



SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, September 2009



Pastor Bill's

"September Speculations!"

By the time you get this, Joyce and I will be back from a week at our Timeshare in Carlsbad where we catch up on beach weather, some time around the pool, reading and reading, and visiting family. Two of who live in San Diego and two of whom live on Balboa Island.

Many blessed things have been taking place this past month or two: **First**, we now have a new website

ps-pc.com - check it out for audio, new format, etc., thanks to Alex Danson, who is our pianist and choir director on Sundays and web-master on Mondays! **Second**, remodeling of the kitchen is in progress and not far from completion. Granted it will not be a restaurant size kitchen, nor even gourmet-like, but it will be functional and beautiful - BEAUTIFUL ~ and dedicated to the glory of God, not just the growls of our stomachs - thanks to the Kitchen Committee Co-chaired by Jackie Morgan and Margaret Pace along with Barbara Stephens, Jan Perrier, Jim DeHart, and Donna McCullen: new cabinets, a Corian counter top, beautiful new refrigerator and two new stoves and microwaves, etc., etc. Something we will use for ourselves and for our neighborhood. **Third**, the Chancel (sometimes called "the Stage") has been remodeled opening up our sense of the beauty of our sanctuary by removing what I call "the Barrier" and by lowering the height of the Chancel floor thus making it more receptive to singing to the glory of God. The cost of the work on the Chancel has been made possible by an anonymous donor who is/are committed Christians, active Presbyterians, but not members or even regular attendees of PSPC. Aren't we blessed? **Fourth**, a number of electrical problems have been, and are being, tackled and corrected thanks to Ernie Moore, who is a dear friend of PSPC and to Jim DeHart who has spent hours tracking down remote controls, fans, etc. We are in the process of fixing the fans in the Sanctuary; adding to them remote controls for variable speeds, which will help, make the Sanctuary comfortable during our long, hot summers. **Fifth**, we still have work to do on the stained glass windows to protect and seal them, and to redo the stucco on the sides of the church - but that will come and if anyone wants to provide some extra finances (beyond your annual pledge to the annual budget or your building pledge) to help accomplish these needs, please see either me, or Jim DeHart, Clerk of Session. And, if you desire, your gift will be kept confidential. **Sixth**, but not last and certainly not least, is the work of Jeff Morgan our audio for Sundays (and sometimes Thursdays) - a seldom seen, but vital ministry to add to the website, to help us not only see but hear the spoken word and the music. Aren't we blessed?

It is September ~ fall is quickly coming; Winter Residents (aka Snowbirds) will soon be arriving (for which we are delighted) and neighborhood kids are getting back in school. We have such a great opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with so many! What would you like to do to help us do this? This past July, Sue Cooper and Joyce Johnson participated in the Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church's Vacation Bible School to help begin thinking about, and preparing for, a VBS for our neighborhood next summer, 2010. *You are needed; will you help?*

To all of you who brought backpacks and other school supplies for school kids through the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission - Thank you and God's blessings.

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The kids will be ever so thankful and you all gave so much to help! But, please don't forget our own Well-in-the-Desert, which helps so many. They need food, water, and clothing. A box for collecting your donations is by the front door of the Sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.

May God bless PSPC as God leads us into a potentially exciting future for the Glory of God in the Name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, and for the sake of our neighbors near and far whom God loves and for who Jesus died and rose. One God! Amen.

Thank you all for what you have already done, what you are doing, and for what you will be doing! You are an unbelievable, incredible, gracious, generous, committed to Christ's congregation. I am so thankful for you and proud of you.

Even as I remain, yours, in Christ's Service,

Pastor Bill

William N. Johnson
Interim Pastor

REMEMBER: **Next Deadline** for October 2009 **Sonshine** is September 17th.

