



SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
January & February 2014

"I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." Luke 21: 3-4

I don't know of many pastors who like to talk about money. I think we all want to believe that it will simply appear without asking, because the work we feel called to do does not seem to correlate in any way with something so.....difficult. And yet, it remains as it has since Jesus' day, a necessity of life.

There are those who would say Jesus is condemning the wealthy as he raises up the widow; this isn't so! Nothing we are called to do as Christians is at the expense of others. Together, as our means allow, we become one body focused on doing right in the world, and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. For this widow, it is the sacrifice of small copper coins, worth little, yet of so much value because of her sacrifice. For this reason, 'the widow's mite,' as it is often called, is one of the parables that sticks in our minds from childhood and strikes home in adulthood. It states clearly that even the smallest amount is of great value, and anything given in love, generosity and selflessness stands large in Gods Kingdom.

Our church has been blessed with a miracle of giving that demonstrates our desire to offer of what we have towards Gods work in this place. The instrument so badly needed yet so seemingly out of reach, now settles into its part and place of the music ministry and outreach programs. This would not have happened if, during what can be a financially stressful time of year, people held back. Instead, the Spirit took hold and the energy and excitement of *possibility* brought forth gifts small and large.

This is where we are, now, as a congregation. In this new year, we find ourselves surrounded by energy and *possibility*! Even as we grow, the feeling of warmth and friendship remains; in fact, feels stronger than ever. Our sense of unity in Christ casts aside divisions and turns our hearts toward the call of grace and love. We are incredibly blessed by the many talents of our members and friends, and the common desire to move forward towards God' goal for us while remembering who we are.

I believe it is because we trust in God that we are blessed by the Spirit, and that the life and teachings of Jesus will keep us on course. Love each other. Trust in God. Live into faith.



As we prepare to do these very things we will be called upon to take risks, joyfully embrace the participation of new voices, and always, to treat one another with respect. Some will give of time and talent, others through increased financial giving, still others through prayer. If all give generously of what each is able, PSPC will continue on the path to becoming an example of the goodness and hopefulness that Christianity should demonstrate. Like the widow, we need not be afraid to step out in faith. The rewards of a trust that is fearless is great, and the transformational joy we are experiencing is a testament of your dedication, participation, openness to the Spirit, and simple, *meaningful* presence.

May God continue to bless our church family in the coming year.

Peace in Christ, Christine



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the purchase of our fabulous, new (to us) piano. It will provide many years of beautiful music. It is truly a Christmas present beyond belief. Thank You and God's Peace, The Music and Worship Team (Susan, Alex, Jim and Christine) and all the members and friends of PSPC

The Mission Committee, on behalf of PSPC, made a donation to SOS. This organization gives rides to and from the airport to the servicemen and women from 29 Palms Marine Corps Base. We received the following thank you note. "I along with many other marines are very grateful and appreciate everything that you do for us. Without you I would not be able to afford to travel home. Thank you! (Signature undecipherable) Isn't this a great picture. I hope they know how much we appreciate all they do for us.





ELDER AND DEACON RETREAT - MARCH 1, 2014 9 AM to 1 PM
 This is a time for current and incoming elders & deacons to learn more about their roles in the life of the church and to learn more about one another. An important and rewarding time well spent. Look forward to seeing you there. *Rev. Christine*



Souper Bowl Sunday was a great success. You donated \$220 for The Well in the Desert to help provide food for the needy and homeless on this end of the Coachella Valley. The following is a note received from Dr. Wayne McKinny on behalf of The Well.

“Dear Pastor, Staff and Members of The Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, Thank you for your ‘Souper Bowl Sunday gift to The Well and the people we serve. It was a super gift! I do some of the cooking and buy all of the food we have to purchase. With our in kind donations and your gift, we will be able to provide a complete, balance meal for 150 - 175 people as part of our daily hot meal for the poor and homeless. I thank you on behalf of those ‘who ain’t got it so good’. For myself, I believe all of you and The Well serve God by serving Christ in others. Me Ke Aloha, (God’s Aloha), Wayne McKinny for The Well



Hi Friends, As someone said it is time for “Gals Night Out”.

Yes, it is time again to celebrate being women who love our Lord. What a gift to have Christ in our hearts every moment of every day.



Our Women’s Retreat here at Palm Springs Presbyterian Church is designed to give us women a few hours to focus on our faith, our friendships and our experiences as women of faith. We will study together, pray together, lunch together, sing together and be children of Christ together. And we will laugh. Yes, laugh. We have fun together.

We are inviting women of our area to join us for this special weekend. Four hours. Packed with enrichment for us all. Encourage your friends to join you for this special time.

Michele Telfer will be the speaker. She was with us two years ago and proved to be so inspirational that she was asked to return. We will close with a communion administered by The Reverend Christine Dickerson.

Our hearts are joyful as we prepare for this day. We ask for your prayers, and for your participation. God smiles on us as we join together to honor Him. He loves our loving Him and our loving each other. Make Saturday, March 1, 2014 a day to remember.

See You Then, Women’s Retreat Committee, Gail K. Jones, Facilitator

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The regular monthly Session meeting was held on January 15, 2014 and a special called meeting on January 20 for a review of the budget for 2014. There was a quorum for each of the meetings along with the nominees for the election of Elder positions.

