



SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church May 2010

Pastor Bill's "May-day Meanderings"

*"At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat
and began to walk" (John 5:9 nrsv)*



We sometimes tend to forget that Jesus' touch lifts us up and out of the ordinary into the extraordinary. This man had been ill and crippled for years -- 38 years to be exact -- and Jesus told him to get up, pick up your mat, and walk. And he got up and walked. He took a chance on Jesus; it is called **"faith!"** It seems to me there are times when we hear Jesus but respond, *"well, Lord, let me check this out before I take any chance or attempt anything new."* But, isn't our faith about taking chances and attempting new things for God? I believe so.

I believe there are times when we have to pick up whatever *"mat"* we have and begin walking as Jesus directs; then we will find new life in Christ. The question is: what *"mat"* is keeping you from walking as Christ commands? We all have them!

As we head into May and race rapidly toward the warmth (heat?) of summer, I believe there are many things we can do in the name of Jesus, starting right at home and in our neighborhood and in church and in our church's neighborhood.

I am constantly asking myself, *"what should I be taking a chance on doing or attempting in Jesus' name?"* And the older I get the more answers I get. What about you?

As we move into the spring and summer we see lots ahead of us: Vacation Bible School; opportunities to bring friends to church; time to study the Bible with either the men on Wednesday or the Women on Tuesdays or with lots of people on Sundays before worship begins. Maybe time to gather two or three friends together to pray for yourselves, for the joys and concerns you've heard on Sunday mornings, for the church, for our nation, and for this world in which God has placed us.

As I wrote here last month, *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!** But God says very clearly: You **are needed to get the job done!**

What is happening in worship in May? May 2nd, Communion, we will be blessed to have the Rev. Pat Stout with us again leading worship, preaching and administering the Lord's Supper. That Sunday both Joyce and I will be participating in our daughter, the Rev. Julie Hodge's, installation as one of the Associate Pastors at the Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church and both Joyce and I have been elected by the Presbytery to be part of the Installing Commission of Presbytery. We will miss you on the 2nd but will rejoice with her. On May 30th we will have Elder Suzanne Swartz leading worship and preaching, as Joyce and I will be returning late that day from a week's vacation. Other than that, as you will note in the article about worship and preaching, I will be here the other Sundays.

As I also wrote last month, *I want to assure all of us that I am convinced 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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND SERMONS FOR MAY, 2010

Just because Easter is Past, we do not take a break from our faith until Christmas. In fact, look at the commitment of those in worship with you in church. The Lectionary call this time of year in the church “**Ordinary Time**” but there is nothing ordinary in living our lives for Jesus Christ. During the next several months Pastor Bill will be leading us in worship and sermons on “**Extraordinary Lives in Extra-Ordinary Times.**”

MAY 02 ~ "It's Not a Friends and Family Plan" - Guest Pastor-Rev. Patricia Stout
The Lord's Supper
Psalm 119:155-168; 2 Timothy 4:2-5; John 12:37-45

MAY 09 ~ "What Does it Take to be Made Well?" - Pastor Bill
Psalm 67; Revelation 21:22, 22:5; John 5:1-9

MAY 16 ~ "Do You Know God?" - Pastor Bill
Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

MAY 23 ~ "Keeping the Commandments" - Pastor Bill
Psalm 104:24-34; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

MAY 30 ~ "Guest Pastor– Elder Suzanne Swarts
Potluck Luncheon
2 cents a meal offering

JUNE 06 ~ "The Spirit of Truth" - Pastor Bill
The Lord's Supper
Psalm 146:1-10; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

EASTER ISN'T OVER

During your preparations for Easter, you may have heard someone say, “All this work and it'll all be over soon.” Sorry, but they're wrong.

Easter as a celebration of the return of spring, the Easter of the Easter Bunny and colored eggs and candy, fancy hats and new spring clothes may be over by Easter Monday, not to come around again until next year.

But the true Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection, is never over. Easter is the reminder and the celebration of a continuing fact: Christ, who was raised from death, is alive today, tomorrow and forever. Daily he offers us and the whole world power to begin new life now.

