

The Shepherd's Staff

Community Presbyterian Church
Cathedral City, California



January 2013



Happy New Year! New Year's resolutions; did you make any? How did you do on keeping last year's resolutions? Fine, I hope! I was looking over my January 2012 newsletter column. It seems we addressed all the issues noted. That was good news to me! But, I should not be so flip about my comment. Our church works to advance the Kingdom of God, to reach out to others, to share the love of Christ. You continually step out on faith. It's such a pleasure for me to see and to participate in the work you do. If we would characterize this past year, you just might call it the 'year of the child.' Thanks to Esther's guidance, the members of the church have come together, creating a children's program for our church. The Back to School Bash elicited glowing comments from the kids as well as the adults who helped put on the event. We now have Sunday School every Sunday for the children who attend. Our monthly story time continues with a dedicated group of folks who organize and plan each month's activities. You may not have noticed some of these activities, but on the Sunday before Christmas you couldn't miss the children in church! Thanks to all the children and adults who participated in our Christmas pageant – the Nativity scene. I heard many positive comments about the children and the wonderful display.

This past fall our Session engaged in several planning meetings to explore ministry opportunities for our church. What does God want us to pursue? How can we best use the resources God has blessed us with to further the Kingdom? The members of Session dreamed dreams for our ministries – existing and new - and then established priorities. I'm sure you'll want to hear all about the plans at the congregational meeting after worship on January 27th. Perhaps you'll discover something you'll want to take part in.

If possible, we hope you'll also be at worship on January 13th. Come and welcome the new members who will be joining our church that day. God is blessing us with new members who are actively engaged in the ministries of the church.

New Year's resolutions? I hope you make a few. Perhaps you'll resolve to read the Bible daily or to set aside a time each day to pray. Maybe you'd like a deeper understanding of the Bible and decide you'll join a study at church. Whatever your resolutions are, I pray that serving and glorifying God is the basis of each resolution. For it is only then that your resolutions will be accomplished. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 10:27 – “**all things are possible with God.**”;

May God richly bless you in the New Year. May you indeed have a Happy New Year serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor Lee

P.S. Linda and I would like to thank each of you for your kind Christmas wishes.

January 2013: SPECIAL DATES



Wednesday, January 2
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Sunday, January 6
Wednesday, January 9
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Thursday, January 10
Friday, January 18
Sunday, January 27

3:30pm Bible Study resumes
5:00pm Choir resumes
Potluck Lunch
9:00am Deacons Meeting
10:00am Women's Circle
9:00am Session
10am Story Time Committee Meeting
Bake Sale

DECEMBER CHILDREN'S CHURCH PLAN

Jan 6th Children will participate in communion with parents/grandparents
Jan 13th Children's sermon by
Jan 20th Children will participate in communion with parents/grandparents
Jan 27th Children's Bible lesson by

The Red-faced Grandma's Story on December 16, 2012

When you send a twentieth century grandmother to teach Sunday School to twenty-first century children this is what you get:

Yesterday I was reading the story of the angels announcing Jesus' birth to the shepherds. Attempting to make the incident as real and relevant as possible, I, of course, pulled out all the stops. When I finished telling about the Big News and the angels leaving, I stopped and asked, "What would you do if something like this happened to you?" A super bright little seven - year -old gave me this exasperated "What do you think?!!!!!! look" and said, "Well I'd Tweet it , of course. And I would probably put it on Facebook."

Merry Christmas! Mary, the Red-faced Grandma



2012 Children's Christmas Pageant

Joseph: Andrew
Mary: Alicia
Baby Jesus: Gia
Angels: Isabel & Diana & Rayann
Star: Jesus
Cow: Aidan
Donkey: Ryan
Sheep: Adam, Madison & Tayler

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 of:

Tom Seffron
Eric Martin
Shelby Garner's husband
Sandy's mother

Recovery

Carol – knee replacement
Kim – Peggy's daughter – suffered a seizure this week
Stella – Spinal procedure
Matt & Ann
Clint
Dorothy – healing
Donna – heart surgery - Bob's daughter
Ed's friend Dave
David's cousin Joy Bennett – Serious back problems
Margaret – hip replacement
Kelly – pain
Betty's great granddaughter, Teegan
Karr's great nephew Edisen – heart surgery Oct 11th
Evelyn's daughter Nancy – recovering from hip replacement surgery
Jack – Lou Gehrig's disease
Rolando – shoulder surgery
Julee – eye surgery
John Sidow - stroke
LaVida & Debbie – patience & healing
Ed's friend Jay – kidney transplant
Ed's friend Les – spinal cord problems

Continuing Health Concerns

Lona - hospice
Patty Valdez, Matt & Ann Matheson, Clint Haas, Charleton, Alexis, Mary Larson Haste
Patty's friend Shemko – Trying to save his feet.
- Friends and Family suffering with cancer:
Phyllis, Father Isaac, Maryann, Dr Carney, Perry, Aaron, Tom, Ben, Ray, Jon, Lynn, Stacy, Reggie,
Barnie, Nancy, Kathy, Stefanie, Dale, Maggie

