



# DESERT CHRIST PARK



NEWSLETTER FALL 2017

## DID YOU KNOW?

Over 20 bird houses were donated in 2017.

Park resident birds were fed over 250 lbs of wild bird seed this year.

132 Prayer flags were made and hung in the park on National Day of Prayer.

Pink Ribbon event resulted in 40 pink ribbons created in support of or in honor of those with breast cancer.

Rocky Roadrunner can be found making his rounds at the Park daily.

## SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

- There are hand painted rocks available by the kiosk for a \$5 donation.

## PARK IMPROVEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In addition to the sculpture restoration, other improvements of the park start right at the entrance. The new Desert Christ Park welcome signs greet visitors. A talented Park volunteer provided the sunrise photo used for the sign background. Up the driveway further is a reflective "Closed at Dark" sign. Being closed at dark keeps the park safe.

At the top of the driveway, the picnic area has "Closed at Dark" signs posted to remind

Retired local business owners Kate and Tom Kenny have been working long hours on the grounds of Desert Christ Park. They have been restoring sculptures and repairing water lines. Native plants and trees have been added. This year we look forward to the donation of more living Christmas trees to our current beautiful pine trees that provide needed shade. Kate has graciously restored 7 sculptures and has plans to do more in the coming months. Tom has added an iron Ocotillo sculpture to the center island of the driveway and

will be adding more. Kate plans to make a display to show the process of how Antone Martin sculpted many of the Park's works of art more than 66 years ago. With enthusiasm and excitement Desert Christ Park is being restored as a place to stop for a quiet moment, appreciate the views of the valley, admire the works of art or enjoy our desert wildlife. All are welcome during daylight hours. See page 4 for our many events and opportunities to get involved at Desert Christ Park.



Artist Kate Kenny working on Jesus' hands.



Kate's grand-daughter gazing at Jesus and children restored.



ing coincide with the numbers on the Guide Book and pamphlet.

The Guide Book and markers were the handy work of another talented volunteer. The kiosk is also sporting a new secured donation box. A generous donor built this box for the Park. See photo.

Beneficial improvements for Park visitors were made to provide a delightful, informative visit with the sculptures.







Palm Sunday Holy Week Tour 2017

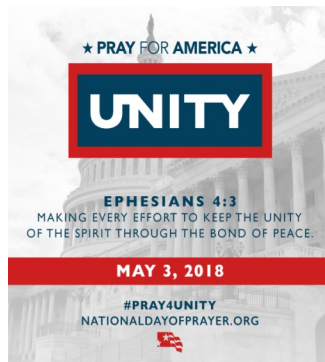


Pastor Stephen Jones, of Crossview Bible Church (formerly First Southern Baptist Church) will once again lead a Holy Week Tour on Palm Sunday in Desert Christ Park. You won't want to miss this! Join us on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018.

Easter Sunday in the Park

Easter Sunday is a special day in the Park. Following the Sunrise Service in the amphitheater, kids can hunt for Easter Eggs through-out the Park.

2018 will mark 67 years of Christ on the hillside overlooking Yucca Valley.



National Day of Prayer an annual event in Desert Christ Park.

Create a prayer flag and pray for our Nation.



Grubstake Days 2017

Parade Entry  
represented

Desert Christ Park  
"Celebrating Our  
Western Heritage"

For more than 66  
years!



Scott & Kathy Gibson ready for the Parade.



The Park turned pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Supporting the Fighters, Admiring the Survivors, Honoring the Taken, and never, ever giving up Hope!



**HISTORICAL NOTE:**

Reprinted from "Stork News" April 1951 by Cal Crotsenburg  
Excerpt provided by Laurie Geeson & Tony Crotsenburg

life is not for kids. This town needed a church.  
That's it out there."

Every Easter Sunrise Service should have a sunrise and the little town of Yucca Valley, out on the great Mojave Desert will guarantee a sunrise each and every Easter. And this year Easter meant something special to the citizens of the little frontier community, for they gathered on a mountain side, under the shadow of the largest statue of Christ ever erected on the North American continent. It is only exceeded in size by the "Christ of the Andes." And the statue is their very own, thanks to Eddie Garver, who is also the Reverend Edward Garver, pastor of Yucca Valley Community Church.

tended in a blessing to these simple desert folk, the most obvious question was, "How did you ever get it up the mountain?"

