

# The Shepherd's Staff

Community Presbyterian Church  
Cathedral City, California



November 2011

In place of my monthly musings, I would like for all of you to know what your Session reported to Presbytery about your church. There's much to celebrate, but there are also new venues for ministry we need to explore. God has blessed this congregation and continues to bless it. I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor. (Mission Insite, mentioned in the letter, provides demographic information for the community in which we live and minister.)

Pastor Lee

Dear Chairman Ginni Rassieur and Members,

We are an aging congregation, largely retired, in a community of many retirees. After several years without a called pastor we were declining in membership, spirit and growth. We knew we needed new leadership with a strong commitment to personal contact with the ability to listen to and share the concerns of the congregation. We knew we needed leadership to move toward positive results in spiritual growth, health and well being of members and visitors.

In the past year with the arrival of Rev. Lee Ireland, the congregation has shown a renewed spirit in its mission of reaching out to the community and surrounding areas. Our Sunday services have become more rewarding worship experiences. New Bible study groups, fellowship activities, and expanded mission activities have occurred. We have added a website for the church where the sermons and our monthly newsletters are posted ([www.churchinthecove.org](http://www.churchinthecove.org)). We have also moved forward, improving the maintenance and the appearance of our physical grounds. Our long-term relationship with the Korean Church that uses our facility continues to be beneficial to both congregations. We maintain open lines of communication to enhance both our ministries. The attendance and financial support has grown from increased marketing and inspiration of the congregation through enriched worship, special programs and the congregation's desire to be a more active part of the community and its service organizations.

We have hosted two dinners, a classic car show, free Easter breakfasts, a Pentecost Worship with a larger attendance than Easter, replaced the roof on the educational wing and resealed sanctuary roof, painted the exterior of church, removed trees and replanted the gardens around the church. We added a Wednesday night Bible study in addition to the Wednesday afternoon study. Our worship attendance increased 25% over the prior year for this July/August, normally our less well-attended time of year. During the first six months of 2011 financial support was \$1000 more per month the first 6 months of 2010.

Our mission outreach continued with a second year scholarship of \$1000 to a graduating student of Cathedral City High School. This is our also our second year to distribute school supplies to mostly Spanish speaking children in the mobile home park north of the church. This year's distribution will take place on Sunday, August 28. We support the local needy with contributions of food, clothing, and other needs that might occur. Pastor Lee has joined the local Rotary Club and is working with the Cathedral City Police Chief who is interested in establishing a chaplain program for police and firemen. We are exploring how to become involved in this year's "Healing Field", a community program of placing a flag to honor each local soldier, sailor, airman or marine killed in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11.

The large numbers of prayer concerns shared during our Sunday worship show an increased trust on the part of the members of the congregation. Pastor Lee has been active in visiting those hospitalized, those in hospice care and those members dealing with the death of a loved one, many times coming to Cathedral City on his days off to minister to their needs. Winter visitors and part-time residents volunteer to help with dinners, breakfasts, after worship coffee hour, and the Communion Sunday potluck as well as generously contribute financially. They receive our newsletters and Pastor calls them during summer months to check-in and let them know we are concerned about them.

We were fortunate to be able to take advantage of a year's practicum available from Pastor Esther Shin from the Korean congregation that meets in our church. She is an ordained Presbyterian Minister from Korea who recently completed her PhD in Christian Education from Union theological Seminary. Esther will be working initially to restart our Sunday School in September and begin a story hour for Spanish, Korean and English speaking children. She will also be organizing neighborhood meetings to explore how God is at work in our neighborhood.

Our church is strong on mission activities, but not as strong on reaching out for new members. This fall we are moving more aggressively to let the community know there is a Presbyterian Church in the Cove. At the July session meeting we discussed and implemented a number of suggestions. Our target audience, indeed our goal, is to reach out to retired folks like our current membership. This goal is right in line with the information provided by the Presbytery from the Mission Insite which indicates that there will be little population growth in Cathedral City over the next 5 years compared to the State of California. The growth in the number of families will be minimal, while the already large retirement age population will continue to grow as the population ages.

Our efforts to reach out to the Hispanic community, the largest ethnic population group, will continue, though at this time we are not equipped to offer worship to this group. Our story time effort will help us to explore ways we can become more involved with the Spanish speaking community.

We feel we are on the right track by hosting family activities, dinners, car shows, story times. The Mission Insite mood and values indicators show that devotion to family is very important to the population in our zip code. The indicators also show that religious faith is very important though the population is somewhat weak in the areas of altruism and giving. The Indicators noted there is a keen interest for doing mission work, which we've seen by those non-members willing to help us out on our projects.

