



SONSHINE



The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, November 2008

From Pastor Bill's "Powerbook"



In a few weeks, November 29th to be exact, Advent begins with all the anticipation and expectations that comes with Advent and Christmas, so...get ready for we will have wonderful celebrations. *"For God so loved the world that He have His only Son...And suddenly there were with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors."*

(John 3:16; Luke 2:13-14 NRSV)

As many of you already know, our thinking about the Unity Church of Palm Springs has come to a conclusion: we just could not afford their price. The owner seemed to be too heavily in debt and we cannot afford to bail them out. If we purchased that property, at their price, we would be over our heads in debt and could not afford to do much of anything, if anything. But, and I believe all the Session agrees, God has something in store for us and we will continue to seek God's will through prayer and by being open to, and alert for, whatever might show up. No matter what, where we meet in the SDA facility is very nice and provides us with many amenities. And we thank them.

Hopefully, many of our Winter Residents ("snowbirds") will be, and are, showing up and increasing our Sunday worship attendance and other ministries and programs we have. We welcome them with open arms and lots of hugs. Maybe some of them will join the Praise Singers (choir), which rehearses on Thursdays and again Sundays before worship. It is a wonderful way to serve our Lord and our church.

This month of Thanksgiving despite all of the economic woes, remember the Psalmist said, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth (that includes us!). Worship the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing." (Psalm 100 NRSV) That is precisely what we strive to do not only on Sundays but every moment of every day.

What are you doing for Thanksgiving? I hope and pray that you have a wonderful day. I suspect Joyce and I will have family over for turkey and all the trimmings. But, I ask that you seriously consider taking a moment on Thanksgiving day to thank God for this country, for the freedoms we enjoy, for the young men and women who are in our voluntary military protecting our freedoms and lives, for the church to which you belong and that provides worship and nurture opportunities. Maybe you would like to give something extra in the offering as a Thanksgiving gift to go to help the hungry at the Well-in-the-Desert or to help our Deacons or just to help our church.

Let me ask you this: *what would you like to see us do on Sunday morning worship time or at the "5:59 Gathering" on Thursdays?* Email the church at pspresby@verizon.net or email me at drwnj57@aol.com or drop a note at the office or in the offering plates on Sundays. Just let us know.

But again, I ask: **What does God want us to do her in Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley?**

You see, I continue to be convinced God has called us here in Palm Springs to proclaim the Good News and to be in Mission to our community and the world. The question is: how are we going to accomplish all that God has in mind for us?

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During November I will be leading us in a sermon series based on the Apostles' Creed I call "**The Apostles' Creed 4 the 21st Century.**" This will be an opportunity for us to look at and grow in our understanding of what we believe and why as based on one of the earliest creeds of the church dating roughly to the late 2nd century. *More details follow below.*

And, of course, the "**5:59 Gathering**" has begun in full force for this winter—you will see more below.

As you may have heard, Joyce and I had a delightful time at our friend's daughter's wedding: Lt. Commander Carl and Dr. (Mrs.) Patty Londoner Goforth. It was a beautiful wedding, and a great celebration. And we were able to spend a bit of time with Joyce's sister and her husband just outside of D.C. including some time at the Smithsonian.

REMEMBER: Next Deadline for December 2008 Sonshine is November 20th

Thank you all and God bless you and your loved ones in 2008.

Yours, in Christ's Service,

Pastor Bill

William N. Johnson
Interim Pastor

Worship Schedule and Sermons for November 2008

In September, Pastor Bill began a brief 5 part series on Paul's Letter to the Philippians he calls, "**On Being One in Christ.**" Then, beginning October 24th and into November, he will lead us on a journey through the "**Apostles' Creed 4 the 21st Century.**" So, watch, pray, come, and bring a guest; learn about the foundations of our faith.

Oh, yes, if you noticed, Pastor Bill not only has his sermon outline in our Order of Worship but room for you to take notes... yes, **NOTES** to think about during the week! Sometimes he even puts in questions with _____ for you to fill in! Can you believe it?

