



# DESERT CHRIST PARK



NEWSLETTER FALL 2019

**\* \* FALL IS IN THE AIR \* \***

Progress! Pledge! Plans!

Desert Christ Park Foundation Board of Directors share with you, our progress in restoration, our pledge to preserve this historic landmark and our plans for 2020. With your continued support these are possible.

## FUN FACTS:

### Facebook:

728 page likes

1,953 check-ins

8 Volunteers have recorded 996.5 hours so far in 2019.



### Instagram:

73 posts

279 followers

Our largest audience is from Yucca Valley 🕶️



### Amazon Smile:

2019 we have received \$268.79 thanks to shoppers. Register your account at:

[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

## New flag sponsor and new flag pole installed!



New flag and pole installed in time for Labor Day!

Thank you to the Palm Springs Air Museum for sponsoring our flag in 2019.

This new flag proudly flies over the Park. Thank you to Tom and Greg Kenny for installing the new pole with solar light set up.



# Thankful

## SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

- April 2019 we received an email from Conde Nast Traveler requesting photos for an online publication about our area to include Desert Christ Park!





# RECAP OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Our favorite time of the year!

Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Easter Sunday.  
We look forward to seeing you in April 2020.



Palm Sunday Walking Tour led by Pastor Stephen Jones of Crossview Bible Church in Yucca Valley. Always a crowd pleaser, as we hear about Jesus' journey leading up to Easter morning. Walk through the Holy Land right here in Yucca Valley. You won't want to miss Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020. There is no charge for any event.



Join Pastor Morrow from Desert Hills Presbyterian Church as he shares Jesus' Holy Thursday Supper.

Experience the Last Supper at the base of The Last Super Façade by Antone Martin.

Holy Thursday, April 9, 2020



Experience the Last Supper on Holy Thursday.



## HOLY WEEK

Spring activities draw visitors from around the country.

Palm Sunday Walking Tour

Holy Thursday

at the Last Supper Façade

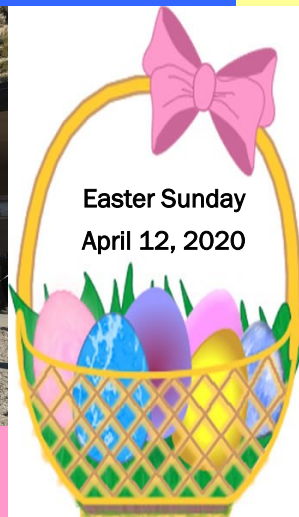
Easter Sunday Egg Hunt

Celebrate with us during these

Spring days!



Kids and adults enjoy Easter Sunday, April 21st, 2019. Many children hunt for eggs and receive raffle prizes.



Easter Sunday  
April 12, 2020







National Day of Prayer an annual event at Desert Christ Park on the first Thursday in May.

Join us in prayer and reflection.

Thursday, May 7, 2020

← Photo from May 2, 2019



A new bench added in the shade of the olive trees.

Come and sit with the Disciples.

Thank you **Whitewater Rock & Supply** for a 2nd delivery of poles to line our driveway .



**HISTORICAL NOTES:**

# One Man's Monument to Peace

by Barbara and Warren Transue

ON A GENTLE slope overlooking Yucca Valley, 125 miles east of Los Angeles, forty gigantic Biblical figures dwell among the Joshua trees in a setting which must closely resemble the original cradle of Christianity. Here, backdropped by blue sky and billowy white clouds, Christ prays in the Garden of Gethsemane while His companions doze. A little lower on the hill, nine-foot tall disciples hear the Master preach the Sermon on the Mount, while nearby is reconstructed the

columned facade of Lazarus' home where Jesus visits with Mary and Martha.

Desert Christ Park is the creation of Antone Martin, a former aircraft worker who moved to Yucca Valley when the Reverend Eddie Garver, the community's famed "Desert Parson," offered a permanent home to Martin's first statue, a three-ton, ten-foot high, unwanted figure of Christ. This was in 1951, and on Easter Sunday of that year the pastor and

the sculptor dedicated the statue as the beginning of Desert Christ Park.