God continues to surprise and delight us as we seek to serve Him through our mission work, our worship, and our personal prayer time. Our latest gift from God was Pastor Ester Shin for the Christian Education area. So many exciting and positive changes have happened since Rev. Lee Ireland arrived. This heartening reversal has encouraged and re-ignited many of us to reach for new horizons through Lee's encouragement, enthusiasm, and commitment to lead us in our journey and has enriched and inspired the life of this congregation.

As we continue to go forward, the session is trusting that you will grant our request to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of calling the Rev. Lee Ireland as our pastor.

In His Service,  
Helen V. Hyde, Clerk of Session

# NOVEMBER 2011: SPECIAL DATES



Tuesday, November 1  
Wednesday, November 3  
Sunday, November 6  
Monday, November 7  
Tuesday, November 7  
Wednesday, November 9  
Wednesday, November 9  
Thursday, November 10  
Saturday, November 19  
Thursday, November 24  
Saturday, November 26  
Sunday, November 27

Gospel of John Study begins  
Proverbs Study begins  
Potluck Lunch  
Healing Field  
Healing Field  
9:00am Deacons Meeting  
10:00am Women's Circle  
9:00am Session Meeting  
11:10am Story Time  
Thanksgiving  
Memorial Service for OB Bakke  
Bake Sale

## CHRISTMAS TIME IS COMING

The time has come again to remember that giving is better than receiving. It is a time to remember those less fortunate than you, in particular the farm workers' children whom the church members bless each year.

Please consider doing a little extra shopping this year and bringing in some toys for the children. A small toy can bring a huge smile to a child who might not otherwise receive any gift on Christmas.

Every year the church supports this effort to bring toys in to the East Valley. Seeing the looks of joy on the children's faces is an excellent reminder of the reason we celebrate Christmas, the birth of Christ.



*Please bring your gifts to the church office or see Patty. Thank you and God bless you.*

Last year 125 children came to receive gifts. This year we would love to touch even more children's lives. If you are interested in helping distribute the toys at Christmas time please see Patty for more details on specifics.

# 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*

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## *Recovery*

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Linda Hamilton broken foot  
Kay Graham, hip pain  
LaVida Warren – recovering at home  
Betty's sister Shirley  
Stahl's grandson healing of an unexplained growth  
Linda Faas in and out of surgeries recently  
Bertha's sister-in-law Betty Ann recovering from knee surgery  
Dot's friend Patt Mannino – healing in lungs from emphysema  
JD Smith – cancer  
Jerry Moss – recovering from operation and shingles  
Noel's friend Guy Patton – cancer in remission

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## *Continuing Health Concerns*

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Noel's friend Hans Berg  
Rena's friend Mike is in his final days with stage 4 cancer  
Peggy's daughter Kim struggling with circulation in her legs  
Butch's son Barry is struggling with chemo  
Patty – Joe diagnosed with Huntington's Disease  
Noel White's cousin, Kathy Findley - battling leukemia  
Gail Prosser  
Patty Valdez

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## *Community and World Concerns*

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Ongoing concerns within Patty's family after the passing of a foster child in the home.  
Bertha's friend Craig looking for a job  
Cathedral City police department  
Health and safety of all our members and families  
Marti's nephew Brandon, a Navy Seal, is in Afghanistan  
Julee Collins' grandson, Doug Way – deployed to Afghanistan  
Our Marine's safety as he returns to active duty.

