



SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, April 2010

Pastor Bill's "April Adventures"



Advancing into April with Anointment

"But, in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died....Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (II Corin. 15:20; 58 nrsv)

With Easter comes the reminder of the new life God has given us by the resurrection of Jesus. With all confidence in the power of God we are encouraged by Paul to be *"steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord."* As we read this passage and as we move into this new month and as the weather here in Palm Springs begins to warm up, we are challenged by Paul to strive to be all that God wants us to be.

For me, these words from Paul become the goal I gain in serving Christ; they are the goal you gain in serving Christ.

We have had a great fall and winter and I expect our spring and summer to be much the same. But, we still have work cut out for us here in this neighborhood. The Dedication and Celebration of *"A Place of Our Own"* was wonderful and stimulating, but it was not an end-all, just the beginning.

How much I love our Praise Singers and Celebration Band; I am constantly impressed by the work of the Session and the Deacons; the efforts of Jackie Morgan and Jim DeHart in the office is a life-savor for me; and the people who volunteer, jump in, when things needing to be done either on Sundays, or Thursdays or whenever - they are a blessing; I love having the PowerPoint so that we can now see more clearly and, I hope, even sing some newer songs/hymns that are not in the red hymnal. Maybe some new technology will attract some younger people, I hope and pray.

There is so much to do and so little time and money with which to do it. But, I am confident God will supply all our needs! God always does!

I have great confidence in our Palm Springs Presbyterian congregation: YOU! And, yes, you and I will miss our Winter Residents and look forward to their return. Who knows, maybe when Advent, 2010 begins we will have to have two (yes 2!) services on Sundays (*can my voice hold out?*). (I am used to 2 - 3+ services on Sundays, but I was a lot younger!) But, we will have guests here on Sundays from all over the world; not many churches can say that! So, I know you and I will make them feel welcome and give them something clear and wonderful to take home to share.

Now, let's start reaching out into this neighborhood ~~ I hear talk about a Vacation Bible School this summer and about helping students with their reading at the school down the street. What about even more follow-up with our local visitors? Anyone volunteer for any of these? **You are needed!**

What about Joyce and me? Well, hopefully as I write this, my knee is getting better; we will take some time to go to our Time Shares in May and August and, in September, we are taking our two oldest grandkids back to the east coast: Washington D.C. Williamsburg, Monticello, Amish Country, and all of that for about 2+ weeks and then we will escape to the Outer Banks of North Carolina for a week or 10 days with dear friends.

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Primarily, I want to assure all of us that this church has a great future; that is, I firmly believe God has a great future for us: a resurrection of sorts. How you and I respond will determine the results of God's future for PSPC.

May this spring bring you and your loved ones God's richest blessings, even as I remain,
Yours, in Christ's Service,

Pastor Bill
William N. Johnson
"Interim" Pastor

REMEMBER: Next Deadline for May 2010 SONSHINE is April 15th.

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND SERMONS FOR APRIL, 2010

- 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

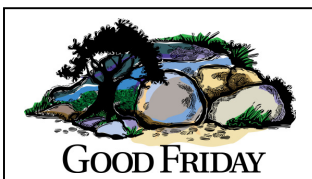
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HOW CRUCIAL IS THE RESURRECTION?

We cherish the birth of Jesus, his wisdom, his loving deeds, his courage in the face of a brutal death, but it is Christ's resurrection, which is absolutely crucial to Christian beliefs.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul explained that the Resurrection was the foundation of our Christian belief system. He insisted that if Christ had not been raised from the dead, then we who believe in eternal life have no hope for it at all. "If the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:16-17, NRSV).

Finally, Paul expresses very clearly how critical the Resurrection is to our Christian hope. "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Corinthians 15:19, NRSV).



