



SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
December 2013

".....the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.' Luke 2:10

often I read those words; every time I get chills for the wonder of them! We spend weeks in expectation of the birth of the Christ, although as we know there's a lot of competition out there for our attention, a clamoring of many gongs that often overwhelm a tiny baby in a manger. Maybe that's why these words ring so clearly and touch the heart in a way no number of Reindeer can.



But there was something in the sky that night. Many somethings: An angel! A crowd of heavenly hosts! And the greatest mystery, perhaps, 'the glory of the Lord' that shone around them. It is worth stopping in the middle of your day to consider these things, and what it must have been like for those everyday people on a hillside on a dark, silent night so long ago. Terrified? Justifiably. Awestruck? Undeniably. Even so, they heard and believed, and made their way from a familiar outpost, finding themselves in the presence of a humble family; sensing the immensity of the moment.

One can't help but wonder, how did this holy and wondrous night fall from any memory? How were Mary and Joseph able to find enough obscurity in a small country and raise this child that had drawn kings to humble themselves before him? While Jesus became visible with his knowledge -and temper- it took three decades and more for the glory of the love he brought to all humankind to become known, sought, understood.

Our faith can be like that, too. When we or our faith are young, the experience of the shepherds amazes, and we stand in awe before the manger without guile or question. As life captures our attention, our faith can melt into obscurity, too. Its right there in front of us, within us, but we can't see it. What does it take to rediscover the fire that may still burn, but has fallen to embers? How do we escape cynicism....where is The Christ in our lives?

When Jesus stepped onto the dusty road that led him away from his familiar life and onto the path God ordained for him, he likely would have felt the burn of a new, irresistible day. And much the same, when we allow ourselves to turn again towards the stories of long ago, stories that captured an innocent heart, we, too, can feel the burn of a new, irresistible day!

It's a simple, timeless message, of a starry sky, men with hempen robes and wooden staffs, sheep grazing quietly nearby; a darkness that explodes in light, wonder and awe. A rustic manger holding a brand new life, young parents watching it all unfold. We heard the songs, and we believed. We hear the songs, and again, believe. Our lives are

forever transformed, again and again.

In this Advent season, in the joy of Christmas morning, let yourself be swept away by a tiny, beating heart. Be awestruck. Let comfort attend you. The good news of great joy is overwhelming a crying world, and our tears will be no more. It's all about love, after all.

Merry Christmas! *Rev. Christine*



Thanks to all who worked on and contributed to our float for the Festival of Lights parade. Especially thanks to Dick Schultz, Dirk & Erica Voerman, Truus & Thijs Vanderlinden, singers - Marge & Larry Harris, Susan McGuire, Dick Schultz, Dirk & Erica Voerman and band - Alex Danson, Mike Johnson and George Cebra. Also thanks to Shana Hochanadel for providing the tow vehicle. There were many, many more people who worked, helped and contributed to our wonderful float who are not listed here. Thanks to all.



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 \$4855. towards the purchase of a new or new to us instrument. Thank you. **We are drawing closer to having enough donations to purchase a quality piano. What a wonderful Christmas miracle that would be!**

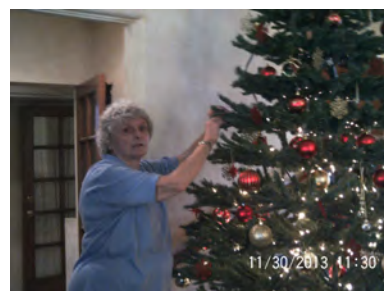
Thank You and God's Peace, The Worship and Music Team (Susan, Alex, Jim and Christine)





Hanging O The Greens

Thanks to everyone who contributed to and helped to decorate the church for Christmas! It looks beautiful.



The annual PSPC Barbecue was held on November 3rd. The food was delicious and it was a great time to make new friends and visit with old friends. Thanks to Harvey Stephens and his crew for all their work that make it a wonderful day.



Don Shepherd's house was flocked! A group at Palm Desert Greens (where Don lives) will "flock" a yard for a small fee. "Flocked" means that a group will come and festoon the yard with pink plastic flamingos (much to Don's surprise). They were all over the yard, hanging from the trees and generally making the previously green yard very pink. What a fun and clever thing to do.