Community and World Concerns

Marge's granddaughter Courtney in Iraq
Noel's cousin Linda – Family problems

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

January 2013 Prayer Calendar

Please pray for each individual on the date listed

1) Psalm 29
God's voice upon the waters
Beth Alfred

2) Genesis 28:10-22
Jacob's ladder
Martha Anderson

3) Exodus 3:1-5
The burning bush
Neal & Jean Angus

4) Joshua 1:1-9
Be strong
Peggy Bakke

5) Matthew 2:1-12
Epiphany of the Lord
Bob & Barbara Barrett

6) John 1:10-18
2nd Sunday after Christmas
Alma Boney

7) Acts 10:34-43
Jesus' ministry after his baptism
MJ Bradley

8) Psalm 40:1-11
Doing the will of God
Doug Bridges

9) Genesis 35:1-15
God calls and blesses Jacob
JW & LaDell Brown

10) Jeremiah 1:4-10
God calls Jeremiah
Brown Family

11) Matthew 12:15-21
Isaiah's words applied to Jesus
Julee Collins

12) Isaiah 49:1-7
The servant brings light to the nations
David & Opal Eason

13) Matthew 3:13-17
Baptism of the Lord
Carol Frances

14) I Corinthians 1:1-9
Paul's greeting to the church at Corinth
Leslie Franz

15) Psalm 27:1, 4-9
God is light and salvation
Rebeca Franz

16) Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28
The Passover lamb
Dick Gampert

17) Isaiah 53:1-12
The one like a lamb
Kay Graham

18) Matthew 9:14-17
Christ, the bridegroom
Art & Karin Grice

19) Isaiah 9:1-4
Light shines for those in darkness
Clint & Marti Haas

20) John 1:29-42
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Butch & Eloise Haltman

21) I Corinthians 1:10-18
Appeal for unity in the gospel
Ed Harbur

22) Psalm 15
Abiding on God's holy hill
Winnie Hockenbery

23) Ephesians 5:6-14
Live as children of the light
Kirk & Nancy Horton

24) Phil. 2:12-18
The call to shine like stars
Carol Hoskins

25) Luke 1:67-79
Christ, the light dawning
Helen Hyde

26) Micah 6:1-8
Justice, kindness, & humility
Lee Ireland & Linda Hamilton

27) Matthew 4:12-23
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Hazel Jacobsen

28) I Corinthians 1:18-31
Christ crucified
Reed & Mary Karr

29) Matthew 5:1-12
4th Sunday after Epiphany
Betty Leehan

30) Ruth 1:1-18
Ruth, one of the poor
Mel & Arno Liechti

31) Ruth 2:1-16
Ruth, one of the hungry
Matt & Ann Mattheson

Note: This month we begin at the beginning of the member list & will continue the list in February

4th Wiseman

For Story Time last month the children all received a gift donated by both church congregations. After hearing the Christmas story, creating a craft and singing Happy Birthday Jesus with cupcakes the children sat to hear the following story before receiving their gifts.

My name is Artaban and I am a doctor, but I'm also known as a Magi. I studied medicine and the stars. I had heard for many years of a prophecy telling about a King that would be born and a special star would appear to announce his birth. Finally, one night there it was, bright and beautiful in the eastern sky. I gathered up the gifts that I wanted to give the King of Kings. They were my most prized possessions: a sapphire, a ruby and a beautiful pearl. All of them were very valuable, gifts fit for a King.

I was set to travel with my three friends who were also Magi, but the night I was supposed to leave, I came across a man on the side of the road. He was hurt badly. I grabbed my medicines and special healing herbs and tended to the many wounds the man had. Each night I watched for the star to appear in the sky and prayed it would still be there. Finally the hurt man was well enough to travel so I put him on my camel and I walked beside it until we reached a small town. I left the hurt man with a kind innkeeper who promised to take care of him until he was well. I wanted to thank him for his kindness but I did not have enough money to pay him, so I gave him my priceless sapphire and continued on my journey.

I followed the bright star in the sky towards Bethlehem. Along the way I met a group of travelers who told me of three kings that had been to visit the city. I asked if they were still there, but the travelers said they had left many days before. Now I

was even more anxious to get to the place where the new King was born. I hurried into the city to look for him, but no one knew where the baby was. As I searched, I suddenly heard crying so I followed the sound and found a woman hiding her baby. "Please sir, the soldiers are coming to take my baby away. Please help me." There was a caravan of gypsies leaving the city, so I asked them to take the woman and her baby away to safety. The gypsies said they would and to thank them, I gave them my ruby.

I finally found the stable where the manger was, but it was empty. The family had fled to Egypt to escape an evil king. So I traveled to Egypt, along the way I took care of many people who were sick and hurt. By the time I got to Egypt, the newborn King was gone again.

For many years I searched for the King. I still had one precious treasure left that I wanted to give to him as a gift. I wanted to honor him as the King of Kings. I heard that he was in Jerusalem, so I traveled there. As we entered the city, I saw children at the gate begging for food, but no one would help them. I took my last treasure, my pearl and bought food and gave it to the children so they could eat. As I turned to leave, a man took my hand. I looked into his kind eyes and knew, it was Him, it was the King of Kings, it was Jesus.

I fell to my knees and cried, "My Lord, I have no gifts to give you"

Jesus laid his hand on my head,

"Artaban, you have given me many gifts. The stranger on the roadside that you nursed back to health. You gave him shelter and food. The woman and child you saved from death in the city, you gave them hope. The children at the gate who were starving, you gave them food. Whenever you did these things for the least of my brothers, you did them also for me.



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.

SERVING OTHERS

I served cake at coffee hour for the first time in quite a while. The experience was made pleasant and easy because of the women who helped. Kay and Nancy preparing the coffee and punch station. And Rebeka washing up after. There was Evelyn making easy conversation with us. Since I have been out of the action for a while I had forgotten that I receive more than I give. I traded cake for the companionship of some good women. Oh and fon't forget Bertha who got me in to this in the first place.

Thanks girls!
Eloise