

# SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, May 2009

## From Pastor Bill's "Powerbook"



What a wonderful Holy Week and Easter we had; if you missed it you missed a great celebration in "A Place of Our Own!" Packed, overflowing, excitement, energy, commitment to Jesus Christ, a desire to reach out into our neighborhood, community, and world.

When I first began as a Presbyterian pastor in 1961, almost 48 years ago, people flocked to the church; open the doors and in they came. Not any More! Now, if we want to grow, we have to go out into the neighborhood, the community, the nation, and the world. We have to get rid of the words, "We have always done this that way!" or "We have never done it that way...so why should we now?" Those words, those thoughts, those attitudes, those actions, will kill our church within a few years. So, let's look to the future discovering where God is taking us and how God wants us to get there. Maybe some totally new thoughts and actions: what about a community garden, fine arts after school program, a disaster preparation program for the neighborhood? You can add a lot of things to this!! Please do and let the session or me know your ideas.

But, one catch, we need YOU to help make any of these come into being! **YOU!**

**One almost last thought:** I said this last month, but it is worth repeating: If you have not yet given a gift or made a pledge for the "A Place of Our Own," I urge you to do so as soon as possible. I am convinced that it is important for all of us to support prayerfully, financially, and physically, our move now that we are in "A Place of Our Own" and help grow this reality for PSPC after 20+ years of renting a wandering a powerful witness to God's love and work. We are truly blessed.

**REMEMBER: Next Deadline** for June 2009 **SONSHINE** is May 21st. Please see our editor, Margaret Pace, for more details

Thank you all and God bless you and your loved ones in this Adventurous New Year, 2009

Yours, in Christ's Service,

Pastor Bill

William N. Johnson

Interim Pastor

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## **We HAVE Moved: New Life for PSPC**

**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?**

Worship Schedule and Sermons for May - June 2009

**LIFE AND RESURRECTION**

During May, and June, Pastor Bill will guide us in a series he calls, "Life after Resurrection: Now What" but also during those times Pastor Bill and Joyce will be on a trip or two - especially a couple of weeks in France.

**MAY 03 - "Now There's a Sigh for Us!"**  
Celebrating the Lord's Supper with Pastor Bill  
Psalm 23; Acts 4:5-12; I John 3:16-24

**MAY 10 - "Guest Preacher: Elder Suzanne Swartz"**

**MAY 17 - "Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Charles (Chuck) Rassieur"**

**MAY 24 - "The Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen!"**

**MAY 31 - "What Can God Do With One Giant Flame?"**  
Pentecost Sunday with Pastor Bill  
Ezekiel 327:1-14; Romans 8:22-27; Acts 2:1-21  
Potluck Luncheon



**JUNE 07 - "Will You Look At That"!**  
Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

**JUNE 14 - "Walking With Faith" with Pastor Bill**  
Psalm 20' II Corinthians 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34

**JUNE 21 - "Working For God in an Economic Turndown"**  
Psalm 9:9-20; II Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

**JUNE 28 - "The Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen**  
Summer Salad Potluck Luncheon

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**EVANGELIZE!**

Give us a watchword for the hour. A thrilling word, a word of power;  
A battle-cry, a flaming breath that calls to conquest or to death,  
A work to rouse the church from rest, to heed her Master's high behest,  
The call is give: Ye hosts arise; our watchword is Evangelize!  
The glad evangel now proclaim, through all the earth in Jesus' name,  
This word is ringing though the skies, Evangelize! Evangelize!  
To dying men, a fallen race, make known the gift of gospel grace,  
The world that now in darkness lies, Evangelize! Evangelize!



## **THE ASCENSION**

Many Christian churches will celebrate Ascension Day on May 21, which is 40 days after Easter. Theologian Friedemann Hebart explained Christ's Ascension this way:

“When Jesus’ work on Earth was done, he took leave of his disciples and went to be with his Father. A time for sad farewells, one might think. Yet, the church celebrates the Ascension with special joy. What is the reason for joy when Jesus leaves his people?

“The Ascension is not the end of Jesus’ work, but a new beginning! How could Jesus ever leave us alone? Because he has gone to be Lord of the universe, he can continue his work of life and love - among us, too. His work was not just a short episode in Galilee. In the person of the Holy Spirit, the same Lord is present among us, still revealing the Father’s loving heart, so that we, too, can believe - and sing songs of joy.”

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## **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

On May 31, Christians around the world will celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It’s often remembered as the church’s birthday. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon those who believed in his resurrection.

Three thousand people were gathered in Jerusalem when the Spirit came upon them. They were so touched by the Holy Spirit that they began to worship regularly, especially on Sundays, the day of Christ’s resurrection.

To symbolize the “tongues, as of fire” (Acts 2:3, NRSV) that came upon the people present at Pentecost, liturgical churches display the color red in their worship services on Pentecost Sunday. Many people attending worship wear red on that day.



## **MEMORIAL DAY**

Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It’s now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.

Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it’s important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones - especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America’s liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, “Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared.

