



# SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church  
May/June 2014

'Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.' Proverbs 19:21

We are, after all, human. So it is a natural part of our state of being to plot away with grand ideas, and sometimes peck away with small ones. And, it is therefore inevitable that, much of the time, our plans will melt away without trial, or end up totally different than we had envisioned them. This is true of the least of us and the greatest, and was true for the author of this Proverb, King Solomon. In the end, we find ourselves where God wants us and while sometimes it makes absolutely no sense or totally contradicts our perspective. God's hand can be found wherever we are if we allow ourselves to let a greater purpose be revealed.



Consider the recent Very First Palm Springs Pres camping trip to Joshua Tree National Park! I can't speak for the others, but can say that personally I was excited to gather some of my excessive camping gear together with great expectation of experiencing moments of grand solitude, others of shared meals where my contribution was appropriate, and surely a magnificent night sky filled with oversized stars. Reality presented itself as none of the right gear other than shelter, an education in how great family camping food really can be, the generosity of newfound friends, and a somewhat cloudy sky revealing the occasional star. Oh, and did I add, a night of major wind? The end result? Not at all anything that could have been planned, but far richer; hanging around and laughing, stories of flapping tents and survival, an education on desert flora, and a deep awareness in the presence of the Spirit among our small but diverse tribe of Christian friends. You can't plan magic like that.

So much of life, including the most difficult, can blossom into an unexpected flower. If we could foresee our lives thirty years into the future, would we avoid a turn because we might skin a knee or suffer a loss? We might think so; but I suspect we believe we can outsmart the journey that is our lives until we encounter it. To say that it is 'the Lords purpose that prevails' can sound harsh at times. Yet, it is a tender love story reminding us that God is with us along our way, and will offer us opportunity to respond to this love throughout our lives. The greatest loss would be to close a door that has been opened for us, to close it without at least peeking through. It may not be what we thought; it could be something better!

It is true with our personal lives, our cultural ties, our church. It is easy to, as scientists love to say, 'go tribal.' To cling to tradition that separates, in theory securing our safety. We often tell the Good Shepherd to take a rest while we watch the door. But God's love is universal, and our relationship with our Creator is founded on our trust, our faith and our hope, all of which lie with the Shepherd. THE Shepherd, who will seek us, and longs to be seen. God wants us to plan, to have ideas, to grow, and to learn. And God is omnipresent, there when we draw our first breath and our last. Our lives *are* purpose, our lives *matter*. It is wonderful.

This summer, as you plan and plot things to do, dig in and enjoy the planning and plotting. Then, as the days unfold, allow yourself to experience God's purpose in the unfolding, and accept the

unexpected with a curiosity worthy of a child of God. Whatever it is, remember you are the loved of the Beloved, and turn to face the day. Such is the house of The Lord, a haven for all who would seek Him.

Peace,  
Christine

\*\*\*\*\*

### General Assembly



Many of you have heard the announcement that your Pastor has been elected by the Presbytery of Riverside to be the Teaching Elder Commissioner from Riverside for the 2014 General Assembly of the PC(USA). The GA, as it's called for short, is held bi-annually, and this year finds us landing in Detroit, Michigan. I am traveling to Detroit on June 10, and returning on the 21st. Yes, Detroit! I am looking forward to experiencing 'America's City,' and plan to take in a few sights including Motown and the Ford museum before the full swing and long hours of the GA kick in. Between plenary sessions (meetings of the whole), committee obligations and special, informational meals, there is also, I am told, a LOT of reading to be done. The last few days are reserved for voting on the issues and

overtures that will be brought before the entire assembly. Actions to be addressed include everything from our church Polity, to marriage, the Middle East, immigration and environmental concerns. Committee assignments are selected at random, and I have been placed on the Committee for Middle East Concerns. This promises to be an interesting, challenging and high profile experience. Paperwork has already begun to arrive, and emails are coming in. From my perspective, as a Commissioner, I should prayerfully consider all aspects of a given overture before offering my support to any group or cause, and it is my intention to be aware of the Spirit in our midst throughout the process. All prayers are deeply appreciated, and I look forward to the experience and returning to our congregation with stories to share.

