

# The Shepherd's Staff

Community Presbyterian Church  
Cathedral City, California



November 2013



We are all traveling together. Each of us has talents and gifts from God to be used to be Christ to others here on earth. And our talents and gifts are unique to each of us. Together we form the Body of Christ, the church, to do Christ's work as we travel life's road.

There are two interpretations of the way to translate the Great Commission. One is as you probably know it, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news" is what most Bible translations say. But there is another translation possibility that changes the wording to "As you go in the world, proclaim the good news." I like to think of both translations, but especially the second. So, I encourage each of you, "as you go," as you travel life's road, to share Christ with others by word and by action. Let others see Christ in you and look

These words were printed in the February 2010 church newsletter. This was the first newsletter column I wrote as pastor of Community Presbyterian. This January, we will have been serving God together in this community for four years.

By reprinting part of that first column, I would like each of us to reread the column and reflect on the past four years. Looking back to measure and evaluate can be revealing and healthy. What have we done that has been positive and contributed to spreading the Gospel? What could we have done better? What did we not do? Are we on track to build a vibrant church serving and praising Christ? Are we living in a way that truly represents Christ to all we meet?

We are at a crossroad for our ministry. Where there was little or no ministry to children, we now have an exciting children's ministry. We have enhanced our worship service through music and added a visual aspect to worship. We've added new members and said good bye to a few older members. However, we've not grown enough to shed money concerns.

The question facing Session (and every person attending here) as we plan for next year is how do we balance our ministry efforts and stay within budget. Each of you reading this newsletter has a stake in the answers to this question. And that's where you come in. Your input is needed!

Please take time to reflect on the past four years. Celebrate the good. Be thankful for what we learned from the experiments we risked. Consider what you would like to see in the future. Are we heading in the right direction? Do we need a mid-course correction?

Your input is needed. We are all a part of the body of Christ. Your God-given talents and gifts contribute to making this church a light for Christ in Cathedral City. Each person's individual contributions make this church stronger. Please share your thoughts with the Session members.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lee

# NOVEMBER 2013: SPECIAL DATES



Sunday, November 3  
Tuesday, November 5  
November 11 – 13  
Wednesday, November 13  
Wednesday, November 13  
Thursday, November 14  
Friday, November 22  
Saturday, November 23

Potluck Lunch  
8:00 Kids Cove Meeting  
Healing Fields Volunteers  
Deacons  
Women's Circle  
Session  
8:00 Kids Cove Meeting  
Story Time

## Discernment: Christian Spiritual Practice 2

On the last newsletter article, I have talked about “practice of discernment” and our identity as persons and Christians. Through the choices that we make we can become the person or we become the church that God is calling us to be. The practice of discernment is not about the process of dealing with the mystery of God in the midst of everyday life.

Elizabeth Liebert defines that “discernment means making a discriminating choice between two or more good options, seeking the best for this moment.” By living, studying and ministering in American society, the word “discrimination” is not a word that makes me happy. However, the word discrimination of choice before God is necessary for us to live as faithful Christians in the world.

Practicing Christian discernment in everyday life is accepting that God is real in every moment of our lives. If we are aware enough of God's presence in people, others, and nature, we will and should learn daring to discriminate choices in our lives. In the process of discernment, we need to remember that discernment is not getting certainty or validity of what we chose, not making sure of right choices of our lives, but it is about the process of seeking God in and through our choices.

If you decide to do the practice of discriminating choices in everyday lives, I invite you to pray with me the serenity prayer by Reinhold Neibuhr.

God, give us grace to accept with serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,  
Courage to change the things  
which should be changed,  
and the Wisdom to distinguish  
the one from the other.

Many blessings on your life journey to be the person and the church that God is calling us to be.

*Pastor Esther*

## DO YOU TAKE NOTICE?

Do you notice that every Sunday Kay, Nancy and Evelyn make the coffee and set up the drink station for coffee hour? I was told that usually Rebeka was there to load the dishwasher and help clean up. I know these things because all I had to do was bake a couple of cakes for coffee hour. I felt like I was getting off too easy. Everything was done for me.

Ladies I sooo appreciate the help.

~ Eloise

# 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  
Rawlings and Deriesmeyer families

*Recovery*

Kay – knee comfort  
Earl –surgery  
Aunt Pat – recovering from surgery  
Evelyn's daughter Jan – heart surgery  
Erin  
Anne – in the ICU  
Jennifer – inner ear problem  
Nicholas – staph infection  
Dot Susdorf – back problems  
Imogene –pneumonia & hip surgery  
Ed's sister  
Joey – recovering from a stroke  
Leslie – Diabetic - Healing  
Bob's son Bob – heart issues  
Vern – open heart surgery  
Matt – diverticulitis  
Priscilla Martinez (LaVida's daughter) – liver and other concerns  
Ruthie – recovering from surgery  
Trish – multiple health problems  
LaVida & Debbie – patience & healing

*Continuing Health Concerns*

Shemko  
Rena Rodman  
Francis and Paula – terminal cancer  
Patty Valdez, Matt & Ann Matheson, Charlton, Alexis, Mary, Julee, Ed  
- 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, Arvid, Kathy, Pat, Scott, Kathy, Anna Marie, Darrell, Jim, Norman  
Larsen, Ray,

*Community and World Concerns*

Cathedral City police and fire departments  
Tanya – looking for employment  
Lorenzo – looking for employment

