



# The Church Crier

November-December 2015

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

We were pleased to welcome four new members into our fold in October: Kenny Hill, Sandy Smith, Ryan Brooke & Dimytria Brooke. What a joy to have these new members who have professed their belief in Jesus Christ and their desire to be a true part of the Desert Congregational Church family. Welcome!!!



## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Congratulations to Ryan & Dimytria Brooke who will be blessed with a baby in 2016!!!

## **DCC LIBRARIAN (PEGGY KING):**

Our Library is open to all, so if you love to read or need to do some Biblical research, you can peruse our library! If you haven't been there for a while, give it a look. If you have any Christian novels, extra Bibles or any good research books that you no longer want, they will find a good home in the DCC Library.



### **TRUSTEES BRIEF:**

The Trustees have their meeting on the second Sunday of every month. The budget is on track. We are looking good. We are looking into hiring a pest control company to come spray to keep the insects at bay. The church van is being used to get people to and from church for church services as well as for youth and general church outings. If you need a ride please let the office know. We are trying to keep the pigeons away from the front of the Sanctuary – thanks Tim Perez for your help with this!

**NANCY LAKE, CHAIRPERSON**

### **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**

The men have been holding their monthly Men's Fellowship breakfast with great attendance. The men recently discussed the possibility of the church being represented in the next Pioneer Days Parade with a float. The handicap parking space project is still underway. Although there were only a few men able to help with the fall Rummage Sale, their help was very much appreciated and yet another successful sale was completed.

**JIM LAMON, PRESIDENT**

### **DEACON UPDATE:**

There are quite a few events coming up in Nov & Dec that we hope you will participate in. There is a trip scheduled to go to Oak Glen for lunch & shopping on 04 Nov and on 08 Nov we have a church picnic (potluck) at noon at Knott's Sky Park (sign-up sheet is in the Narthex). On 15 Nov during worship service we have the small group "Hope" from Cal Baptist University performing. On 22 Nov we will be holding a Thanksgiving Dinner

(potluck) right after services. On 05 Dec we have planned a special trip to The Living Desert. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex closer to time. We of course will be having a Christmas Eve service at 6:00 p.m. which is always very special. The Deacons have a "name tag" project in the works the purpose of which is to be an icebreaker for visitors and it will probably be the same for a lot of the church members. The Deacons have purchased "Partners In Prayer" books that many of the congregation are finding useful and meaningful.

A "Time & Talent" survey was provided to church members on 25 Oct 2015. Please take time to complete and return this form to me. There may be something that you have the talent and desire to do to support DCC in your own way. It has been such a pleasure serving on the Board of Deacons this past three years. I hope you will consider serving on one of the Boards as it is very fulfilling work and provides an opportunity to get to know the workings of your church better.

**CHRIS PILGRIM, CHAIRMAN**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

It's that time of the year again that we are looking for people to serve on the various committees. Please pray about this. You may either indicate your specific interest on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or contact someone on the committee to let them know. The committee consists of Nancy Lake, Karen Kluge Mattox & Nancy Gregory. God bless you all.

**NANCY LAKE, CHAIRMAN**

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**

As you probably know our Semi-Annual Rummage Sale was another big success. Thanks to Phylis Croonenberghs and the many cheerful helpers (too many to mention by name) who worked tirelessly day after day. We shared our profit with the Men's Fellowship, we couldn't do it all without their able-bodied assistance. Bible Study continues on Thursday mornings, we are enjoying learning all about Paul and the first missionaries. While increasing our knowledge of Biblical history we are also learning about ourselves. We are working on another project: plants

along the east side of the Fellowship Hall. Details to follow. Jean and Laurel were hosts for our October meeting, the tables looked great and we were treated to some interesting facts about "October" by Llew. We learned how "Being A Christian Is Like Being A Pumpkin"! November will see us packing the Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse, organized by Laurel and her committee. Our goal this year is to fill 125 boxes! Please speak with Laurel or any Women's Fellowship member if you'd like to contribute to this wonderful project. The proposed slate of officers for 2016 will be announced at the November meeting (thanks to Darlene and her committee). Our December meeting will be festive as usual, with a catered lunch (we hope) and our fun-filled White Elephant Gift Exchange. New Officers will be installed. We are busy! We all send our best wishes for a Meaningful Holy Christmas and Many Blessings in the New Year.

**PEGGY KING, PRESIDENT**

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

The playground area is almost complete. The children of the church are helping with the Samaritan's Purse project. Collection week is 16-23 Nov. We will deliver boxes to Valley Community Chapel in Yucca Valley on 22 Nov. We hope to pack 125 boxes for our church. Along with the children, some individual church members, the Men's & Women's Fellowship, as well as a sizeable private donation we received is making this all possible. Thanks to everyone involved – what a worthy cause!