\*\*\*\*\*



The congregation of PSPC generously gave **\$972.70** to **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This important opportunity to give goes towards Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. The Presbyterian Mission Agency ministries strives to help all of God's people find resilience, hope, and faith in the face of challenging circumstances.

\*\*\*\*\*

Recycling income was \$326 for the last quarter. Thanks for all your recyclable cans and bottles. You are helping the environment as well as the church finances.



Attention: All Seasonal Friends, Visitors or if you just miss a Sunday

You can listen to the Sunday worship services on PSPC's website, [pspresby.org](http://pspresby.org). Alex has the current Sunday Service available by Tuesday of the following week. Even if you are away you can still enjoy Rev Christine's sermons, hear our great choir and keep up with what's going on here.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The regular monthly Session meeting was held on May 21, 2014 at 11:03 am. All members were present except for the excused absence of Elders Susan McGuire and Jim Chabot. Deacon Robert Kemp represented the Deacons. Elder Dick Schultz opened the meeting with a reading from "Streams of the Desert" followed with prayer.

Session Approved:

- Use of the facility for Church Member weddings would be at no charge – paying only for extras (ie: pastor, musicians. Flowers, etc.).
- Sending a letter of appreciation to Rev. Anita Hendrix for her dedication and hard work in the Riverside Presbytery and best wishes for her new venture in St. Louis.
- The possibility of becoming the sponsoring church for Spirit of the Desert Fellowship, and allowing Pastor Christine to preach there some Sunday evenings each month, if approved by all concerned parties.
- A John Robilette piano concert on Wednesday, October 8, 2014.
- A portable air conditioner for Pastor Christine's office.
- The next 5:59 dinner to be on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- To have no Session Meeting in the month of June, 2014

Elder Frances Gotenstein reviewed the Treasurer's report. Financial Statements for month ended April 30, 2014 showed total revenue of \$17,118 and expenses of \$15,198 for a net profit of \$1,920. Year to date revenue Thru April 30, 2014 was \$70,171 and with expenses of \$63,609 for a net income of \$6,562 from operations.

Elder Dick Schultz reported that the May 7<sup>th</sup> Brain Storming Committee meeting was full of excitement and contagious as each shared their ideas. Some of the ideas that were confirmed with dates and details to be worked out were:

- An Italian Singer concert with Jere Ring at the piano
- 5 K walk with silent auction & wine tasting following
- Caroling
- Scavenger Hunt (Easter Eggs)

Next meeting June 4<sup>th</sup>

Income from the Rummage sale was \$1,850. The Choir will be on hiatus during July and August with soloists, duets & Praise Band filling those months. Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, Communion will be by intinction during the summer months

The next Session will meet on July 17, 2014 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The regular monthly Session meeting was held on April 16, 2014 at 11:13 am. All members were present except for the excused absence of Elders Kathy Smith, Frances Gotenstein and Virginia Ross. Deacon Robert Kemp represented the Deacons. Elder Don Shepherd opened the meeting with a reading from "Hearing God" by Lori Jones followed with prayer.

### Session Approved:

- Writing an amendment to the bylaws to include the use of electronic opportunities (conference calls, Skype, etc.) and structure how they will be used. The amendment will be reviewed by Session followed with Congregational approval.
- Pastor Christine to officiate the Rouffeau Baptism in Venice Beach on April 25, 2014.
- A package proposal from Time Warner for phone & internet service.

Deacon Robert Kemp reported that the April monthly meeting of the Deacons would be the last until September with assignments to cover summer months.

Treasure Jim DeHart reviewed the Treasurer's report. Financial Statements for month ended March 31, 2014 showed total revenue of \$21,941 and expenses of \$15,692 for a net profit of \$5,979. Year to date revenue Thru March 31, 2014 was \$53,054 and with expenses of \$47,917 for a net income of \$5,137 from operations.