At first glance, Good Friday appears to be a misnomer. It seems inconsistent that the day of Christ's crucifixion should in any way be described as "good." But that seeming inconsistency vanishes when we understand that the ancient meaning of good was "holy." The word holy is entirely consistent with the suffering and cross that Christ endured for us. Hence, Good Friday is also known as Holy Friday.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Our Women's Retreat was held Sat. March 20th as the second blessed event in our new Church home and the 18th annual Women's Retreat for our church body! What a special day it was, with over 44 ladies congregating in spiritual songs and renewal, led by REV. PATRICIA STOUT and based on Psalm 96:1, 98 and 100. Gail Jones, co-chair, and Ellie Cushing our treasurer, greeted the participants at the church entrance passing out programs and complimentary materials.

Our theme, "Sing a New Song" began with welcome and prayer, led by Co-Chair Sue Cooper, followed by Scripture reading of Psalm 98 by Barbara Stephens, Marilyn K. Walker, honored us with a recitation of one of her acclaimed poems (modified for the occasion) called "SONG IN MY HEART"

Geri Bintliff, our music director, accompanied by Peggy Alexander, led us in a beautiful songfest of inspirational hymns preceding our speaker Rev. Patricia Stout of Twenty-nine Palms.

Rev. Pat's program was merry, fun, informative and thought provoking. Did you realize that few hymns are written by women? That scripture tells that Jesus and the apostles sang at the last supper? What hymns can you remember from childhood? What lyrics to hymns can you remember without singing the melody?

She had us break up into groups of 7 or 8 ladies to describe our identities, our earliest remembered songs and favorite hymns of today and why. When we reconvened, the most common earliest hymn was "Jesus Loves me" but many hymns were mentioned as today's favorites depending on one's circumstances at the time.

Rev. Pat initiated our new Power Point for her program and included modern songs on her "boom box" The rafters were really rocking with all our joyous voices. A special thanks to Jeff Morgan for setting up the Power Point and microphones for our day.

A delicious lunch followed provided by the men of the church lead by Harvey Stephens. Harvey and the guys including Dick Erickson, Jim Dehart and Robert Kemp, also provided a wonderful continental breakfast before our program began, and helped set up the tables and chairs.

Another special thanks to Sabella Trujillo (great-granddaughter of Barb & Harvey Stephens) who helped setting the tables and drawing winning tickets for the door prize centerpieces.

In the afternoon session, Rev. Pat sang us on another journey encouraging us to sing our daily devotions which has many benefits including pleasing God, raising our spirits, helping us to relieve stress and depression, and increase our breathing capacity which aids our overall health. It's hard to sing and be sad!

We were pleased to hear special music song by Donna Ward followed by workshops in fellowship hall.

We returned to the Sanctuary, for worship where Ellie Cushing led the opening prayer. Kelly Reese sang a beautiful song, which soared to the heavens with her operatic voice. Margaret Pace read Psalm 100 and we all joined in "Here Oh My Lord"

The ladies sojourned to the Fellowship Hall for Communion at tables in the round with an Elder at each table. Pastor Pat led us in the reverent communion service followed by Benediction.

All the women departed with songs in our heart after a great spiritually uplifting day!

Our Co-chairmen, Sue Cooper and Gail Jones, Barbara Stephens, Secretary, Ellie Cushing, Treasurer, Geri Bintliff and Margaret Pace worked very hard to make this day of spiritual renewal a success for all women of our church and we thank God who made all this possible.

Submitted by

Sue Cooper, Co-chair



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 with Jim DeHart or Jackie Morgan. **These bags help and some grocery stores give credit for using them rather than their plastic or paper bags!!**



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.



LADIES BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS

The ladies that attended the March lunch at The Bistro enjoyed it so much, they decided to go again in April. Sitting outside in a lovely patio, sharing stories, laughing and having a delicious lunch is what's so enjoyable of having the luncheons. The sign up sheet is always available in the fellowship hall at the end of each month.



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!



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 \$70,112.00 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.



PRA YER 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



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Just when we think we are gaining on members for the choir, we lose someone. But then we gain someone. Susan McGuire will be gone for several weeks, Frieda Nichols returned to Oregon, we gained Cal Custer (Yeah) and Beata Pater has returned. Donna Ward will be leaving after Palm Sunday.