A little background: the earliest church's creed was "**Jesus is Lord,**" (*and that is still basic to Christians*) but the Biblical background to that affirmation was not clearly understood then, or is it today. There were those, *aka* Marcion, in the first and second century, who put different spins on this affirmation, so about 180 a.d., the Roman Christians developed an early form of what we now call "*the Apostles' Creed.*" When a person was becoming a "*member*" of the early church, prior to their being baptized, they were asked what they believe and they responded with this early version of *the Apostles' Creed* and then, in the 4th and 5th centuries *the Apostles' Creed* came to be written much as we know it today. Oh, yes, during December Pastor Bill's sermon theme will be "**The Art of God's Gift-Giving.**" Following is a list of sermons for November and early December:

NOV. 02 - "Who is This Jesus?" ~ Apostles' Creed Series #2

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

Psalms 107:1-9; Matthew 23:1-12; John 1:10-18

"...and in Jesus Christ..."

NOV. 09 - "Why Not Someone Else?" ~ Apostles' Creed series #3

RALLY SUNDAY/ BAR-B-Q

Psalm 78:1-7; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

"...was crucified, dead, and buried..."

NOV. 16 - "When Is Jesus Returning?" ~ Apostles' Creed series #4

Psalm 80:1-7, 19; I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

"...and sitteth on the right hand..."

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**NOV. 23 -"What is this "Holy Catholic Church" all about?" ~ Apostles' Creed Series #5
Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46
Thanksgiving Sunday**

**NOV. 30 -"The Art of Forgiveness, Resurrection and Eternity" ~ Apostles' Creed Series #6
concluded**

**Psalm 123; Hebrews 12:1-6; John 17:20-26
1st Sunday in Advent
Potluck Luncheon-all is welcome**

**DEC. 07 -"The Art of a New Beginning"
Isaiah 40:1-11; II Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
2nd Sunday in Advent
Communion Sunday**

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A Time to Take Stock:

**What is Your Prayer for PSPC? How willing are you to Help Make That
Happen? God Has and is Blessing Us; Will you and I Bring God's Love and
Grace to Our Community and World? In What Ways Will God Honor Our
Efforts and Will We Grow?**

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God's Memory Lapse

Our memory bank can churn up some bad stuff occasionally. There you are, not quite asleep, when suddenly a past sin pays a painful visit. The ugly details of bad decisions and actions can leave our spirit in a shambles. How should we handle this haunting problem?

First, we need a visit with God, who knows just how to deal with our painful memories. He has a unique ability to forgive and forget if we're sincere in our request for reconciliation. As Micah 7:19 (NRSV) says, God "will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."

Corrie ten Boom had the right idea. She said God buries our sins in the sea and puts a sign on the bank saying, "No fishing allowed!"

After we accept God's forgiveness, we must forgive ourselves and move on into the future God has for us. St. Paul's words to the Philippians are relevant for Christians struggling with past sins: "One thing I do forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14, NRSV).

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The congregation extends their condolences to Tom Kieley (a long time, and faithful member of PSPC) and his family in the loss of his beloved wife, Betty. We send our love and pray that God will comfort and heal their hearts in the days to come.



A PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer and Eternal Companion, we come to you overwhelmed by the goodness you bestow on us without limits.

On this special day, we recall how you blessed our forefathers who came to this wonderful land seeking freedom to worship without restraint or hindrance.

We are immeasurably grateful for our heritage. We pray that our faith may be as fervent as the faith of those who left everything for a land strange to them and where they were strangers to the natives.

Therefore, we gather as grateful benefactors of your pilgrim servants who paid a costly price to glorify you and serve you faithfully. For them, we give you our deepest gratitude mindful of that first Thanksgiving meal shared by newcomers and natives. We gather around our tables as family and friends.

We come to you in love and great appreciation for your constant grace and gifts bestowed upon us. The abundant and beautiful food before us is the most lovely and present evidence.

Ever giving and ever-loving God, we humbly thank you for all your benefits. We wish only one thing more. May we have the honor of your presence? Be our Guest that we may know that we have had fellowship with you and with one another.

In the name of your greatest gift to us, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen



HONOR OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day, which is November 11 each year, is a holiday to honor America's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our nation's common good.

Christians follow the Prince of Peace, so war is a dilemma that often challenges people of faith. Some Christians are pacifists, while others believe in a "just war." Many believe that the goals of freedom, justice, equality and democracy are worth the cost required.