Easter isn't over ... ever!



UP BUT NOT AWAY

Many Christian denominations celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, which refers to a post-resurrection event that took place 40 days after Easter. This year it occurs on May 13.

According to Luke, Jesus led his friends to a Jerusalem suburb called Bethany. While on a small mountain, he blessed his friends and then rose into heaven while they watched.

The ascension was such a momentous occasion that after Jesus disappeared, his followers had a worship service at the spot. Then they “returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24:52, NRSV).

Because Christ had promised to be with his followers always (Matthew 28:20), from then on they knew he would be with them as Spirit. Jesus' body was up and away, but spiritually he was still and always would be their companion.



PENTECOST

A FRESH LOOK AT PENTECOST

Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, on a day called Pentecost, the Christian church was born. Because Pentecost was a holiday celebrating the harvest (a bit like our Thanksgiving), the apostles and a large crowd had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem.

Many people had assembled near Peter and the other followers of Christ when "From heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind ... (Acts 2:2 NRSV). Then tongues of fire descended on everyone in the crowd.

After the wind and fire descended, all sorts of languages, known and unknown, came out of the crowd. Each person spoke "about God's deeds of power" (verse 11). No wonder Luke wrote, "All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"(Verse 12).

The whole affair was mind-boggling and life changing. The Holy Spirit had come upon many people; they knew God was powerfully at work in their midst.

On Pentecost many years ago, some 3,000 people came to believe in Christ. That's why today Christians remember this powerful event as the birthday of the church. Pentecost occurs on May 23 this year.

MORE THAN A NAME

When the late CBS correspondent Ed Bradley visited the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., he found a letter propped against the black wall. It read:

"I wanted to come back and say hello. You know, I went ahead and married Dick, and we have a beautiful little girl. Her favorite color is purple, the color of this stationery. I went to Arlington to see your grave, and on it, it said you got a Purple Heart for dying. Well, this is your purple heart for having lived. I hope that our daughter finds as wonderful and as beautiful a first love as you were for me. Good-bye. Hello. Nancy."

That's a strong reminder that those we honor on Memorial Day are more than simply names. They were living people who loved and were loved ... and are still loved.

—Adapted from *Homiletics*



Food & Fellowship

CLOSED FOR THE SEASON

The final luncheon for this spring's Food and Fellowship folks was a great fish fry at PSPC hosted by Don Mac Ewan (and Lucille, and special guest, Terry). The participants provided the rest of the meal. Don's special fish was as good as any ever tasted (he all but does the fishing). And, just as importantly, we have maintained the reputation --- Presbyterians are good cooks!

At every gathering of the Food and Fellowship it is a joy to see the relaxed chatter, good laughs and interaction between people, as we all became better acquainted with some of our fellow sojourners of PSPC. Many are repeating participants (they must like it), so it's usually back by popular demand.

In five short* months, the new "season" will begin with the seasonal folks (rain-birds and snow-birds) returning to the desert. Depending on interest and/or popular demand Food and Fellowship may be a point of future discussions and calendaring. What do you think?

(*If you think five months is not short time in the hot desert summer, just sign a note due in six months... and then see how fast five months will go by.)

Morella Larsen



The "5:59 Gathering"

May 2010

The "5:59 Gathering" will gather on Thursday, May 6 & 20, 2010 with more great food and thought provoking discussions. On the 6th, Pastor Bill will base his presentation on the National Day of Prayer. The 20th-TBA. As always, Pastor Bill will come up with some of his crazy jokes before eating!



SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met for its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 21 church's social hall at 9:30a.m. Present were all Elders plus Elder Anne Smith from Presbytery. Elder Harry Henderson was excused. Pastor Bill read in a devotional from the 2010 Yearbook of Prayer and Study about the outreach of a church similar to ours, and then the Session opened with prayer. Elder Anne Smith shared information with the Session about the Pastor Nominating Committee process and progress.

