



SONSHINE

Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church

Fall 2021



YOUR SESSION AT WORK

Elders: Kay Chabot, Carl Currin, Bill Miller, Peggy Kueffer, Carole Rogers and Melvena Schaefer

Your Session Ruling Elders have been meeting monthly and more frequently as needed via Zoom to conduct our church business. Several areas of business that have been addressed or on Session's agenda to address in the coming months are:

- **Congregational Meeting:** Our Fall 2021 Congregational Meeting will be held in November. The date will be announced very soon. During this meeting you will have the opportunity to elect the Nominating Committee members for 2022 from the Nominating Committee's confirmed candidates. The candidates are Beverly Pillow, Mike Johnson, Dorothy Starner and Barbara Stephens. Nominations can also be made from the congregation. Our 2022 Annual Budget, which is currently being finalized for Session's approval, will be available for your information during the Congregational Meeting as well.
- **Finance:** We are happy to report your generous contributions to our annual Summer Fund were able (again) to help us meet our financial obligations. We are thankful to you, our gracious members and friends. Hand-written notes of appreciation were sent to all contributors to our Summer Fund.
- **Presbytery of Riverside Contributions:** We have tremendously benefited from being a member of the Riverside Presbytery (the Presbytery) the past few years. In addition to providing their ongoing guidance as we pursue our new pastor, they have provided a moderator for our Session meetings and instructed us through the pastor-search process. They also have approved two grants, which have allowed us to enhance the technology capabilities for our sanctuary and live-streaming services. Our church is one of 35 churches in our area as members of the Presbytery, and we support the valuable services they provide. Elder Peggy has attended the past six Presbytery Stated Session Meetings as PSPC's Commissioner. Reference documents from the last Presbytery Stated Session Meeting is available by clicking on the following link: www.presbytery.com/state_meetings
- **Clerk of Session:** Presbytery will be visiting with us on Wednesday, Nov 3rd, to perform a 5-year review of our records to ensure our records are current, complete, and accurate. This will include a review of our church registers, session meeting minutes, policies, and bylaws. In preparing for this review, our session meeting minutes for the last eleven years and current bylaws and policies have been organized in 3-ring binders for your accessibility in the office.
- **Administrative & Personnel Focus:** Under Elder Kay Chabot's leadership, our Admin & Personnel Committee has been focused on proposing several updates to our church policies and guidelines to ensure that we are following state and federal laws and our specific requirements. Session has reviewed, discussed, and approved the proposed updates. The committee has also performed updates with Session's approvals to the staff job description, annual evaluations of staff and contracted members, as well as prepared new pastor policies for the Pastor Nominating Committee.
- **Committees:** The church's committees are essential to our well-being and our ability to conduct God's work. Despite COVID, our committees are working diligently to move forward in providing our Christian ministries and ensure we are functioning, as a church, extremely well. Thank you to those of you that have generously offered your time and expertise to the work of our committees. We do have a few committees however that could benefit from additional help for 2022. They are:

- **Building and Grounds:** Note: We would like to replace our sign on the front lawn, so if you could be part of this effort, your help would be great appreciated. Also, if you would like to donate toward this specific investment for our church, please designate your contribution for the “Church Sign”.
- **Membership and Community Outreach:** Our active membership is currently 71, but we would enjoy additional members to share in God’s work with us. Your ideas and time to promoting our membership growth would be greatly appreciated. Church information packets have been made by the office and provided to numerous new worship attendees. Additional information packets are available in the church foyer.
- **Congregational Life:** This is going to be a very exciting and active committee for our church during the upcoming year. Lead by Peggy & Rich Dudley, several activities will be planned to enjoy in-person gatherings, dinners and other fun events as we have in the past.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

