



SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
July & August 2013

"He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor." Proverbs 21



I love reading Proverbs! Although, really, many of the 'wisdoms' are pretty harsh - which leaves no irony to how they resonate even in today's world. As I reflect on this very warm June morning, there is a temptation to have some fun and use Proverbs 19: 'Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.....' So, Proverbs carries some humor, too!

Our lives as Christians embody the breadth of these simple phrases, from difficulties to laughter to, as our featured verse declares, 'righteousness and love.' We are human, after all, and by God's grace find ways to both give praise for our many blessings and find strength to weather life's storms. We understand that when we seek to live the life our Creator longs for us to live, we will receive the Blessing.

Our worshipping community, Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, exists as an expression of God's faithfulness and the embodiment of the love demonstrated in the life of Jesus Christ. We are here, in this place, to share the Good News through Word and deed. We celebrate joyfully on Sundays, gather for special meals and events, and seek to be a positive, helpful and welcoming presence in our community. Many who never attend our church find solace in the presence of the 'little white church on the corner' as they go about their day. In other words, our ministry takes on a variety of expressions and matters to a multitude 24/7, twelve months a year, praise God!

Even in the hot days of summer, when the sun beats hard on the unprepared. One example of this is a local homeless man who, with his faithful dog, stops by on a daily basis to enjoy the shade of our church, fills a bowl with water, cools his own face and, in a demonstration of good will, waters our plants! What would this man do without access to water in the desert? How does this simple relationship shape his heart and soul? It is a small ministry on our part, yet an important one. Still, with a rather large increase in our water bill, we had to make a hard decision. Do we remove all access to water? A depressing thought. So, as a compromise, the hose will disappear and we will see how the costs play out, hoping to continue to provide a life source and a place of respite to a needy soul, or souls.

Every aspect of a church ministry is dependent on the generosity of those who find a spiritual home and sense of purpose and place in the expression of God's grace within that community of faith. We don't 'sell' our greatest wealth, we give it away so that the world can know the true and endless love we are offered. For better or worse, the mechanics of this sense of space and place require lights, the aforementioned water, a building loan, upkeep, the tireless work of office staff and, yes, the salary of your faithful

servant. Easy in winter, tough in summer. And summer is here.

While our attendance is up overall, it still falls drastically off-season. Ours is a generous family of members and friends, and everyone has demonstrated awesome support including a growing piano fund! We are having such an energized, great time that bringing up such a pedestrian issue as funding seems heretical; But we don't want to cut off the water to the homeless, or fail to open our doors to new and inspiring opportunities!

Yes, I would much rather write about my beloved Redwoods....and will, no doubt, come September. Stewardship is a part of our faith, springing from the well of the Word: a sharing. And, in the giving comes the receiving as such a love expressed is returned in a myriad of ways. As we look forward to the coming summer months and exciting demands of fall, there is much to be done to prepare, and plan, and, survive as God's place in this place. We are increasingly healthy both spiritually and financially because of your love, support and willingness to let God lead us forward in transformative ways. Whether you are close year 'round or flow with the season, you are the heart of this ministry. Whether you are able to attend every Sunday or on occasion you are, again, a part of this family and the heart of this ministry. However you can help - through prayer, action or giving - is deeply appreciated. I give thanks for you, always.

In summer, we tend the soil and prepare what we have planted for harvest in the fall. We work tenderly, fret about each part of the process, pray for the rain that will bring increase, and remain thankful for the mystery that exists in this timeless process. And always, always, we are mindful that we do this in community, a community cradled in the loving hands of God. Embrace, then, each of these golden days until we again gather as one to sing our songs of joy!

In His Service, Christine.



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 \$2135 towards the purchase of a new or new to us instrument. Thank you.

All financial donations offered to this campaign are gratefully welcome. Should we be so blessed as to be gifted a fine instrument, excess funds will be set aside for our music program.

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)

BUDGET REPORT

This is the third bi-monthly “news” article on the financial health of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church. I hope all members and other friends of PSPC will remember that we are operating with a “challenge” budget that assumes (requires) that by year end we receive just over \$10,000 of receipts above our pledge total if PSPC is to have a balanced budget for the year. And, a balanced budget is very important, because our Reserve Fund is lower than is comfortable.

