

January – March 2020

THE CHURCH CRIER

Desert Congregational Church

5688 Sunrise Road, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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Pastor's Message

I was pondering the other day about how truly blessed we, as Americans, are. Everything is so convenient. Think about it, you drive up to a pump and you slip in your credit card to pay without even going in the store. You can travel the world via the TV. You can find almost any fact you want to know by a simple click of the button. You can go shopping by picking up the phone, making a call, and having it sent to you, or, better yet, by the click of button. (You can do it all from the ease of your home.)

Now you have phones that can do almost anything from taking your picture to dictating messages into your computer. America is becoming more convenient and comfortable.

Just think of cars, as an example. I remember cars with no electric windows, AC, even heaters. Today, there are cars with TVs, stereos that concert halls would be jealous of. You have navigational equipment to tell you when you're lost, cars that can see in the dark with no lights, heads up displays.

I could go on and on but you get the point. America is a land of convenience and comfort. With this comes a great temptation to the people of God. That is: to turn your God into a God of convenience, comfort, and no cost. Today we can see people use the electronic church to replace the local church. What I mean is this: far too many people ease their conscience by staying home and watch religious TV or church services on the internet. Warning: These are not to replace the local church. The church is God's agent to reach the world. Christian TV or services on the internet are a good thing but when they take the place of the local church, it's wrong, it's dead wrong. The only exception is if you physically cannot get out.

Then there are those who that seek an easy way. When things get tough or when they decide that things are not to their liking, they forget all the good and focus on themselves. They abandon their church without even a word. Somehow we forget that God calls us to service in his church - not to be served by the church. We let our need for convenience be our motivation. We become Christians of Convenience.

In the New Year ask yourself "are you a creature of convenience or child of the most High." Someday we will all stand before our Heavenly Father and give an account for our actions. Will God say "welcome, faithful child" or "I don't know you, child of convenience."

Blessings..... Pastor Allan



Upcoming Events

January

- 5 Trustee Meeting
- 11 Praise & Worship
- 13 Women's Fellowship
- 14 DCC Lunch Bunch
- 25 Men's Breakfast
- 26 DCC Annual Meeting

February

- 8 Praise & Worship
- 10 Women's Fellowship
- 22 Annual WFM Tea
- 23 Men's Breakfast

March

- 1 Deacon's Meeting
- 8 Daylight Savings Time
- 9 Women's Fellowship
- 10 DCC Lunch Bunch
- 14 Praise & Worship
- 26 Lent Begins
- 28 Men's Breakfast

Board Briefs

Deacons – Ed Hill, Interim Chairman

On behalf of all the Deacons of DCC, I want to thank Wayne Mackey for the excellent job he has done this past year as Chair Person of the Deacon Group. We have experienced both "highs and lows" this past year, but through them all, we have depended on God to enlighten us to do His will, knowing that when we do, DCC will prosper and our Church will be a positive witness in our community. Along with Wayne, I will also be rotating off the Deacon Group at the end of this 2019 year. Whatever the coming year has in store for us, I know that trusting God to guide our Church is the paramount thing to do. My prayer is that all of us will be open to God's Will, and participate in the activities He puts before our Church.

Trustees – Nancy Lake, Chairman

Trustees have been working hard trying to cut costs to keep us out of the red. We have had some of the things that have needed attention fixed. If you have noticed anything that needs to be done, please let the office know so we can get right on it. God bless you all - Nancy

Music – Rew Hennessy

As I sit down to write another end-of-the-year blog as the piano player, I think of what accomplishments I might be able to claim this year. I have learned a lot of new / old hymns, thanks to your requests, and I hope that continues. I thought Peggy and Laurel M. did great on "Trusting is Believing" and the choir really WHALED on "Dream Small!" (pun completely intended.)

What accomplishments did God allow YOU to feel good about this year? What things are still on the "back-burner" that frustrate you, and you wish could get done? I must confess that the little drum machine is an enigma to me. There is so much more that it can do, if I just sit down and read the stupid little book and learn how to program it.

The choir has done a great job being patient with me, and learning a few new tunes. The Christmas program went very well and I believe you all enjoyed it. We certainly spent more time on it this year than we did last year.

I am still getting to know you folks better and I appreciate what all of you do for the Lord and for the church. I hope that continues and I will find more ways to serve you as we serve our great Savior, the Lord Jesus. So many of us are having health problems though, and it breaks my heart. If you have the courage to ask me about healthy food, watch out. I will tell you more than you want to know, and where to go to get more information.

I have said this last part before, but I think it is ok. to say it again; please prepare your heart for worship before you enter the sanctuary. This means spend some time in Proverbs, in 1st Peter, in the Gospel of Luke. Spend a little time listening to the great J. Vernon McGee. This should help us to see others as more important than ourselves, to love each other, to serve each other, bear one another's burdens, to weep with the weeping, and dance with the dancing. As the world outside falls apart, our testimony grows stronger when we show true love to the "regulars", and to the new folks who wander in.

See ya Sunday Rew Rev 4:11

Men's Fellowship – Rew Hennessy, Chairman

In the Men's Fellowship we took a few months off, but we reconvened here in December. There were plenty of savorybreakfast items to choose from, and then it was on to serious discussions. We talked about a few things around the churchcampus that need to be taken care of, and heard a financial report. They endured me getting on my soapbox for a few minutes about how they can live WITHOUT the Hallmark Channel syrupy - Christmas - romance movies. We also heard the Pastor speak to us about the difference between Christmas consumerism hype, and the true meaning of Christmas. We also had a spirited dialogue about the challenge of getting the gospel to the younger folks in our town, and what we should do to get more of those folks to

come check out our church. It is a conversation we need to continue, as we see the challenge of filling more seats.

