

The Shepherd's Staff

Community Presbyterian Church
Cathedral City, California



December 2012



As we approach Christmas I am mindful of the gifts God has given us in this church, especially the gift of all the wonderful, caring people who attend here. This church continues to be a blessing to the community we serve. Through your activities this year in the community many children have been touched with the love of Jesus. I continue to marvel at the support you provide to each other. You truly are a caring congregation.

I recently read an article in the *Christian Century* magazine that I wanted to share with you. The article by Christine Pohl talks about four practices of healthy congregations. It seems we already practice these practices, but it's always good to be reminded of what helps the congregation to be healthy, enabling us to be more purposeful and directed.

What are the four practices?

1. Express gratitude – When we express our thanks to others for the wonderful gift they are to us or to the community, gratitude blooms. This Christmas thank someone – no thank everyone – for the ways he or she has touched you this past year. Celebrate those who have helped and who you appreciate.
2. Keep promises – Nothing zaps the life out of a relationship more quickly than not keeping promises. No matter how small or how large the promise, keep your commitments to the church and to your friends. Because the story time committee has kept the commitments it has made to the children, story time has been a success. If you have betrayed or been betrayed, talk to the person and seek reconciliation.
3. Live truthfully – Living truthfully can be difficult. When we tell the truth we may feel we're making ourselves vulnerable or that the truth telling can threaten a relationship. If the truth is given in love and accepted in love our congregation and relationships can grow in openness and honesty. Such behavior ultimately strengthens the church and our relationships.
4. Offer hospitality – Jesus encourages us to offer hospitality to the poor, not just to our friends and neighbors. Our church members are very good at offering hospitality to each other. Now, offer that same hospitality to strangers. Step up and talk to that visitor at church. Talk to that person behind you in the checkout line. Get to know his or her name. Sharing hospitality shares God's love with others.

This Christmas, we are thankful for God's gift of Jesus and for God's love for each of us. Let's not forget the gift this congregation is to the community and to each of us. We are indeed blessed in so many ways. May we celebrate our blessings and be thankful this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Pastor Lee

December 2012: SPECIAL DATES



Monday, November 26
Saturday, December 8
Wednesday, December 12
Wednesday, December 12
Thursday, December 13
Saturday, December 15
Sunday, December 16
Monday, December 24

Session Retreat
Korean Ladies Yard Sale
9:00am Deacons Meeting
10:00am Women's Circle
9:00am Session
11:10am Story Time
5:00pm New Member Dinner
5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER CHILDREN'S CHURCH PLAN

Dec 2nd Children will participate in communion with parents/grandparents
Dec 9th Children's sermon by Pastor Lee Ireland
Dec 16th Children will participate in communion with parents/grandparents
Dec 23rd Children's Bible lesson by Doug Bridges
Dec 30th Children may assist during worship service.



Red Potato Salad

½ cup Italian Dressing
¾ cup Mayo
½ cup sliced green onions
2Tlb Fresh dill or 1Tlb dry dill weed
1tsp Dijon style mustard
1tsp lemon juice
1/4tsp blk. Pepper
3Lbs Red or New potatoes, cooked & cut into large chunks.

In a large bowl combine all ingredients except potatoes. Toss with warm potatoes, cover & chill. Makes about 10 servings.

Note: Double all ingredients except potatoes for a more moist salad.

Or cut 3Lbs of potatoes to 2Lbs.

By: MJ BRadley

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

Recovery

Karr's great nephew Edison – 19 month old – heart surgery Oct 11th
Bertha's brother in law Ray - cancer
Bertha's niece Lynn –cancer
Bertha's niece Stacy – struggling with cancer treatment
Evelyn's daughter Nancy – hip replacement surgery
Jack – Lou Gehrig's disease
Rolando – shoulder surgery
Rhonda - back
Julee – eye surgery
Ed's friend Janice
Shelly – hospitalized
Mary Larson Haste
John Sidow - stroke
Kayla – operation
Bertha's cousin Bob – knee surgery
LaVida & Debbie – patience & healing
Pastor Dennis Howard – home and recovering well heart surgery
Betty's great granddaughter, Teegan- liver transplant
Ed's friend Jay – kidney transplant
Ed's friend Les – spinal cord problems
Peggy's sister Trudy – mersa
MJ's nephew Phillip – healing and comfort after a serious car accident
Joe, Patty's son – correct diagnosis

Continuing Health Concerns

Phyllis - cancer
Kay Sachs
Father Isaac – cancer
Maryann McGilvery – suffering with bone cancer
Dr Carney – cancer – stopped all treatment
Perry, Aaron, Tom, Sherry – cancer
Patty's friend Shemko – Trying to save his feet.
Noel's friend Ben – cancer – and his wife Angie
Patty Valdez

Community and World Concerns

Marge's granddaughter Courtney in Iraq
Steve & Janet Miller strength

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
Twenty-nine 29 Palms Marine Base Wounded Warrior
Well in the Desert
Scholarship for graduates of Cathedral City HS
VA & Stroke Centers
Clothes That Work
One Great Hour of Sharing
Alternative Christmas
School supplies for Sky Ridge Mobile Home Park Kids

Desert Summer Kids Feeding Program
Life Line subsidies
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Migrant Farm Workers – bedrolls and food
Shelter from the Storm
Ronald McDonald House
Veterans hospital Loma Linda
Baby kits for Haiti
2 Cents-a-Meal

