

SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, March 2010

Pastor Bill's "March Meanderings"

Marching Into March with Machismo!



God's future for PSPC is hovering around the corner! I believe. We are entering Lent, preparing to walk with our Lord to Jerusalem, the Cross and, of course, the Resurrection! This is an exciting time as we follow with our Lord and renew our walk and faith in him.

Hasn't it been fun and enlightening to meet our First Time Guests every Sunday discovering who they are, where they have come from and how they found out about us? - friends, family, the Internet, hotels, bicycling or walking past the church, meeting in a gym, or seeing the directional signs on the streets. I LOVE it and I know it takes a bit longer (and we sometimes run a bit over the hour) when we do this, but I hope you enjoy it as much as do I. We are truly blessed with guests in Christ from all over the country and world.

At the last Sunday in March, March 28th, we will celebrate our One Year Anniversary of being in "A Place of Our Own" ... a week late, yes, but a celebration nevertheless. Save the date; bring friends and loved ones, and be prepared to dedicate our facilities and ministry here and God's future for us. Watch for more details coming from our Planning Team.

In the Gospels it is made clear that Jesus is the ONLY way to know and experience God. In today's world we often hear other Christians talk about also needing this or that, but that is contradictory to the teachings of the New Testament. There is only one way to know and experience God, to receive eternal salvation and that is in Jesus Christ, God in human flesh. That is the only essential! Baptism, the Lord's Supper, denomination or non-denomination, Bible translation, even the day or time, etc., is important but not essentials. Please, never forget that. For example, we worship, as do most Christians, on Sundays because worship for most Christians is a celebration of the Resurrection, the re-telling of the Resurrection Story. But, there are Christians who worship on Saturdays (*it is the Sabbath*) or Saturday nights or Sunday nights or whenever. Day and time are not essentials. Just faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ as the Living Word of God.

As I write this, we are just about finished installing our "PowerPoint" (thanks to Ernie, Rocky, Lyle Gary, and Jeff) that will be a great help in worship and can be a positive addition attracting new people. On the *PowerPoint* screen you will see words to the songs we sing, the Scriptures we read, and, hopefully, an outline of my sermon as we did at the SDA church. But, I would add; as you come to worship on Sundays please bring your own Bible. I read from the New Revised Standard Version (*NRSV*) and in our pews we have the New International Version (*NIV*). Bring whatever you use at home and follow along during the sermon. You will discover that it helps bring alive the sermon.

Tuck away in your memories or on your calendars and plan to participate: We will have a **Maunder Thursday Tenebrae and Communion** on Thursday, April 1st and, of course, a **Grand Resurrection Sunday** on April 4th. We have not decided on a Good Friday Service yet, but will keep you posted.

It is important for all of us to know that your Session is working, planning, and praying for God's guidance in reaching out and growing, but ... it takes all of us to do the task God has set before us. We are in a lovely spot; in a beautiful building, but what is the church and what is its business; and how are we doing?

Continued on page 2

I have said this the last couple of months, but I am going to repeat it: 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; to wash feet and to turn water into wine; to feed and clothe and help those who are far less blessed as are we; and to step out of our comfortable boxes and reach out to those looking for something of substance in their lives: namely, Jesus.*

How are we doing and how are you doing in response to God's merciful love?

May this Lent and Easter bring you God's richest blessings, even as I remain, yours, in Christ's service.

Pastor Bill
William N. Johnson
"Interim" Pastor

REMEMBER: Next Deadline for April 2010 **SONSHINE** is March 18th.

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## **Worship Schedule and Sermons for March-April, 2010**

We are now deeply walking with our Lord toward Easter; Lent began in February and continues through March until we celebrate the Resurrection/Easter on April 4th. And what a celebration that will be. For PSPC March will include celebrating our First Year in "**A Place of Our Own,**" but it will be much more: it will be celebrating and sharing the Good News of God's grace, mercy, love and eternal promise/guarantee of his presence with us and all of his creation. With more and more talk by some of the impending collapse of the middle east and the end of the world in 2012 according to the Mayan Calendar, we, as we walk with Christ, have more than just hope, we have confidence of the presence of God. So, spend time reading these scripture passages; invite and bring unchurched or barely churched friends giving them substance for a concrete conviction of the presence of God in our lives and in theirs.

