

KOINONIA
DESERT SPRINGS COVENANT CHURCH
9915 W. Argent - Pasco
"Quenching the Thirst of all Generations"
(509) 545-4231 dscchome.com



December 2014

Advent can have many shades of meaning. An approaching time. Looking forward to an arrival. Expectations. Anticipation. A revealing. Appearance. Coming. Incoming. An approach. Entrance. Ingress. Beginning. Birth. Commencement. Dawn or dawning. Debut. Genesis. Inception. Morning. Onset. Start.

Historically in the church the Advent Season was a season of penitence. It was a time when the church community repented of sin and prepared their hearts for the arrival of the Christ. It marked the preparation of each individual as well as the church community to, once again, receive the son of God. In short, it was a new beginning. Don't you like "new beginnings"? I do! Two of my favorite buttons on the computer keyboard is the BACKSPACE and the DELETE buttons. They give me an opportunity to start over and begin fresh.

I'm old enough to remember the unforgiving typewriter (before erasable cartridges or whiteout). Once an error was made it was difficult if impossible, to correct it. And then, if one was able to do so, the page forever had a stain or mark where the error had been. It served as a lasting reminder that the author had made a mistake. Incidentally, I still have some of my college papers finished on a typewriter and can still see where I made errors in spelling and grammar. On top of those, there are the marks of the professor!

Advent as a season of penitence and repentance and preparation for the Lord's arrival is largely lost in the church calendar today. Perhaps we miss something. I am not suggesting that we return to a morose introspection that turns us all into "a worm such as I" (with apologies to Isaac Watts and his beloved hymn). However, there is something to be said about the anticipation that comes with the arrival of something or someone important. We prepare! We make a space ready. We set out the very best. We look forward to the arrival.

My prayer for all those who make Desert Springs Covenant Church this Advent Season is that each of us as individuals as well as a congregation of God's people would make our lives and our house ready for the arrival of the Lord. I believe that the Lord is always wanting to show up! He is always present. We are assured of that by his promises to us. Yet he also desires to make himself revealed and known among us in special ways; in the Word, in the Lord's Supper in worship in serving and being served in the fellowship of the saints and even, at times in signs and wonders of miraculous events. My prayer is that we would be ready. May you be fully prepared for how the Lord Jesus Christ will want to work in your life and work through your life this coming year. I'm excited about another advent!

Pastor Ron

CHURCH CELEBRATES THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

The Desert Springs Covenant Church has their 125th anniversary on December 16, 2014. It is the oldest church in Pasco and was founded by Captain William Gray. He thought that children should be going to a church on Sunday instead of loitering around saloons. Captain Gray proceeded to organize a church to meet on Sundays and it was named the "Pasco First Congregational Church". At first the church met in the school. The first church building was built in 1909 at 6th and Bonneville.

The church decided to move to West Pasco to take advantage of an area that saw new housing being built and families moving in. In 2007 it moved one last time to Road 100th and Argent. The church building took several years of research, fund-raising and finally partnering with the "Evangelical Covenant Church" of Chicago, Illinois to make this a reality. With many miracles along the way we are on our way to becoming a permanent fixture at this location.

COME JOIN OUR CELEBRATION SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2014 AT 4PM. The celebration will include a concert by Christian Artist Valerie Hicks of Spokane, a time to share, history displays, and a dessert reception. We invite everyone to come, invite a friend, and fellowship at this once in a lifetime event.

Beverly Eads, Moderator, Nolan Wilcox Vice Moderator, Marge Mutch Clerk, Beth Bodeau, Treasurer, Al Akerson, Financial Secretary,
LEADERSHIP TEAM: Stephanie Bradbury, Dave Gyll, Pat Wright, Jason McCollum, Mark Richart

Women's Ministry News:

Vision Statement: *Advancing God's Kingdom through women*

Mission Statement: *Our purpose is to equip the women of DSCC to grow, serve and reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Saturday, December 6 at 10:00 p.m. will be our **Christmas Brunch and Annual Cookie Exchange.**

If you would like to participate in the cookie exchange please bring **2 dozen** of a favorite recipe which we will share with others. We will also take a box of cookies to the Union Gospel Mission. Instead of a gift we will have a **tree ornament exchange** (*nicely wrapped, of course*). Plan on joining us for this time of fellowship and Fun.

Women's ministries helped to organize and Coordinate the **Samaritan's Purse** Children's Christmas boxes which were sent in November. There were **64** boxes filled by people from Desert Springs. We were also involved in **Family Fun Night**, with Marge coordinating the food and several helping with the crafts.

There will be **no December meeting**.
Mon. January 12: 7:00 Women's leading team meeting at the home of Phyllis Clark
Sat. January 17: 10:00 am Annual planning meeting for all women.

