



# SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church  
December 2015

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:11-12)

Just yesterday on the news, it was reported that a newborn baby had been left in the manger of a Nativity scene outside a church in New York City. A brand new baby! My first thought, of course, was for the mother who felt she had to give her baby up. It was immediately followed by the irony of this foundling being left in a manger scene, and a certainty that this choice was one made out of a connection for the mother: A connection of hoped-for sanctuary, and the Grace of a tender God.



Can you imagine what the Custodian who found that baby must have thought when he heard crying coming from a staged, artificial scene filled with the faded faces of proud parents, shepherds, kings and camels? When he looked down upon that little baby, so pink and fresh, wrapped closely in old towels, each cry demanding love and affection? What would it feel like to reach down and pick up that child, to feel that sense of saving and perhaps, just perhaps, being saved?

In a world that is filled with so much threat, fear, danger and judgement, it is wondrously refreshing to experience the focus being shifted - if only for a moment- to an incident that can't help but pull us into the meaning of this most holy season. We will worry for the mother, but I pray not judge her, understanding she was doing what she thought best for her child. And by doing so she may have not just saved her baby's life, but sparked a fire of faith and memory in many a longing heart. Hollywood could not have done it better.

So often we read and learn that the Christmas story isn't accurate, the stable was really a guest room, or the Wise Men may not have ridden camels. Well, I don't care. I *do* care that the Spirit came upon Mary, that Joseph stood by her, that they travelled, found shelter, and a healthy miracle came into our world. I believe a star filled the night sky with a special light, and it was seen by the Shepherds in the fields. I treasure this sweet and simple story of God's Love coming to live with us, and the joy and peace it brings in the telling. It matters that families and strangers gather together for the re telling, or simply spend these winter days being more friendly to a passer-by; a temporary love fest that started over two thousand years ago. A feeling of safety and well being that we wish could last the whole year long.

That's Christmas. Not the traditions we pull out of closets and set lovingly on mantels and tables. It's the living, breathing, Jesus who transforms the tired heart into a hopeful one, and the lost into the found. Never look at a manger scene the same again. Picture that custodian, and the amazement at his discovery. Be amazed, and welcome the *living* Christ into your life. let yourself be filled with joy, wonder and, every single day, the hope and *Love* that is our greatest gift. The Grace of a tender God, and a sanctuary for our hearts.

Merry and Blessed Christmas!

*Rev. Christine*

If you would be willing to help provide transportation for a few of our members and friends at PSPC who wish to attend church and have no transportation, would you please let a Deacon know of your willingness? You may phone Peggy Lynn at 760 413 0658 or email [peggylynn15@verizon.net](mailto:peggylynn15@verizon.net) Thank you so much for your consideration of this request.



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A collection of Christopher Radko and other Christmas ornaments has been donated to the church. These ornaments are unique and one-of-a-kind. We will be selling them to raise money to repair the stained glass windows. They are priced from \$1 to \$50 (half the cost of buying them on ebay). Ornaments are now on sale at 50% off. This is your chance to buy your next new family heirloom and help the church as well. If you would like to donate towards the repair of the windows but don't need another family heirloom, you can make a check out to PSPC and designate it for stained glass windows. The success of these special drives is dependent upon extra gifts over and above the usual tithing.

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#### Sessions Notes from November 18, 2015 Session Meeting



Deacons Report: Deacons are looking for drivers for parishioners who no longer drive...especially important for Communion Sunday and special holidays.

Jeff Morgan (Music & Worship) Committee: 2 worship services each Sunday beginning in January.

Jody Allen (Finance/Stewardship): The church is struggling financially but hopes are high that the next months will bring in enough funds to get through the year. Session agreed that financial situation of church should go in the "Sonshine".

Randy Bruno/ Pauline Gregg (Congregational Care): We will not have a potluck in December but everyone is invited to the Christmas 5:59 Gathering on Dec 17th.

Meeting closed with prayer. Next session meeting will be December 16, 2015 at 5:00 PM.

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#### 2015 CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

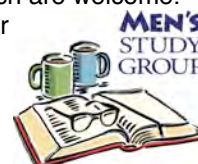
<u>Month</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Nov	\$16451	\$15622	\$829	(\$10252)
Oct	\$18036	\$17887	\$149	(\$11081)
Sep	\$15159	\$17385	(\$2226)	(\$11230)
Aug	\$15858	\$17619	(\$1761)	(\$9004)
Jul	\$11786	\$19355	(\$7569)	(\$7243)
Jun	\$14547	\$16283	(\$1736)	\$326
May	\$14657	\$17509	(\$2852)	\$2062
Apr	\$15625	\$17637	(\$2012)	\$4914
Mar	\$26642	\$17474	\$9168	\$6926
Feb	\$16804	\$15514	\$1290	(\$2242)
Jan	\$15439	\$18971	(\$3532)	(\$3532)

#### 2014

Dec	\$15205	\$16854	(\$1649)	\$228
Nov	\$21110	\$17294	\$3816	\$1877

#### FLASH!

The Men's Bible Study group, after meeting each Wednesday morning at 7:00 AM for 25 years or so, effective Wednesday January 6, 2016 will meet in the church at 9:00 AM each Wednesday. The group will begin the new year with a serious study of Revelation. All the men of the church are welcome. See Allen Perrier for more information.





Pictures of our hard working crew building the Festival of Lights Parade float and the finished, fabulous float. Reports were that there was a huge turnout of spectators at the parade and it was cold. Thanks to all who contributed their talent, skills and time to making our wonderful float.

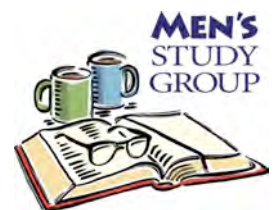
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Thanks to Kathryn Summers, Kate Walker and Kate Weezorak (not pictured) for being faithful and trusty bulletin folders.

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## 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 Presbyterian Church. 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

## 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. Rehearsal is Wednesday from 2 PM to 4 PM and Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM. If the rehearsal times are not convenient for you due to work or other obligations, please let Jeff, Alex or Christine know. We will try to arrange a workable time for you. The choir welcomes singers who may only be here for a few weeks or months.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rev Dr. Bill Johnson	2
Thijs VanderLinden	2
Dorothy Hollerback	4
Rosemarie Ferrante	4
Molly Mowat	5
Tom Kutras	6
Ruth Ash	14
Fred Lynn	20
David DeVries	21
Melvena Schaefer	21
Holly Heinz	25

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.



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 on 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.

You can listen to the Sunday worship services on PSPC's website, [pspresby.org](http://pspresby.org). They are available by Tuesday of the following week.



Pastor:  
Rev. Christine Dickerson

Music Director:  
Alex Danson

Office Administrator:  
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editors:  
Jeff & Jackie Morgan