Whatever individual Christians decide about any given conflict, most Christians believe that men and women who strive to make this world free of tyrants are to be respected. As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Thank you to all the men and women who served or are now serving our country.



VOTING

If you read this before November 4th, please remember to vote and vote acknowledging, "*God alone is the Lord of the conscience.*"

As Christians, and as Presbyterians, it is our responsibility and privilege to vote remembering, "*God alone is the Lord of the conscience.*"

No other!
Pastor Bill



CHURCH OFFICE FALL HOURS

PSPC Office hours

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

Tues. - Thurs 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Closed on Friday



**Elders
and
Deacons**
**ELDER ~ DEACON SUGGESTIONS
NEEDED**

The All-Church Nominating Committee, chaired by Elder Cal Custer, is beginning the work of getting suggestions for the office of Elder and Deacon for the next three years (in most cases). If you have someone you would like to suggest, after getting that person's ok, please pass on their name to Cal. There will be suggestion sheets in the order of Worship on Sundays. Cal and the committee needs to know who you are suggesting, why, what are their qualifications and the commitment to Christ and to this church.

This is a most important privilege and responsibility we have as Presbyterians as we look forward to following where God wants us to go.

Specifically needed are women and men who are willing and able to work and to pray to help our church move ahead and to serve the needs of our congregation and community



Palm Springs H.S
Spirit of the Sands Band

PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
SPIRIT OF THE SANDS BAND

Every 2 years the PSHS Spirit of the Sands Band goes on a fabulous trip somewhere in the world. They went to China in 2007 and will be going to South Africa in the summer of 2009. These trips are the opportunity of a lifetime for the band members. They get to see and experience other cultures, political an economic factors, foods, lifestyles as well as having the camaraderie of their friends.

Each student has to pay for their own trip but there are other group expenses involved as well. For instance, the cost of the buses to get the kids and all their instruments to LAX and back. The students who are going have to work in the group fundraisers and there are a lot of them planned. The current one is collecting empty ink cartridges and a business in town will pay the band for them.

You may bring them to church on Sunday or to the office during the week as a jar will be available for collection.

Keep watching for more information on the trip and concerts and other events planned to help to help finance this adventure.



2008 BUDGET AND GIVING

Churches throughout the valley and nation are hurting financially as are the individual members. Please keep your tithe, pledge or giving up to date. We too, have bills to pay. Please do not forget PSPC. What you "give" is a token of what God has already given to you. In fact, what we do is to return to God of his gifts to us.

Extra gifts to PSPC are always welcome!

Can you imagine what it might be like to arrive at PSPC (meeting in the SDA church) at 9:50am some Sunday or at 6:45pm some Thursday and not finding anyone here...at all? Doors closed, locked, no lights, no pastor, no music? No coffee, tea or lemonade. That could happen if we all do not do our parts in supporting this church.



AGAIN: DID YOU HEAR?

Thanks to the generosity of Lester Spurgeon, a winter resident of some time ago, we have received a bequest of \$150,000.00 to be used as Session deems fit. What a wonderful gift and surprise!! Thank you, Lester Spurgeon, for you thoughtfulness, wisdom, and dedication to Christ's Church in leaving this gift to us.

How many of us have done something similar in our will or trusts? It is never too late to do so, and as did Mr. Spurgeon, you can make it open-ended or specify how you want it used.



These items benefit worthy charitable organizations and would otherwise just be thrown away. Please take the time to save these items to help people in need. Thanks
The Mission Committee



Board of Session

SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

Session met briefly on Sunday, October 12th opening with prayer by the moderator. Session met for the purpose of receiving two new members, Dr. Roy Yoon, who transferred here by Certificate of Transfer from the Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church and Richard Brenner on Affirmation of Faith. Elders present introduced themselves and both Roy and Richard told a bit about themselves. Roy is originally from Korea and has medical, chiropractic and acupuncture degrees. Richard and his wife, Barbara moved here from Chicago where he had an electrical/lighting business. He has worked as a consultant and is currently in transition. Roy and Richard was received by unanimous vote and warmly welcomed and then, during worship on Sunday, October 26th, our congregation welcomed them. Session adjourned with prayer by Pastor Bill Johnson.