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Use of PSPC's Membership Directory

It has been called to our attention that some people are using the PSPC Membership Directory, either email addresses or direct street mailing addresses, for political, financial, sociological or other reasons other than purely church business or personal reasons, such as birthday cards, Christmas cards, etc. Please **DO NOT** use PSPC's Membership Directory for any reason other than church business or church related purposes. It is both illegal and unethical to use this directory for any reason except church related emails or mailings. Certainly, in contacting friends or family, the information in the Membership Directory may be used; contacting any other person for any other reason, without their **express permission**, should not happen.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

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A PARTIAL WISH LIST FOR PSPC

And some cost projections

The idea is that you or I can purchase all or part of any of these or other items needed. This should be over and above what you have already given or pledged. These are just suggestions from Pastor Bill.

1. Dishes/Pot/Pans for Kitchen-\$2,000
2. Christmas Decorations-\$1,000
3. Christmas Tree for Sanctuary-\$400-\$700
4. Parish Nurse (\$625.00 has been given) with matching funds-\$1,000
5. Large screen TV with DVD ability-\$1,500-\$2,000
6. Sunday school curricula-\$500.

Many other items can be added as you suggest the needs.

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People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things.

—Sir Edmund Hillary

Worship Schedule and Sermons for September 2009

“The What’s of Faith?”

During September and October, Pastor Bill will present a series; he calls, “**The What’s of Faith?**” Wherein, we will look at questions raised by Jesus and by the disciples and discover their implications for our lived today. Not only will there be Biblical references from the Psalms, the Epistles, and the Gospels, but also from other Old Testament books, seen below in *italics*, especially Job. Please read these before the sermon to gain your understanding and to help in making Pastor Bill’s sermons a dialogue, rather than a monologue

SEPT. 06 - “**What About 21st Century Healing?**”
Celebrating the Lord’s Supper
Psalm 125; James 2:1-10, 14-17; Mark 7:24-37 (*Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23*)

SEPT. 13 - “**What is Your Answer?**”
Psalms 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38 (*Proverbs 1:20-33*)

SEPT. 20 - “**What Lesson Have we Learned?**” ~ Seminary Sunday
Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8; Mark 9:30-37 (*Proverbs 31:10-31*)

SEPT. 27 - “**What Stumbling Blocks Today?**”
Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50 (*Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20*)
Potluck Luncheon

OCT. 04 - “**GUEST PREACHER**”
Celebrating the Lord’s Supper served in the pews

OCT. 11 - “**What Commandments are at Work Today?**”
Psalm 22:1-5; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31 (*Job 23:1-9, 16-17*)

OCT. 18 - “**What Does God Want us to do Today?**”
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45 (*Job 38:1-7*)

OCT. 25 - “**What Does God’s Mercy Mean Today?**”
Psalm 34:1-8; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52 (*Job 42:1-6, 10-17*)
Potluck Luncheon

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Bones of the Church

The “body” of a church has four kinds of bones:

1. The WISHbones are those folks who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work.
2. The JAWbones are those who do all the talking and very little else.
3. The KNUCKLEbones are those who knock everything anyone else tries to do.
4. The BACKbones are those who get under the load and get the work done.

What kind of bone are you?



BAKING FOR OUR FIRST-TIME GUESTS

Frances Gotenstein, Chairman of the Outreach Committee, has begun to bake cookies for our visitors welcoming them to our church. She is asking for additional volunteers to bake a dozen or two cookies each month. She will package and freeze the cookies at the church to have them ready and available every Sunday.

Several members have baked small loaves and cookies responding to the request of volunteers and if you are interested in helping more; please call Frances at (760) 320-2025. Your help will certainly be appreciated.



Women's Bible Study

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
ON SUMMER BREAK UNTIL LATER IN
SEPTEMBER

The Study Will be Paul's Letter to the
Romans

WATCH FOR DETAILS COMING IN THE
YELLOW PAGES & ON OUR ps-pc.com

WEBSITE



BOOK
DISCUSSION
GROUP

"The Shack"

Thirteen men and women showed up on Tuesday, August 12th to discuss "The Shack" as led by Joyce Johnson. Two+ hours of insights, questions, discussion and good fellowship. Thanks to all who participated.

