

The Shepherd's Staff

Community Presbyterian Church
Cathedral City, California



July 2013



I attend a monthly lunch meeting of pastors in the Coachella Valley. At our last meeting I was moved by one of the pastor's comments about prayer. Since I wrote about praying for your neighbors last month, I wanted to share this aspect of prayer with you. The pastor who spoke referred to sacrificial prayer. Sacrificial prayer is prayer that costs you time, that interrupts your day, that you sacrifice something personal as you make time for prayer.

The pastor speaking at the lunch meeting described sacrificial prayer by sharing a personal example. Several years ago he was involved with a small church that wanted to grow. The church was about 18 years old but still worshipped less than 50 people each Sunday. There were three Elders who wanted to see the church grow. They and the pastor decided to turn to God in prayer concerning the lack of growth at the church. These four people gathered together every weekday morning at 6 am. It cost them something to get there each morning to pray with the others especially on cold Iowa winter mornings. The pastor sharing this story told us that the first week was a struggle. The prayers were labored and the hour lasted forever. But in the second week, something happened. The prayers began to flow and the hour passed quickly. God answered the prayers. Six months later the church baptized 18 people who became members of the church.

I can think of many activities of our church that need such strong, sacrificial prayer. Our summer ministry to the neighborhood children will be taking a giant leap forward. With the grant we received from the Riverside Presbytery we will be mailing out over 1600 postcards in July to residents in the Cove telling them about our ministry to children and the church. How will the folks who receive the postcards respond? Will they just toss the cards? Or will they bring their children to our summer programs? Your prayers are needed.

Another summer program is Vacation Bible School (VBS) which will be held July 15th and 16th. I'm told that this is the first VBS we've had in 15 years. Volunteers are needed in many areas. See Esther if you wish to help. For this program we need prayer that children from the neighborhood will attend and that those attending are touched by the love of God through our members and friends who work VBS.

Of course, we could use more church members to assist in the outreach to the neighborhood and the many community activities our members support. Additional people able to be involved in the church will allow us to reach more children and adults with Christ's love. Your prayers are needed.

All of us have concerns that need prayer. Perhaps you have personal concerns that you feel need sacrificial prayer.

Are you interested in sacrificial prayer for our church or for others in our church? If you are, please talk to me. I would like to start a prayer group that meets regularly to pray for church concerns and programs as well as church member's needs.

Blessings,

Pastor Lee

July 2013: SPECIAL DATES



Sunday, July 7
Thursday, July 11
July 15-16
July 17
Saturday, July 20

First Sunday Potluck
9:00 Session Meeting
Vacation Bible School
VBS Movie Night
English & Korean Joint Session Meeting

From a book entitled “A Shepherd looks at Psalm 23” By Phillip Keller

“ He leadeth Me in the Paths of Righteousness’ for his Names Sake”

Sheep are notorious creatures of habit. If left to themselves they will follow the same trails until they become ruts; graze the same hills until they turn to desert wastes; pollute their own ground until it is corrupt with diseases and parasites. Many of the world’s finest sheep ranges have been ruined beyond repair by over-grazing, poor management and indifferent or ignorant sheep owners.

A commonly held, but serious misconception about sheep is that they can just “get along anywhere” The truth is quite the reverse. No other class of livestock requires more careful handling, more detailed direction, than do sheep. No doubt David, as a shepherd himself, had learned first hand from tough experience. The intelligent shepherd is aware of all this.

The greatest single safeguard, which a shepherd has in handling his flock, is to keep them on the move. That is to say, they dare not be left on the same ground too long. This prevents over grazing and avoids the rutting of trails and erosion of the land.

In a word- there must be a pre-determined plan of action, a deliberate rotation from one grazing ground to another in line with right and proper principles of sound management. This is the sort of action and idea David had in mind when he spoke of being led in the paths of righteousness.

In this following of a precise plan of operation lies the secret for healthy flocks and healthy land. Here is the key to successful sheep husbandry. The owner’s entire name and reputation depends on how effectively and efficiently he keeps his charges moving onto wholesome new, fresh forage. The one who directs his flock along this course is sure of success.

Coupled with this entire concept of management, there is of course the owner’s intimate knowledge of his pastures. He knows every advantage and every drawback so he acts accordingly.

A point of mention here is that whenever a shepherd opens a gate into a fresh pasture the sheep are filled with excitement. As they go thru the gate even the staid old ewes will often kick up their heels and leap with delight at the prospect of finding fresh feed.

Turning to the human aspects of this theme we will be astonished at some of the parallels.

It is no mere whim on God’s part to call us sheep. “All we, like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6).

