



SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
May 2015

“They go to the cisterns but find no water. They return with their jars unfilled; dismayed and despairing, they cover their heads. The ground is cracked because there is no rain in the land...” Jeremiah 14: 3b - 4a

The prophecies of Jeremiah addressed the fate of Israel: God’s response to a people’s disobedience was a devastating rebuke. In quoting this passage, your Pastor is not suggesting that the severe drought we are experiencing in California is the result of bad behavior - remember, Jesus came to reconcile us to God and offer hope to the brokenness that is humanity - rather, it is as a reference to how we might experience our lives if we live in separation from our Creator. It is about taking something global and seeing it reflected in hearts thirsty for live-giving water.



The world is a mess, there is no getting around it. From wars to natural disasters to institutionalized abuse to loss of privacy and general civility. It can overwhelm and isolate the strongest among us. It can make fertile souls barren, cracked, dismayed, despairing.

Ah, but there is hope! While we, in the California desert may be literally experiencing the reality of drastic change, we know that somewhere not that far away a flower is blooming and young fruit is being established on the trees of springtime. Life is being renewed and water flows over riverbeds towards the sea in God’s eternal cycle of life. Far but not too far. Attainable if we seek it. Waiting to refresh and renew.

And so, Christ waits for us to look away from the barrenness of a disobedient faith and towards the living water he offers to renew our tired, frustrated, lonely and even angry, souls. His voice is the sound of the water we need and crave, while it may seem impossibly out of reach it is in truth startlingly near!

Each is beloved, sought after, forgiven and received. Why waste the measured treasure that is life being dismayed and covering our heads? Not only can we claim God’s love and confidence in this season of spring; we can also be the lamp that shines the light of hope in a world of desperate need.

Feed your soul, shine your light. Fill your jar with living water and pour it generously into the world. In Christ, the drought of brokenness can be transformed. In Christ, Spring will be the victor, an overwhelming and irresistible feast of color and light.

Peace always, *Christine*

One Great Hour of Sharing

Thanks to everyone who gave to One Great Hour of Sharing. You gave \$1415. this year! This is always a generous congregation. One Great Hour of Sharing helps with water projects, hunger relief and disaster assistance (PDA) which is near and dear to our hearts. Morella Larsen is active around the country, providing help in times of need for disasters.



The annual Women's Retreat was March 7, 2015. The speaker was Kathleen Moore, who is also Gail's daughter. About 50 women attended and enjoyed the insightful, funny and inspiring speaker and a delicious brunch.

A postscript to the successful retreat is that the women's retreat committee gives the church a gift every year. This year they bought new flatware for PSPC. Many thanks to them for their hard work, dedication, skill and love they put into the retreat and thanks for the gift. We know God was shining a special light on this day. He has for 22 years.





Thijs Rev. Christine Dirk



The church camping trip to Joshua Tree was April 6 - 8. Nine people participated, some for more days and some for less. Reports are that they had great food and hiked. Also

reports that it was really, really cold and the wind was howling. Donna said it was 37 degrees and the wind was blowing when they got up on the second day. Dirk said it fun seeing people unable to use their cell phones and internet. It was still beautiful and everyone had a good time.

Session Notes from April 15, 2015 Session Meeting

Session approved the transfer of membership for Wally and Connie Burrill from Endeavor Presbyterian Church in Fedora, SD to PSPC.

Deacons Report: New members have been assigned to a Deacon.

Session approved an increase in the wedding fee to \$1200. for the use of the church for non-members. Also approved that we will pay the person(s) assisting with weddings (opening and closing for the rehearsal and wedding ceremony, etc).

Also approved that a railing(s) be installed from the front curb to the building to provide stable and safe assistance in entering the church.

Also approved that future 5:59 Gatherings will be a better mixture of social time and teaching. It was agreed to have Rev. Christine teach a 20 minute session once a quarter thereby allowing more time to “**getting to know you**” opportunities for the attendees.