During the Retreat, I did hear quite a few good voices from the ladies present, so I am wondering where they are? Maundy Thursday music is ready, and we will have Palm Sunday ready and then Easter.

We practice on Thursday at 4PM and will welcome anyone who likes to sing. Alex works with us and in two hours we accomplish a great deal. We also have fun, laughing at our mistakes.

Maundy Thursday Communion will be by Intinction and the servers for Easter Sunday have been called and have accepted.

What a glorious time for all of us. To be able to worship with singing is a wonderful experience.

Geri Bintliff

Elder Worship and Music



Chris and Bill Ireland, friends of Audrey Bergquest, would like to thank the congregation for keeping their little great grandson in their prayers.

Little Owen Connolly was born with his intestines on the outside of his body. He has

undergone two surgeries to remove all but three inches of his small intestines. And he is now fed with tubes into his stomach.

The good news is that Owen is now home from the hospital and weighs 81/2 lbs. When he reaches 15 lbs, he will have another surgery to transplant a small intestine.

This is a rare procedure, so please pray for weight gain, successful surgery and that his little body will accept the transplant.

Owen is three months old and we thank God for skillful surgeons who have continued his life thus far.



SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met for its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 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 prayer from several members of Session. Session approved the minutes from the February 17th, 2010 meeting.

Session heard Committee reports from Session members.

As a reminder the following are the Session Committee chairpersons: *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. These committees need volunteers from YOU - members, affiliate members, winter residents and friends of the church.

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

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

Session looked at the proposed Wedding Brochure prepared by Elder Sue Cooper and authorized it's being printed and distributed.

Session members Jackie Morgan and Bob Wulf reported on the most recent Presbytery meeting, March 13 at the San Bernardino Church where General Assembly Moderator, the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow spoke. At that time 31 youths, including our own Elizabeth Morgan, were commissioned to participate in the Youth Triennium this summer.

Session adjourned about 11:15 a.m. with Pastor Bill complementing them on a job well done and Pastor Bill closing with prayer.



Food & Fellowship

The lively group of the "FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP" meet at the home of Pastor Bill and Joyce Johnson for a delicious luncheon with 12 in attendance. Everyone contributed to the day by bringing food. We all enjoyed the fellowship, lively conversation and the wonderful weather sitting on Bill and Joyce's lovely patio.

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



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 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.

WE ARE NOW IN THE 21st 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



The women's Bible study concluded on March 23rd but will continue to meet at 9:30 with the ladies involved with making bags for the "Gift of the Hearts Kits" and other projects as they are suggested

All women of the church and friends are invited & welcome



When John was exiled to the island of Patmos, he wrote the book of Revelation. In the first chapter, verse 10, John says he was in the spirit on the Lord's Day (Sunday) and had a vision of someone he called the Son of

Man (meaning Christ). Christ was dressed in a long robe with something draped across his chest. What was it?

- A. A golden sash
- B. A towel
- C. A ribbon with a cross sewn on it
- D. A palm leaf

Answer: A (See Revelation 1:13.)

envelopes” make their appearance with the Sunday bulletin. We thank you always for your generous support, which is a tremendous help for us to do the services when we are called upon to help our church members and the needy in our community who come to us for help.

Blessings to you all,

Virginia Allen

Deacon - Moderator



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS. HOPE.

GIFT OF THE HEART KITS

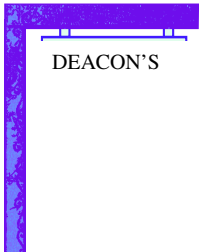
At a recent “5:59 Gathering”, Morella Larsen talked about her work with PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) and the Gift of the Heart kits. The kits contain supplies that are needed during times of need. The Mission Committee invites the congregation and friends to help in providing the following items needed to fill the kits.