**LAUREL MORROW FOR PEGGY FRESHOUR**

### **PASTOR'S CORNER:**

#### **A GREAT DANGER-MATTHEW 15**

There is a danger in Christianity almost too terrible to conceive, and it is a peril that every man and woman in Christ is susceptible to. This is the danger of substituting rules for a tender-hearted relationship with Jesus. When our relationship with Jesus becomes fueled by Christian duty, the danger becomes very real. It is all the more dangerous because it is so subtle. Such complacency is not felt and goes unnoticed until hypocrisy begins to set in. There is a delusional aspect. The person caught

in this web takes pride in externals, such as their Christian activity, much like the Ephesians, who had no idea how close they were to losing Jesus because of their preoccupation with activity. Just the same, the contemporary Christian becomes insensate to the loss of his first love for Jesus. The believer still believes, but he is discontent, restless, and anxious. The believer sings, but his mind is a million miles away. The believer has quiet acts of disobedience and neglect that he has learned to cover. The believer has lost the consciousness of standing before Jesus and thinks in terms of standing only before other believers. The presence of Jesus is slowly and imperceptibly abandoned and the believer continues in his deception, totally unaware of his deprivation and loss. Well does Isaiah address this condition, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." (Matthew 15:8-9). Knowing about a danger is one of the greatest preventative measures. Understand, then, that you can be doing Christian duty with a heart far removed from God. Watch out! Beware of such hypocrisy! Pursue authenticity and sincerity. Seek to have a conscious attitude of the presence of Jesus.

**PASTOR ALLAN**



**CORN SCALLOP – ELLEN CHAMBERS**

- 1 can (17 oz) cream-style corn
- 2 eggs beaten
- ½ cup crushed soda crackers
- ¼ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup evaporated milk
- ¼ cup grated carrot
- ¼ cup chopped green peppers
- 1 tsp chopped celery
- 1 tsp chopped onion

6 drops Tabasco Sauce

½ tsp salt

½ cup shredded cheddar cheese. Reserve a ¼ cup of cheese to put on top.

Beat eggs, add corn & all other ingredients, sprinkle the ¼ cup of cheese on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 min. You may double the recipe for a 9"x13" casserole dish. Helen Bishop gave Ellen this recipe. Sounds Super!!!

### **JUST FOR THE KIDS (AND PARENTS OF COURSE!)**

### **DIRECTIONS TO MAKE PAPER BAG LUMINARIAS WHICH CAN BE USED THIS SEASON TO LEAD YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO YOUR HOUSE**

#### **WHAT YOU NEED:**

Pencil; brown paper lunch bags; hole punch, tack or pushpin; sand; votive candles or tea lights

#### **WHAT YOU DO:**

1. Draw a simple picture, word or symbol of Jesus' birth on the bag; for example, a star, a manger, a heart, a lamb, a wise man or the word "JOY".
2. Using a hole punch or push pin, punch holes along the drawing, leaving a little space between each hole. Punch all the way through both sides of the bag so you end up with the same design on both sides when the bag is opened. When using a pin, place a piece of cardboard under the bag or work on carpet so nothing gets damaged.
3. Open the bag and fill each luminaria with about two inches of sand. Then sink a votive candle or tea light in the center of the sand.
4. Place the luminarias along a walk, patio or porch. Have an adult light the candles.

**A SPECIAL THANKS GOES OUT TO JEFFREY JOHNSON FOR MAKING THE THREE BEAUTIFUL NEW CROSSES IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH!!!**



## **BIRTHDAYS**

**November**-07-Phillys Mackey; 09-Terry Hinderliter; 10-Toshiko Buckley & Kenny Hill; 15-Jeanne Bussell; 21-Bob Pilgrim; 22-Jeffrey Johnson; 23-Tierra Atherley; 24-Ed Hill; 29-Edward Sandoval

**December**-01-Rob Bergey; 06-Daniel Veith; 10-Pearl Burch & Leona Ammerman; 11-Dian McCullough; 16-Susan Harz; 25-Michele Burch.



## **ANNIVERSARIES**

**November**-04-Don & Nancy Lake; 10-Edward & Tammy Sandoval; 11-Jim & Becky Lamon; 18-Patrick & Wendy McCollum.

**December**-15-Rob & Lore Bergey & Chris & Michele Burch; 17-Floyd & Lorrie Carlson.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- 01 Nov - Food Donation, Holy Communion, Reception of New Members
- 04 Nov – Oak Glen Trip leave DCC @10:00 am for those who have signed up
- 08 Nov – Church Picnic @Noon-Knott’s Sky Park
- 11 Nov – Veteran’s Day – Display your flag proudly!
- 14 Nov – Saturday Nite Church @7:00 pm
- 15 Nov – Cal Baptist University Choir Small Group “Hope” performing during worship service
- 21 Nov - Adopt-a-Street Cleanup @8:00 am
- 22 Nov – Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner @11:15 am
- 05 Dec – Living Desert Trip-Safari Tour leave DCC @ NOON
- 06 Dec – Food Donation, Holy Communion, Reception of New Members
- 12 Dec – Saturday Nite Church @7:00 pm
- 19 Dec – Adopt-a-Street Cleanup @8:00 am
- 24 Dec – Christmas Eve Service @6:00 pm

## **MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Adult Bible Study – Sundays @ 9:00 am
- Older Youth Meet - Sundays @ 6:00 pm
- Prayer Team – Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm
- Youth Group/Pioneer Club – Wednesdays @7:00 pm
- Adult Bible Study – Thursdays @ 6:00 pm
- Deacons – First Sunday of Each Month @11:15 am
- Trustees – Second Sunday of Each Month @11:15 am
- Christian Ed- Dates to be determined
- Men’s Fellowship-Last Sat of Month @8:00 am
- Women's Fellowship/Shared Luncheon-2nd Mon of the month @10:30 am