



SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, January 2009

Pastor Bill's "New Year's Ponderings"

Happy New Year, 2010!!



A New Decade begins! A child's first year runs from the moment of birth to his/her first birthday; the second year runs from that first birthday to the second birthday. People debate when a decade begins or ends, but for us, as we begin this new decade, 2010, it is with a great sense of appreciation and hopefulness that I thank so many of you for your work, insights, input, and commitment on this beautiful little church, or, as I like to call it: **"Our Mighty Mouse Church!"** We might not be large in numbers, but we are powerful in our desire to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and, I hope and pray, a powerful witness in this neighborhood and community in Jesus' name.

Two people on whom I rely so heavily and who make **me look good**: Jackie Morgan and Jim DeHart; my right and left hands. I hope we all know how much they both do and all their help makes possible as they make certain everything works and works well. Thank you!

But so many; so much; I cannot begin to list every one without forgetting someone so, Thank **you; thank you; thank you** ~~~ you know who you are as do most of us.

During January we will be ordaining/installing new Elders and Deacons; we will be looking at the work ahead of us for the Session and for the Deacons; we will have, of course, our Annual Meeting either late January or early February. *Business; business; business.* Please don't forget: we now own our own church and the expenses, the work, the love and patience, the cooperation and creativity have increased 8 - 10 fold from where we were renting. *How are you helping?*

But, what **IS** the business of the church? *To grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ; to proclaim and teach the Word of God; to serve the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters; and to step out of our comfortable boxes and reach out to those looking for something of substance in their lives: namely, Jesus.*

One of our members suggested to me that we need to up our *contributions* and involvement by at least 10% -- and I agree! What about you?