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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, 320-2769

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING
EXCITING AND INTO THE 21st CENTURY?

CHECK OUT OUR
NEW WEBSITE & EMAIL

REMEMBER: Our email address is:

pspresby@verizon.net

Our website is:

ps-pc.com

Please USE them; tell others!

Our new address is:

815 S. Camino Real at S. Riverside

Palm Springs, 92264

760 320-2769



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 in the Fellowship Hall, meeting at 7:00 am with a study of the **Book of Acts**. What 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).



LADIES BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS

The last few birthday luncheons have been very well attended considering the heat of our desert summer. The ladies met for the August birthdays at the Old Creek House formerly known as the Cedar Creek Inn.

As always a sign up sheet will be available in the fellowship hall, toward the end of each month and hopefully, the "Snowbird Ladies" will be joining us soon.



SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

The Session was "dark" for August, being on call if any decision were needed. A Committee of Session (Allen Perrier and Jim DeHart) met with three new members to receive them on behalf of Session and we are delighted that they are active parts of our congregation: Audrey Berquist, Isaac Outland and Margie Hedger. We will be having another class for potential new members either late in September or early October. Speak to Pastor Bill if interested.

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A SENIOR POEM

A row of bottles on my shelf,
Caused me to analyze myself.
One yellow pill I have to pop,
Goes to my heart, so it won't stop.
A little white one that I take,
Goes to my hands, so they won't shake.
The blue ones that I use a lot,
Tells me I'm happy when I'm not.
The purple pill goes to my brain,
And tells me that I have no pain.
The capsules tell me not to wheeze,
Or cough, or choke, or even sneeze.
The red ones, smallest of them all,
Goes to my blood, so I won't fall.
The orange ones, very big and bright,
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.
Such an array of brilliant pills,
Helping to mask all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know,
Is what tells each one where to go!
Submitted by Kate Walker

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PSPC SHOPPING BAGS

Do you ever go shopping during these hot desert days or evenings? What kind of bags do you put your groceries in? We have a good answer: **OUR PSPC SHOPPING BAGS!** If you do not have one or two, we can help you change that. Talk to Jim DeHart or Jackie Morgan. **These bags help and some grocery stores give credit for using them rather than their plastic or paper bags!!**

WORSHIP AND MUSIC-- Door-opener

When the book of Acts (see 16:25-26) reports that Paul and Silas sang in the Philippians jail at midnight, it doesn't record whether they were basses or tenors. It doesn't even report if they sang on key. It simply says they sang. And as they sang, there was an earthquake and the prison doors were opened.

Many of life's doors open more easily when we sing. So why not open some doors by joining the choir?



The "5:59 Gathering"

The "5:59 Gathering" will meet next on Thursday, **September 17th** for another scrumptious meal and a program that will tickle our thinking and doing. The meal for our August 20th **"5:59 Gathering"** was prepared and brought by Jim DeHart and it was fabulous, as usual.

The best \$5.00 meal in Palm Springs or the Coachella Valley

Other volunteers wanted and needed. See Jim DeHart or Pastor Bill to volunteer

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A Hymn for the Ages

Nearly every denominational hymnal contains Isaac Watts' hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." It has been called one of the greatest hymns in the English language. The first part is based on Psalm 90, which begins "Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations."

O God, our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts lived from 1674 to 1748. He had a sickly body all his life, but his mind was in the genius category. He wrote his first hymn at age 6. He learned Latin at age 4, Greek at 8, French at 11 and Hebrew at 13.

Watts wrote 52 books, plus scores of hymns. He also was a Congregational minister in London for 22 years.



This month, I'm asking you to consider joining the Board of Deacons. Are you still reading this? Good! We have some seats to fill and it is a wonderful opportunity to be of service to Palm Springs Presbyterian Church. The duties aren't bad, the meetings are about an hour (once a month), the people that you will share the duties are terrific, and the rewards are incredible!