**MAR. 07 ~ The Rev. Patricia Stout, Guest Worship Leader and Preacher**  
**Communion**  
**Psalm 63:1-8; I Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9**

**MAR. 14 ~ "What's Your New Creation?" -**  
**Psalm 32; II Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3**

**MAR. 21 ~ "What Gains Really Count?"**  
**Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8**

**MAR. 28 ~ "What's Your Mindset?"**  
**Palm Sunday and First Anniversary Celebration**  
**Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56**

**APR. 04 ~ "Resurrection: More Than Simple Hope"**  
**Resurrection Sunday and Communion**  
**Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; I Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18**

**APR. 11 ~ "My Lord and My God!"**  
**Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31**

**APR. 18 ~ "John, Mary, Sam, Jane, 'Do You Love Me?'"  
Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19**

**APR. 25 ~ "Wiping Away All Tears" ~ Potluck luncheon  
Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30**

**MAY 02 ~ "What Are You Seeing?" ~ Communion  
Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35**



**MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE REV. DR. HARRY SUMMERS**

On Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. we will have a Memorial Service for the Rev. Dr. Harry Summers, Pastor Emeritus of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church. If you knew Harry and know his wife, Ila, please plan on attending. This will truly be a celebration of Harry's life for which many of us are deeply grateful.



**Congratulations to Elizabeth** for her upcoming participation in the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, which will be held from July 20-24, 2010 at Purdue University. She will be traveling to Indiana, along with 30 other young people from this presbytery, to meet with more than 5,000 youth from across the country and around the world to worship, sing, Bible study, play games and have fun.



**Stan Kenton Alumni Band  
Directed by Mike Vax  
Palm Springs High School Auditorium  
Wednesday, March 10 @ 7:30 pm  
\$20.00 General Seating**

See Elizabeth Morgan for tickets.  
Proceeds will go to the Palm Springs High School Band.



**The "5:59 Gathering":  
March, 2010**

The "5:59 Gathering" will gather on Thursday, March 11 and 25, 2010 with more great food and thought-provoking discussions. Watch for further details. Pastor Bill will continue on those dates with, of course, some of his crazy jokes before eating!



**PSPC SHOPPING BAGS**  
**STILL AVAILABLE**

Do you ever go shopping? *It is never too late to help with the environment.* 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!!**

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**IT IS NOW JUST COOL OUTSIDE!!!**  
**BUT GETTING WARMER**

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

Remember:

Jesus said, *"if your neighbor doesn't have a coat, and you have two, give your neighbor one of them!"*

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 ~ they still need our support. 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."** Also, remember that the **"2¢-a-Meal"** also helps the **Well** ~ 1/2 to the **Well** and 1/2 to the **Presbyterian Hunger Fund!** And, Pastor Bill recently said, "We really could up that to **"5¢-a-meal!!"** They are usually picked up first thing Monday morning. Let's all join together bringing to church, an extra can or two or three to help feed the hungry or bring in some no-longer used coats, sweaters, shirts, shoes, socks, etc. Thank you.



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS**  
**SUNDAY MARCH 14TH**

**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead or you'll be late for church!!!!**



**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

The WOMEN'S RETREAT BAKE SALE was a roaring success! Thanks to the many women and men of the church who shared their culinary skills this bake sale was the most successful in the long history of the event. Over \$600 was added to the fund for the Women's Retreat, which has become such an important element of our church ministry.

This year it will be held on March 20th in our own sanctuary and fellowship hall. Women from our church will host other Christian women from the valley as we "Sing a New Song" under the guidance of Rev. Patricia Stout.

Registration for the day is underway. The cost is \$15, which includes a Continental breakfast at 8:30 AM, and a bountiful luncheon served by the men of the church. Harvey Stephens is heading up the group.

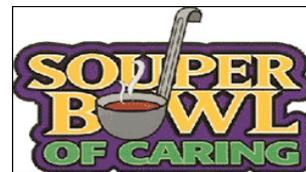
Joyful singing, worship, study, fun session and a closing communion will bring comfort to all attending. Make this a part of your spring schedule of renewal and rejoicing.

Sign up today. Call Susan Cooper at...760-321-2693- If you have questions. Scholarships are available for anyone who needs assistance.

"SING A NEW SONG" on March 20th and you will be singing for many weeks to come.

Submitted by

Gail K. Jones, Co-chair



**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** was enjoyed by many who stayed after worship on February 7th to partake in choices of seven hot, and delicious soups that were prepared by Pastor Bill, Susan McGuire, Jackie Morgan, Barbara Stephens, Jim DeHart, Brenda Erickson and Margaret Pace.

The Mission Committee extends a big THANK YOU to those who came, ate and donated. \$228.00 will be sent to those in need.



Choir Notes

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

**AT LAST!!! WE HAVE GAINED ONE NEW MAN!!!! WATCH FOR HIM AND THEN CONGRATULATE HIM!!**

Kidding aside, we are so glad to add another male voice to our choir. We also have Beata Pater, alto, when she is available. Frieda has been here this winter but plays the bells with Palm Desert so haven't seen too much of her so far. However, she did sing in a trio with Joyce Johnson and Susan McGuire on February 28th. We now are in the Lenten Season and rushing toward Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. We have some lovely anthems to present to the congregation.