Happy New Year and may 2010 bring you God's richest blessings, even as I remain,

Yours, in Christ's Service,
Pastor Bill
William N. Johnson
Transitional Pastor

REMEMBER: Next Deadline for February 2010 **SONSHINE** is January 18th.

~~~~~

Rev. Ken McCullen and his wife, Donna, recently moved to Minnesota. While with PSPC, Ken served as Pastor Associate, and Donna, as Deacon. They both served the church with love and enthusiasm and are deeply missed. Their address is: 5731 Norwich Ave. N

Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

They would love hearing from you.

## **Worship Schedule and Sermons for January & February 2010**

As we begin the New Year, 2010, Pastor Bill's sermons for January and February will look at who we are, where God is taking us, and how we demonstrate our faith in Christ during these hectic and changing/challenging times. Pastor Bill calls this series, ***"The Word Alive Through Us."*** As we move into this New Year, and this new decade, all sorts of pressures, good and bad, confront us and we need to be able to discern God's presence and will for our lives. This sermon series will help us discover and live God's way more fully. Please bring friends, neighbors, and loved ones to share in this incredible time and read the scriptures in preparation.

**Jan. 03 ~ "A Growing Hope"**

**Communion Sunday**

**Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18**

**Jan. 10 ~ "What Do You Expect?"**

**Ordination & Installation of New Elders and Deacons**

**Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

**Jan. 17 ~ "Jesus Loves a Party"**

**Psalm 36:5-10; I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11**

**Jan. 24 ~ "Guest Preacher or Singing the Promises"**

**Psalm 19; I Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21?????**

**Jan. 31 ~ "Putting Jesus in Perspective"**

**Psalm 71:1-6; I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30**

**Pot Luck Luncheon**

**Feb. 07 ~ "Players or Spectators"**

**Communion??**

**Psalm 138; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11**

**Feb. 14 ~ "Bold or Fearful" -**

**Psalm 99; II Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36**

**Feb. 17 ~ "Beware; They are Coming!"**

**\*\*Ash Wednesday**

**Psalm 51:1-17; Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; II Corin. 5:20b-6: 10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21**

**Feb. 21 ~ "The Power Source"**

**1st Sunday n Lent**

**Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13**

**Feb. 28 ~ "Whether to Fight or Run"**

**2nd Sunday in Lent**

**Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35**

**Pot Luck Luncheon**

**\*\*If we have any Ash Wednesday service**



**WHY DO WE LEAVE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS UP UNTIL JANUARY 6TH?**

January 6th is 12 days after Christmas when most Christians celebrate the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles, the Magi. Greek and other Orthodox Christians celebrate Jan. 6th as the Baptism of Jesus. In Greek epiphany basically means, "to appear" and we celebrate the appearance of Jesus and his appearance to the Gentile world.

So, leave your decorations up until January 6th as well!!



**The "5:59 Gatherings"**

**How in the World Did We Get the Bible?**

Do you know how the bible, as we know it today, came into being and all that has gone on? When was the Bible first translated into English and by whom? **What is your favorite translation of the Bible and why?** Or, are there better translations that are more faithful to the original *Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic?*

**Come, and bring your questions!**

**Discover and see some ancient facsimiles of Scripture**

Two Sessions by Pastor Bill:

- 1. January 14th - "The Story Behind the Story"
- 2. January 28th - "The Bible Today"

And, of course, great meals for only \$5.00

**But... We need volunteers to help prepare the meals and to clean up afterwards**

**See Jim DeHart, our Master Chef, if you can help**

**5:59 pm on the above Thursdays**



Food & Fellowship

**FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP**

**OUT WITH THE OLD...IN WITH THE NEW!!!**

We will be gathering on January 7th at 11:30 in the church fellowship hall. For you that have signed up, you will receive more details on Sunday, Jan 3rd.

**Sign up NOW and don't miss out on the Fun!**



**THE WALKWAY IS HERE!!**

Thanks to a wonderful anonymous donor/s we now have a beautiful walkway from the parking lot to the social hall to the patio leading into the church. What a wonderful Christmas and New Year gift!! This donor/s also made possible the remodeling of the chancel, the addition of choir mics, the coming PowerPoint, and even the 12 foot ladder that is so useful, the rebuilt fountain, and much more! Many thanks and God's bl

## ELDER/DEACON NOMINEES & MEMBERS

At the meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009, we elected as Elders for the class of 2012: Jim DeHart, Sue Cooper, and Margaret Pace. The other six elders continuing are: class of 2010: Jackie Morgan, Harvey Stephens, and Bob Wulf. The class of 2011: Geri Bintliff, Harry Henderson, and Fran Gotenstein.

Deacons elected on Dec. 27, 2009 were: Class of 2010: Dr. Roy Yoon; Class of 2011: Virginia Allen and Kathy Smith; and Class of 2012: Ruth Ash and Robert Kemp. Continuing Deacons are: Class of 2010: Jan Perrier, Richard Brenner, and Audrey Bergquist; Class of 2011: Pauline Gregg and Lucile Kraehling.

We welcome all of these men and women in the ministry we share together in Christ's name.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS

We all have ideas about what our church should look like, how it is to be governed (run) and so much more. Now that we have been in "**A Place of Our Own**" for almost a year, it is good to be reminded of the whole process of making decisions and implementing those decisions. So, as a reminder to all of us about how we work as Presbyterians: The Session is the final word. By that I mean that when the Session acts on something and makes a decision, that is the direction in which we will go. Of course, as in any governing body, decisions can be remade, reversed, over-ruled by that same body if they bring it up according to Robert's Rules of Order. The Moderator of the Session is the Pastor or Interim Pastor; the Clerk of the Session is an ordained Elder who may or may not be an active Session member.

When a Session Committee is given a responsibility by the Session or appointed by the Moderator, they make the final decision UNLESS the Session, or the Moderator, specifies that the recommendation comes back to Session as a recommendation for Session's action/decision. The Session will NOT normally act as a Committee of the Whole.

OK, Question: **What does the Pastor do?** According to the Book of Order the pastor has NO veto power at all. The pastor is solely responsible for: his/her sermons and the scripture selections; the prayers; the hymns/songs sung; at whose wedding or funeral he or she will officiate or bury. Session is responsible for every other decision EXCEPT: 1) when we finally have an installed pastor the congregation is responsible for setting his/her salary and benefits package (Terms of Call); and 2) for electing Elders and Deacons.

Session sets the budget, the time and Order for Worship and so much more. *What Session does need are people to volunteer to serve on the various Session committees!*

The work of the Deacons, according to our Book of Order (G-6.0402) and under the direction of the Session, and is to "*minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and without the community of faith.*" So, the ministry of the Deacons is BOTH within the church and out into the community, probably with greater emphasis on within the church. The Moderator of the Deacons is one of the active members of the Board of Deacons. The Pastor or Interim Pastor is an advisor only.

We are so blessed with so many so willing to help and get things done; as your Interim Pastor I am one who **totally** believes in supporting the decision of the responsible body even if I disagree with the decision! I do that in Presbytery, at Synod, and in the General Assembly. I do it here. I expect no less! *Signed bj*

### NOTES FROM FRIENDS



Dear friends at Palm Springs,

This contribution meager as it is, is our gift to Palm Springs in honor of Bill Johnson's incredible ministry and leadership. How blessed we were to witness to that community with all the saints at PSPC

Blessings and Love,

*Ken & Donna McCullen*



**2010 BUDGET PLANNING**

As we all know, it takes money to run a household, a business, *even a church*. In this time of so-called recession, and with money tight for so many, we still have electric bills, water bills, gardener pay, secretarial, administration, custodial pay, pastoral support, and mortgage payments.

God has blessed us so much. The question is: how graciously are we returning to God's work of his gifts to us?

In order to call a pastor we need to increase our budget; Pastor *Bill cannot continue indefinitely as much as he might like to do so.*

So, watch for letters from the Stewardship Committee and from Pastor Bill along with a pledge card and 2010 budget. Please PRAY about your commitment to Palm Springs Presbyterian Church for 2010. Thank you.