So, if you receive a call from someone on the nominating committee, consider becoming a Deacon. You won't be sorry! Thank you,

Christine Lutke
Deacon, Chair



YOUR RESPONSE TO THE MISSION PROJECT WAS WONDERFUL!

All the backpacks, school supplies and monies were delivered to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission on Friday, August 14th and were greatly appreciated by the staff.

The Mission Committee extends their many thanks to the congregation for always coming forth so generously whenever we ask for your support. As Tony the Tiger says, "YOU'RE GREAT!!!"

God bless,
Jackie, Susan & Margaret



SAVE YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS

The church is in the recycling business!!! We are collecting plastic bottles and aluminum cans and the money received from the recycling will be used for the maintenance of the landscaping. While helping the environment you will also be supporting "A Place of Our Own." Bring them with you when you come to church!

PDA UPDATE FOM MORELLA LARSEN

Morella Larsen is home in Salem, OR, following her PDA trip to Alaska. She helped to set up an emergency disaster task force at University Community Presbyterian Church in Fairbanks. This church has become a vital part of the process by opening its doors to provide bed and board and airport shuttles for the building crews that are flown in and out of the villages along the eastern part of the Yukon River, where homes were destroyed by floods last spring. Working two week shifts are the Mennonites, Christian Reformed World Relief Commission and Samaritans Purse who are constructing kit homes, which are barged up the Yukon. The short summer and the expectation of snow "Sept. 15" add an urgency not felt in most disaster re-builds. Morella and her teammate, Harvey Howell (San Antonio, TX), representing PCUSA's PDA were invited to Alaska to assist by the Presbyter, Dr. Rev. Curt Karn, of the Yukon Presbytery. They trained members of several churches in Fairbanks and Anchorage in the processes for recover. PDA is a member of FEMA's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters' (VOAD). The efforts of recovery will soon need to be suspended because of the coming harsh winter (minus 60-70 degree temperatures) and plans are under way to start up again in the spring, working on west on the 1000 mile long Yukon River. Alaska is more than twice the size of Texas, making the distance and lack of roads to the villages a challenge in providing assistance. Morella is one of 58 people nationwide in the National Response team for PDA. Thank you, Morella, for the good work you do.

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BE TRANSFORMED

It's Labor Day weekend — a time to rest from our labors. But this is also an opportunity to reflect on our daily work and discern whether our effort is thankless and uninteresting or something that gives us deep and lasting satisfaction. God intends for our work to be much more than a job, much more than a daily grind. It should be, instead, a vocation — which means, quite literally, a "calling."

In Romans 12:2, Paul challenges us with the words: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of

your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

The apostle’s advice, then, is to be transformed by the renewing of your minds. Paul says be transformed by discovering what the Lord God is calling you to do.

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“God gives us the ingredients for our daily bread, but he expects us to do the baking.”
—William Arthur Ward



From Frances Gotenstein’s Kitchen

Key Lime Pie

- 2 c graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 c sugar, plus 2 tbsp, divided
- 4 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- 4 egg yolks
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 c fresh key lime juice or regular lime juice
- 3/4 c chilled heavy cream
- Sliced limes for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 350 deg.
2. Combine graham cracker crumbs, 1/2 cup sugar and butter.
3. Press mixture over bottom and up sides of 9” glass pie plate.
4. Bake crust in middle of oven for 10 minutes; let cool.
5. Whisk together egg yolks, condensed milk and lime juice. Pour mixture into crust.
6. Place on baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes, or until center is set.
7. Cool on wire rack for 1 hour. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.
8. In medium bowl beat cream until frothy. Add 2 tbsp sugar and continue beating until still peaks form.
9. Spread over pie and garnish with lime slices.

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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



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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



Howard Webb	7
Morella Larsen	9
Richard Brenner	17
Barbara Stephens	30

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



September 17th

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



September

If you have received this issue of the SONSHINE in error or wish to be removed from our mailing list, please fill in your name and address below and send it back to us.

Thank you.