December 2012 Prayer Calendar

Please pray for each individual on the date listed

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| <p>1) Isaiah 40:1-11
God's coming to the exiles
Alma Boney</p> | <p>12) Ephesians 6:10-17
The armor of God against
the powers
Kay Graham</p> | <p>22) Isaiah 9:2-7
A child is born for us
Lee Ireland & Linda Hamilton</p> |
| <p>2) Mark 1:1-8
First Sunday of Advent
MJ Bradley</p> | <p>13) Acts 3:17-4:4
Peter preaches about the
prophets
Art & Karin Grice</p> | <p>23) Psalm 96
4th Sunday of Advent
Hazel Jacobsen</p> |
| <p>3) 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Waiting for the day of God
Doug Bridges</p> | <p>14) Mark 9:9-13
Questions about Elijah
Clint & Marti Haas</p> | <p>24) Titus 2:11-14
The grace of God has appeared
Reed & Mary Karr</p> |
| <p>4) Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13
Righteousness and peace
JW & LaDell Brown</p> | <p>15) 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
God's promise to David
Butch & Eloise Haltman</p> | <p>25) Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Christmas Day
Betty Leehan</p> |
| <p>5) Acts 2:37-42
Baptism in the name of
Jesus
Brown Family</p> | <p>16) Luke 1:26-38
Third Sunday of Advent
Ed Harbur</p> | <p>26) Isaiah 62:6-12
God comes to restore the
people
Mel & Arno Liechti</p> |
| <p>6) Acts 11:1-18
John and Peter baptize
Julee Collins</p> | <p>17) Romans 16:25-27
The mystery revealed in
Jesus Christ
Kelly Heldenbrand</p> | <p>27) Psalm 97
Light springs up for the
righteous
Matt & Ann Matheson</p> |
| <p>7) Malachi 2:10-3:1
The coming messenger
David & Opal Eason</p> | <p>18) Luke 1:46b-55
The Mighty One raises the
lowly
Winnie Hockenbery</p> | <p>28) Titus 3:4-7
Saved through water and
the Spirit
Florence Maybee</p> |
| <p>8) Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Righteousness and praise
flourish
Carol Frances</p> | <p>19) 1 Samuel 1:1-18
Hannah is promised a
child
Kirk & Nancy Horton</p> | <p>29) Luke 2:1-7) 8-20
The birth of the Messiah
revealed to shepherds
Fern Miller</p> |
| <p>9) John 1:6-8, 19-28
Second Sunday of Advent
Leslie Franz</p> | <p>20) 1 Samuel 1:19-28
Hannah presents Samuel
to God
Carol Hoskins</p> | <p>30) John 1:1-14
The Word become flesh
Gerald & Joy Moss</p> |
| <p>10) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Kept in faith until the coming
of Christ
Rebecca Franz</p> | <p>21) Mark 11:1-11
Jesus enters Jerusalem
Helen Hyde</p> | <p>31) Psalm 148
God's splendor is over
earth and heaven
Pat & Annette Patterson</p> |
| <p>11) Psalm 126
God does great things for
us
Dick Gampert</p> | | |

PATTY'S KIDS



As the cold season fast approaches, again we are reminded of how fortunate we are, and we begin to think about those that barely have enough to eat and little to keep them warm. Many of these people are our neighbors, with the majority being children. When it comes to gifts or anything 'extra', especially at this time of the year, well --- it's practically nothing --- and it's no one's fault. However, we can help, and many of you have in past years.

And this is where Patty's Kids comes in. Nearly 9 years ago, with the help of so many like you, Patty's Kids was born and each year anywhere from 125 to 350 children are given gifts, and everything possible is done to also give each child's family a bagful of groceries. The families served are the farm workers in the East Valley who live in the myriad of trailer parks that are scattered among the trees and for the most part, cannot be seen from the highway. They live in 'parks' consisting, on the average, of 12 to

15 trailers, two parents, and 4 to 7 children. The trailers leave little to be desired and can only be reached via dirt roads. Also, these 'parks' never receive assistance from outside agencies like the larger parks receive.

Your love and concern for these families is greatly appreciated. The children are from newborn to 17 years old, and can use toys, such as dolls, Barbies, stuffed animals, any of the current items that attract younger children, books, clothing, etc. Small radios, CD players, small electronics, gift cards - these are good for the older children, as are cosmetics, hair supplies, etc., for the older girls, and colognes, personal items for the older boys. At present many sales are in progress, and I personally take advantage of these. I also heard that on 'black Friday' a number of stores will have many items half price. If you so find it in your heart to help out (and even one item is really appreciated!), please wrap (if possible) and mark the gifts for either boy or girl, along with the age. If you cannot wrap, just let me know and I'll gladly do it. And since time is needed to wrap, etc., it would be nice to have donations to me by the 15th of December.

Lastly, if you are interested in assisting in delivering the gifts, great! Last year we used 2 vans, 3 vehicles in all. If called for, a truck can be rented. Presently we are scheduled to deliver packages, etc., on Christmas Eve, December 24th. The plan is to leave my home at 9:00 a.m., and we will visit as many trailer parks as the gifts allow. I can be reached at [760-321-4979](tel:760-321-4979) (home) or [760-409-3509](tel:760-409-3509) (cell) should you require more information.



COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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We're on the Web:
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.