



SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church December, 2011

Message from Rev. Christine



December is a time of many emotions, which encompass a range exceeding any possible reach of even the multiple colors of a rainbow. For the most part, we find moments of joy in the present experience or past memories of Christmas celebrations; but for some, the holidays can be a time of sadness and loneliness, of being overwhelmed by the infinite images of happy families unwrapping mountains of gifts. The 'modern' Christmas experience doesn't leave much room for an alternate perspective! But we can make room, and when we do, we become part of a family that endures through every aspect of our life's journey.

The true joy of Christmas is like a seal upon our hearts; no one or no thing can take away the love that was born in an unassuming manger on a cold desert morning long, long ago. No matter what our physical or emotional circumstance, we can embrace that truth and find hope, remember that star and follow it to a place of peace.

For sure, entering into the arena of decorated trees, city streets adorned in lights, shopping bags bursting with surprises and the musical loops of holiday favorites is an extravaganza of delight that cannot be denied. And it shouldn't be, as long as we remember those hillsides graced by the pale green of olive trees, a bright light in the heavens illuminating the world, kings carrying gifts to an infant wrapped in strips of cloth, and angels singing away any fear the shepherds may have felt. Now, there is an extravaganza!

I encourage you to take a moment, close your eyes, and remember the first time you heard the Christmas story. Imagine what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph, and for the shepherds who found themselves bathed in the light of impossible awe. Visualize the stable, and the reality of a baby born in a pile of hay. Allow yourself to be a king, brought to your knees by a power that brought surrender out of love alone. A simple scene, but as alive and meaningful today as it was two thousand years ago. Let yourself be immersed in the safety of that moment, and the enduring promise forever fulfilled.

Let's wish lots of strangers Merry Christmas, and sing our Carols loud; we bear wonderful news of great joy for all the earth! May your Christmas be filled with blessings, as the spirit of this season shines its light on all that lies before us.

In Christ's Service, *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 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.



**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
No host breakfast after Bible Study.

Women's Bible Study with Rev. Christine - Fellowship Hall Tuesday 9:30 AM. We will consider different aspects of the Christmas season. There will be opportunities for learning, sharing and prayer.

LETTERS FROM FRIENDS



Dear Family and Friends,

GREETINGS FROM THE SUNSHINE STATE!!!

It has been nearly a year since you have heard from us. In the meantime, we have thanked you many times for your Christmas cards and notes, birthday and other greetings we have received. Thus, again, thanks from both of us.

Verna's health report: she is legally blind - a shunt in the right eye for light only and limited sight in the left eye. Daily drops are to save the sight she has. She also takes medications to slow her dementia.

The above have completely changed our routine with Verna giving up her volunteer jobs and Richard doing only serving ice cream in the dining room twice a week and singing with the newly organized men's choir.

So now we live a quiet, normal life as very senior citizens at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek (WWJC) in St. Johns. Jacksonville is across the creek which is 6/10 mile wide at our shoreline.

We pray that the remaining part of 2011 and the coming year will be happy and healthy for each of you.

Please consider this your holiday letter in case you do not hear from us before then. In the meantime, we send you our love and may God's blessings be yours day by day.

Richard and Verna Cuthbert

Westminster Woods B-15

25 State Road 13

St. John, FL 32259



THE PUREST LOVE – LOVE FROM GOD

By Barbara Stephens

The bluest of eyes squinted into mine. Not more than several minutes old, she squeaked and squirmed as I tried to steady her small firm body against me. At a closer look, I could see the black eyebrows and a bit of dark curling hair around her face. Her body was pink and just slightly wrinkled. My heart filled with love for this tiny creature in my arms.

Time passed. I hold her again in my arms, holding the bottle of milk up so she can drink. She stares into my face and I smile. She returns the smile around the bottle, her dimples in the corners of her mouth peeking through, and my heart melts. How can one not love this beautiful creature, this blessing from God,

More time goes by and she now toddles about playing and smiling as she goes. She comes to crawl into my lap and cuddles against me. I sing songs to her and she stares into my face smiling and cooing. She loves the singing, but crawls down to continue in her play.

She grows, learns to ride a bike, rollerskates on my tile floor, (a no-no to my children and grandchildren), learns how to swim, ride a horse, all the while happy and laughing into my heart.

Lots of growing yet to do on her part, but with God's love and care, I will be here to help her to continue to grow in His Love as well as my own.

Did I just happen to be in the right place at the right time? I don't know. I only know I gave it very little thought, changing my plans to fit her into my life. It just seemed so natural and the right thing to do. More of God's planning?

