



SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, December 2007

From Pastor Bill's "Powerbook"

December 2007

Advent! Christmas! What wonderful memories for most of us. And here it is the beginning of December and Advent when we joyfully anticipate the birthday of Jesus our Lord. As we move into and through this Advent and Christmas Season, let's do so with gratitude to God and with our hearts set toward helping others.

When did we Presbyterians start celebrating Advent? Christians have recognized Advent for centuries as the time of preparation for the "advent" or coming of Jesus. We Presbyterians are just catching up on what the rest of Christendom has done for years. Each Sunday of December is an Advent Sunday with one, two, three and four candles being lit to help us remember. Then, on Christmas Eve, we light the Christ Candle to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior, let's also reach out to those who are homeless, hungry and cold, by giving something extra to **Well-in-the-Desert** or **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission** or **Salvation Army** or any other recognizable group that helps others.

But let us also give to the Presbyterian **Christmas Joy Offering** that will be received on December 23rd, the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This Joy Offering goes to help pastors and missionaries who have been on the low pay scale for years and have little resources for retirement; to Racial-Ethnic schools to help educate young people; and to others, deeply in need of help and support.

Our Lord commands His disciples to "go into all the world making disciples ..." teaching, baptizing, and getting faith commitments. We are Jesus' 21st century disciples and doing things like this is being an active disciple!

A fun time for all of us: Thursday, December 27th will be an "after Christmas Potluck" for the "5:59 Gathering" where we'll enjoy fellowship, food, and "fun". So, bring something "left-over from Christmas dinner" and share with the rest of us! I will bring us a light-hearted study that concludes Christmas and moves us into the New Year, 2008.

And, oh yes, in case you wondered: The photo-directory is here and being distributed. We appreciate the time, energy and talents of Virginia Allen, Barbara Stephens and Sherry Mann into bringing it to completion. If your picture is in the directory, pick up your copy and enjoy.

As Advent and Christmas, and all the hectic ness of this season, rushes upon us, I urge us all to take time to consider God's love, mercy and grace. May you and your loved ones have a blessed Christmas. Thank you all and God bless you.

Yours, in Christ's Service,

Pastor Bill

William N. Johnson, Interim Pastor

Worship Schedule and Sermons for December 2007

Here is the schedule of worship and preaching for December 2007. As you prepare to participate in worship, please read the noted Bible passages in preparation and ask yourself this question: **“What do these passages say to me and how will Pastor Bill present them?”**

Pastor Bill’s sermon during December will be centered on the life of Jesus and what God is up to in this 21st century.

Pick up and bring a friend, neighbor or loved one to church.

DEC. 02 -“Who Knows When?”

First Sunday in Advent and *The Lord’s Supper*

Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

Congregation meeting to elect new Elders and Deacons

DEC. 09-“Whose Voice is Being Heard?”

Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

DEC. 16 -“For Whom are You Looking?”

Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11; Luke 1:47-55

DEC. 23 -“Lessons and Carols”

Fourth Sunday in Advent with song, Scriptures, devotionals, and a time of anticipation, joy and celebration.

“His story; my story; our hope”

Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

DEC. 24-“Christmas Eve at the Cathedral City Community Presbyterian Church-5:00 p.m.

Meditation: **“Beginning and Ending with a “WOW”**

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-14

DEC. 30 -“What is Your Name?”

First Sunday in Christmastime

Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23

Potluck Luncheon

COMING IN 2008: WATCH AND WATCH OUT!

January & February 2008, Pastor Bill will be preaching a 7 or 8 part series he calls, **“A Vital, Vibrant Faith in an Age of Abundance & Skepticism.”** Question: do you have faith that fills you and is attractive to others? In other words, how can you and I have a faith that attracts others when in completion with so much else from computers, to TV, to sports, to Blueberries, to GPS, to Mega-churches and TV Preachers, the 2008 political scene, and distortions about PCUSA by those who want to hurt us to???? You name it!



