

# The Shepherd's Staff

Community Presbyterian Church  
Cathedral City, California



August 2013



There was an interesting article in the July 26<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Washington Post* about Darryl Strawberry. Some of you baseball fans will recognize his name. He was a baseball superstar with the Mets and is now a pastor. The article details his fall into drugs and recovery after finding Jesus.

The quote from the article that interested me: "Here I am, a baseball superstar, falling into the pits, having everybody write you off and then having God say, 'I'm going to use your mess for a message.' How beautiful is that?" God is using Darryl Strawberry's mess for a message.

God uses all our messes for a message if we just let God do that! You may not be a fallen baseball superstar, but many of us can relate to having a mess or two in our lives. You may have lived through the mess already or you may be in the middle of it now. But what's important is what Darryl Strawberry discovered. Jesus walks with us in our mess and works through each of us in that mess. Jesus is here to help us with our messy lives no matter how bad the mess.

Not only does Jesus' work help us with our messy lives, Jesus works through each of us, using our life experiences so we can help others. In Darryl Strawberry's case he's helping people with addictions. God has guided him to help in an area where he can personally relate to those experiencing the same issues. In our congregation, you may know that MJ Bradley had cancer. MJ now works with a cancer support group called Gilda's Club here in Cathedral City. Barbara Barrett also had cancer and directs her energies to providing chaplain services to those in the hospital. Patty Valdez has a heart for those who are living in poverty or in difficult situations. Patty grew up in those same conditions. You probably know other examples. Please share them with me. I'd be interested to hear the stories. Yes, God uses our messes or difficult situations to help us help other people.

Maybe you're homebound at this time. Maybe you can't get out as often as you would like. You can use your present experience to help others. You can be a positive contact for another person in the same situation. Phone someone who needs to talk. Be a phone friend. You can pray for the people on the church's prayer list and the monthly prayer calendar that's published each month in the newsletter. There are many ways to use your experiences to help others. Whatever your life situation, God can come beside you and use you to help others.

Where does that power and will to help others come from? It comes from Jesus who walks beside each of us. Second Corinthians 4: 7 - **But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.** We only need to call on Jesus and open ourselves to his help and guidance.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lee

# AUGUST 2013: SPECIAL DATES



Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>

Kids Cove Volunteer Appreciation Lunch  
Willowcreek Leadership Summit  
Willowcreek Leadership Summit  
School Supply Preparation  
Movie Night – Prince of Egypt  
10am-12am Water Fest

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It has been 15 years since Community Presbyterian Church had Vacation Bible School. This year, Pastor Esther and the Kids Cove team decided to have VBS. Countless hours of preparing took up their summer hours. Planning crafts, games, stories, decorations, songs, etc... but more importantly teaching the children of our church and neighborhood that Jesus is Always THEIR Friend.

The children learned this message, through the songs and Bible story and just by being together around all of our volunteers. They learned that Jesus is their friend and they learned that we, Community Presbyterian Church, are their friends.

Over 3 nights we had 42 children and 4 youth helpers come. Every time I think of that number and the number of members in our church I am in awe of God's work in the Kids Cove ministry. The Kids Cove team has planted seeds in the neighborhood children for the past two years. Those seeds have been watered and are growing. On night two of VBS we saw every child stand and pray the prayer to accept Jesus as their Savior.

The kids all started together in the sanctuary with some exciting music. On the first night the children were timid and did not want to join in. But thanks to the Wranglers; Ashley, Josue, Bronn and Alicia, they got into the songs with the motions and were singing and dancing with them by the end of VBS. These 4 Wranglers helped in so many other areas. Without them VBS would not have been as successful as it was.

Peggy captivated the children with her story telling alongside Cove Neighbor Maria and youth helper Ashley. They learned about Zacchaeus and Peter.

Marti and her team of volunteers, Ed, Pastor Lee, Bertha, Jennifer, and many more helped all the children create crafts to take home. They made a Zacchaeus tree the first night and the second night a frame to hold a picture from VBS to remember this time.

Alicia and Doug provided games for the groups.

At the end of the night everyone came back together for more singing and a dramatic version of the story they all learned. Big thanks to Doug, Ed and Josue for doing those skits.

Thank you to all who helped make this event successful and fun for the children. Special thanks to Nancy, Barbara and Helen for helping prepare and serve dinner each night for the children and volunteers.

There are pictures from the event on the final page of the newsletters. There are more on the church facebook page for those on facebook.

