

The Shepherd's Staff

Community Presbyterian Church
Cathedral City, California
November 2013



February 2014



By the time many of you read this column I will be in Israel on a Holy Land tour. The tour is sponsored by the Masonic Order of the Knights Templar. This Christian organization sends pastors to the Holy Land all expenses paid! I am very grateful to Doug Bridges for nominating me to receive this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

I will be visiting many sites in Israel where Jesus walked and taught. The tour takes us to Mt. Tabor, the site Jesus' transfiguration which our church will celebrate on March 2, the first Sunday in Lent. The tour schedule also involves a visit to Mt. of Olives, the place where Jesus was betrayed by Judas and the site where Jesus ascended into heaven. The route Jesus walked carrying his cross to the place where he was crucified is also on the tour.

I'm particularly interested to see the Qumran Caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Of course, the Dead Sea is on the itinerary as is the Sea of Galilee. For those of you who are reading Matthew's Gospel and the Beatitudes in preparation for Sunday's services, I will be visiting the traditional site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Of course, we'll go to Temple Mount and the Western Wall. There are many other stops scheduled on the tour.

The tour is a learning experience aimed at enriching the ministry of the pastors participating. The tour group is composed of male and female pastors from all over the United States who have received the same honor of sponsorship for the tour from the Knights Templar. The group states the tour is an educational tour, not a vacation, so no family members may join the tour.

I am looking forward to sharing with you my experiences from this trip. Please, ask me questions when I return as I'm sure there will not be enough sermons for me to share all I will experience. I believe that not only will the pastors benefit, but so will their congregations. So ask away!

Please say a few extra prayers for me while I'm gone. The tour returns to the United States on the 20th. I plan to preach on Sunday, February 23rd. Esther will be leading the service for the 16th while I'm gone.

Shalom!

Pastor Lee

FEBRUARY 2014 SPECIAL DATES



Sunday, February 2
Saturday, February 15
Saturday, February 22
Wednesday, February 26

Potluck
Story Time
Spaghetti Dinner
Family Night

Family Night Fun

Your church sponsored the first Family Night on January 29th at 6:30. There were many neighborhood children and a few adults there to enjoy the games, songs and prayers. The evening started with an ice-breaker game so we could get to know the children and adults that were in attendance. Singing was led by Pastor Lee and Kevin Bowers. Charlton, our organist, accompanied the singing in the social hall. After the singing, Pastor Lee asked those attending what they were thankful for and closed with prayer. A light snack was served closing out the evening.

All in all, the evening was quite a success as the first Family Night. This year we hope to involve the children and their parents in more activities at church. Family night is our first foray into this ministry adventure.

Where were you? We hope to see you at the next Family Night, February 26. Family night is scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month. Put it on your calendar and come join the fun. Meet a few new people. Enjoy singing and refreshments. Come meet the children of the church and show them you care about them.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

The youth are working towards going to March Madness camp at Big Bear March 21-23. In order to help raise the funds needed to go they are preparing a Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, February 22nd 5:00-7:00pm. Tickets are available for purchase, \$7 for adults and \$3 for kids. For tickets please see Doug Bridges and the youth.

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

Death of a Loved One

Comfort and peace for the families missing loved ones

Dale Nelson

Alejandro Perez

Raymond – Patty's cousin

Britney Olson's grandmother

Recovery

Earl – detached retina

Brandon – LaVida's grandson – H1N1

Kay – intense pain

Carol's brother – heart issues

Aiden – foot surgery

Reed & Mary

Steve

Nathan – shoulder replacement

Danny Bodadilla – 2 years old, recovering from open heart surgery

Sonja – recovering from surgery

Herman Perez

Aunt Pat – recovering from surgery

Evelyn's daughter Jan – heart surgery

Matt – diverticulitis

Priscilla Martinez (LaVida's daughter) – liver and other concerns

Continuing Health Concerns

Abby – needs liver transplant

Joan Dowd – Alzheimer

Aggie – needs a liver transplant

Shemko

Rena Rodman

Patty Valdez, Matt & Ann Matheson, Charlton, Alexis, Mary, Julee, Ed

- Friends and Family suffering with cancer:

Francis, Paula, Phyllis, Father Isaac, Aaron, Tom, Ben, Ray, Jon, Lynn, Stacy, Reggie, Barnie, Kathy,

Dale, Sammy, Neal, Cathy, Paula, Scott, Arvid, Kathy, Pat, Scott, Kathy, Anna Marie, Darrell, Jim,