For the next ten years, Martin—who eventually took up residence at the site of his work—created all but two of the pieces of statuary that now comprise the park. The groups and individual figures express Antone Martin's dedication to the concept of peace and good will on earth and his hope that his works "may bring mankind together before we are completely obliterated."



Martin died in 1961, leaving several unfinished pieces which are on display just as he left them. These incomplete figures reveal the details of his construction techniques. Each piece is of solid concrete molded around steel rods which extend down into the ground at the construction site to anchor the figure permanently. The gleaming hand-finished exterior coat is a special mixture developed by the sculptor, who preferred using his hands instead of tools wherever possible. The figures weigh anywhere from four to sixteen tons each, with the massive Last Supper relief tipping the scales at approximately 125 tons!

A favorite of the camera-toting visitors, who have flocked to the park—sometimes 40,000 strong in a single year, is "Suffer

Little Children to Come Unto Me," which consists of a seated Christ with a baby and a small girl. Another impressive work, in a realistic setting near Lazarus' house, is "Christ and the Woman of Samaria at the Well." The glistening white figure of Christ is visible from the highway almost a mile away, yet are amazingly detailed under close scrutiny.

Some Yucca Valley residents say that the minister and the artist had an occasional difference of opinion regarding the park and its operation, and that at such times sculptor Martin would vent his wrath by heaping destruction upon his own work. Once, they say, he knocked the noses off all the figures except Judas, and then put the noses back when his anger was spent. Another time, he al-

legedly went to work with a bulldozer and wrecked several of his creations. But in spite of any differences, the two men teamed to create a lasting memorial to the Christian spirit.

At Martin's death, Desert Christ Park was presented to the Yucca Valley Park and Recreation District, which administers it now as a public park. It is non-denominational and is open, free of charge, 24 hours, every day in the year. Picnic tables hide among the park trees, and descriptive brochures are available.

Desert Christ Park, the product of a man's devotion to his art and his God, transcends denominational considerations. It is a twentieth-century reminder of the meaning of Christ's life — "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men." □



**11 issues of Desert Magazine were donated to our archives by Susan Murray in memory of her late husband. We thank Susan for this generous gift and share with you one of the stories about Desert Christ Park. Jan. 1969**  
A magnifying glass maybe helpful!





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

## DESERT CHRIST PARK FOUNDATION

Mailing: P.O. Box 2102

Yucca Valley, CA 92286

Located: 56200 Sunnyslope Drive

Yucca Valley, CA 92284

Phone: 760-365-3984

Email: DesertChristParkFoundation@gmail.com

www.DesertChristPark.org

501(c)3 All volunteer non-profit corporation

Fed#33-0689933 ~ CA#C1772758

### PARK EVENTS & MEETING SCHEDULE

Most days during a week you will find a Park volunteer or two working. Watering, sculpting, raking, weeding, feeding birds, sweeping, cleaning tables, updating information in kiosk, and much, much more! Say hi while you are visiting.

#### 2019

December 6th -- Annual Board Business Meeting -- 10 am

– (Financial reports and meeting minutes provided upon request)

#### 2020

April 5th -- Palm Sunday Holy Week Tour -- 2 pm

April 9th -- Experience the Last Supper -- 5:30 pm

April 12th -- Easter Egg Hunt -- 8 am exactly

– (following Sunrise Service in Amphitheater)

May 7th -- National Day of Prayer -- 10 am to 2 pm

July 4th -- Picnic and Fireworks Viewing -- Dusk

Schedule is subject to change. We schedule many in Park workdays during the year. Call, email or follow us on Facebook for updates.

Everyone is welcome at all our gatherings and these events are free.



Help Us Save **BIG** on Printing & Postage!

Send us an email and we will include you on our **email list**.