Session discussed and acted to approve several requests: 1) to approve a Vacation Bible School June 21-25 with the names of volunteers; 2) to approve the names of four members of PSPC who are assisting in reading for 3rd graders at the Cahuilla school; 3) to approve a Centering Prayer group during the week led by Elder Allen Perrier; 4) approved a seminar and possible support group on Alzheimer's, and other dementias, led by Don Shepherd; 5) discussed and decided where to place the beautiful Lord's Table in the Sanctuary.

The moderator referred to the Worship and Music Committee the questions of the number and times of services during the "Season" when our Winter Residents and many visitors are here.

Session also heard from Elder Fran Gotenstein, and briefly discussed, the results of the questionnaire passed out to the congregation a month or so ago: 44 responded with many helpful responses.

Session heard reports on the church's finances and on pulpit supplies whenever Pastor Bill and Joyce are away, including having Elder Suzanne Swartz preach and lead worship on Sunday, May 30.

Session acted, according to the Book of Order; to place ten members on the Inactive Membership roles and those they will be notified in writing and/or by phone calls.

Session adjourned about 11:55 a.m. with Pastor Bill complementing them on a job well done and closing with prayer.



VOLUNTEERS AT CAHUILLA SCHOOL

Volunteering! That word has become synonymous with Palm Springs Area for many who live here. One of PSPC's goals for reaching out to the community by volunteering has now happened. Tuesday, April 20, four women from our church arrived and were greeted by the Principal at Cahuilla Elementary School before meeting at Kathleen Chamber's 3rd grade classroom for helping students with their reading.

It was an exciting challenge and most rewarding for the volunteers. Sue Cooper, Joyce Johnson, Jan Perrier, and Barbara Stephens met with their student for 45 minutes to work on reading stories that the teacher assigned. It was obvious each student needed help with reading. Barbara S. said she was surprised that her 2nd grade Sabella read better than the 3rd grader she was helping. These volunteers plus Margaret Pace will return on May 11th, 18th 25th and June 1st to continue work with the children. If you are interested in this kind of volunteer work, please see Joyce Johnson or one of the other volunteers.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

For the first time in years, our church is planning to hold a Vacation Bible School for children 4 years to 9 years in age. Schools are out for the summer the week before VBS starts (June 21-27). We believe that many parents will want their children to be involved in VBS as a safe and excellent place to spend the morning from 9:00 to 12:15. PSPC has a list of volunteers already willing to help, but it will take at least 6 more people to be part of VBS before we can make this week actually happen.

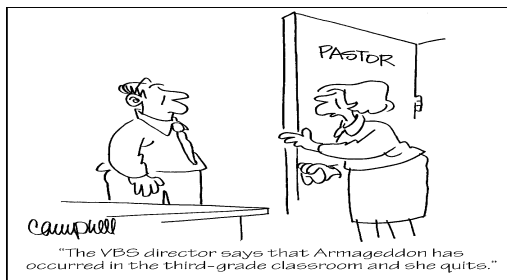
Those who have volunteered:
Cooper, Sue
Cushing, Ellie
Egan, Karol (2 hours only)
Krahling, Lucille
MacEwan, Lucille

Continued from page 4

MacEwan, Sophie (Lucille MacEwan's granddaughter)
Morgan, Elizabeth
Pace, Margaret
Perrier, Jan
Reece, Kelly
Sheehan, Margery
Spencer, Nancy
Stephens, Barbara
Stephens, Harvey
Weber, Sally
(Anita Hendricks daughter)

No specific skills are needed, just a love for children, and a desire to be part of an exciting program. We will have Bible Stories, Video Lessons, Crafts, Snacks, and Music for all children enrolled. There will be training for all who participate. It is our opportunity to reach new families with the good news of having Jesus in their life. Please volunteer for VBS. See Sue Cooper ASAP.

Joyce Johnson
Elder



THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful
name,

For U, He was born; that's why He came.
And His great love for U is the reason He
died.

It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?
The stones split away, the gold trumpet blew,
and

This word, resurrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His Upward
ascension,

He felt there was one thing He jus had to
mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true,

That I love them all—Just like I love U."
So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?
It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it starts with U.



