



SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
September 2015

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (Psalm 150:6)

Ah, September, and the mercury is falling into the double digits! Hooray for Autumn! Returning to the desert after a vacation in the verdant green of the Northwest always poses an initial challenge of readjustment, as the memory of big trees and bodies of water tugs at the senses. Well, at least until that first giant moon rises into a clear night sky and I fall asleep knowing the morning will bring another guaranteed day of sunshine.

SEPTEMBER

This summer vacation was a little different, though. What would normally seem a blessing - day after cloudless day in an infamously wet city - became a bane as smoke from the half of the state that was on fire blew over the mountains and filled the air with choking poison. We grow used to creation being tamed and accessible, and it can come as a sobering surprise when it becomes a source of pain and fear. So much is taken for granted.

And so, in this summer of Western wildfires, we might recognize the *power* that dwells all around us, and our vulnerability, even if distanced from nature's trend to surprise, challenge and destroy. We can be reminded that in every minute of every day, we should give thanks to the God of creation; in our faith we can understand the beauty and hope that rises in the ashes left behind.

Hurricane Katrina blew through the gulf states ten years ago; today, the recovery of cities like New Orleans demonstrate the human spirit's ability to rise again. And from the fires that burn thousands of acres, scrub trees and bushes will push through the black earth, bringing color and life to barrenness, even as lost homes reappear on ridges and in valleys. For God breathes life even into death, and lifts up the hopeless to a place of hopefulness.

The world, in its violence and resistance to a meaningful peace, is like the fire, like the hurricane. Whether individual to individual or nation to nation, the lack of civility creates a landscape that is as lifeless as any left behind by fire or water; we who are left must learn to stand together on this scarred, hallowed ground and praise nothing but God; for without the strength of that love we are given, that love that can't be ground under the heel of hate, what we know or hope to know will blow away like grains of sand. We who witness violence, like the victims of natural disaster, must reclaim life from the scourge of desolation and hopelessness.

We must demonstrate our better side no matter how far we are removed from any disaster, and disaster includes the maladies of hate, violence, and disregard for human life. Each of us has a God-given gift to heal, reconcile, and above all, Love.

As we stand on the cusp of Fall, and the beginning of the Winter season in our desert valley, let us approach this coming time of reunion, community and joy with an added sense of purpose, Call and relationship. Each of us has a gift. Let's join hands and make a difference, as God's people, in a reluctant and petulant world.

Praise is a verb - it's love in action. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord, and sing to the Lord a new song!

In Christ, *Rev. Christine*

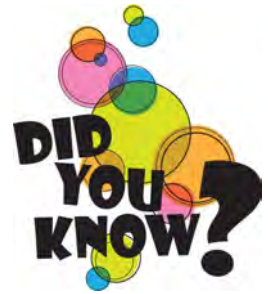
Office hours beginning in September will go back to Monday through Thursday 8 AM to noon. The office will be closed Friday.

Ralph's Grocery Stores will rebate back to our church 1% of our eligible purchases up to \$200 a month, 2% for purchases between 200.01 and 350, 3% between 350.01 and \$500 and 4% over \$500 a month. In order to take advantage of this offer, those who shop at Ralph's have to register their Rewards Card and swipe it every time you buy from Ralph's. They will send us a check quarterly up to \$150 a quarter. Every penny helps. The instructions on how to register your card are available in the Narthex. If you would like me to send the instructions, just call the office.

We just received this notice that those who are participating in this rebate program need to re-register every year and that time is now. If you are new to the Ralph's rebate program, get on board and register now. If you have been taking advantage of the program, you need to re-register. Instructions are below.

It's time!!

**PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION FOR THE NEW TERM BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 1, 2015.**



- 1 Participants are required to register or re-register for the new term at www.ralphs.com or by using the scanbar letter at the register starting **September 1, 2015.**
- 2 There are two ways to enroll:
 - 1 Online registration
 - 2 Scan-Bar letter
- 3 If you received a scanbar letter last year, it is still good and can be used this year.
- 4 If you would like to receive a scanbar letter, please respond to this email and one will be emailed to you. Contact the PSPC office for the e-mail address.
- 5 Even if your participants registered as recently as June, July or August 2015, they are required to register again, on or after **September 1, 2015.**
- 6 **Your organization does NOT need to re-register**, only your participants.
- 7 This notice does not apply to participants of the Food 4 Less/Foods Co Community Rewards program.

Thank you, Community Contributions Staff

Sessions Notes from June 17, 2015 Session Meeting

- Kathy Smith reported that he kitchen schematic and list of "what goes where" is completed.
- Finance/Stewardship reported that funds continue to be "tight". Elder Jody Allen will continue to monitor our financial status.
- Installation of surveillance cameras for the church continues to be investigated.
- Elders should have their 2016 committee budgets ready for the Sept 16th session meeting so that the 2016 Church budget can be compiled.

Meeting adjourned with prayer. Moderator: Rev. Christine Dickerson

What Did You Do During Your Summer Vacation?