~~~~~

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Economically speaking, 2009 was a dreadful year for many families around the world. Some lost homes, cars and jobs. Many are unable to fund college educations for their children, and bank accounts have dwindled. What will 2010 bring: movement toward less of everything or toward a more hopeful future?

Here's a good resolution to make: "Our family will pay close attention to our income, our savings and our necessary purchases. We will keep a record of every dollar spent and every dollar saved."

Money accumulated, invested and given wisely will bring peace of mind and the ability to contribute more to the church and people in need. Families must develop a healthy attitude toward money. Scripture doesn't condemn money; it simply warns against loving it or making it an idol (1 Timothy 6:10).

With God as our mentor, nearly every family can avoid having crushing debt. Wise stewardship brings relief and unbridled joy to those who practice it. As economist George Humphrey said, "I don't think you can spend yourself rich."

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Where has this year gone? We have been so busy learning new music, practicing hard, and enjoying every minute of it, although you may have heard a few sighs!!

What a year it has been. Sometimes we have 4 in the choir, sometimes as many as 13 and at Christmas, we were down to 6 and maybe 5. We definitely are looking for A FEW GOOD MEN!!

Summer music was very good and everyone kept his or her date for singing or playing. Sheila, our flutist is an absolute delight and we look forward to her doing more in the coming year.

Now we can look forward to learning more music to prepare for Palm Sunday and Easter and then what do you know, it is time again for summer music.

Thank you for the many comments on our music. We truly think that this church's music is only for the Glory of God and we try to convey this in every song we sing. We look forward to presenting new music this spring and also some old favorites.

We always ask you to let Pastor Johnson know the hymns that might be your favorites and he will work them into whatever Sunday would be suitable.

Thank you for allowing us to help set the mood for Sunday worship and hopefully fill your heart with joy and love.