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!!**



PLEDGING FOR 2010

Have We Received Yours??

At our April 21st Session meeting we were given the report that the Stewardship Campaign for 2010 has about \$70,632.00 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.



LADIES BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS

Last month your editor told a "little fib" regarding where the ladies had their March luncheon. The Sonshine went to print before the luncheon and it was assumed they went to The Bistro.

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The morning of the luncheon the ladies were informed the chef was ill and other arrangements were hastily made. The final destination was Elmer's in Palm Springs and despite the last minute confusion, the ladies reported the food was very good and they had a wonderful time.

Keep your eyes open for the sign up sheet that is always available in the fellowship hall at the end of each month for you never know what is in store for you when you join the women for lunch!!!



The first Thursday of May each year is designated as a day for the people of our country to pray. Yes, there is separation of state and church in America, but religious people in our nation would never vote for the separation of America from God. This country surely will always remain, "one nation under God." Therefore we are right to set aside a day for national prayer — a day when we can beseech God's guidance regarding our nation's policies and actions, and pray for the general welfare of all citizens, especially for the helpless and those suffering injustices.



Hi Bill, Jackie, Margaret and all the other saints at PSPC.

I always read the Sonshine with great interest. I loved the April picture of the rain because it is raining today, nice pleasant rain. It was 81 here yesterday and 75 today, so Spring has truly begun to spring forth. I am so excited about what is happening with the ministry at P.S. It sounds as if the power point is working out well.

As soon as I received your newsletter, I sat down to pray for all of you. Donna had pneumonia (what else can happen) but she is doing quite well now. She still gets sapped of her energy when she gets chemo every Thursday but then she bounces back on Friday. I am doing all the administrative leadership at the church here (530 members). I pray for the interim group to choose an interim as quickly as possible.

My foot is still numb so I am dependent upon folks here to pick me up and take me to

church and other places, but I am getting a little bit better. We miss all you folks (especially when I hear how great things are going). I would love to be a part of your growth and development. We have both volunteered to be involved at the General Assembly that is in Minneapolis this summer and we look forward to seeing the folks from Riverside Presbytery. Bill, you continue to have my admiration and my support and love in Christ. My love goes out to all the folks at Palm Springs.

Blessings and love,
Ken & Donna

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



Thank You to the ladies of the Women's Bible Study for assembling 27 hygiene kits and 25 school kits for the **Gift From the Heart Project for PDA.**

Also, a Big **Thank You** to everyone in the congregation who worked hard sewing bags, assembling the kits, and donating the supplies to fill them and to Morella Larsen for sending them off..

The Deacon's Meeting was held April 11th following Worship and wonderful fellowship, home baked goodies, coffee & lemonade. Our Deacon Audrey Bergquist is recovering slowly but surely from a badly broken leg. We trust that by June Sunshine reaches us, Audrey will be back in her home

again. Please continue to keep her in your prayers for complete recovery & for her leg to be stronger than ever...

Deacon Robert Kemp is continuing to update our Prayer Chain. He would appreciate additional church members to join in and help with the calling. This does not require a lot of your time, is not a difficult task. Such a wonderful and simple assignment to reach out to more of our congregation to pray for the concerns & praises of church members, affiliates or even a community friend that is in need of a prayer. Call Robert Kemp at (760) 778-6810, and let him know you would like to help with the Prayer Chain.

The Deacons did not have their "little green envelopes" available on Sunday April 11th. Even without the envelopes, you all were very generous again, and we, the Deacons thank you for this giving, and always, for your continued support.

We have Deacon's Moments six times a year, Feb., April, June, August, Oct., and Dec. You will always find the green envelopes in the Sunday morning packets on these months listed. As you know, your giving helps the Deacons to continue with the ministries we are called upon to do through out the year.

Our next Deacon's meeting will be May 9th following Worship Service and our refreshment time. With the summer months approaching and many of the deacons traveling in and out of town, we have decided to dispense with the meetings during the months of June, July, August and possibly September. We will still stay in touch with all our flock members. If you have a question or concern, call your flock Deacon. His or her name is listed in our new Church Directory.