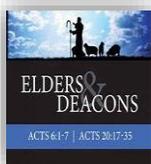
- October Session Meeting: Oct 27th @ 5:30 PM
- Mission Committee Meeting: Oct 29th @ 11:00 AM
- Pat Kerrey’s Celebration of Life Service: Oct 30th @ 11:00 AM
- Congregational Gathering: Oct 31st @ 11:00 AM
- PSPC 5-Year Records Review by Presbytery: Nov 3rd @ 10:00 AM
- Pastor Nominating Committee: Nov 4th @ 5:30 PM



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

by Cindy Stewart, Chair

Your PNC is hard at work finalizing the Ministry Information Form (MIF), which requires a substantial amount of information about our church and preferred pastor profile to be submitted to Presbyterian Church (USA) Church Leadership Connection for approval. The committee is also focused on finalizing our Pastor Job Description, which will be available to interested candidates to determine mutual level of interest to move forward with prospective candidates. Updates on our progress will be provided as we move forward in completing this very important work for our church.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE CALL FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS!

by Carole Rogers, Chair

DEACONS... Be a model of caring. If you would be interested in becoming a deacon, your responsibilities would include checking on families in times of crisis as in births, hospitalization, or bereavement. You will also be the one to call on in times of need. Examples of duties are sending birthday cards and praying for and with and checking in from time to time with your assigned flock of families.

ELDERS... Be a Shepherd. If you would be interested in becoming an elder, your responsibilities would include various duties for the oversight of the church body and the shepherding of our members. As an elder you would join other elders in having ultimate responsibility for managing the affairs of the church. While the staff directs the various ministries of the church, the elders provide the overarching protection of the body.

Please contact Carole if you are interested in becoming a deacon or elder, or if you would like to learn more about these positions. Phone: (510)772-1669, Email: carogers92240@yahoo.com



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

by Morella Larsen, Chair

In July 2021 PSPC's session deemed it necessary to have **stewardship** separated from finance at the recommendation of the Nominating Committee. Their logic is as follows: "The Stewardship Committee should be a separate committee with its own chairperson and members. This will permit our focus on developing stewardship skills and the benefits this could bring to our church."

September 2021, I was asked to chair the newly formed Stewardship Committee and I accepted the chairmanship. Pursuant to Session's standing rules, a ruling elder (at least one) shall be on the committee, Peggy Kueffer will be the ruling elder and Carl Currin has joined the committee as a consultant. Additionally, in accordance with the standing rules at least two adherents of congregants would also be members to which I recruited Bud Cius and Bill Cameron to join the committee. Thus, as of September 16th the committee is complete. Three adherents of congregants are members along with a ruling elder which adheres to the standing rules as to the makeup of a committee. The chairperson of any committee does not have to be a "ruling elder". Furthermore, the Moderator of Session, Rev. Sally Willis-Watkins has offered her expertise and experience to assist this newly formed committee.

The Mission Statement of the Stewardship Committee reads: "*The mission of the Stewardship Committee is to foster the realization that everything we have is a gift from God, including our very life and all its facets. Each of us is steward of God's gifts that come with opportunities and a responsibility to utilize them wisely. It will be the goal of this committee to enlighten the congregation, members, and friends, that the work of this church depends upon the prayerful consideration of each individual as to their monetary giving as well as their individual talents contributing to the work of PSPC.*"

From the Book of Order: W-5.5000, Chapter 5. Other Disciplines in Personal Worship & Discipleship

W-5.5004 Christian Giving

"Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister and share with others in the world. Tithing is a primary expression of Christian discipline of stewardship."

Our Stewardship campaign for the 2022 budget year, "**All for the glory of God**", will be launched soon. Let us regain our proper place in the community by once again being a financially healthy entity, able to respond with mission projects and outreach. This is possible through the willing support of each of us who experience the joy generated through the activities of this distinctive House of the Lord.