[www.facebook.com/ChurchintheCove](http://www.facebook.com/ChurchintheCove)

~ Debbie Brown

# PRAYER REQUESTS

Lord, make us mindful of your power and your glory as we pray for those in need.  
Our Service Men & Women, Our Country & Our President  
*Pray for our Church at 12:00 noon daily*

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*Death of a Loved One*

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Comfort and peace for the families who have lost a loved one

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*Recovery*

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Leslie – Diabetic - Healing  
Norman Larson – bleeding ulcer  
Bob's son Bob – heart issues  
Vern – open heart surgery  
Mary Jane – pneumonia  
Greg – pain from fall  
John – healing  
Manny – vein problem  
Florence – heart attack  
Matt – diverticulitis  
Priscilla Martinez (LaVida's daughter) – liver and other concerns  
Ruthie – recovering from surgery  
Ray  
Trish – multiple health problems  
Marti's sisters Candice  
Marci – angioplasty  
Anita – healing and help  
Grace – recovering from surgery  
LaVida & Debbie – patience & healing

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*Continuing Health Concerns*

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*Patty's friend Shemko*  
Bill's mother in comma, final days  
Rena Rodman  
Francis and Paula – terminal cancer  
Patty Valdez, Matt & Ann Matheson, Charlton, Alexis, Mary  
- Friends and Family suffering with cancer:  
Phyllis, Father Isaac, Aaron, Tom, Ben, Ray, Jon, Lynn, Stacy, Reggie, Barnie, Kathy, Dale, Sammy, Neal, Cathy, Paula, Scott, Ruthie, Arvid, Kathy, Pat, Scott, Kathy, Anna Marie, Darrell, Jim

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*Community and World Concerns*

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Cathedral City police and fire departments  
Darryl & Family – comfort

**Prayer concerns in addition to those expressed during Sunday's worship service may be submitted on the prayer request cards in the pews or by contacting the church office. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.**

*Please Pray for the Mission Activities of the church as well*

Neonatal unit blankets and baby items	Desert Summer Kids Feeding Program
Twenty-nine 29 Palms Marine Base Wounded Warrior	Life Line subsidies
Well in the Desert	Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Scholarship for graduates of Cathedral City HS	Migrant Farm Workers – bedrolls and food
VA & Stroke Centers	Shelter from the Storm
Clothes That Work	Ronald McDonald House
One Great Hour of Sharing	Veterans hospital Loma Linda
Alternative Christmas	Baby kits for Haiti
School supplies for Sky Ridge Mobile Home Park Kids	2 Cents-a-Meal

# AUGUST 2013 Prayer Calendar

Please pray for each individual on the date listed

1) Romans 9:14-29  
God's wrath, God's mercy  
**Steve & Louise Pesce**

2) Genesis 40:1-23  
The dreams of two prisoners  
**Wayne & Mary Price**

3) Genesis 45:1-15  
Joseph reconciles with his brothers  
**Gail Prosser**

4) **Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Nancy Joy Pryor**

5) Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
God's mercy to all  
**Bertha Rawlings**

6) Psalm 133  
How good it is to live in unity  
**Bill & Jennifer Rawlings,**  
**Adam & Ryan**

7) Genesis 43:1-34  
Benjamin joins Joseph's brothers  
**Sandy Rayner**

8) Genesis 44:1-34  
Judah pleads for Benjamin  
**Rena Rodman**

9) Genesis 45:16-28  
Pharaoh welcomes Jacob's family  
**Bill & Kay Sachs**

10) Exodus 1:8-2:10  
Pharaoh's daughter take Moses in  
**Esther Shin**

11) **Matthew 16:13-20**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Larry & Cecile Shoot**

12) Romans 12:1-8  
One body, different gifts  
**Marge Stahl**

13) Psalm 124  
We have escaped like a bird  
**Dorothy Susdorf**

14) Exodus 1:1-7  
Israel multiplied in Egypt  
**Ervin Syfert**

15) Romans 11:33-36  
The knowledge of God  
**Patty Valdez**

16) Matthew 26:6-13  
A woman anoints Jesus  
**Ray & Greta Venter**

17) Exodus 3:1-15  
God calls Moses  
**LaVida Warren**

18) **Matthew 16:21-28**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Noel White**

19) Romans 12:9-21  
Live in harmony  
**Evelyn Woods**

20) Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c  
Remembering Moses  
**Beth Alfred**

21) Exodus 4:10-31  
Moses doubts but obeys God  
**Martha Anderson**

22) Exodus 5:1-6:13  
Moses confronts Pharaoh  
**Jean Angus**

23) Exodus 7:14-25  
First of ten plagues  
**Peggy Bakke**

24) Exodus 12:1-14  
The Passover  
**Bob & Barbara Barrett**

25) **Matthew 18:15-20**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Alma Boney**

26) Romans 13:8-14  
Live honorable as in the day  
**MJ Bradley**

27) Psalm 149  
Sing praises in the congregation  
**Doug Bridges**

28) 1 Peter 2:11-17  
Live as servants of God  
**JW LaDell Brown**

29) Romans 13:1-7  
Obeying authority  
**Brown Family**

30) Matthew 21:18-22  
Jesus teaches about praying in faith  
**Julee Collins**

31) Exodus 14:19-31  
Israel delivered at the sea  
**David & Opal Eason**



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We're on the Web:  
[www.churchinthecove.org](http://www.churchinthecove.org)

## **Who We Are**



We are a church family who care for each other and all of God's people. We celebrate worship each Sunday, thanking and praising God for the wonderful gifts generously given to us. We then go out into the world to share God's love with all we meet. We are strengthened for service and outreach through small group outreach activities and weekly Bible study. All are welcome to join us as we seek to glorify and serve our risen Lord.