Worship services have been overflowing into the Fellowship Hall and isn't that great!! We love all the winter visitors from near and far. We also have Power Point and it will soon be activated. What joy we feel in this "Place Of Our Own"!

Can't you just feel it?

**Geri Bintliff**  
Elder, Worship and Music



**PLEDGING FOR 2010**  
**How Are You Doing??**

At our February 17th Session meeting we were given the report that the Stewardship Campaign for 2010 has about \$68,496.00 pledged. This is, thus far, well short of our goal of about \$135,000.00 needed to continue with our various ministries and "A Place of Our Own." **Please, if you have not yet turned in a pledge card for 2010, do so as soon as is possible.**

***This is essential for our day-to-day operation; we cannot read your minds in what you plan on returning to God's work in and through PSPC.***



**Spaghetti Dinner at Cathedral City Presbyterian Church**

**March 12, 2010 5 – 7 p.m.**

**Noel White**, CCCPC's Choir Director, will be retiring from the School District and they want to establish the Noel White Choir Scholarship Fund. This spaghetti dinner event will be the initial fundraiser. Donation of \$6.00 for the dinner is requested.



**WATCH FOR TERRORIST GROUPS**  
**IN CHURCH**

Latest news reports are that five terrorist cell groups have been operating in many of our churches. They have been identified as: Bin Sleepin, Bin Arguin, Bin Fightin, Bin Complainin, and Bin Missin.

Their leader, Lucifer Bin Workin, trained these groups to destroy the Body of Christ. The plan is to come into the church disguised as Christians and to work within the church to discourage, disrupt, and destroy. However, there have been reports of a sixth group. A tiny cell known by the name Bin Prayin is actually the only effective counter terrorism force in the church. Unlike other terrorist cells, the Bin Prayin team does not blend in with whoever and whatever comes along. Bin Prayin does whatever is needed to uplift and encourage the Body of Christ. We have noticed that the Bin Prayin cell group has different characteristics than the others. They have Bin Watchin, Bin Waitin, Bin Fastin, and Bin Longin for their Master, Jesus Christ to return.

**NO CHURCH IS EXEMPT!**

(However, you can spot them if you bin lookin and bin goin.)



**PRAYER COMMITMENT**

***Your commitment: to spend some time every week or day, praying for PSPC and God's guidance in the future of the church. Every single one of us can do this!!*** Maybe just a minute or 5 minute or 15 minutes or ??? That is between you and God. **But, prayer makes a difference!**

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To sign up on the Prayer Calendar, or call the Church Office, 760 320-2769 and give day and time. You can see Gail Jones or Cleo Ahlstedt for more information and to sign up to pray



Food & Fellowship

The opening scene on our second luncheon gathering of the "FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP" was at the home of Margaret Pace for appetizers with 14 in attendance. After munching on some goodies we were off to Bill & Ellie Cushing's for several delightful salads and lively conversations. Next found us at PSPC for a lunch of meat loaf, mashed potato casseroles, and a green bean casserole with Margery Sheehan hosting. After several of us getting lost on our way to Lucile Kraehling's house for dessert, everyone raved about her delicious dessert.

All in all, everyone contributed to the day by bringing food, themselves and enjoying the fellowship.

The next event has not been scheduled at this time but information will be available soon. If you are interested in participating, phone the church office, or Morella Larsen at 760 320-7035.



**BAKING FOR OUR FIRST-TIME VISITORS**

Lately we have had many new visitors to our church and they have been delighted to receive home bake bread and cookies.

As Easter approaches we will be having many more which means our "larder" will be getting bare. Dedicated bakers would be a welcomed addition. Please call Frances at (760) 320-2025 if you would like to assist in welcoming visitors to our Lord's church.



When an elderly woman asked a church usher to seat her close to the pulpit, he tried to talk her out of it. "If you sit up front, you won't be able to sleep," he said.

The woman looked the usher square in the

face and asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No, I don't," he responded.

"Well," she said firmly, "I'm the preacher's mother."

Fully embarrassed, the usher asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No," she answered.

"Good!" whispered the fellow. "Sit anywhere you want."



**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.**

The men's bible discussion group meets each Wednesday morning at 7:00 A.M. in the social hall. Allen Perrier leads the discussion centered on God's grace and the unconditional love we all have for each other as brothers in Christ. Following the discussion, the group exits for breakfast at a local restaurant. Join us.

Allen Perrier, Elder



**Women's Bible Study**  
**with Elder Joyce Johnson**

**There will be no Bible study on March 2nd and 9th. It will continue on Tuesday, March 16th at 9:30a.m studying the book of Romans.**

**All women of the church and friends invited & welcome**

**NOTE:** On Tuesday, March 16th the women will meet and decide what is next and where they want to go and do in Bible study.

## DEACON'S DEACON'S CORNER

The Deacon's meeting was held February 14<sup>th</sup> following worship and fellowship.