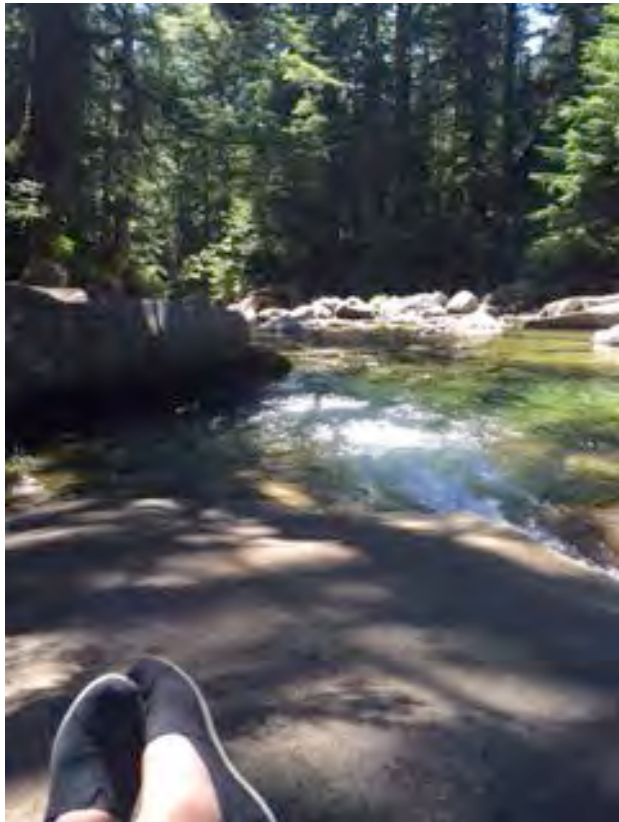
This is what Pastor Christine did. Send us your pictures and stories of your vacation for future editions of the Sonshine.



This is Christine's traveling companion looking out at a rainy day at the beach.



Wandering off trail, lost in the redwoods!



Relaxing at last.



Firemen in the redwoods

My Summer Vacation By Christy Dickerson

In August I headed up the Interstate to the Pacific Northwest! A two day drive landed me in Seattle, where I re-learned the art of gardening. Well, at least of cleaning out gardens; my house, which had been rented, was in dire need of cleaning up. It was hard work but rewarding, and spending time near Lake Washington was renewing and simply fun! I watched Hydroplane races and Blue Angel jets, rowing crews at practice, a triathlon and a neighborhood parade. There was time to visit with old friends and eat as much seafood as possible. The forest fires became a big part of my experience, as smoke from the flames choked even Seattle, many miles away. I prayed for the lives being altered by the fires, the drought, the devastation. the firefighters. And what, I wondered, about all those forest animals...? No one talks about them. Campgrounds were closed and others filled, but there were day trips to mountain streams and high altitude meadows. The return trip was more meandering, with stops in the Redwoods (again, driving though the smoke of tremendous fires), along the Northern California coast, and visiting in St. Helena.

As I dropped into our desert valley, I couldn't wait to get back to our little church and my friends here, heat and all! I returned, too, grateful for the life and work I have, and what is to come with the new season. Your warm welcome my first Sunday home was so wonderful and confirming, and multiplied the joy in my grateful heart! Thank you! And thank you Lord, for watching over us all.

And now, here we go! In Christ, Rev. *Christine*

Summer Stewardship

Thank You to all who responded to the July Stewardship letter! Because of your response, we were able to 'keep the lights on' during the financially challenging days of summer. Every offering made the difference, and was joyfully, prayerfully and thankfully received! We remain optimistic that as PSPC continues to grow we will be able to establish a savings to carry us through the lean, hot, months when so many escape to cooler climes. In the meantime, your generosity in response to our letter demonstrates your desire that we continue God's work throughout the year, and that you are an integral part of the life of the church every day of the year.



Again, I give thanks for you, and can't wait to see you back in Palm Springs! And for those who can no longer make the journey each year, know you continue to be a part of our church family, remembered, loved, and celebrated. In His Service, Rev. *Christine*



Congratulations to Commander Bill Gregg

The ceremony celebrating his promotion to Commander was held in our sanctuary on September 5th. It was an honor for PSPC to be a part of this important event. We are so proud of Bill and thank him for his service to our country.

**WANTED: Altos,
Tenors,
Sopranos,
Bass!**



Do you like to sing? If the answer is yes, the choir is seeking new members. Sing the praises of God for all to hear! For more information, contact Jeff Morgan or Alex Danson. New choir season starts on October 4th.

The Women's Retreat Group will be sponsoring a program by **Dessa Reed**, poet, author and inspirational speaker, on **Saturday, November 14 from 10 to 12**. Dessa will share her experience of "Turning Adversity Into Victory."



The Morgans and the elk at Yellowstone this summer.





Judy Ellis' recipe for Strawberry Lemon Cheesecake Bars was soooo good. She has shared it with the church but it is too big to put in the Sunshine. Contact the office if you would like a copy.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Larry Harris	4
Joye Schultz	4
Morella Larsen	9
Ric Grenell	18
Bruce Smith	19
Sharon Ratliffe	23
Mike Johnson	25
Don Mowat	26
Barbara Stephens	30

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" - \$20. – 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.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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.

Yoga Classes Tuesday, 11:00 AM and Thursday at 5:30 PM (except on 5:59 Gathering Thursdays). \$10

Choir Practice resumes on Wednesday, Sept 30 at 2:00 PM.

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. 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.



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.



September 7, 2015



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.

You can listen to the Sunday worship services on PSPC's website, pspresby.org. They are available by Tuesday of the following week.

SEPTEMBER

Pastor:

Rev. Christine Dickerson

Music Director:

Alex Danson

Office Administrator:

Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editors:

Jeff & Jackie Morgan