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### **Women’s Bible Study is on Summer**

**Hiatus**

**Until Next fall**

**Watch for Announcements**

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## **CALLING ALL MEN**

**Wednesday @ 7:00 AM**

**The Men’s Bible Study** continues to be led by the dedicated leadership of Allen Perrier, on Wednesday mornings in the Fellowship Hall, 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).

**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 the church office, 320-2729



**SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS**

The Session met on Wednesday, April 22nd at 9:30 in our Fellowship Hall with Parish Associate Ken McCullen and COM representative, Elder Leon Bennett. All session members were present except for Geri Bintliff who was excused, being out of state.

Session discussed many items including the welcome of five new members: Fred and Peggy Lynn by certificate of transfer, Cleo Ahlstedt from Affiliate to Active, Donna Den Bleyker from inactive to Active, Lucille Kraehling by Reaffirmation.

Among items discussed were the appointment of a committee to consider the extension of Pastor Bill’s Interim status; the remodeling of our “kitchen;” the putting in of a walkway from the parking lot to the Fellowship Hall and to the Sanctuary; work needed on our windows; and outreach to the neighborhood and community; the hiring of a gardener to care for our property’ and the hiring of Daniel Morgan to do custodial work before and after worship, weddings, etc. Approved vacation dates and pulpit supplies while Pastor Bill and Joyce are away on trips; called a congregation meeting for May 3rd, 2009, immediately following worship to elect four members to the All Church Nominating Committee.

Session reminded themselves, and all of us, that they welcome and desire to have lots of ideas and thoughts concerning our new church, but that **all actions** for any work, additions, or changes, are approved by Session before anything happens.

The meeting of Session adjourned with prayer to meet again on Wednesday, May 27th at 9:30 am.



**SAVE YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS**

Don’t know what to do with your plastic bottles and aluminum cans???? Bring them to the church! While helping the environment you will also be supporting “A Place of Our Own,” as the money received from the recycling will be used for the maintenance of the landscaping.



The music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday was well received by the congregation and the choir was overjoyed to be singing for our Lord and in “A Place of Our Own.”

We are still looking for choir members especially now that summer is approaching and our winter choir members are leaving.

Thank you for your faithful attendance and the joy everyone seems to have with the music.

Gerri Bintliff  
Elder, Worship and Music



**LADIES BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS**

Although many of the ladies of the church have left for the summer, birthdays still come.☺ So we will continue meeting the last Tuesday of each month to celebrate that month’s birthday. A sign up sheet will be available toward the end of each month and where we will meet for lunch. Come and join in on the fun, fellowship and a tasty lunch in an air-conditioned restaurant with your fellow “Desert Mice”(I won’t call us rats)!

**PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY, HURTING AND LONELY**

**The Well in the Desert  
Food & Clothing Needed**

The **Well in the Desert** still needs support. Just because we have moved, doesn't mean the Well doesn't need us ~ they do. Keep up The good work with **food, clothing, blankets, money, water, etc.** These items are usually picked up the first thing Monday morning. Please keep them in your prayers. *Thank you.*

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**PSPC SHOPPING BAGS**

As most of us know, **the shopping bags are available** with our **PSPC Logo!** A \$5.00 donation for the larger bag and \$3.00 for the smaller one, which are almost gone! What a great gift for yourself or friends and is also good for the environment. **These bags help and some grocery stores give credit for using them rather than their plastic or paper bags!!**

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**THIS SHOULD WAKE US UP**

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up nearby. The driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!" The visitor went inside for Sunday school, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday school, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing. Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" **The visitor**

replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took you place."

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR THE SPRING**

**PSPC Office hours**  
**M-W 8:00 a.m. -12:00 noon**  
**Tues. - Thurs 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
**Closed on Friday**

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**THE BUDDING OF AARON'S ROD**

My Mother spent the last years of her life in a nursing home. I visited her often and on many of my visits we spoke about Heaven. She wondered about her own death and, of course, would she be in the presence of our Lord. I assured her of a beautiful place in heaven where there would be no more pain.

When my Mother died, I was at her funeral, and leaned over a beautiful woman at rest and softly asked, "Mom, is it as gorgeous as I pictured?"

I had received beautiful flowers from Mother's favorite grandson and, while away for a week, I left them in my house. Upon returning home, I found that the painted twigs had sprouted tiny green leaves. I had seen other twigs spout leaves but never from dead planted ones. Had my Mother answered my question? I believe that she did.

Submitted by,  
Lucille MacEwan

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**The "5:59 Gathering"**

You have three guesses as to what Pastor Bill plans for the next "5:59 Gathering" and the first two don't count!!!! **SURPRISE!!!!**



Happy Anniversary!

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Congratulations to David and Katherine Weezorak as they celebrate their 65th anniversary on May 15th. We wish you many more years of happiness.



**Board of Deacons**



**DEACON'S CORNER**

Recently, one of our members was taken to the hospital. Deacons and other concerned members of this church family had a very hard time finding out where this person had been taken. Last month, I asked you to become part of the prayer chain, but if we don't know that prayers are needed, it doesn't matter how many links we have in our chain!