Elder Jim Chabot, the chair of Building & Grounds reported the the sewer line has been repaired to solve the overflowing toilet problem.

Locks have been replaced for outer security doors and Christine’s office.

Boulders have been purchased for designated parking areas.

Fountain problem has been discussed.

Jim DeHart will continue to lock church with Steve Lutke as the backup.

Will screen Rev. Christine’s window until the church can repair the stained glass window.

Jeff Morgan, the chair of Music & Worship reported that the music for May has been selected.

Pauline Gregg, chair of Congregational Life, reminded the Session how successful Bake Sales have been in the past, therefore, a bake sale will be scheduled for May 17, 2015.

Meeting was adjointed with prayer.

Dick Schultz, Clerk of Session

NEWS ITMES

The John Robilette Piano Concert on March 18 was a huge success. We had many people from the neighborhood as well as friends and followers of John’s concerts and our own members and friends attend. We had the biggest crowd we have ever had and the concert was fabulous.



The Rummage Sale held on April 11 brought in \$647 which is a welcome addition to the bank account. Thanks to everyone who donated their gently used items and to all who worked to make it all come together.

TRENO (Tahquitz River Estates Neighborhood Organization) which is the very active neighborhood association, had their 10th anniversary party at PSPC on April 25. They had 40-50 people here for a potluck dinner. There was lots of good food and catching up with the news from the neighbors.

Editor's Notes

You may be wondering why the May Sonshine contains the Pastor's report for March as well as May. Well, as usual, we had another busy, exciting, jam packed season at PSPC. Our seasonal visitors are the best. They come with good ideas, energy and talent and inspire and invigorate all of us steady freddies who hold down the fort year round. Many have returned to the winter homes now, although we still have a small but very busy group who will leave throughout the month of May.

This was the first year that we had two services on Sunday morning, one at 8:30 AM and the regular one at 10:00 AM. That was a leap on faith for PSPC and it turned out great. We consistently had about 25 at the 8:30 service. Those who came, loved it. It was slightly abbreviated, no choir or band but Alex played for both services and we had members, friends and Pastor Christine who contributed their musical talents. We still had a full house for the 10:00 AM service, with the sanctuary and the overflow section packed with people.

So the bottom line is, I just didn't have time to do the March or April Sonshine. Pastor Christine's writings are so wonderful, it seemed a shame to waste her March report so this month you are lucky to get a double dose of Christine.

The Sonshine editor's job had not traditionally been part of the office administrator's job description. However, when there was a need, I stepped forward to do it temporarily. Even though we have put out the opportunity to be the editor many times, we have had no takers. I encourage anyone who may be considering it to talk with me or Pastor Christine. It's fun! You know mostly everything that goes on in the church, you get to exercise your artistic chops in composing the Sonshine and you are providing a valuable link to members and friends far away and local.

Blessedly our summer numbers continue to increase so things are still popping here even in the summer. To those of you have returned to your winter home, we love you and miss you. See you in the fall. To those of you who are year round residents, thanks for all you do to keep everything running smoothly throughout the year.

In Christ's Service, Jackie



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 a one time basis.





“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

It is tempting to center that scripture on this page and let it stand alone as a message of wonder for this Lenten season. When a person practices Lectio Divina, an ancient form of prayer, they read a passage over and over, and let the words speak to them, fill them, become alive within them. If this strikes you as something worth trying, I encourage you to set aside even fifteen minutes, sit somewhere comfortable, and read and re-read these words from John. Read them aloud. read them as if they were written just for you; because they were.

Emmanuel, God-with-us. We may not mean to, but we take for granted the excitement and mystery of Christmas, the ministry and miracles of Jesus, and yes, even the rejection, and torture that lead to the victory of the Resurrection. It is easy to fall into the rhythm of a year, even our 'faith-year,' letting it become a way of marking the calendar: Often with santas and bunnies instead of mangers and crosses. Even when we are well intentioned, the emotionally deep and challenging nature of Lent and Easter can pass by like a whisper to be replaced by yes, our joy. A joy that jumps the difficult to get to the reward. It's like life, isn't it? We keep going because we must. We live through the difficult, craving something that will overcome it. We are wired to hope. The Christ *is* hope.