But as we head into a new decade, I want to shift our attention away from that challenge for just a moment. Let me ask you to focus on the simplicity of our great Savior's plan; He came to give HIS life, so that WE may have life. He came to DEMONSTRATE love, so that we might EMULATE His love. 2nd Corinthians 5:21 in the King James says: "For He hath made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." It is so simple, and yet powerful, wonderful, and amazing at the same time. So think on these things, beloved, and strengthen your worship. Walk with Jesus here on earth, so that you may store up your treasure in heaven. Rew

Women's Fellowship – Laurel Hamilton, Chairman

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a merry Christmas! I'm looking forward to this year's Women's Fellowship. The Annual WFM Tea and our annual rummage sale are events coming up. May God bless everyone this new year! Blessings ... Laurel Hamilton

Nominating Committee – Lorri Conway, Chairman

The DCC 2020 Nominating Committee has been working hard these last few months. In with this newsletter we have attached the proposed 2020 committee members. Each of these members are dedicated to the workings of Desert Congregational Church and are looking forward to serving in the capacity to which they will be elected during the 2020 Annual Meeting on January 26.

DCC Lunch Bunch Goes To Red Lobster

On December 10, seventeen of us went to Red Lobster for lunch and it was good. Each month, we'll go to a different restaurant and we hope you'll join us. It's a lot of fun and the fellowship is awesome.



Hymn Sing Sunday

Every third Sunday at Desert Congregational, we sing your favorite songs. Thumb through the hymnal and let us know the song(s) you really like to sing. Fill out the form that's on the information table in the Narthex and put it in the offering plate any Sunday. That's all you have to do – we'll do the rest.

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Got a suggestion for the Deacons to consider and discuss? There's a suggestion box on the wall in the Foyer. All suggestions must be signed in order to be considered.
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Do you participate in SCRIP?

SCRIP is a great way to support your church. How often do you shop at Stater's? Walmart? How often do you buy gas for your car at AM/PM? Did you know that you can purchase SCRIP cards for each of these stores and they give a percentage back to the church. See Jean Hill for other information on how you can support Desert Congregational Church.

Did you know that all sermons recorded are put on the website (www.desertcongregationchurch.org) on the Archives page? If you ever miss a Sunday, get on the internet, type in the address above and click on the Archives page. Scroll to the date you missed. Those dates listed in black were not recorded.

JANUARY

Birthdays

3 - Melody Ross; 12 – Barbara Hinderliter; 14 - Wayne Mackey; 15 – Nancy Lake; 19 – Grace Ross; 20 – Sharyn Bishop; 24 – Matthew Perez; 25 – Jeremiah Burch and Linda Lubitz; 28 – Vida Hamilton; 30 – Mary Ann George

Anniversaries

None

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

4 – Sally Hedgecock; 11 – Bruce Burch; 12 – Peggy King & Luckie Paxton; 14 – Crystal Walker; 20 – Patrick McCollum; 22 – Alex Ford

Anniversaries

14 – Robert & Luckie Paxton;
20 – Fred and Delores Robertson

MARCH

Birthdays

5 – Becky Patterson; 11 – Jean Hill; 15 – Wendy McCollum; 18 – Rylie Ford; 20 – Phylis Croonenberghs; 26 – Jack Conway

Anniversaries

22 – Wayne & Phillys Mackey;
28 – Ed & April Kuhlmeier

Meeting Dates to Remember:

- Adult Bible Study = Sunday @ 9 AM
- Youth Group = Sunday @ 6 PM
- Pioneer Club = Sunday @ 6 PM
- Adult Bible Study = Wednesday @ 5:30 PM
- Worship Team Practice = Thursday @ 6 PM
- Choir Practice = Thursday @ 7 PM
- Deacons = *1st Sunday of every other month*
- Trustees = *2nd Sunday of every other month*
- Christian Ed = *3rd Sunday of each month*
- Men's Fellowship = *Last Saturday of each month*
- Women's Fellowship Ministry = *2nd Monday of each month*

Bible Wordsearch

The Sealed Scroll 2

Wordsearch 182

Rev.5:8-14

D T I M E S T G L O R Y H L R
O A E W O R T H Y P H T R A E
G N C P I T O S R L G T W L I
W G R B U N E A E N L O H L G
I E E E O R I L E I R E M O N
S L A R G S C R P S R O F R O
D S T L E N T H H O D P N C I
O R U I T S I I A G E E G S T
M D R A E H P V N S V P N A A
S R E D L E G I I A E H I N N
S T S E D O K V E L U D G G I
S E N O R H T H O U S A N D A
E G A U G N A L R I E J I O L
D O O L B R E W O P C I S C S
L A M B S S E R V E N E M A E

AMEN
ANGELS
BLOOD
EARTH
ELDERS
FELL
GLORY
GOD
HEARD
HEAVEN
HONOR
KINGDOM
LAMB
LIVING
NATION
PEOPLE
POWER
PRAISE
PRIESTS
REIGN
SANG
SCROLL
SEALS
SERVE
SLAIN
THRONE
TIMES
TRIBE
VOICE
WEALTH
WISDOM
WORTHY
THOUSAND
PURCHASED
CREATURES
LANGUAGE
STRENGTH
WORSHIPED
SINGING

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Psalm 64

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