Geri Bintliff

Elder, Worship and Music

~~~~~

Many of you remember Betty Donaldson who was a member of PSPC and also sang in the choir. I recently spoke with her daughter, Cathy, in Virginia, and she brought me up to date. Betty has had many medical problems after leaving Palm Springs and left Virginia to go to the University of Michigan where her son-in-law is on the board and she would receive better care. She recovered and returned to Virginia but it was decided it would be better being closer to medical care. I know Betty would love to hear from old friends.

Her address is:  
 Betty Donaldson  
 Telephone # 804 360 7587  
 111 Bregon Dr.  
 Saline, MI 48176-1191  
*Geri Bintliff*



## **DEACON'S CORNER**

DEACON'S

The Deacons want to thank all of you that brought in lotion and toys! We are truly blessed with many wonderful members and friends in our church family and you show this whenever you are asked for help with one project or another. Personally, it brought tears to my eyes to see all the toys being brought in. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We also want to remind you that you can still sign up for the Project Linus group. You don't need to be here year round or have any sewing, knitting, or crocheting skills to join this group.

Thank you for being such a wonderful church family!

*Christine Lutke*

Deacon, Chair



**Christmas  
 Joy Offering**

## **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

The members and friends of PSPC generously shared their gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering of \$2,328.00

God's love in human form is certainly among us and may our gifts bear joyful witness to that uncontainable love.



The Mission Committee would like to thank PSPC members and friends for your generous donation of \$920.00 to the Heifer Project. By sponsoring sheep, goats, honeybees, rabbits, chicks and etc., you extend a hand of God's love to people throughout the world helping families to improve nutrition and earn extra income for health care, shelter and education for their children.

## **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



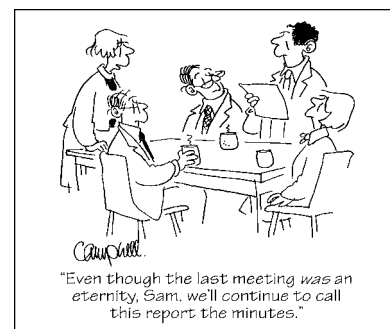
**Session  
 Meeting**

## **SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS**

The Session met for it's regular meeting on Wednesday, December 9th in the church's social hall at 9:35a.m. All were present except for Geri Bintliff who had an appointment; also present was Elder Leon Bennett from the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery. Included, as guests were Sue Cooper and Margaret Pace as nominees to the Session. Session began with a devotional from Pastor Bill and prayer by the members of Session.

Session heard and acted on motions concerning the walkway, Pastor Bill's knee surgery in January, and a number of other items keeping the church moving ahead. It was noted that our income and expenses are better than in past years, but that we need increased income to do the ministry we need for next year. It costs more to be here than when we rented.

Session adjourned about 10:25 a.m. with Pastor Bill complementing them on a job well done and with prayer.



# IT IS COLD OUTSIDE!

## The Well in the Desert: Food & Clothing Needed.

The *Well in the Desert* still needs support. Now that we are well settled doesn't mean that we can forget the needs of the Well-in-the-Desert. Keep up the good work with food, clothing, blankets, money, water, etc. Bring your donation on Sunday mornings, leave them by the front door in the box marked "**Well-in-the-Desert.**" They are usually picked up first thing Monday morning. In fact, Pastor Bill just told us that he and Joyce are planning on bringing a half dozen cans of food the first Sunday of each month; we all have so much and we can all do something similar maybe by beginning with one can of food a month. *Thank you.*



### BAKING FOR OUR FIRST-TIME VISITORS

New visitors to our church have been delighted to receive home bake bread and cookies. This program, headed by Frances Gotenstein, will continue as long as our members and friends continue to help with the baking.

So far, we have two bread bakers and two cookie bakers. Anyone else would be a welcome addition. Please call Frances at (760) 320-2025 if you would like to assist in the treat-giving endeavor.



### LADIES BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS

Nine ladies attended the combined November/December luncheon at the Sidewinder Café in Desert Hot Springs and enjoyed a tasty meal. The next luncheon will be on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. A sign up sheet will be available in the fellowship hall.

Many of our "Snowbird Ladies" who arrive after the holidays should be back and joining in on the fun. We look forward to seeing their "smiling faces."



### PSPC SHOPPING BAGS

We all go shopping. *Whether it's to the grocery store or just buying something for ourselves.* The question is.... what kind of bags do you use? Can you imagine seeing the looks on the cashier's face at Macys or better yet, Saks when you ask them to put the merchandise in **OUR PSPC SHOPPING BAGS??**

### WHAT A WAY TO EVANGELIZE!

If you do not have one or two, we can help you change that. Talk to Jim DeHart or Jackie Morgan.



### WE ARE NOW IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY! CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND EXCITING WEBSITE & EMAIL

REMEMBER: Our email address is:

**info@ps-pc.com**

**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



Men's Bible Study

### MEN'S BIBLE DISCUSSION

Why do the men have the habit of meeting each Wednesday morning in the church fellowship hall at 7:00 am for over 20 years? Formerly, it accommodated their work schedules and currently it satisfies their Presbyterian attachment to communal feasts as they join in breakfast at local restaurants after the meetings.

The discussion is non-judgmental and their spirit of love is unconditional. Their current discussion centers on the Sermon on the Mount.

Join the men as they seek God's love together.

*Allen Perrier, Elder*



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**With Elder Joyce Johnson**

**Begins Again on Tuesday, January 5th**

Our Bible Study on Romans continues, on Tuesdays, 9:30 am to 11:00 am in our Fellowship Hall. All women of the church and friends are invited and welcomed.

**We are back:**

**Please join us on January 5, 2010**



**From Margie Hedger's Kitchen**

**Cheese Pie**

- 1 1/2 c Graham Cracker crumbs
- 1 stick unsalted butter-melted
- 1 8 oz. pkg. Cream cheese, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 c sugar
- 1 c sour cream
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Zest of 1/2 lemon

Heat oven to 325 deg.

Make the crust with the crumbs and the butter pressing the mixture into bottom and sides of 9" pie pan. Chill. Beat cream cheese w/electric beater, scraping sides often, until smooth. Add eggs 1 at a time, scraping down sides between additions. Slowing add sugar. Continue to beat until pale yellow and fluffy, about 1 to 2 minutes more. Add sour cream, vanilla and zest, beat until smooth. Pour into pie shell.

Place the pie pan in a larger pan; and pour boiling water to come 1/2 way up side. Bake until pale and golden and still giggles slightly—35 to 45 minutes.

Let cool to room temperature, then chill at least 2 hours before serving. Serves 8

Easy and sooooooo good!

**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.**



|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Michael Lutke     | 6  |
| Richard Cuthbert  | 11 |
| Annie MacEwan     | 13 |
| Sydney Webb       | 20 |
| Trent Webb        | 20 |
| Margaret Pace     | 22 |
| Suzy Zenker       | 30 |
| Francis Spreitzer | 31 |

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



January 18<sup>th</sup>

Please send articles to my home by

Fax: 760 329-3333 or email [maggie1952@roadrunner.com](mailto:maggie1952@roadrunner.com)

Thank you



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**PSPC Office hours**

**Monday through Thursday**

**8:00 am - 12:00 noon**

**Closed on Friday**



**SAVE YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS**

A big **Thank You** to all those who have been bringing their plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Keep them coming!! The money we receive from the recycling is being used for the maintenance of the landscaping. While helping the environment you have also been supporting "A Place of Our Own." Bring them with you when you come to church!





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

Music Director:  
Alex Danson

Church Secretary:  
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:  
Margaret Pace



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.

---

---

---