Thanks
to all who donated toiletries for the ladies of Hacienda Valdez. They really appreciate this annual Christmas gift from PSPC.

Hi Jackie,
Just wanted to send a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!
Can't tell you how much I miss everyone and "my church"!!
I pray for all of you and "our" church!!
If you remember the poem I read when Pastor Bill left, it said people come into our lives for a reason and then sometimes they leave through no fault of anyone.
We had to leave because of health reasons to be nearer children to help out and so we left our lovely home and good friends and a church I loved, to come back to where we came from or as one of my dear friends said to where we belong. My church here as Pastor Bill can tell you is lovely and I do like it too!! It just isn't the same. I do hope the new piano gets there soon!! I miss the choir, Alex and the "boys"! Love you all and do keep Eddie and me in your prayers!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS !!! Geri Bintliff



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.

Dear Members and Pastor, Thank you for your gift to the people The Well in the Desert serves. The poor and homeless on this end of the Valley are surely the "least of these" Christ identified as the ones who represent Him when we serve them. You and



The Well are serving Christ in others, indeed. And thank you for collaborating with The Well in serving our God by serving Christ in others. Me Ke Aloha (God's Aloha),
Wayne McKinny for The Well in the Desert.

Supporting Our Connections

The Presbytery of Riverside's Vision/Mission Statement—
Connected congregations in deep discipleship to Jesus Christ who are faithful and active witnesses to God's love, justice, and peace.

One of the ways the members and churches of the Presbytery stay connected to one another is through the per capita apportionment. Each congregation is expected to contribute for 2013 \$33.25 per member to fund the support structure that allows us to be in ministry together. Most of our congregations pledge and contribute an additional amount to support the mission of the larger church, which allows us to engage in wider mission beyond our individual congregations.

Per capita funding:

- allows Presbyterians to mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future – i.e., provide mileage reimbursements for members to travel to Presbytery meetings;
- provides the organization and structure to offer training and development of church leaders;
- provides needed assistance in discernment for the calling of new pastors;
- provides for a structure to develop partnerships with wider missions, such as the partnership with Joining Hands Against Hunger in El Salvador.

Palm Springs Presbyterian is a connectional congregation and supports the efforts of the greater church. Each year we pay our per capita dues in full so we are grateful for each member who supports this effort by paying their per capita annually.



From the Kitchen of
Kay Chabot

Chicken San Francisco

- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 2 eggs
- 1 pkg Old Ranch Dressing
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
- 4-5 chicken breasts, boned and skinned

Blend together yogurt, eggs and dressing mix. Mix bread crumbs and Parmesan cheese. Dip chicken in yogurt mixture. (If you wish you can put yogurt mixture in bottom of dish.) Roll in bread crumbs. Place in greased baking dish and bake at 350 degrees for 45 - 60 minutes.

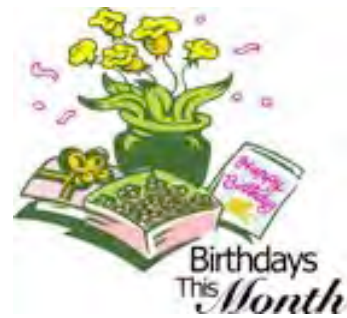
Serves 8



Online giving is now up and running. Just get on our website, 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.

We have bought a few copies of the new Presbyterian Hymnal, *Glory to God*. They are available to look at in the Fellowship Hall.



Rev Bill Johnson	2
Dorothy Hollerback	4
Thomas Kutras	6
Ruth Ash	14
Margaret Norton	15
Fred Lynn	20

saying
Grace

Blessings for the Family Table
edited by Sarah McElwain

The truths of the spirit are
proved not by reasoning about
them.

Or finding explanation of them,
but only by acting upon them.

Their life is dependent upon
what we do about them.

Mercy, gentleness,
forgiveness, patience;

If w do not show them, they will
cease to be.

Upon us depends the reality of
God here on Earth today.

EDITH HAMILTON (1867-1963)
AMERICAN EDUCATOR AND
GREEK SCHOLAR





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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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