The results through May showed pledge payments and other regular contributions slightly ahead of last year, but despite careful attention to expenses not by enough to fully offset budgeted higher expenses. This places us in a “nervous” position as we head into the normally slower summer months, when we typically see expenses exceed regular pledge payments and other gifts. Particularly for seasonal residents, please remember that PSPC has regular operating expenses 52 weeks a year. It is critically important that PSPC remain financially healthy during these slower summer months so that we can transition smoothly into “winter mode” this fall.

Two requests: Please stay current with pledge payments. And, as in past summers, where possible please make special contributions. The challenge mentioned both above and in earlier communications must be met if staff is to put full effort into ministry without worrying about bills being paid. These are exciting times for PSPC. We all want the healthy excitement to continue and to increase our ministry in Palm Springs and the greater Coachella valley. In His name, THANK YOU! Bob Wulf, Administration Committee

Day Trip !

A trip to the Palm Springs Art Museum is on the docket. The day is Thursday, July 18 from 4 - 6 PM. If there is enough interest, we can reserve our own docent. He will give us insider information in many of the areas. The best part is that on Thursday afternoons, the admission is complementary. Free is good. Let me know if you want to go as a group.



Let's go the the ballgame. I mean to see the Palm Springs Power baseball team play. Yes, this is hot weather coming up but they start at 7:00 PM after the sun goes down. Also they have misters to help cool us down. It really is comfortable. If we can get a group together we can get a special package. \$10 for BBQ dinner and admission. A smaller group only has to pay \$7.00 for admission. Please contact Don Shepherd to show your interest.

Road Trip 2013

August is almost upon us, and with the temps heading for the teens, your Pastor is packing up camping gear for a time of renewal in the Great Northwest. This August, I will again pause in the Redwoods and wade in the Pacific, but hope to finally see Yosemite and maybe spend several days on an Island north of Seattle. it will be a combination of vacation and study leave, as I read and prepare for our fall season. During my time away, PSPC will have the opportunity to hear other voices on a Sunday morning, and I encourage all to support our guest speakers. We have some great music lined up, too! Jackie will have emergency contact numbers, which hopefully no one will need. Please hold me in your prayers as I embrace this time of retreat; and be confident that all of you will remain in my prayers as well. In Christ, Christine





Session Highlights

Session met on
Wednesday, June 19,
2013 at 11:04 a.m.

Session was opened
with Elder Kathy Smith reading from the book
“Pews” followed with prayer. All members
were present with Elders Bob Wulf, Frances
Gotenstein, Jackie Morgan and Ernie Moore
excused.

Elder Jim DeHart informed Session of a Global
Leadership Summit to be held on August 8-9,
2013 at the Palm Desert Community
Presbyterian Church. The venue of the Summit
includes nationally known speakers and
anyone can attend at their own expense.

Signage for announcing events of the church
was discussed. Pastor Christine volunteered to
have a design prepared for the signage.

Session approved vacation and study time for
Pastor Christine during August -dates to be
determined. Pastor Christine will arrange for
replacement pastors during this time.

Session approved combining July & August for
the next Sonshine with Pastor Christine’s
message to be on Stewardship.

Jim DeHart reported that Online Giving is now
active and have had our first user.

Elder Kathy Smith reported that she is
exploring having 2 classes for the children’s
Sunday school as it is difficult having a class
with a wide variety of ages. Pastor Christine
related that she was omitting the Children’s
sermon from the bulletin and would have the
sermon when there were children in
attendance.

Elder Jim DeHart reviewed the Treasurer’s
report which showed a **loss** for the month of
May of **\$2,888** and a year to date income as of
May 31st of \$1,945.

With the positive response we have been
receiving from our visitors, Elder Dick Schultz
suggested that everyone invite’s someone to
church so they can also enjoy the experience.

The next 5:59 dinner was set for July 11th.
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 a mission project of sending
“bucket kits” for the Presbyterian Disaster
Assistance program. The buckets are filled
with cleaning supplies for use in disaster area
clean up. Buckets will be assembled at the
5:59 dinner on July 11th.

Elder Susan McGuire informed Session that
June 30th would be the last Sunday for the
choir and would resume September 1st.
Soloists are being scheduled for July and
August.

Session was adjourned at 12:30 PM with
prayer. The next Session will be on July 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.



Chapel Jazz concerts will
be held the last Sunday in
June, July and August.
Make a note on your
calendars and don’t miss
the opportunity to hear
cool jazz.