Did you know that when the police or fire department come to your aid, they look for personal and medical information on the back of your front door or your refrigerator? Now is the time to update your list if you have one, or put up a list if you don't! I'm sure that family members' phone numbers are on that list, your doctor, but what about your church?

Also, do you have ICE as a contact number on your cell phone? Rescue personnel are trained to look in your contact list for this number. It stands for In Case of Emergency and you should put in the phone number of the person you want contacted, for example, one of you children or a good neighbor that has your family information.

This month, the Deacons are asking you to do something for yourself and church family. Please add Palm Springs Presbyterian Church - 760 329-2769 to that list. Family members may not know or remember what church you attend and this could be helpful information. We all hope that this information isn't needed, but it is always better to be prepared!

Christine Lutke  
Deacon, Chair

**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can help fight against hunger, breast cancer, and etc., by going to [www.hungersite.com](http://www.hungersite.com) There is no cost to you as sponsors of the site cover the cost.

We can also support our troops by sending free e-mail cards. The site is [www.letssaythanks.com](http://www.letssaythanks.com)



**CONGRATULATIONS ALEX...**

In a proud moment, earlier this month, our Director of Music, Alex Danson, received his certificate of US Citizenship. It was a six month process, concluding with an exam focusing on US history and government, which earned him the right to vote in elections (working under a green card, he already had to pay taxes.) Born in Bucharest, Romania, he studied there at the Music Conservatory. In the '80s he moved to Sweden where his son and daughter (in their 20s) still reside. In 1998, he moved to the Coachella Valley, and in 2008, received his Masters in Music from the University of Redlands, specializing in music composition. His talents include nearly all aspects of music: teaching (vocal, and instrumental); theory; ear training; analysis and harmony; appreciation; arranging; and composing. Presently, Alex works as a freelance musician, pianist, piano teacher; does sound and video recording and editing, as well as serves as a web master and web site designer, often incorporating computer music. PSPC is blessed to have the benefit of Alex's outstanding abilities as we "Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob!" Ps81:1 NIV Alex, congratulations! Led by you, may our praise through music be pleasing to the Lord!

Morella Larsen  
Affiliate Member



**ARE YOU LOOKING? CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE & EMAIL**

REMEMBER: Our email address is: **pspresby@verizon.net**

**Our website is:  
palmsspringspresbyterian.com**

Please USE them; tell others!

Our new address is:  
815 S. Camino Real at S. Riverside  
Palm Springs, 92264  
760 320-2769



**From Gail Jones' Kitchen**

**NEW ORLEANS CAKE**

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 3/4 c shortening       | 3/4 tsp. nutmeg      |
| 1 1/2 c sugar          | 1 tsp. cinnamon      |
| 3 eggs                 | 2 tbs. cocoa         |
| 1 3/4 c flour          | 3/4 c buttermilk     |
| 1/2 tsp. baking powder | 1 tsp. vanilla       |
| 1/2 tsp. soda          | 1 tsp. lemon extract |
| 1/2 tsp. salt          | 1/2 c chopped nuts   |

Cream shortening, add sugar gradually and eggs together. Sift flour, baking powder, soda, salt and spices and cocoa together. Add creamed mixture alternately with sour milk. Blend in extracts and nuts (which have been toasted). Bake in 2 greased and floured 8" pans (layer) for 30 minutes in 350 degree oven.

**MOCHA ICING**

(For New Orleans Cake)

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 6 tbs. butter      | 1 1/2 tbs. cocoa           |
| 1 egg yolk         | 1 tsp. cinnamon            |
| 3 c powdered sugar | 1 1/2 to 3 tbs. hot coffee |

Cream butter, blend in egg yolk. Sift sugar, cocoa and cinnamon together and add to creamed mixture alternately with hot coffee. Beat until smooth. (If necessary, add few more drops of coffee until icing spreads easily).



Roy Yoon	3
Elizabeth Morgan	6
Hugh Ash	13
Donna Mead	13
Don MacEwan	20
Sherry Mann	22
Helen Davis	26
David McGuire	29

If I have missed your birthday, please let Jackie know so you can be included next year. Thank you.



The Deadline for the Sonshine is May 21st  
Please send articles to my home by  
Fax: 329-8084 or e-mail: maggie1952@roadrunner.com  
Thank you

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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





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

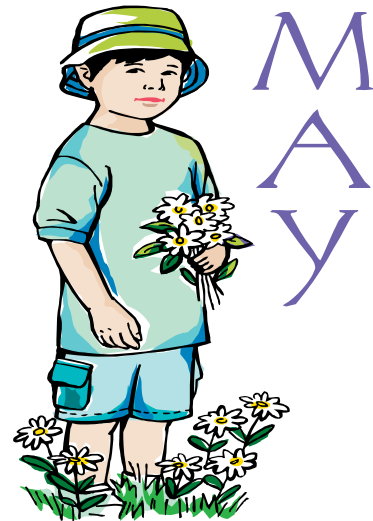
Pastor Emeritus:  
Dr. Harry Summers

Parish Associate  
Dr. Ken McCullen

Music Director:  
Alex Danson

Church Secretary:  
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:  
Margaret Pace



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Thank you.

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