Eddie was pointing down the long slope to the main highway. There stood, a white mission style structure, framed in Joshua trees, complete with belfry bell and minus a mortgage.

When we first met Eddie Garver, "Call me Eddie, and easy on the Reverend," he was doing a bit of landscaping at the base of his statue, and he brushed the desert dirt from his calloused right hand before extending it in a greeting that went clear to your shoulder. As we gazed up the mountainside at the six ton statue, arms ex-

"The hard way," said Eddie. "Some plank skids, caterpillar tractors, a couple of hundred feet of log chain and a whole lot of heave ho. We tore up the mountain pretty bad. It's going to take lot of smoothing out before it looks like Forest Lawn." "We wrapped the statue in one big bandage, with plenty of padding so we could treat it rough. At that we broke one finger and took a chip out of the robe. A little cement and a wet bandage stuck 'em back on again. A fellow has to be resourceful out here, you know."

"I'm proud of my church, and proud of my desert."

"You know God seems a lot closer out here."

So, if you find yourself traveling that long black road to Twentynine Palms, drive slow through Eddie's town. Look north and you'll see "The Christ of the Yuccas," look south and right along side of you will be the Community Church. And if it happens to be Sunday morning, go inside. You'll like the church and you'll like Eddie Garver.

"Were you born here on the desert?" we found time to ask. "Quite the opposite. I'm an adopted citizen. City raised. Used to be a traveling evangelist; on my own and with some of the biggest names in the business. Four pole tents and twelve piece bands. I've got a wife and two kids now. That razzle-dazzle



Christ statue overlooking Yucca Valley in 1951.



Follow us and join in the  
conversations with  
Desert Christ Park.

## DESERT CHRIST PARK FOUNDATION

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501(c)3 All volunteer non-profit corporation

Fed#33-0689933 ~ CA#C1772758

## OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

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Desert Hills Presbyterian Women

Farmers Insurance – Karen Martin

Firehouse Subs - Yucca Valley

Hi Desert Air, Inc. – Lance & Kari Cody

Morongo Basin Historical Society

Rainbow Stew

Realty Professionals MB – Cynthia Kraemer

Whitewater Rock & Supply

## 2018 PARK EVENTS & MEETING SCHEDULE

January 26th – Park Grounds Review – 10 am

February 23rd – Board Business Meeting – 10 am

March 15th – Spring Newsletter Mailed

March 23rd – Annual Park Clean-up Day – TBD

March 25th – Palm Sunday Holy Week Tour – TBD

April 1st – Easter Egg Hunt following Sunrise Service in Amphitheater

April 27th – Park Grounds Review – TBD

May 3rd – National Day of Prayer – TBD

May 25th – Grubstake Days Parade Entry Preparation – TBD

May 26th – Grubstake Days Parade – 10 am

July 4th – Picnic and Fireworks Viewing – Dusk

August 24th – Board Business Meeting – 10 am

August 31st – Annual Fundraiser Mailed

October 13th – Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer Awareness & Refection – TBD

October TBD – Hwy 62 Art Tours Participation

November 15th – Fall Newsletter Mailed

December 1st – 5th Annual Christmas Treasure Hunt – 2 pm to 4 pm

December 7th – Annual Board Business Meeting – TBD  
(Financial reports and meeting minutes provided upon request)



Schedule is subject to change.

Call, email or follow us on Facebook for updates.

Everyone is welcome at all our gatherings.



**Bees, Bees, Bees ...**

**A special Thank You  
to the Shamhart's  
for removing some  
determined bees.**



## WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

- Shop with Amazon Smile and designate Desert Christ Park as your charity of choice.
- Donate using PayPal or credit card at [www.desertchristpark.org](http://www.desertchristpark.org)
- Find us at GoFundMe.com for Restoration Projects.
- Visit the Park Kiosk and drop a contribution into our donation box.
- Mail a check to PO Box 2102, Yucca Valley, CA 92286.
- JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

**DESERT CHRIST PARK  
SAYS  
HAPPY TRAILS  
TO  
WAYNE AND LINDA DARNELL**



AFTER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE AS  
VOLUNTEERS, THEY PACKED THEIR  
WAGON AND HEADED EAST TO  
NORTH CAROLINA.

WE WISH THEM WELL WITH  
HEARTFELT GRATITUDE.