Norman Larsen, Ray, Lisa, Brian, Gaylen, Willard, Pat, Ruthie, Bob

Community and World Concerns

Cathedral City police and fire departments

Charlton, Tanya & Lorenzo – looking for employment

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

JANUARY 2014 Prayer Calendar

Please pray for each individual on the date listed

1) Ruth 43:1-13; :13-22
Ruth, on of the blessed
Marti Haas

2) Matthew 5:13-20
4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Butch & Eloise Haltman

3) Psalms 112:1-9
Light shines in the darkness
Ed Harbur

4) Isaiah 58:1-9a
The fast that God chooses
Winnie Hockenbery

5) 1 Corinthians 2:1-12
God's wisdom revealed
Laurie Holk

6) Romans 11:2-10
A remnant remains faithful
Kirk & Nancy Horton

7) 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
Christ, the light
Carol Hoskins

8) Proverbs 6:6-23
The law is a lamp
Helen Hyde

9) Matthew 5:38-48
Transfiguration of the Lord
Lee Ireland & Linda Hamilton

10) Psalms 119:1-8
Happy are those who walk in the law
Hazel Jacobsen

11) Deut 30:15-20
Choose Life
Reed & Mary Karr

12) 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
God gives the growth
Betty Leehan

13) Exodus 20:1-21
The Ten Commandments
Arno Leichti

14) James 2:1-13
The law, judgement, and mercy
Matt & Ann Mattheson

15) Proverbs 2:1-15
The way of wisdom
Fern Miller

16) Matthew 6:34-24
6th Sunday after Epiphany
Gerald & Joy Moss

17) Psalms 119:33-40
Walking in the path of the law
Pat & Annette Patterson

18) Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Acts of mercy and justice
Jay Peck

19) 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Allegiance to Christ, not human leaders
Marlys Peck

20) Proverbs 25:11-22
Caring for the enemy
Peris Family

21) Hebrews 12:14-16
Pursue peace with everyone
Steve & Louise Pesce

22) Proverbs 3:27-35
Regard for neighbors
Wayne & Mary Price

23) Matthew 17:1-9
7th Sunday after Epiphany
Gail Prosser

24) Psalms 131
A child upon its mother's breast
Nancy Pryor

25) Isaiah 49:8-16a
God's motherly compassion
Charlton Quinn

26) 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Servants accountable to God
Bertha Rawlings

27) Deut 32:1-14
God's care for the chosen people
Rawlings Family

28) 1 Kings 17:1-16
God feeds the widow
Sandy Rayner

"The Mirror"

Wang the Third was a stupid man. One day his wife wanted him to buy her a wooden comb and, being afraid that he would forget it, she pointed at the narrow moon crescent in the sky and said, "Buy me a wooden comb, but it must be just like the moon in the sky." A few days later, the moon shone full and round in the sky. Wang the Third remembered what his wife had told him, and, since his purchase was to be as round as the moon, he bought a round mirror and took it home. The moment his wife saw it, she stamped on the ground, fled back to her parents' house, and said to her mother, "My husband has taken a concubine." The mother-in-law looked into the mirror and said with a sigh, "If only he had chosen a young woman! Why did he take such a hideous old hag? Later they brought the case before the district judge. When he saw the mirror, he said, "How dare you people, when you have a quarrel, dress up just like me! It's unbelievable!"

This is a Chinese folk tale which was told as early as the T'ang Dynasty (AD 618-906). While reading this simple story, I think of a Greek myth about Narcissus. Both of the stories are about how one perceives about one's reflection. In the story of "Mirror," the wife, the mother-in-law, and the judge see their reflections on the mirror and their responses on their reflections are negative. In Greek myth of Narcissus, he fell in love with his own image reflected in a pool of water. Unable to leave the beauty of his reflection, Narcissus died. These are two different stories, but they convey the same theme of their self-identity. The mirror in the Chinese folktale and the pond in Greek mythology deal with one's reflection one's own image. One expresses their low self-esteem, the other ridicules one's self-pride or unhealthy self-love. With two stories, I wonder if you have any mirror or pond through which you can reflect on your own image what would be our responses.

Telling a story is like to have a mirror image. Through the told stories of ourselves or our faith community, we can see our reflections of our own image. In order to see our own response to our self-image, we may ask these questions: When you are asked to tell a story of you or your faith community, what would you want to tell to others or to yourself?, Where are you in your story?, How do you see yourself in your told stories?, When you see yourself through your mirror or your pond, what are your feelings?. . . I wonder if you meet a wife, a mother-in-law, a judge or a Narcissus in your story. In your told stories or your storytelling, I wonder where God is. In 2014, would you want to create our story or to tell your story with God?

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:12-13

Pastor Esther Shin

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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We're on the Web:
www.churchinthecove.org

Who We Are



serve our risen Lord.

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