A Challenge for All of Us:

Bring a Neighbor or Friend to Church Next Sunday to Celebrate God’s Presence and to Grow in God’s Way Through the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of PSPC met on Wednesday, Nov. 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the PSPC with prayer by the pastor. Session discussed many proposed actions including a possible new member class; re-set Sunday, Dec. 2nd. as Pledge Commitment Sunday; continued to support the search for a new Director of Music; re-set our worship time for Dec. 23rd here at PSPC with a service of Lessons and Carols; and on Dec. 24th, a Christmas Eve, for us to participate in a Christmas Eve services at Cathedral City PC at 5:00 p.m.; heard a report from the nominating committee re: nominating Harvey Stephens, Jackie Morgan, Harry Henderson and Bob Wulf as Session members and set Sunday Dec. 2nd to call a meeting of the congregation to hear the Nominating Committee report and to act upon it. Set Sunday, January 13th for the Ordination/Installation of new Elders and Deacons. Session also voted to change the time of Session meetings to the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. beginning January 16, 2008. Session, it was noted, can always change the time and place of meeting.

Session voted to request the Committee on Ministry and the Presbytery of Riverside to continue Pastor Bill Johnson's Interim Contract from January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008.

The next Presbytery meeting is on Tuesday, January 8th.

The next Session meeting will be on Wednesday, December 12th at PSPC. Session adjourned with prayer at about 9:20 p.m.



The **Well in the Desert**, one of our Mission outreaches, continues to need **food**. So, please, as you come to worship on Sundays, bring canned or boxed food supplies for those in need. Thank you.



Next Deadline for January Sunshine is December 13th

ETERNAL LIGHT

and marvelous way. A special child was born to improbable parents in an unlikely place at an inconvenient time and in an unwelcoming world. Yet, heaven's light pierced the darkness and shone through the life of that unique baby. That light was and is an eternal light. God's light in Christ is a saving light that can keep the world from total destruction, from the ultimate darkness. The message is always true: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5). And it never will.

Charles Ferrell



SOMEONE TOOK JESUS

A couple of days after Christmas, the Nativity scene was still up in the chancel of a San Francisco church. Walking by it, the pastor noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from the manger.

Shortly afterward, as the pastor walked outside the church, he saw a small boy pulling a new wagon. In the wagon bed was a doll that looked very much like the missing baby Jesus.

The Pastor greeted the boy and asked him about the doll. "I got it in the church," the boy replied. "Why did you take it from the church?" "Well," the boy answered. "I prayed for a new wagon and told the Lord Jesus that if I got one, I would give him a ride. I got the wagon, took him for a ride and now I'm bringing him back to the church.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Plans for the Cantata at CCCPC have fallen through so we will be worshipping at PSPC on the 23rd of December. There will be a variety of music, Carols, and a day filled with worship, music, and fun. Please plan to be in attendance.

We have put another ad in the Desert Sun, and Presbytery, for Director/Pianist and hopefully, we will receive just the right applicant. It certainly is a hard time of the year to find someone, but we will continue to look and I encourage you to also spread the word. We have so enjoyed having Ruth Teaford with us and wouldn't we love to keep her?

Alex Danson will be with us December 16th, 23rd, and 30th. He has been so faithful in filling in when called. Our thanks to him for his dedication. We are thankful also, for Ruth's dedication and the choir has enjoyed the music and hopefully, you have also.

If you go in the church office, you will see two "new" bookcases for the purpose of storing music. It was a great buy and hopefully, after the first of the year, we can start cataloging our music.

We always welcome suggestions for music, solos, Carols, or special hymns. Perhaps one of you would like to join us or sing a solo or a duet.

Looking forward to the Season of joyful music.

Geri Bintliff
Elder, Worship and Music

THE MONTH BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Twas the month before Christmas
When all through our land,
Not a Christian was praying
Nor taking a stand.
See the PC Police had taken away,
The reason for Christmas-no one could say.
The children were told by their schools not to sing,
About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.
It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say
December 25th is just a "Holiday".

Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit
Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!
CD's from Madonna, an X BOX, an I-pod

Something was changing,
something quite odd!
Retailers promoted
Ramadan and Kwanzaa
In hopes to sell books by
Franken & Fonda.
As Targets were hanging
their trees upside down
At Lowe's the word
Christmas-was nowhere to
be found.
At K-Mart and Staples and
Penney's and Sears
You won't hear the word
Christmas; it won't touch
your ears.

Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-
si-ty
Are words that were used to
intimidate me.
Now Daschle, Now Darden,
Now Sharpton, Wolf Blitzen
On Boxer, on Rather, on
Derry, on Clinton!
At the top of the Senate,
there arose such a clatter
To eliminate Jesus, in all
public matter.
And we spoke not a word,
as they took away our faith
Forbidden to speak of
salvation and grace.

The true Gift of Christmas
was exchanged and
discarded
The reason for the season,
stopped before it started.
So as you celebrate "Winter
Break" under you "Dream
Tree"
Sipping your Starbucks,
listen to me.
Choose your words
carefully, choose what you
say.



PRAYER COMMITMENT

Every single one of us can do this! To commit some time every week or day throughout December for the rest of 2007, praying for PSPC and God’s guidance in the future. How much time? That is between you and God. But, prayer does make a difference! To sign up on the Prayer Calendar, call Jan Perrier at 346-7790 or call the church office, 320-2769 and give day and time.

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SO-CAL FIRES & THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Following all the terrible fires in Southern California, Palm Springs Presbyterian Church responded with our usual generosity by giving approximately \$1000.00 to help! One Thousand Dollars! Wow! Thank you every one who contributed



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE UP-DATE

We have all been reading and watching on TV the results of the terrible cyclone that recently hit Bangladesh. Our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has already set a goal of at least one million dollars to help. PDA’s vision statement reads, in part, “...to assist in disasters in the U.S. and throughout the world....” We are thankful to be part of such ministry and mission. In contrast to many organizations that also help, we are always committed to the long run” even over 4, 5, or more years. This Bangladesh response also needs the response of Presbyterians and others over the next few months or years. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping or either, you can send a check noted to Bangladesh or to DR000002 or we can send it for you.

Also, go to the PC (USA) web site (www.pcusa.com) and navigate through it to see the work of PDA and of the whole PC (USA); you will be impressed!!

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DEAD SEA SCROLLS ADVENTURE

As you may know, 15 people from PSPC traveled to San Diego in November to see the Dead Sea Scrolls at the San Diego Museum of Natural History in Balboa Park. They were joined by 15 people from the Yucca Valley Church and 27 from the Palm Desert Church. What a wonderful event and enjoyed by all. The only complaint heard was that we did not have enough time to see everything.

Pastor Doug Garrard of the Palm Desert Church suggested we need another outing to see the exhibit of **Pompeii** that is coming to San Diego in February. **Any takers?**

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5:59 GATHERING

STOP THE WORLD! ACCORDING TO WHOM?

The Confusing Predictions Made Clear? Presentation and Discussion led by Pastor Bill Johnson

Session #5-Dec. 13th-“**Visions and Predictions From God or From ???**”

Session #5 1/2-Dec. 27th-“**Christmas Left-over Potluck for fellowship, fun and food.**”

Session #6-Jan. 10th-“**The Price of Falsely Predicting**”

Also coming in January & February will be the Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen leading us on discussions on “How to invite friends and neighbors to Church!”

Dinner at 5:59 p.m. for \$5.00 and with reservations—call 760 320-2769. Class from 6:60 to 7:45 p.m. in the church social hall.

This is something you will not want to miss!