From *Saying Grace* Edited by Sarah McElwain

Been out on the range,
all dusty and tired.

Been ridin’ and ropin’ all day,
around the chuck wagon.

We bow down our heads
and sing out the cowboy’s grace.

Allelujah, Amen, Amen

Allelujah, Amen, Amen





All of us are aware of the many natural disasters that have occurred in the past few months, from record breaking tornadoes to vast, uncontrolled forest fires. Our news is filled with stories of victims fleeing their homes only to return and find nothing left. We ask ourselves, 'what can I do to help?' We can! Morella Larson, our 'personal' PDA representative, has asked that we donate for relief efforts for those in need.

Your Mission committee has initiated a project that will take form over the next two weeks as we gather materials for a relief project. We will be requesting tax deductible donations to be used for the purchase of materials for two different PDA relief supply kits: the 'Bucket Kit,' which provides basic household cleaning materials, and the 'Hygiene Kit.' Many of you will remember assembling the Hygiene Kit last year at a 5:59 meal, and the reward of both providing a need and working together for such a great and necessary cause. This year, we will again assemble the kits following the July 5:59 dinner.

The Mission Committee will be providing both time and funding for this much needed program and we are reaching out to you, members and friends of PSPC, to join in and 'put this over the top.' We are researching they best prices and also are seeing donations from businesses in our area. Each 'Bucket Kit' is around \$50.00, which makes it less popular as a project and therefore more needed! We can't do this without everyone's help. We know the spiritual benefits of helping others; this is a wonderful opportunity. And, hope to see you at the 5:59!

In His Service, Your Mission Committee Barbara, Jackie, Susan and Ernie

CHOIR NEWS:

Summer is here. The choir will be taking their annual summer break in July and August. The congregation will be able to enjoy solo work each Sunday by some of our regular choir members. And the Praise Band will be with us all summer. The Music Committee will be working on plans for the music for next season. The church may be quieter but the work goes on.



Being a choir member is a real commitment, but fun. We practice every Wednesday from 2 to 4 pm and Sunday mornings at 8:30 am, every week except during our summer break. We all enjoy our break, but very happy to get back to work in the Fall.

I know there are some choir voices out there in the congregation. We love to make room for new people. So if you've ever thought about joining the choir come and try us out in the Fall. Also we're looking for a volunteer, a few hours a week, to file music. If your interested in trying the choir or the filing please give Susan McGuire (760-333-1941) or Jim DeHart (760-320-2769) a call, or speak to us at church.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER

Your Elder of Music and Worship, Susan McGuire

From the Kitchen of Fae Custer

Oatmeal Caramelitos

- 50 (14 oz pkg) light caramels
- 1/2 C evaporated milk or light cream
- 2 C flour
- 2 C quick cooking rolled oats
- 1 1/2 C packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 C butter, melted
- 1 C (6 oz pkg) semi-sweet chocolate pieces

Melt caramels and milk in heavy saucepan or double boiler. Combine remaining ingredients except chocolate. Press 1/2 crumbly mixture into bottom of greased 13 x 9 inch pan. Bake in 350 oven for 10 minutes. Remove from oven, sprinkle with chocolate pieces, cover with caramel and spread remaining crumb mixture on top and bake another 15-20 minutes. Let cool and cut into squares.



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.



What Are You Doing 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.



July

Angie Dent	1
Emilie Warren	15
Paula Newell	20
Jackie Morgan	21
Gene Hempy	22
Joyce Johnson	22
Sabella Trujillo	23
Suzanne Swartz	23
Lucile Kraehling	24
Mary Cottee	31

August

Karol Egan	2
Brenda Erickson	4
Ruth Hunter	8
Marjorie Carlson	9
Harry Henderson	17
Marilyn Walker	18
Evelyn Wulf	27

Hymns for All Things

Thanks to Arlene Fleischer

The Dentist's Hymn - *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

The Weatherman's Hymn - *There Shall be Showers of Blessings*

The Contractor's Hymn - *The Church's One Foundation*

The Politician's Hymn - *Standing on the Promises*

The Optometrist's Hymn - *Open My Eyes That I Might See*

The IRS Agent's Hymn - *I Surrender All*

The Shopper's Hymn - *Sweet By and By*

The Massage Therapist's Hymn - *He Touched Me*

The Doctor's Hymn - *The Great Physician*



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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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