

October - December

# THE CHURCH CRIER

Desert Congregational Church

5688 Sunrise Road, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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## Pastor's Message

The other day I asked the youth of the church, If they died today where would they go. So I found this devotional by Greg Laurie that I thought you might enjoy.

**He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! —Revelation 22:20**

Half of all Americans today claim to be born again. Even more claim to believe in God. If you want to apply a real litmus test to your relationship with God, or lack thereof, then let's say, for the sake of a point, that we knew Jesus Christ was coming back exactly 15 minutes from now. How would that grab you? If your heart jumps and you say, as the apostle John did, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" then I would say your life is right with God. But if your heart sinks and you say, "Fifteen minutes? I have some big-time repenting to do," then I would say your life is not right with Him. A person who is walking with God as he or she ought to should always be looking forward to the Lord's return. A person who really knows God should always be a little homesick for Heaven. Are you? If Jesus Christ were to return today (and He could), would you be ready? Jesus said, "One will be taken and the other left" (Matthew 24:40). Some people will be left when the Lord comes for His church. What would happen to you? And there is always the possibility that death could come. You don't know for sure. No one does. What if this were your last opportunity to get right with God, and you let it slip by because you thought there would be a tomorrow, there would always be another opportunity? You don't know that. The Bible tells us that the prophet Isaiah went to King Hezekiah and said, "Thus says the Lord: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live'" (2 Kings 20:1). Are you prepared to meet God? Don't wait. Get your life right with Him now. Simply aske Christ to be your Lord and Savior.

Blessings,  
Pastor Allan



## Upcoming Events

### October

6-7 - Fall Rummage Sale

16-20 – Church Cruise

### November

23 -Thanksgiving Day

### December

04 – Cal Baptist Small Group

24 – Christmas Eve Service

25 – Christmas Day

## We're Gonna Cruise!



October 16-20 – 16 of us will be cruising to Catalina Island and Ensenada, Mexico on Carnival Cruise Lines.

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1. Let go of what's gone
2. Be grateful for what remains
3. Look forward to what's coming next

## **Board Briefs .....**

### **Deacons – Wayne Mackey, Chairman**

The monies that were collected on Sunday, September 24, for disaster relief will be added to \$350 of mission monies and will be sent to Samaritan's Purse for distribution. Communion sets have been ordered and as soon as they come in, the deacons will be going out and performing communion for the elderly and the shut-ins.

Jesus said "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's".

### **Trustees – Floyd Carlson, Chairman**

The last four handicapped parking spaces will be finished as soon as the white stripes are repainted. The weather has been the hold-up in getting them repainted. The Sunday School rooms have both been remodeled and are being enjoyed by our kids. The next step is to re-do the floors either with carpet or tile. No decision has been made yet as to which one. Getting the Administrative Offices moved is next on the agenda.

### **Christian Ed –Peggy Freshour, Chairman**

Well, since last report, we have selected a theme for next summer's VBS and many of the materials have been ordered and received! Our theme will be Son Spark Labs. It is a very different approach, and should be lots of fun. Dates will be set in the next couple months. (TBA) We welcome all the volunteers, both adult and older youth!

Our Sunday school youth have started the New Testament gospels. We will complete the 27 books by June, and we are looking forward to learning a lot about the life of Jesus, his ongoing teaching, and the spreading of our Christian faith after his resurrection. We will continue to do special crafts, one per month, to coincide with special holiday themes. Our board is researching curriculum to be used with the Preschool youth, and we hope to start a regular program by the end of October. We still **really need more volunteers** if we are going to continue to enrich our youth programs. This is very important for the future of our church. Please prayerfully consider the ways you might be able to contribute to this ministry.

Our classroom remodeling is almost completed, as we continue to organize and decorate. The carpet and tile will be finished soon. It is really a wonderful change, and we are grateful to any and everyone who helped. The new surroundings are welcomed by our youth and the adults who help to provide meaningful Christian guidance for them. Thanks and God bless anyone who helped make this happen.

**When we can't see God's hand at work, we can still trust His heart.**



### **What's Cooking**

(from the DCC  
WFM cookbook)

### **Roselle's Holiday Toffee**

1 cup pecans,  
Chopped  
¾ cup brown sugar,  
Packed  
½ cup butter  
½ cup semi sweet  
chocolate

chips  
Butter a 9x9x2  
square pan. Spread  
pecans evenly over  
bottom of the pan.  
Heat the brown  
sugar and butter in  
a one quart  
saucepan until  
boiling, stirring  
constantly. Let it  
boil over medium  
heat for 7 minutes,  
while continuing to  
stir constantly.  
Immediately spread  
mixture over pecans  
in pan. Sprinkle the  
chocolate chips  
over the hot mixture  
and place a cookie  
sheet over the pan  
until the chips are  
melted. Spread  
the chocolate  
evenly over the  
candy. Cut into 1 ½  
inch squares while  
hot. Refrigerate  
until firm.

Lowella Parker

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**Men's Fellowship – Ed Hill, Chairman (edhill1124@verizon.net)**

It has been a relatively quiet summer for the Men's Fellowship. Our last Men's Breakfast was this past June, we suspended the Breakfast meeting for July and August (yea! Summer Time), but we will get back into the monthly schedule the last Saturday in September. The monthly breakfast is open to all the men in our church, and we encourage you to invite anyone who likes good fellowship and good food, church member or not.