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We are on the Internet!
So, Give us Your E-mail Address

We are now on the **Internet** and our **email address is**
pspresby@verizon.net

That gets us into at *least* the late 20th century if not the 21st!! So...please give us your **email address** so we can email you the latest going-ons of PSPC: letters, the **Sonshine**, other important information and activities. We will **NOT** give this to anyone else without your permission!!

Please leave the form below in the offering plate, give to the office, or mail to the church office
Thank you!!

Name _____

Member _____ Affiliate Member _____

Friend _____

My/Our email address _____

You have my/our /permission to give others in the church my/our email address: Yes ____ No ____

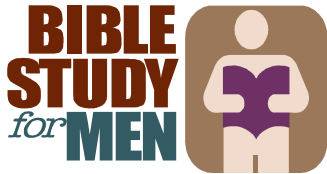


Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study: NO MEETINGS
DURING DECEMBER

This year, the Women's Bible Study is meeting on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the church with Elder Joyce Johnson (Pastor Bill's wife) leading a study on the **Book of Acts**.

During December there will be no meetings but will resume the 2nd Tuesday in January, January 8, 2008. Watch for specifics in the Sunday Yellow Pages and in the January **Sonshine**



Bible Study: Wednesday—7:00 AM

The Men's Bible Study, under the capable leadership of Allen Perrier, continues on Wednesday mornings at the church in the Lounge, meeting at 7:00 am with a study of the **Sermon on the Mount**. This is a great way for men to gather together in the middle of the week to renew our spiritual batteries as we study the Bible. Then at 8:00 am, for those who wish, we go to breakfast and continue our fellowship. All men of the church and any other men are welcome. Just show up on Wednesday mornings about 7:00 am. BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible) and GTBT (Go To Breakfast Together).

DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS

Dr. Bill Johnson	2
Dorothy Hollerback	4
Ruth Ash	12
Margaret Norton	15
Dr. Harry Summers	20
JoAnn Walker	20
David DeVries	21
Tom Kieley	21
JESUS CHRIST	25

DEACON'S CORNER

From Pastor Bill's Kitchen

KEY LIME MARGARITA PIE

1 1/4 c crushed pretzels for crust (finely crushed)

1/4 c sugar for crust

6 T butter, melted for crust

Mix together pretzels, sugar and butter. Form in 9" pie pan and place in refrigerator while preparing rest of pie.

1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk

1/2 c lime (or lemon) juice- (I use 2/3 regular limes and 1/3 key lime with, if you wish, 1 jigger plus or minus of Tequila-but total is 1/2 cup.

I will sometimes add some lime zest-a tsp or so just for flavor and looks.

1 envelope Kool-aid Lemon-Lime (or lemon), unsweetened soft drink mix

1 tub (8 oz.) Cool Whip topping-thawed.

Mix condensed milk, limejuice and Cool Whip and then add Kool-aid until well mixed.

Pour into pretzel piecrust and place in freezer for 6 hours or overnight. Remove from freezer 30 minutes before serving; dip pie pan in hot water for 20-30 seconds to make it easier to remove.

Makes 10 small or 6 large servings.



DEACON'S BAKE SALE AND BAZAAR

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9th

WHERE: ENTRANCE TO CHURCH

NEED: BAKERS AND BUYERS
ITEMS FOR BAZAAR
(Please bring items for the bazaar before the 9th to the church office)



The Deadline for the Sunshine is December 13th

Please send articles to my home by

Fax: 329-8084 or e-mail:

maggie1952@roadrunner.com

Thank you

NEW OFFICE HOURS

PSPC Office hours

M-W-F 8:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Tu - Th 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Palm Springs
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OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the Good News of God by reaching out to others and inviting them into a new relationship with Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves, therefore, to be a center for spiritual growth and friendship, where the teachings of Jesus Christ are faithfully received and God's grace is celebrated joyfully with Christian friends!

Interim Pastor:
Dr. Bill Johnson

Pastor Emeritus:
Dr. Harry Summers

Music Director:

Church Secretary:
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:
Margaret Pace



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Thank you