The following items were approved:

- Setting February 9th for the Annual Meeting
- A joint Ash Wednesday Service on March 5th at the Cathedral City Community Presbyterian Church.
- Piano dedication Concert - open date.
- Souper Bowl luncheon following the service on February 2nd.
- Budget reviewed and approved for presentation for Congregational approval at the Annual Meeting
- Purchase of the Steinway B piano for \$54,000.
- The February 5:59 dinner set for February 15th.
- Set regular monthly Session meetings at the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:00 am.
- Elder & Deacon's Retreat & Training was set for March 1st from 9 am to 1 pm.
- Kathy Smith and Virginia Ross as Commissioners representing our church at the February 1st Riverside Presbyterian meeting.

Elder Kathy Smith reported that a teacher was still needed for the 4th Sunday of the month and has selected 2 sets of materials - one each for older & younger attendees.

Elder Jim Chabot reported that his crew would be finishing the repairs to the stained glass windows and installing the security door in the fellowship hall.

Elder Ernie Moore reported that a stewardship campaign would start in February with comments from members during a Sunday service.

Elder Frances Gotenstein reviewed the Treasurer's report. Financial Statements for month ended December 31, 2013 showed total revenue of \$19,391 and expenses of \$14,665 for a net profit of \$4,726. Year to date revenue was \$179,600 and with expenses of \$179,814 for a net **loss** of **\$214** from operations plus other income of \$16,260. Total income \$16,046.

Due to a conflict, the next Session meeting was moved to Wednesday, February 26th at 11:00.

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.

The following note is from Marilyn Walker along with a big envelope full of used stamps, box tops for education and Campbell's soup labels for the Mission Comm projects. "1/31/14 - I'm enclosing a check for \$10 to defray the expense of mailing me the Sonshine newsletter. I read it from cover to cover. It is great reading about my 'church friends'. Please tell them I was asking about them. I haven't forgotten them. Blessings to Christine and her staff. Fondly, Marilyn"

"Jan 12, 2014 - Thanks you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent to honor Larry. Larry and I felt so blessed to have a new church home at PSPC. From the 1st time we went to church services, we felt the warmth and friendliness. When Larry was going thru his cancer treatment and all of his tests, knee surgeries and all, your prayers meant so much to us. God bless you all. With love and thanks, Melvena Schaefer



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 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 and 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.

What Does Presbytery Do For You?

By KELSEY ADELSON

This month, the Riverside Presbytery Office has been focused on closing the financial books on 2013 and preparing our taxes (and assisting our churches with those things!)

We also met with Eric Law and the Vision Coordinating Team to evaluate our Presbytery's progress since 2010.

We are busy preparing for the LEaD event and Presbytery meeting next month. We're getting excited and hope to see everyone there on February 22.

Also we're collecting Year End Reports and helping Clerks of Session to report their statistics to the PC(USA).

And as always we're fielding calls, answering questions, and doing our very best to serve God and our community in all that we do!

To learn more about what Presbytery has been up to, please visit our website, <http://www.riversidepresbytery.org/the-update.html> and read our newsletter. If you'd like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at riversidepresbytery.info@verizon.net.



From the Kitchen of
Susan McGuire
Italian Wedding Soup



- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
 - 1 cup finely chopped onion (1 large)
 - 1/3 cup fine dry bread crumbs
 - 2 tblsp grated Parmesan cheese
 - 2 tblsp snipped fresh Italian (flat-leaf) parsley
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 3/4 tsp ground black pepper
 - 1 1/2 pounds lean ground beef
 - 1 tblsp vegetable oil
 - 8 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
 - 3 large carrots, chopped
 - 2 tblsp snipped fresh oregano or 1 1/2 tsp dried oregano, crushed
 - 1 small head escarole (8 oz) or swiss chard, trimmed and cut into 1/2 inch strips
 - 1/2 cup dried acini di pepe pasta
 - fresh oregano sprigs (optional)
1. In a large bowl combine eggs, onion, bread crumbs, cheese, parsley, 1/2 tsp of the salt, and 1/2 tsp of the pepper. Add ground beef; mix well. Shape mixture into 1 1/4 inch meatballs. In a large skillet cook meatballs, half at a time, in hot oil over medium-high heat until brown on all sides. Remove from skillet and drain on paper towels.
 2. In a 5 to 6 quart slow cooker combine broth, carrots, dried oregano, the remaining 1/2 tsp salt, and the remaining 1/2 tsp pepper. Gently add meatballs.
 3. Cover and cook on low-heat setting for 6 hours or on high-heat setting for 3 hours, stirring in snipped oregano (if using), escarole, and pasta for the last 20 minutes of cooking. Makes 8 servings.
 4. Ladle soup into bowls. (Soup will thicken upon standing.)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Clay Robertson	3
Michael Lutke	6
Gina Johnson	9
Richard Cuthbert	11
Norman Ross	11
Joe Sypus	17
Sandy Ashcraft	30
Francis Spreitzer	31
Phyllis Burrows	31

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

George Cebra	3
Frances Gotenstein	9
Cal Custer	9
Stephane Wallace	10
Ellie Cushing	11
Roger Taff	13
Kate Walker	15
Pauline Gregg	18
Harry R. Horde	20
Arlene Fleischer	22
Jim DeHart	24
Heather Mac Ewan	25
Iain Mac Ewan	25
Geri Bintliff	27



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.





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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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