In contrast to which Christ the Good Shepherd comes gently and says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6)

Submitted By Bob Barrett

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:
Neal Angus

Recovery

Greg – pain from fall
John – healing
Manny – vein problem
Florence – heart attack
Norman – heart surgery
Matt – diverticulitis
Priscilla Martinez (LaVida's daughter) – liver and other concerns
Ruthie – recovering from surgery
Ray
Darrel
Billy – knee replacement
Lisa – difficult pregnancy
Julee – strength
Brenda recovering from dental procedure
Art Grice – recovering from a successful surgery
Trish – multiple health problems
Reed's brother Dale – surgery
Marti's sisters Candice
Marci – angioplasty
Anita – healing and help
Grace – recovering from surgery
LaVida & Debbie – patience & healing

Continuing Health Concerns

Rena Rodman
Francis and Paula – terminal cancer
Patty Valdez, Matt & Ann Matheson, Charlton, Alexis, Mary
Patty's friend Shemko – Trying to save his feet.
- Friends and Family suffering with cancer:
Phyllis, Father Isaac, Maryann, Aaron, Tom, Ben, Ray, Jon, Lynn, Stacy, Reggie, Bernie, Kathy,
Dale, Sammy, Neal, Cathy, Paula, Scott, Ruthie, Arvid, Kathy, Pat, Scott, Kathy, Anna Marie

Community and World Concerns

Cathedral City police and fire departments

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

July 2013 Prayer Calendar

Please pray for each individual on the date listed

1) Psalm 119:105-112
Your word is a lamp unto my feet
Doug Bridges

2) Romans 8:1-11
Living according to the Spirit
JW & LaDell Brown

3) Micah 1:1-5
Judgment for Jacob's transgressions
Brown Family

4) Ephesians 4:17-5:2
The old life and the new
Julee Collins

5) Matthew 13:10-17
The purpose of parable
David & Opal Eason

6) Genesis 28:10-19a
Jacob's dream of the ladder
Carol Frances

7) **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**
7th Sunday after Pentecost
Rebecca Franz

8) Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
You have searched and know me
Murray Gibbard & Dell Morgan

9) Romans 8:12-25
The revealing of the children of God
Kay Graham

10) Revelations 14:12-20
The harvest at the end of time
Art & Karin Grice

11) Galatians 4:21-25
An allegory about those saved
Marti Haas

12) Matthew 12:15-21
God's Chosen servant
Butch & Eloise Haltman

13) Genesis 29:15-28
Leah and Rachel, Jacob's wives
Ed Harbur

14) **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**
8th Sunday after Pentecost
Kelly Heldenbrand

15) Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Give thanks to God
Winnie Hockenbery

16) Romans 8:26-39
Nothing can separate us from God's love
Kirk & Nancy Horton

17) Genesis 30:25-36
Jacob and Laban argue
Carol Hoskins

18) Genesis 30:37-43
Jacob prospers at Laban's expense
Helen Hyde

19) Genesis 46:2-47:12
Jacob settles in Goshen
Lee Ireland & Linda Hamilton

20) Genesis 32:22-31
Jacob receives God's blessing
Hazel Jacobsen

21) **Matthew 14:13-21**
9th Sunday after Pentecost
Reed & Mary Karr

22) Psalm 17:1-7, 15
I shall see your face
Betty Leehan

23) Romans 9:1-5
The glory of God's people in Israel
Mel & Arno Liechti

24) Romans 1:8-15
A harvest among the Gentiles
Matt & Ann Matheson

25) Acts 2:37-47
The believers breaking bread
Florence Maybee

26) Matthew 15:32-39
Jesus feeds 4,000
Fern Miller

27) Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Joseph sold by his brothers
Gerald & Joy Moss

28) **Matthew 14:22-23**
10th Sunday after Pentecost
Pat & Annette Patterson

29) Romans 10:5-15
The word of faith
Jay Peck

30) Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Remembering Joseph
Marlys Peck

31) Genesis 37:29-36
Jacob mourns Joseph's loss
Peris Family

Dear Church:

We, the Kids' Cove Team, are so glad to be planning Vacation Bible School again. It has been 15 years since our last VBS adventure in 1998. Our Vacation Bible School will be held on July 15-17 at our church, Community Presbyterian Church. Our focus is to help children hear about God's love; see it, touch it, sing it, taste it, and put it into action. As they travel from station to station, they go deeper into their understanding of God. Most importantly, children will learn that Jesus loves. He came to die for our sins and make a way for us to live with God for ever. And we need YOUR HELP!!!

We need station leaders:

- Moo-sic & More
- Project-With-a-Purpose
- Hog Wild Games
- Bible Adventure
- Friendship Finals

We also need volunteers for these areas:

- Registration
- Spotlight VBS Photographer
- Serving Dinners
- Cleaning
- Preparing Movie Night

Through Vacation Bible School, we expect these things:

- Kids develop new friendship with new friends and Jesus
- Older kids develop their leadership skills
- All volunteers learn God's love by participating in this program
- All church members become supporters
- This program becomes a congregational event that creates a good memory and builds a new vision for our church.

Parents, grandparents, and friends please bring your special kids to our Vacation Bible School, or bring yourself to the event!! So mark these dates on your calendar: July 15, July 16, July 17. The fun starts at 5:30pm with dinner and will end at 8:30 pm.

We are so glad that our church can resume Vacation Bible School this year. The most important factor in making this program a success is your attitude. Your support will speak volumes to the children we are serving.

Sincerely,
Kids' Cove Team



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.