I don't know how or why God gave me this beautiful child to teach and train in His will and His way, but I will forever be grateful for the honor of her presence in my life and I thank God every day for her and ask Him to give me patience and understanding. The love is already there.



LITURGICAL COLORS

Colors are often used symbolically in the life of the church. Liturgical colors and the times at which they are used are the result of traditions and popular usage.

White (and also **gold**) **symbolize** purity or joy. Used during the Christmas and Easter seasons and on high days during the Seasons After Epiphany and Pentecost.

Purple symbolizes either penitence or royalty. Used during Advent and Lent.

Red, as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, is used on the Day of Pentecost and at other times during the year when the Holy Spirit is emphasized.

Green symbolizes growth. Used in the Seasons After Epiphany and After Pentecost except when white or red are required for special days.

CANDLES

Candles symbolize Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. When one candle appears on each side of the altar the two natures of Christ, divine and human, are emphasized.



Session Highlights

Session met on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 9:40 a.m. Ernie Moore did the devotional from Best Loved Poems of the American People. All members were present with Harry Henderson, Jim DeHart and Geri Bintliff being excused. Anne Smith was present as our representative from the Committee of Ministry (COM).

Hispanic Pastors & Lay Leaders held a retreat at PSPC 11/27/11 – 11/29/11. About 20 people attended and it went very well. BBQ was very successful. Many people attended and it was a very nice gathering. Rev. Christine asked for Leave on Jan 1 and a few days of vacation. Motion made and approved for pulpit supply on Jan 1, 2012 and for some vacation time. Rev. Christine will have a communicant's class on 12/4 after worship for new members who would like to join PSPC.

The Treasurer's report showed a gain for the month of October of \$576 and a year-to-date thru October loss of \$14,940.. The next 5:59 dinner will be on December 15th and we will sing Christmas carols. We will have the Christmas Joy Offering, as usual, and the Mission Committee will be authorizing financial gifts to worthy charities in the valley.

Session was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. with prayer. The next Session meeting will be December 21st at 9:30 a.m.

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.



A few weeks ago the question was raised about those of you that have sung in a choir and several hands were raised.

SO WHERE ARE YOU????

We have beautiful Christmas music to sing and we need more voices!!!

WE ARE NOT A CLOSED CHOIR!!!

You are welcome to join us on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 PM. We practice for two hours and will be planning a Saturday practice to get all the music into the programs.

We hope you have been enjoying the music and if you have a request for a hymn let Pstr Christine, Jackie or me know what it is and we will work it into a service. Also if you have a favorite Anthem, let me know and we will work that into the service after the first of the year.

We enjoy being in the choir and singing such great music. We hope that it has opened your heart to the Lord and raised your spirits o just gave you enjoyment.

Thanks to those in the congregation for serving as Communion servers.

Gerí Bintliff, Elder, Worship & Music



THE NEXT 5:59 GATHERING WILL BE THURS, December 15

It will be a time of singing carols and enjoying this blessed time of the year. It is always a wonderful time of good food and fellowship.

Many Thanks to Ernie
Moore and his hardworking
crew for the great job they
did decorating the church



Christmas brings CHRIST

Please join us for our annual Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 17

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the bulletin



From Kate Walker's Kitchen
Vegetable Barley Soup

½ lb lean ground beef
1 medium chopped onion
1 clove garlic, minced
7 cups water
1 14 ½ oz can chopped tomatoes
½ cup barley
1 cup each sliced carrots & celery
2 beef bullion cubes
½ tsp basil & 1 bay leaf
1 9oz pkg frozen mixed vegetables

Brown meat. Add onions & garlic.
Cook till tender. In a 4-qt pan or
Dutch oven, mix remaining
ingredients except frozen
vegetables. Add cooked meat mix.
Cover bring to a boil. Reduce heat
& simmer 60 mins, stirring
occasionally. Add frozen
vegetables and cook 10 mins or till
tender.

Sonshine Deadline

November 16, 2011

Please e-mail articles to
jmorgan@pspresby.org or
jmorgan@dc.rr.com
or FAX to the office
at 760-320-5089



December

Bill Johnson	2
Dorothy McKibben	4
Ruth Ash	14
Margaret Norton	15
Fred Lynn	20



PSPC OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Closed on Friday



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760-320-2769

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the 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, therefore, to be a center for spiritual growth and friendship, where the teachings of Jesus Christ are faithfully received and God's grace is celebrated joyfully with Christian friends!

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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