DesertChristParkFoundation@gmail.com

### OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

#### THANK YOU TO:

All Seasons Stoves Pools & Spas

Bob Dunn State Farm Insurance

Cactus Flower Florist & Farms

Care Roofing Solutions – Rene Diaz

Carl Otteson's Certified Backflow

Testing & Repair

Chrissi Hernandez LLC – Web Design

Crossview Bible Church

Desert Hills Presbyterian Church

Desert Hills Presbyterian Women

Farmers Insurance – Karen Martin

Firehouse Subs - Yucca Valley

Hi Desert Air, Inc. – Lance & Kari Cody

Inland Empire Tourism Council

Morongo Basin Historical Society

Palm Springs Air Museum

Rainbow Stew

Realty Professionals MB – Cynthia Kraemer

Whitewater Rock & Supply

Yucca Valley Realty Inc.

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

- **Go Green** – send us an email to start receiving our Newsletters by email.
- 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)
- Visit the Park kiosk and drop a contribution into our donation box.
- Mail a check to PO Box 2102, Yucca Valley, CA 92286.
- Consider an "in lieu of flowers" request to Desert Christ Park, Inc.
- Become a Rock Solid Visionary!
- **JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

**\* \* \* PROJECTS NEEDING SUPPORT \* \* \***

**PORT-A-POTTY BASE AND MONTHLY SERVICE**

The #1 question a visitor asks is "Do you have a restroom?"

Our answer is always "I'm sorry, no we do not."

To help with this dilemma we want to rent and install a Port-a-Potty.

1. need a 5' X 5' slab with anchors.
2. need to cover monthly rental and weekly service.
3. Volunteer to help with concrete.

**ESTIMATED COSTS:**

Slab materials: \$125.00

Person(s) to mix and pour: volunteer

Monthly rental and service: \$85.05

Help us provide this service to

our Fall and Spring visitors!



**PRIME AND PAINT RESTORED SCULPTURES**

Sculptures are being restored quickly. We could use some volunteers interested in priming and top coat painting.

If you enjoy early mornings and have a get'r done attitude, we need your help. Scaffolding and ladders welcome too.

We supply the primer, paint and brushes.

We need volunteers!



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)



Visit the Park kiosk and drop a contribution into our donation box.

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**JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER!**



Our front fence still needs more paint to finish.

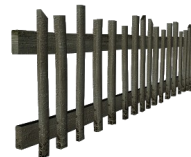
Volunteer to finish the rest of the iron fence along the street.

"Many hands make light work."

Paint and brushes supplied.

With Fall in the air it's the perfect time to paint.

Contact us today and volunteer to help!



**\* \* \* Gifts to the Park \* \* \***



Lilly got a tree for her birthday. She donated it and planted it.



We had 750 eggs donated for our annual Easter Hunt.



A great workday to paint our front fence by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A lot of progress was made. Their support is outstanding.





# ROCK SOLID VISIONARY STONES



Our pathways are lined with the generous donations from many who remember dear ones, celebrate occasions, put their name to support the Park and encourage us to keep restoring Antone Martin's works of art. Below you too can send your support.

## BE A ROCK SOLID VISIONARY!

For a contribution of \$100 or more, your choice of honoree will be painted on a border stone and placed along park pathways for visitors to see as they stroll through the park.

Name of Contributor \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## ROCK SOLID VISIONARY

Each border stone has 3 lines of print (12 characters or less per line) and one border stone logo available. The Foundation reserves the right to edit wording and position of border stones.

Logo options:      

Please check one:  cross  heart  sun  tree  star  flag

Text: (Name only of honoree)

Line 1: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Line 2: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Line 3: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Mail this from to: Desert Christ Park Foundation, PO Box 2102, Yucca Valley, CA 92286  
Email: DesertChristParkFoundation@gmail.com

Desert Christ Park, Inc. is a all volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit  
Federal ID # 33-0689933 ~ California Corporation # C1772758  
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