**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

# NOVEMBER 2013 Prayer Calendar

## Please pray for each individual on the date listed

1) *Matthew 5:1-12*

*All Saints' Day*

**Murray Gibbard & Dell Morgan**

2) *Matthew 24:29-35*

My words will not pass away

**Kay Graham**

3) **Matthew 25:14-30**

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Art & Karin Grice**

4) *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

Be alert for the day of the Lord

**Marti Haas**

5) *Psalm 123*

Our eyes look to God

**Butch & Eloise Haltman**

6) *Romans 2:1-11*

The righteous judgment of God

**Ed Harbur**

7) *Exodus 2:1-10*

Mother and sister protect Moses

**Winnie Hockenbery**

8) *Esther 7:1-10*

Esther's victory

**Kirk & Nancy Horton**

9) *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*

God will shepherd Israel

**Carol Hoskins**

10) **Matthew 25:31-46**

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Helen Hyde**

11) *Ephesians 1:15-23*

The reign of Christ

**Lee Ireland & Linda Hamilton**

12) *Psalm 100*

We are the people of God's pasture

**Hazel Jacobsen**

13) *Numbers 27:15-23*

Joshua to shepherd Israel

**Reed & Mary Karr**

14) *Zech 11:4-17*

Two kinds of shepherds

**Betty Leehan**

15) *Jeremiah 31:10-14*

God will shepherd the people

**Mel & Arno Liechti**

16) *1 Thessalonians 3:6-13*

Stand firm in the faith

**Matt & Ann Matheson**

17) **Mark 13:24-37**

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Florence Maybee**

18) *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

Gift of grace sustains us

**Fern Miller**

19) *Isaiah 64:1-9*

God will come with power and compassion

**Steve & Janet**

20) *Micah 4:1-5*

A promise of peace

**Gerald & Joy Moss**

21) *Revelations 18:1-10*

Judgment on human pride

**Pat & Annette Patterson**

22) *Luke 21:34-38*

Be alert for that day

**Jay Peck**

23) *Isaiah 40:1-11*

God's coming to the exiles

**Marlys Peck**

24) **Mark 1:1-8**

Reign of Christ

**Peris Family**

25) *2 Peter 3:8-15a*

Waiting for the day of God

**Steve & Louise Pesce**

26) *Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13*

Righteousness and peace

**Wayne & Mary Price**

27) *Acts 2:37-42*

Baptism in the name of Jesus

**Gail Prosser**

28) *Luke 17:11-19*

*Thanksgiving Day*

**Nancy Pryor**

29) *Acts 11:1-18*

John and Peter baptize

**Bertha Rawlings**

30) *Malachi 2:10-3:1*

The coming messenger

**Rawlings Family**

*A note from Peggy Bakke, Chairman of Our Children's Garden:*

Welcome to our garden in God's Backyard. It is slowly, but surely growing into a wonderful project involving our children and youth in the neighborhood along with the grandchildren of some of our members. I wish Wyatt and the twins; Grace & Garret lived here so that I could involve them in our garden projects.

Just wanted to thank everyone who contributed to and helped make our Children's Trunk or Treat a great success. We had over 100 children & parents visit our decorated, Bible related, trunks. There was Noah's Ark (Esther), Jesus is the Light of the World (Debbie), the busy BEE HAPPY Bee with The Fruit of the Spirit (Peggy), Shield of Faith (Maria), How Sweet the name of Jesus (Linda & Lee), Face painting by our Cove Team Youth, (Alicia, Ashley, Josue, and Bronn), and hot chocolate and s'mores by Marti and her husband Rick. And mustn't forget that Cute Cat, Brenda Blackburn, who was there helping to hand out candy. We sold a few pumpkins, which we harvested from the Children's Garden and a few that were donated by Doug. Thank you Doug, we missed you! Heard you were at a Ducks game in Oregon. (Good to spend time with family) but we missed you! The children were delightful and had a wonderful time. A big thank you to the neighbor across the street who also decorated his scary trunk (Fear Not), (another) Lee & Greg, who has a lovely garden, and has donated a couple of Papaya trees he grew from seed and will be donating some broccoli plants to transplant into the new beds.

We still have some pumpkins if anyone needs one for Thanksgiving pies or decorations. \$2 each, unless it happens to be one of our Giant ones, which are \$5 each.

At our last story time the children planted snap peas and broccoli seeds and 4 tomato plants in the new beds. They also planted flowers & bulbs into old shoes or boots which are now walking around the Portulaca Heart Patch in the center of our garden. Our poor scarecrows have been whipped around by the strong winds and are in need of repair.....another project for down the road. Any volunteers? I thinned out my Plumaria trees in my garden at home and have transplanted some of those cuttings into the children's garden. Maybe someday we will be able to make some Leis with the flowers from this beautiful Hawaiian tree. The children have been taking turns watering. Thank you all for your loving care and support. I've also noticed some beautiful Butterflies flying in to check out the garden and some bees. Yea! Remember to Bee Happy.



**COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**38088 Chuperosa Lane**  
**Cathedral City CA, 92234**

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

### A WHOLE LOT OF THANKS

There are so many people who keep the church running smoothly.

They donate their time and talents. You see them every Sunday, doing their jobs without the recognition they deserve.

Members of session, deacons, women's circle, choir, Sunday school teachers, building committee, youth garden...

I am not knowledgeable enough to name each one of you for fear I might leave someone out.

**THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!**

~ A Church Member

### 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.