We can be assured that our Creator understands our humanity and by the Cross forgives us, desires us, calls to us. We are reminded, each of us, of the gift of individual faith and redemption. The empty Cross is not one of judgement but an expression of reunion with ALL God's creation! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, filled with grace and truth; what a powerful example and lesson for any of us who would profess to know the 'right way' to understand or prepare for the miracle of the empty tomb! Lent offers us a time to remember the whole of the life of Jesus, and the foretold tragedy of his death. It also offers us the opportunity to look into our own hearts and consider our own faith story.

God-with-us, filled with grace and truth, came so we could unload the grief of failures that hold us back, and forgive ourselves as God has forgiven us. In this Easter season, we should be even more like children than in the decked-halls of Christmastide, because there is no greater gift than the sacrifice made for us on that lonely hill. On this Easter morning, the sun will rise to erase the dark night, unfurling ribbons of light that will wipe clean any smudge of despair or fear. Such is the power of Love.

Maybe, before that morning, open a bible like it's the very first time, and read the passage from John, aloud, for you. Close your eyes. Breathe, and receive. Or, not: These are *your* days and the gift was long ago opened. The words that you say aloud may be as simple as, 'Thank You Lord, for loving me.'

And be assured that this is true: He is risen, risen indeed! Happy Easter!

In Christ, *Rev. Christine*

More NEWS

The memorial service for Lucile Kraehling will be at PSPC on Tuesday, March 12 at 11:00 AM. There will be a reception following the service. Lucile died on April 16th.

Thanks to Susan McGuire for our beautiful new nativity set. It is exquisitely painted and will look great on the Steinway piano at Christmas time.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance responds to earthquake disaster in Nepal

Thousands are dead or injured from the massive earthquake and aftershocks that shook Nepal and neighboring countries on April 25. The quake, the worst in more than 80 years, struck just west of the capital of Kathmandu and destroyed towns and mountainous villages. The government of Nepal has officially requested international assistance and declared a state of emergency.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas with our partner, ACT Alliance, and its members who are already on the ground. PDA will remain active through the long term recovery, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for rebuilding and resilience.

If you would like to help, you can write a check to Palm Springs Presbyterian Church and designate it for Nepal.

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" - \$20. – 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 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.

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 in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Ukulele Practice is Friday at 1:00 PM.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Bob Wulf	6
Dick Erickson	6
Don Shepherd	25
Claire Vilhauer	25
Audrey Bergquist	27
Steve Lutke	28
Caryl Williamson	28

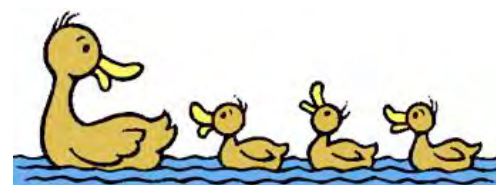
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Matt Lashey	2
Jeff Morgan	5
Leslie Lutke	5
Melissa Yezek	6
Lynn Hamilton	6
Kate Weezorak	15
Sue Cooper	18
Marilyn McMillan	20
Robert Kemp	23
Allen Perrier	23
Angie Hemy	27
Kay Chabot	27
Johnny Jaqua	27

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jim Chabot	1
Jere Ring	4
Elizabeth Morgan	6
Kathy Smith	10
Hugh Ash	13
Donna Mead	13
Dick Schultz	21
Charlotte Crisp	24
Doris Butler	26
Siegfried Elles	30

Happy Mother's Day
May 10



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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:

Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editors:

Jeff & Jackie Morgan

You can listen to the Sunday worship services on PSPC's website, pspresby.org. They are available by Tuesday of the following week.



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