We will have Deacon's Corner in the Sunshine again next month for you. Check us out. We value your comments and suggestions.

Thank you and God's Blessings to all of us.

Virginia Allen
Deacon - Moderator



SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Meets each Sunday, at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The course of study is from the Kerygma "Discovering the Bible" series and led by Dick Erickson



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The choir has worked hard during Advent, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday to present music that would move us closer to Jesus and our faith. We have been blessed with people who are devoted and faithful servants.

We will, with Session's approval, sing through May and June with our last Sunday being July 4th. We will have solos, instrumentals, duets, and trios, for the summer music. If you have the gift of singing, playing an instrument, please let me know.

Geri Bintliff
Elder, Music & Worship

PRECIOUS IS A MOTHER'S LOVE

So tender is a mother's love,
A love that can't be measured,
A love we know, without a doubt,
Is one that's to be treasured.

For God instilled this special love
Within a mother's heart
For all of her dear children,
Though near or far apart.

Unchanging is a mother's love
Throughout the fleeting years,
A love that's wrapped with gentleness
Which wipes away all tears.

How precious is a mother's love,
It lingers all the while,
And keeps alive that heavenly bond
Between a mother and her child.

Loise Pinkerton Fritz

It Is now GETTING HOT 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. Also, remember that the "**2¢-a-Meal**" also helps the **Well** ~ 1/2 to the **Well** and 1/2 to the **Presbyterian Hunger Fund!** Maybe we should up that to "**5¢-a-meal!!**" Let's all join together in bringing 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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

4/19/10

Dear Pastor and members of the congregation,

Thank you for your beautiful "Souper Bowl" contribution. We are honored to be the hands of your hearts.

The poor economy has increased our hungry and the need of our social services. Your gift really helps.

You have not closed your ears to the cries of the poor. Surely God will hear you when you cry out.

May the Glorious Light from Heaven shine down on you and brighten the lives of you and yours.

God's Aloha,

Wayne McKinney

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Friends-

Thank you so much for your generosity, partnership, and for doing what you do for people in need. Your support of the Well in the Desert is so appreciated in allowing us to feed and nurture those in need.

"From All of Us at the Well"



BAKING FOR OUR FIRST-TIME VISITORS

Thank you to all the bakers who have contributed to the "stock pile" of goodies for our first time visitors. The Deacons have been over-baking to contribute to our weekly "gifts."

It is quite obvious that this program has been quite successful, and appreciated by our visitors. Again, if you wish to contribute to the endeavor, please call Frances at (760) 320-2025 who will be glad to bag and tag your contributions.

Frances Gatenstein
Elder, Evangelism & Outreach



SAVE YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS

Since January, we have collected and recycled enough bottles and cans to raise \$95.00, which really helped to defray the cost maintaining the landscaping. So the answer to the question, "Are we still recycling"? You bet, so keep them coming!



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



Requests were made for the recipes served on Souper Bowl Sunday. So for the next few months, those recipes will appear in the

Sonshine.

From Susan McGuire's Kitchen

Taco Soup

- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 lb. ground beef or turkey
- 1 med. can corn (about 15 oz.)
- 1 med. can kidney beans
- 1 med. can stewed tomatoes
- 1 pkg. mild taco seasoning
- 1 med. can black olives
- Tortilla chips
- Shredded cheese
- Fresh cilantro
- Sour Cream

Sauté the meat until browned, with onions. Then add the corn, beans & tomatoes with their liquid, seasoning mix, and drained olives. Mix and heat completely. Offer cheese, chips, fresh cilantro and sour cream to top off the soup.
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



Roy Yoon	3
Elizabeth Morgan	6
Kathy Smith	10
Hubert Ash	13
Donna Mead	13
Don MacEwan	20
Sherry Mann	22
Helen Davis	26
David McGuire	29

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

**Sonshine Deadline
May 20th**

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



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