The success of this campaign will be instrumental in the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee (the PNC) in their pastoral search. It is critical that we show prospective candidates that we are worthy of their consideration with a fully participating congregation (members and friends) who are vital in our vision of greatness. With God at the helm, Christ Jesus the ultimate gift, and the continual shepherding of thoughts by the Holy Spirit, each donor should experience the true joy of giving. Begin now to discern how you can and will respond when the call comes. YOU are the church.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

by Peggy Kueffer, Chair

We are so excited to now be able to provide in-sanctuary worship. Our attendance continues to increase each Sunday, as the weather is more tolerable, and our snowbirds are returning to the desert. Thanks to our very talented and capable IT team of Alex Danson and Noah Reef,

we also are providing our services via online streaming for those that cannot join in person. The ability to offer real-time in-sanctuary and live streaming of our worship is a unique ability that we are so fortunate to offer to you, our family of members and friends. While we continue to comply to the local and state Covid Regulations for everyone's safety, we are hopeful some of the restrictions will be relaxed soon.

Your Worship Committee consists of the following compassionate individuals that are dedicated to ensuring your worship with us is rewarding:

- Jim Chabot – Lead Usher
- Carl Currin – Lead Greeter
- Lynn Hamilton – Lead Liturgist
- Christine Lutke – Lead Communion Server
- Morella Larsen – Usher

We are preparing now for our wonderful holiday season with the first Sunday of Advent right around the corner. Our liturgists are scheduled through to the end of the year, our Advent candle lighters and readers are scheduled, and we will soon be working to confirm our Christmas Eve readers. If you would like to be a liturgist or Christmas Eve reader, please contact Lynn Hamilton at 734-645-5362. While our Pastor Nominating Committee is diligently working toward our pastor search, we continue to benefit from a variety of very talented pastors. And please watch for the announcement for Christmas Poinsettia donations so we will be able to decorate our sanctuary alter for the holidays.



MESSAGE FROM SALLY WILLIS-WATKINS

Dear Church Family,

It's hard to believe that October is almost gone! Fall has come and with it lots of changes. It's a time of transition, but many things are not going as expected. What had like progress didn't go they ways we thought they would. For a while we had hoped that getting vaccinated would mean general safety and freedom from COVID restrictions. It didn't go that way. While vaccinations have protected many of us, more dangerous variants have developed. Our freedom from masks and other restrictions was short-lived.

We also are in a time of transition as a church. Our Pastoral Nominating Committee is working hard to help find a new pastor for Palm Springs Presbyterian Church. We wonder what is next for us as a congregation, even as we are excited about the new possibilities.

One thing to remember and hold onto is that we are still moving ahead, just not in some of the ways we had hoped or expected. Our task is not to mourn the hopes and plans that were thwarted, but to discern what God has in store for us next.

When the people whom God had led out of Egypt were about to enter the Promised Land, Joshua gathered the people the people together and challenged them to keep their priorities straight: "Choose this day whom you will serve." He asked them if they were going to cling to the past; if they were going to worship other gods or seek meaning from other authorities. As they moved into a new place they were beginning a new life. What would their focus be? Whom would they serve?

These are the same questions that face us: will we wish for how things were before? Will we cling to the plans we had for what would be? Or will our sole authority be the living God who has led us this far?

We will not lose hope. We will choose this day and every day to serve God and God alone, trusting the one who created us, redeemed us and loves us to continue to lead us.

Nothing else matters.

Under the grace and mercy,

Sally Willis-Watkins
Session Moderator



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

by Peggy Kueffer, Office Manager

- ✓ Office hours are Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.
- ✓ Several events are being considered for our church over the next few months. More information will be made available once the details are finalized.
- ✓ If you are mailing to the church, please use the below address:
Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 582
Palm Springs, CA 92263
- ✓ Office phone: 760-320-2769, Email: info@pspresby.org

Safe in His Arms, Now and Forever

Pat Kerrey
August 5, 2021

Nancy Spencer
July 17, 2021

Fay Custer
September 14, 2021

Fred Lynn
July 24, 2021