School Kit

- 1 - pair blunt scissors
 - 3 - 70 count spiral notebooks (no loose leaf or filler paper)
 - 1 - 12” (30 cm) ruler
 - 6 - new pencils with erasers
 - 1 - hand-held pencil sharpener
 - 1 - large eraser
 - 1 - box of 24 crayons
 - 1 - cloth bag, 12” x 14” to 14” x 17” finished size, cotton or lightweight canvas, cloth handles
- Pack all items in the cloth bag.

Hygiene Kit

- 1 - hand towel (approx. 16” x 28”)
 - 1 - washcloth
 - 1 - wide-tooth comb
 - 1 - nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
 - 1 - bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
 - 1 - toothbrush (in original packaging)
 - 6—Band-aids
- Please do not add toothpaste. Toothpaste, which has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.



DEACON'S

The Deacon’s did not have their regular meeting in March, but held a brief meeting Sunday, March 7 to plan for the Reception following the Memorial Service for our Dr. Harry Summers. All nine

Deacons worked well together from the planning thru the clean up. I would venture a guess of 100 + family & friends attended the service and the reception. Thank you Deacons and all who helped make this a special day for Ila and her family. I had several phone calls telling me how nice the Memorial Service and reception was. Now, Ila will be celebrating her 90th birthday on March 30th. I’m sure she would truly appreciate a card or note from us.

The Deacon’s are going to help with cookies that our church presents to our 1st time visitors at our Sunday morning Worship Services. This is Fran Gotenstein’s project, and who has been baking cookies and packaging them herself each week. Our Deacons will have their flock members bake an extra dozen when it is their turn to provide the refreshments after worship. This should help Fran.

I have recently had the pleasure of visiting the Hacienda Valdez in Desert Hot Springs, meeting the staff and learning about this facility. The Deacons have been helping these ladies for three or four years now. This is a Rehabilitation Center for alcohol & drug addition. The residents are ladies from the ages 18 to 75. The length of rehabilitation is approximately 60 days. The center does help to get employment for these ladies when they are ready to be released and get out and support themselves. These ladies need our prayers for strength, as well. We visit this center between 4-6 weeks.

April is our month when our little “green

Seal all items in one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

You can bring a completed kit(s) or items from the lists and we will assemble the kits.



Requests were made by several of the ladies attending the Women's Retreat for the recipe of Pastor Bill's Key Lime Pie.

**From Pastor Bill's Kitchen
His Famous Key Lime Margarita Pie**

1 and 1/4 cups crushed pretzels for crust (finally crushed) 8 3/4 to 9 inch pie pan

1/4 cup sugar

6 tbsp. butter, melted for crust

Mix together pretzels, sugar, and butter, form into 8 3/4 or 9 inch pie pan and place in refrigerator while preparing rest of pie.

1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk

1/2 cup lime (or lemon) juice ~~ I use 2/3 regular limes and 1/3 key limes with, if you wish, 1 jigger plus or minus of Tequila ~~ for a total of 1/2 cup. I will also add lime zest - a tbsp or so just for flavor and looks.

1 envelope Kool-aid Lemon-lime (or just lemon if making lemon pie), unsweetened soft drink mix.

1 tub (8 oz) Cool Whip whipped topping thawed and softened

Mix condensed milk, lime juice and Cool Whip and then add Kool-aid until well mixed. Pour into pretzel piecrust and place in freezer for at least 6 hours or overnight. Remove from freezer 30 minutes before serving; dip pie pan into hot water for 20-30 seconds to make easier to remove.

Makes 10 small or 6 large servings.

Enjoy!!

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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.

Cell phone-(818) 314-5104



Leslie Lutke	5
Jeff Morgan	5
Carie Webb	8
Katherine Weezorak	15
Sue Cooper	18
Robert Kemp	23
Angie Hempy	27

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

**Sonshine Deadline
April 15th**

Please send articles to my home by

Fax: 329-8084 or e-mail:

maggie1952@roadrunner.com

Thank you



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



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.
