmas is coming. Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 30th and join in the fun of decorating the church and grounds for the Advent season. The more the merrier. There might even be cider and cookies.



### **VETERANS DAY**



November 11th

# From the Kitchen of Barbara Stephens

## No-Bake Chocolate Peanut Butter Bars (from Nestle Toll House book)

2 cups peanut butter, divided in recipe  
3/4 cups (1 1/2 sticks) butter (not margarine)  
softened not melted.  
2 cups powdered sugar  
3 cups graham cracker crumbs  
2 cups (12 oz. pkg.) Nestle Toll House Semi-Sweet  
Chocolate MINI morsels, divided in recipe

Grease 13 x 9 x 2 pan.  
Beat 1 1/4 cups peanut butter & butter in large mixing  
bowl until creamy. Gradually beat in 1 cup powdered  
sugar. With your hands work in the remaining powdered  
sugar, graham cracker crumbs and 1/2 cup of the morsels.  
Press evenly into the prepared pan. Smooth and press it  
down.

Melt in a microwave safe bowl the peanut butter stirring  
until very smooth and thin. In another microwave safe bowl  
put the morsels in for 30 to 40 seconds and stir and you  
will repeat this and stir well. If the morsels did not melt all  
the way put it back in for a less amount of time. Blend the  
chocolate and peanut butter and spread on top of your  
base in the pan. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour or until  
chocolate is firm; cut into bars. This must be stored in the  
refrigerator.



Online giving is now up and running.  
Just get on our website, [www.pspresby.org](http://www.pspresby.org)  
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.



## What Did You Do This Summer?

Send us pictures and articles about your activities this summer.  
Whether it's a fabulous trip to strange and exotic places or a  
staycation, we would love to hear from you. Send them to  
[jmorgan@pspresby.org](mailto:jmorgan@pspresby.org).



## October

Fae Custer	4
Marge Harris	8
Rev. Christine	21
Peggy Lynn	26
Donna Genett	29

## November

Elvio Ditta	1
Fred Wallace	1
Christine Lutke	2
Bill Cushing	4
Susan McGuire	15

## Quotes from Mark Twain

"Always obey your parents  
when they are present."

"Always do right. This will  
gratify some people and  
astonish the rest."

"To eat is human...to digest,  
divine."

"Nothing so needs reforming  
as other people's habits."

"The man with a new idea is  
a crank until the idea  
succeeds."

"A man cannot be  
comfortable without his own  
approval"

"If you tell the truth you don't  
have to remember  
anything."

"All good things arrive unto  
them that wait and don't die  
in the meantime."



Palm Springs  
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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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