Elder Dick Schultz reported that a committee for a "brain storming" session met for exploring new and innovative ideas for the developing of an effective outreach program. Many great ideas to engage the congregation, our neighbors and with more community involvement and improving communications were discussed. Joey Schultz volunteered to handle the social media and newsletter.

Elder Don Shepherd reported that 9 had attended the Open Call program at the McCallum Theater. The Rummage sale was approved for May 2nd & 3rd. The 5:59 dinner on April 17th was moved to 5:29 do to the Maundy Thursday Service with Randy Bruno preparing the dinner.

Elder Susan McGuire reported that the choir had been busy preparing for the Maundy Thursday & Easter Services. Communion for the Maundy Thursday Service will be by intinction.

The next Session will meet on May 21st 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.







**FUN HAD BY ALL!** The first church camping trip to Joshua Tree was a great success! Eight people set up camp, shared meals and nature walks and had a ukulele sing-along. We can't wait to do it again in the fall and hope you will join us. Keep watch for details in Sept/Oct.

photos by Cindy Anderson

\*\*\*\*\*



The Spring Rummage Sale was another big success. The church made \$1850 from the sale with the possibility of more if some special items can be sold through consignment. Thanks to all who donated their gently used items. Thanks to all who worked so hard and faithfully to make it a success.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our neighborhood network, TRENO (Tahquitz River Estates Neighborhood Organization) is reporting that the city will be repairing South Riverside Dr. from Random Rd to Sunrise and Biltmore from Camino Real to the end (not sure if that involves us or not). Construction in the city will start in August and be completed by October. The work in our neighborhood will take a little over a week to complete.



June 15



June 14

# June 2014

May 2014							June 2014							July 2014										
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				
					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31						

- PSPC Important Dates
- PSPC Rehearsals
- PSPC Meetings
- PSPC Activities
- PSPC Worship
- US Holidays
- PSPC Other

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM 7th Sunday of Easter	2	3	4 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 2:00 PM Choir Practice	5 1:00 PM Ukulele Practice 5:30 PM Yoga Class	6	7 9:30 AM Presbytery Meeting Victoria Pres
8 10:00 AM Pentecost	9	10	11 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 2:00 PM Choir Practice	12 1:00 PM Ukulele Practice 6:00 PM 5:59 Gathering	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day 10:00 AM Trinity Sunday	16	17	18 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 2:00 PM Choir Practice	19 1:00 PM Ukulele Practice 5:30 PM Yoga Class	20	21
22 10:00 AM 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time	23	24 11:30 AM Women's Birthday Luncheon	25 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 2:00 PM Choir Practice	26 1:00 PM Ukulele Practice 5:30 PM Yoga Class	27	28
29 10:00 AM 2 cents a meal offering 10:00 AM 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time 11:30 AM Potluck Luncheon	30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5

## 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. They will be on hiatus June through August.

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. They will be on hiatus in July & August.

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.



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.



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jim Chabot	1
Jere Ring	4
Elizabeth Morgan	5
Kathy Smith	10
Hugh Ash	13
Don MacEwan	20
Dick Schultz	21
Charlotte Crisp	24

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Randy Bruno	1
Nancy Spencer	6
Alex Danson	7
Daniel Morgan	9
Bonnie Koster	9
Harvey Stephens	11
Donna McCullen	15
Virginia Allen	16
Lucille MacEwan	16
Barbara Henderson	26
Gail Jones	28
Jody Allen	28



Don Shepherd is planning trips to The Living Desert and the Palm Springs Art Museum in June. See him for the dates.

This prayer is from

saying Grace  
edited by Sarah McElwain

The wealth of a man is the number of things which he loves and blesses, and which he is loved and blessed by.

Thomas Carlyle 1795-1881  
English Writer



Palm Springs  
Presbyterian Church  
815 S. Camino Real  
P.O. Box 582  
Palm Springs, CA 92264(3)  
760-320-2769

#### 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



If you have received this issue of the SONSHINE in error or wish to be removed from our mailing list, please fill in your name and address below and send it back to us. Thank you.

---

---

---