All deacon's were present except for Audrey Berquist, who was recovering from a short hospital stay. Audrey is now home and doing well.

Deacon Robert Kemp has updated our Prayer Chain. Janet Snyder and all Session members have been added to the Prayer Chain list, which will help tremendously getting the prayer requests out to all. Please remember, if you have or know of someone in need of our prayers or have praise, call Robert at (760) 778-6810.

Our church members, affiliates, and friends have now been assigned to our nine deacons. We are contacting all of you now through notes and/or telephone during the next few days and weeks. We as deacons are here to serve-minister to those in need both in our church and in our community. We want to know you, and we want you to know us.

At this time, we are making the plans for the reception following the Memorial Service for our friend Dr. Harry Summers that will be held on Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 3:00 pm in our Fellowship Hall. Dr. Summers passed away in January and we all will miss him.

We will have more news for you next month...please check us out.

Thank you and God bless,  
Virginia Allen  
Deacon Moderator



### LADIES BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS

Sixteen ladies celebrated at The Bistro for the February birthdays. We enjoyed sitting outside in a lovely patio sharing stories, laughing and of course having a scrumptious luncheon. (A little bird told me the chef has cooked for two Presidents, and other celebrities including Gene Autry). You can just imagine the meals we had! And, we plan to have the March 30th luncheon at the Bistro again, so you might want to sign up for it.

Look for the sign up sheet that will be available in the fellowship hall.



### SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met for it's regular meeting on Thursday, February 17th in the church's social hall at 9:40a.m. Present were all Elders plus Elder Ann Smith from Presbytery. Elder Fran Gotenstein was excused. Session began with a devotional from Pastor Bill and marking each elder with Ash Wednesday ashes and prayer. Session approved the minutes from the January 14th, 2010 meeting and the Congregation meeting of February 14, 2010.

Session elected new Commissioners to Presbytery: Elders Bob Wulf and Jackie Morgan with Margaret Pace as the alternate. Session also elected a **First Anniversary Planning Team** of Jim DeHart, chair, Margaret Pace, Gail Jones, and Sue Cooper to prepare for our March 28th celebration.

All Session Committee chairs were also elected: *Financial* - Jim DeHart; *Stewardship* -Harvey Stephens; *Long Range/Future Planning* - Harry Henderson; *Nominating* - Jackie Morgan and Margaret Pace; *Worship and Music* - Geri Bintliff; *Administration and Personnel* - Bob Wulf; *Christian Education* - Sue Cooper; *Evangelism & Outreach* - Fran Gotenstein; *Congregational Life* - Margaret Pace and Jim DeHart; *Mission* - Margaret Pace; *Women's Ministry* -Sue Cooper; *Buildings & Grounds* - Harvey Stephens and Jim DeHart; and *Membership* - Jackie Morgan. Now, and this is important: these committees need volunteers from YOU - members, affiliate members, winter residents and friends of the church.

The corporate officers were affirmed: *President:* Bob Wulf; *Vice President:* Jim DeHart; *Secretary:* Jackie Morgan; and *Treasurer:* Jackie Morgan.

Deacon Robert Kemp reported for the Deacons and their work/ministry.

Session was unable to look at the proposed Wedding Brochure since it was not ready to be presented. It will be presented to Session in March.

Session adjourned about 11:35 a.m. with Pastor Bill complementing them on a job well done and Pastor Bill closing with prayer.



**From Carol DeFrancq's Kitchen**  
**Pecan Pie Mini Muffins**

- 1 c brown sugar
- 1/2 c flour
- 1 c chopped pecans
- 2/3 c melted butter (1 stick + 2 tbsp) (no substitutes)
- 2 eggs, beaten

Combine first three ingredients; add melted butter and beaten eggs. Pour into dry ingredients, and beat until just moistened. Spoon into mini muffin pan sprayed with Pam spray. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Makes 2 1/2 dozen. Do not use papers.



**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.**  
**Cell phone-(818) 314-5104**



**YES**, we are ~~still~~ collecting cans and bottles, so keep them coming!! As you know, maintenance of the landscaping is an ongoing expense to the church and the money we receive from the recycling is being used for that purpose. While you helping the environment you have also been supporting "A Place of Our Own." Bring them with you when you come to church! A **BIG THANK YOU** to all of you that have been helping.



|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Bob Wulf         | 6  |
| Dick Erickson    | 6  |
| Mary Shepherd    | 16 |
| Claire Vilhauer  | 25 |
| Don Shepherd     | 25 |
| Steve Lutke      | 28 |
| Caryl Williamson | 28 |
| Ila Summers      | 30 |

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



March 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**



Palm Springs  
Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 582  
Palm Springs, CA 922

#### 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

Music Director:  
Alex Danson

Church Secretary:  
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:  
Margaret Pace



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