Session met at 9:30 a.m. on October 15th for it's regular meeting. Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen, Acting Moderator, opened the meeting reading from John, chapter 15, and verses 12-17 followed by prayer. Present were: Jim DeHart, Jackie Morgan, Geri Bintliff, Allen Perrier, David DeVries, Harry Henderson, and Harvey Stephens, and Bob Wulf. Excused were Pastor Bill and Cal Custer.

Session was updated on the November 9th Welcome Back & Bring a Friend BBQ. Session approved the Christmas Joy

Offering, which goes to Minority Colleges and Retired Pastors & their spouses. The board also approved a fundraiser for the Palm Springs High School Band as a Mission Project. The band has been invited to play in South Africa and the funds will go toward financing the trip.

Session approved transferring funds bequeathed to the church in cds'. Elder Perrier informed the board that the possible property purchase was off, due to owners filing bankruptcy. Session reviewed a flyer prepared by the Evangelism and Outreach Committee to be inserted in the newspaper.

The next regular meeting of Session will be on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2008. Session was dismissed with prayer at 11 am.



MUSIC AND WORSHIP

The Worship service has been moving very smoothly with Pastor Bill at the helm and our Lay Leaders have been learning g as we go along to do a better job.

We have received quite a few requests for some of the old hymns and again, if you have favorites, please let Pastor Bill or myself know your wishes.

Choir is a faithful five (5), sometimes six (6) when Ken McCullen is with us. We try to match the anthem and offertory to the content of the sermon. We are planning the music for Rally Sunday and hope everyone will enjoy it as much as we are preparing the music for that day.

What a blessing it is to have Alex Danson, as our pianist/director. He really comes through for us and has very good ideas. We also are blessed to have Kent McGarity and Elvio Ditta as they certainly work well with Alex and the choir. This past month, in Kent's absence, George Cebra filled in as bass player.

Please stay and listen to the Praise Band during the Postlude.

Geri Bintliff
Elder, Worship and Music



PRAYER COMMITMENT

Every single one of us can do this! To commit some time every week or day, praying for PSPC and God's guidance in the future. How much time? That's 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.



PSPC SHOPPING BAGS AVAILABLE

As most of us know, **the shopping bags are here with our PSPC Logo for a \$5.00 donation for the larger bag and \$3.00 for the small one!** Take advantage of this to publicize our church and to treat the environment well. Pastor Bill & Joyce use their bags every time they *remember* to take them out of the car! (Sometimes Joyce sends Bill out to the car to retrieve the bags when they forgot them in the first place!) In fact, more than once a cashier or a bagger has asked about the church because of the shopping bags! **But, these bags help and some grocery stores give credit for using them rather than their plastic or paper bags!!** And, as many of us are aware, some stores in Palm Springs and in the valley are no longer using plastic bags; so bring your own with **Palm Springs Presbyterian Church** emblazoned on them!



Welcome Back Bar-B-Q
CHURCH BAR-B-QUE

Sunday, November 9th, immediately following worship, will be our much anticipated and enjoyed "**Welcome Back Bar-B-Q**" and "**Bring-a-Friend Sunday**"

hosted, planned, and put-together by Elder Harvey Stephens, friends and our Congregational Life Committee of Session...with the help of many. Along with lots of good eats, refreshments, desserts and, most important, wonderful fellowship, there will be drawings for 50/50 and a door prize.

Plan on participating: plan on bringing a **friend without a church home**, to worship that morning; plan on having a wonderful Sunday morning; plan on helping PSPC move ahead in mission; plan on going home saying, "**That was great! Let's do it again, soon!**"



The Mission Committee is sponsoring PFC JON COLLINSWORTH who is deployed in Iraq. Needed items are:

- White socks - Hard candy
- Deodorant - Soap
- Shaving cream - Razors
- Beef jerky - Sunflowers seeds

Thank you
The Mission Committee



THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Rick was excited about the task but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous.

When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."



A little girl was busily drawing a picture. When her mother asked what she was

drawing, the little girl replied, "I'm drawing a picture of God." But, honey, no one knows what God looks like, said her mother. "Well, they will when I get through!"