In August, some of the tile flooring in the Fellowship Hall buckled and had to be removed and replaced. Several men came one Saturday and helped remove the buckled tile pieces. Thanks to all who came, and thanks to Jeffery who installed the replacement tile the following weeks.

I would like to remind all the men that our next Rummage Sale will be October 6 and 7. We will need help setting up and "manning the store" when we are open to the public. On Sunday, after church, October 1st, we will move items from the Storage Building into the Fellowship Hall, from Tuesday thru Thursday we will be organizing and setting up, then on Friday and Saturday, October 6 and 7, we will be ready for the public. We appreciate the help on any and all these days.

**Women's Fellowship – Peggy Freshour, Chairman**

We are continuing our involvement with mission projects and contributions. We are supporting the upcoming church mission for Operation Christmas Child with a \$1000 donation toward postage for the boxes. Additional donations for the purchase of items for the shoeboxes may be pledged before the November 13 deadline. Our Fall rummage sale has been set for the weekend of October 6-7. We will begin the set up after the worship service on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. We will accept donations of clean, gently used items until Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, prior to the sale. If you can set aside some time to help with the setup, sale days, or clean up, it will be much appreciated. This is our biggest fundraiser for the year. It is important to remind everyone that we have a bake sale each day of the rummage, and we will welcome any and all donations of baked goods.

Our Bible study on the New Testament began on September 7<sup>th</sup> for 6 weeks. We are studying the Gospels. The final books of the New Testament will be a 7 week study beginning on January 11<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity for the women to gain a better understanding of our wonderful Bible. If you were unable to join us for the first session, please consider signing up for Part II.

The labels for the kitchen drawers and cabinets are finally being made, and everything should be completed before October 15<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you to the volunteers who helped with this much needed project!! We have voted to purchase new tablecloths for the tables in the Fellowship Hall. We will have them before the end of October. Also, a reminder that we are still selling our DCC cookbooks, and there are only about 25 books left! The holiday season is fast approaching, and they make great gifts!

Our meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month, and any of the women who attend DCC are welcome. We have a calling committee, and if you are not being called, please call the church office. We would love to have you join our luncheon meetings and share your ideas with us!! Our next meeting will be October 9<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 9 AM, pack up and clean up from our rummage, and then go out for lunch, to be paid for by the WF. How about joining us on that day!!? We appreciate all the help, and enjoy the fellowship.

**Nominating Committee – Phyllis Croonenberghs, Chairman**

This committee will be hard at work in the coming weeks to place church members in key positions of service. We're asking you to pray about making a commitment, not only to the church, but to the Lord, as we enter into 2018

**Be the Lighthouse that somebody sees in the storm.**

**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 information table in the Narthex.  
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**October**

**Birthdays**

2 – Don Huffman, 4 – Chris Burch, 6 – O.J. Shealy,  
13 – Robert Wallace, 13 – Caden Eckes, 14 – Rick  
Buckles, 14 – Denice Perez, 21 – Glenn Freshour

**Anniversaries**

9 – Ed & Jean Hill, 17 – Don & SunCha Huffman, 31,  
Mike & Nokie Harz

**November**

**Birthdays**

7 – Phyllis Mackey, 9 – Terry Hinderliter, 10 – Toshiko  
Buckley, 10 – Kenny Hill, 22 – Jeff Johnson, 23 – Tierra  
Atherley, 24 – Ed Hill, 29 – Edward Sandoval

**Anniversaries**

4 – Don & Nancy Lake, 10 – Edward & Tammy  
Sandoval, 18 – Patrick & Wendy McCollum

**December**

**Birthdays**

1 – Rob Bergey, 1 – Travis Gaines, 10 – Pearl Burch,  
10 – Leona Ammerman, 11 – Dian McCullough,  
25 – Michele Burch

**Anniversaries**

13 – Rick & Martha Buckles, 15 – Rob and Lore Bergey, 15 – Chris & Michele Burch, 17 – Floyd &  
Lorrie Carlson

**Meeting Dates to Remember:**

- Youth Group = Sundays @ 6 PM
- Adult Bible Study = Sundays @ 9 AM
- Pioneer Club = Wednesdays @ 6 PM
- Adult Bible Study = Thursdays @ 6 PM
- Choir Practice = Thursdays @ 6:45 PM
- Deacons = 10/1; 11/5; 12/3
- Trustee = 10/8; 11/12; 12/10
- Christian Ed = 10/15; 11/19; 12/17
- Men's Fellowship = 10/28
- Women's Bible Study = 9/7 - 10/12
- Women/s Fellowship – 10/9; 11/13; 12/11

**Operation Christmas Child**

Every year Desert Congregational Church takes on the church wide mission project of filling shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse. These shoe boxes are shipped all over the world to children who, through no fault of their own, have no other Christmas. We need your help. If you can't shop and fill a basket, please consider giving a donation. Please see Laurel Morrow for information on what is still needed for these boxes. We have set a goal for the church to fill 150 boxes. We can do it with your help.

**People don't notice whether it's summer or winter when they're happy.**

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