*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 2011 Prayer Calendar

## Please pray for each individual on the date listed

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| <p>1) <i>Matthew 5:1-12</i><br/><i>All Saints' Day</i><br/>Betty Meade</p>                           | <p>11) Psalm 123<br/>Our eyes look to God<br/>Bill &amp; Kay Sachs</p>                              | <p>21) Numbers 27:15-23<br/>Joshua to shepherd Israel<br/>Eric &amp; Lauren Williams</p>     |
| <p>2) Psalm 128<br/>It shall be well with you<br/>Gerald &amp; Joy Moss</p>                          | <p>12) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11<br/>Be alert for the day of the Lord<br/>Larry &amp; Cecile Shoot</p> | <p>22) Zech 11:4-17<br/>Two kinds of shepherds<br/>Evelyn Woods</p>                          |
| <p>3) Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25<br/>Joshua calls Israel to serve God<br/>Annette &amp; Pat Patterson</p> | <p>13) <b>Matthew 25:14-30</b><br/><b>Proper 28 (33)</b><br/>Bob &amp; Marge Stahl</p>              | <p>23) Jeremiah 31:10-14<br/>God will shepherd the people<br/>Chad &amp; Billie Ackerson</p> |
| <p>4) Psalm 78:1-7<br/>The power of God<br/>Jay &amp; Maryls Peck</p>                                | <p>14) Romans 2:1-11<br/>The righteous judgment of God<br/>Casey Stelziede</p>                      | <p>24) <i>Luke 17:11-19</i><br/><i>Thanksgiving Day</i><br/>Beth Alfred</p>                  |
| <p>5) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18<br/>The promise of the resurrection<br/>Peris Family</p>               | <p>15) Exodus 2:1-10<br/>Mother and sister protect Moses<br/>Dorothy Susdorf</p>                    | <p>25) Isaiah 64:1-9<br/>God will come with power and compassion<br/>Martha Anderson</p>     |
| <p>6) <b>Matthew 25:1-13</b><br/><b>Proper 27 (32)</b><br/>Wayne &amp; Mary Price</p>                | <p>16) Esther 7:1-10<br/>Esther's victory<br/>Ervin &amp; Vera Syfert</p>                           | <p>26) 1 Corinthians 1:3-9<br/>Gift of grace sustains us<br/>Peggy Bakke</p>                 |
| <p>7) Joshua 24:25-33<br/>Joshua's generation passes on<br/>Gail Prosser</p>                         | <p>17) Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24<br/>God will shepherd Israel<br/>Patty Valdez</p>                    | <p>27) <b>Mark 13:24-37</b><br/><b>First Sunday of Advent</b><br/>Neal &amp; Jean Angus</p>  |
| <p>8) 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13<br/>Stand firm in the faith<br/>Nancy Pryor</p>                         | <p>18) Psalm 100<br/>We are the people of God's pasture<br/>Ray &amp; Greta Venter</p>              | <p>28) Micah 4:1-5<br/>A promise of peace<br/>Bob &amp; Barbara Barrett</p>                  |
| <p>9) Matthew 24:29-35<br/>My words will not pass away<br/>Bertha Rawlings</p>                       | <p>19) Ephesians 1:15-23<br/>The reign of Christ<br/>LaVida Warren</p>                              | <p>29) Revelations 18:1-10<br/>Judgment on human pride<br/>Alma Boney</p>                    |
| <p>10) Judges 4:1-7<br/>The judgeship of Deborah<br/>Rena Rodman</p>                                 | <p>20) <b>Matthew 25:31-46</b><br/><b>Reign of Christ</b><br/>Noel White</p>                        | <p>30) Luke 21:34-38<br/>Be alert for that day<br/>Doug Bridges</p>                          |

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

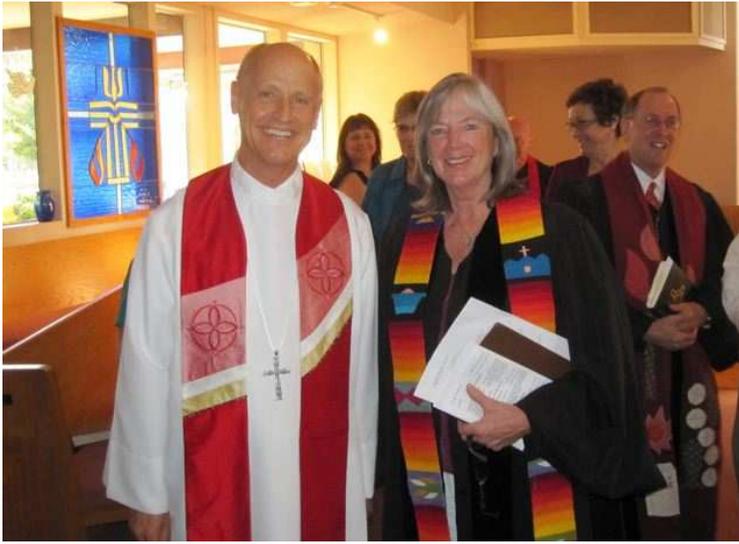
- ❖ Approved final plans for Fish Dinner October 28, under leadership of Nancy Pryor.
- ❖ Approved additional expense for musicians at the Pastor's Installation Service
- ❖ Approved letter to Korean Congregation for the successful joint worship service.
- ❖ Approved the installation of windows in doors to pastor's offices and classrooms.
- ❖ Approved Rev. Don Williamson to participate in memorial for OB Bakke.
- ❖ Heard report from Rev. Esther Shin: the One to One (Person to Person) program for those in our congregation and the Korean congregation. Several are participating and enthusiastic for it.
- ❖ The Saturday Story Time program is well attended and growing.
- ❖ Reviewed curriculum selection for congregation and Sunday school and voted to approve Feasting on the Word. This curriculum provides age level study and is a worship-centered curriculum.
- ❖ Approved purchase of Church signs to be placed on Hwy 111 and Terrace Drive.



### November Birthdays

Karin Grice	November 11
Rena Rodman	November 24

## INSTALLATION SERVICE PICTURES



*Thank you all for coming to celebrate the installation of Pastor Lee. What a blessed church we are to have such a wonderful pastor.*

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

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