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study on the Gospel According to Luke lead by Elder Joyce Johnson

9:30 am to 11:00 am on Tuesdays

Joyce Johnson, our Pastor's wife, has begun the Women's Bible Study meeting on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 am to 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall of the church. This year's study on the Gospel According to Luke began on Tuesday, Sept. 23rd, but if you missed the beginning, come anyway—each session basically stands on its own.

A great opportunity to study a book written by one of Jesus' disciples (who also wrote the Acts of the Apostles) and see its relation to our lives today.

Believe it or not, decaf coffee and/or tea and/or water will be made available, thanks to Pastor Bill!?! Anyone for cookies or brownies or ???



Malachi 3:3 says:

"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time. He answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. The she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it."



**Check out our Website
ARE YOU LOOKING?**

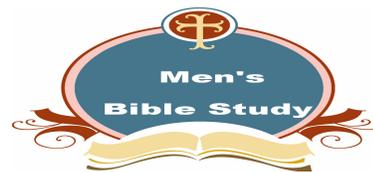
As you may know, we now have a website and you can visit it at palmspringspresbyterian.com

This website is kept up-to-date weekly by Mario Janesin in our Presbytery office in San Bernardino. We keep adding to it and it is Session's and Pastor Bill's desire that it will keep all interested, and up-to-date on the comings and goings at Palm Springs Presbyterian Church. Potentially, it is a help to anyone *new or visiting* the Palm Springs area and is looking for a Presbyterian Church in which to worship and participate.

And, we have had visitors comment that they looked us up on the website. Wonderful! Any comments or suggestions are welcome.

So, LOOK IT UP! Tell us what you think.

REMEMBER: Our email address is: pspresby@verizon.net Please USE them; Tell others



CALLING ALL MEN
Wednesday @ 7:00 AM

The Men's Bible Study, under the insightful and dedicated leadership of Allen Perrier, continues on Wednesday mornings

at the church in the Lounge, meeting at 7:00 am with a study of the book of Luke. 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)

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A CONTINUING Need:
The Well in the Desert
Food & Clothing Needed

The **Well in the Desert**, one of our Mission outreaches, continues to need **food**. This is so evident as more and more people are homeless or nearly so, as people loose jobs and children are hungry. **Food is always needed**. So, please, as you come to worship on Sundays bring *canned or boxed food supplies or carefully used clothing* for those in need. They are usually picked up first thing Monday morning. Thank you.

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DEACON'S CORNER
 From Susan McGuire's Kitchen

TACO SOUP

Ingredients:

- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 pkg. Mild taco seasoning mix
- 1 lb. ground beef or turkey
- 1 med. can corn (about 25 oz.)
- 1 med. can kidney beans
- 1 med. can stewed tomatoes
- Tortilla chips
- Fresh cilantro
- Shredded cheese
- Sour cream

Sauté the meat until browned, with onions. Then add the corn, beans and tomatoes including the liquid, seasoning mix and drained olives. Mix and heat completely.

Offer cheese, chips, fresh cilantro and sour cream to top off the soup.

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PLEASE FEEL FREE: to call our **Interim Pastor, Dr. Bill Johnson**, anytime you have an emergency (like going to the hospital) or with questions, concerns, ideas, etc.

Home phone-(760) 345-2993
E-mail-drwnj57@aol.com
Cell phone-(818) 314-5104

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Chris Lutke	2
Bill Cushing	4
Susan McGuire	15
Don Howard	25

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The Deadline for the Sonshine is Nov. 20rd
 Please send articles to my home
 by
 Fax: 329-8084 or e-mail:
 maggie1952@roadrunner.com
 Thank you





Palm Springs
Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 582
Palm Springs, CA 92263
(760) 320-2769

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

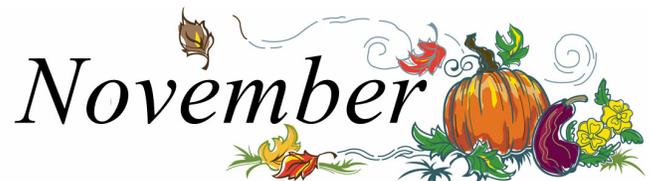
Pastor Emeritus:
Dr. Harry Summers

Parish Associate
Dr. Ken McCullen

Music Director:
Alex Danson

Church Secretary:
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:
Margaret Pace



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