November Special Giving/Receipts

3,000.00	House of Hope
358.75	Youth Group Bazaar
100.00	Debt Reduction
110.00	Community Garden Beds
78.78	Kids Mission Fund (clean water)
60.00	Christmas Fund
46.00	Benevolence
34.10	Youth Group Bake Sale

Income from Financial Secretary's Records
 Spent from Bank Account Statements
 (no outstanding checks)

Budget Approved by Congregation = 160,000
 Shortfall = Spent - Income

Budget Line Represents Total Budget Spread Evenly By Month

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

SUNDAYS: Worship and Children's Church 10:00 .a.m.

MONDAYS: Tae Kwon-Do 6:00-7:00 p.m.

SATURDAYS: Tae Kwon-Do 5:00 p.m.

Small groups: Please check with Dave Guyll or your Group leader for December meeting

Youth Group: Wed. Dec. 3,10,17 -6:30-8:00

Sunday evening 6:00 pm Prayer at church

Second Sunday...Elders meet after worship

Saturday, Dec. 6 Men's breakfast 9:00 am

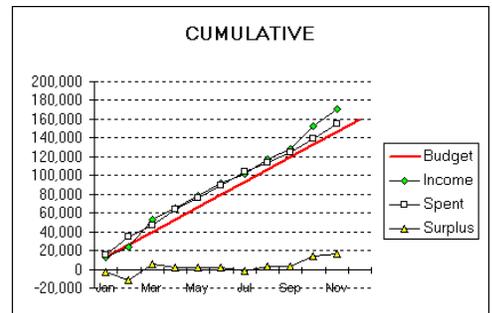
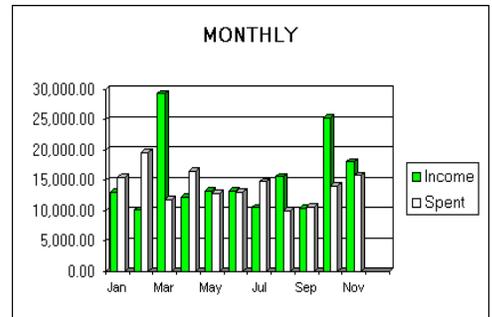
Sat. Dec. 6 Women's Brunch -Cookie Exchange 10 am

Tues. Dec. 9 Leadership Team meeting 7:00 pm

Sun. Dec. 14 4 pm -125th Church Anniversary

Wed. Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 pm

From Veronnica.....We will be collecting individual bags for the Union Gospel Mission again this year. We provide bags and a list of suggested items. You fill the bags and return to the Church by December 21. The bags will be delivered to the Mission December 24th or 25th. Over the last 4 years Desert Springs has donated over 275 bags! If you have any questions please contact Frankie or Veronnica Meaders



DESERT SPRINGS COMMUNITY GARDEN



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Thank you to one and all who participated!



The month of November saw a LOT of work done on the *Desert Springs Community Garden*. Two work days were held to construct, place and begin filling 19 of the 20 raised bed gardens. It was truly amazing to see how quickly and smoothly the work was accomplished – with the help of members of DSCC, several Master Gardeners, and teachers and students of Chiawana HS Ag Dept. The days were filled with smiles, laughter, hard work, learning opportunities and plenty of munchies and pizzas.

If you've not yet walked around to 'see' the gardens, DO SO SOON! It is exciting to see the tangible evidence of this ministry outreach finally coming to fruition. We still have work to do to prepare these beds ready for spring planting. One more



raised bed needs to be constructed {a Durable Greenbed – as a test garden}; 4 of the 12" deep beds and 4 of the 24" beds need to be filled with the compost/soil mixture; and the wood chips need to be spread out between the beds as a mulch – to keep weeds down and to prevent blowing dust.

There have been so many evidences of God's hand at work in this ministry outreach! *Tacoma Screw Inc.* donated ALL of the hardware used in the construction of the beds {well over 500 pieces!}; *Parr Lumber* gave us a good price on the lumber required; *Mac's Garden Center* offered us a discount on the dairy compost and delivered it at no cost. *McDonald's Excavating* provided good quality soil at a reasonable price. The wood chips are a donation from *Top Tree* – a local tree trimming business. They've stepped forward and will provide as many truckloads of chips as we can use, listing us as their priority "dump" site!



Thus far, we've raised \$900.00 in the "Buy-A-Bed" campaign. These funds have paid for the costs of building nine of the 19 beds thus far completed. The durable greenbed was

donated by a church member. However, we need to raise an additional \$1,000.00 to cover the out-of-pocket costs accrued. PLEASE,

consider "sponsoring" a bed that will enable a needy family from Silver Creek Apartments or from Broadmoor Apartments to plant and benefit from the produce of a garden next summer. A full bed costs approximately \$100.00 to construct and fill – but ALL donations are appreciated!



Keep in mind the adage:

*"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day;
teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime"*

In like manner, teaching and enabling a person to garden results in empowering them with the means to provide nourishing food for their family. Help us to provide this opportunity to a family living near DSCC. Beverly



Merry Christmas!

