



SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, February 2008

From Pastor Bill's "Powerbook"

February 2008

February, 2008 is *Valentine's Day* and this year, *Leap Year*, our *Wedding Anniversary* (I've already scheduled flowers); and who knows what else. We celebrate *Ground Hog's Day*, believe it or not. Even more important, we celebrate Ash Wednesday on Feb 6th. **Above all, we remember the beginning of Lent, which is February 10th.** You will have already received a small booklet about Lent in Sunday, Feb. 3rd's Order of Worship. Hopefully, you will use it to enhance your journey through Lent to Easter. We also have a couple of interesting, provocative, and challenging "5:59 Gatherings:" Dr. Ken McCullen will conclude his two-part series (*begun on Jan. 24t*) on "*An Irresistible Invitation*" and the Rev. Julie Hodges will bring us her "*The Stewardship of the Environment.*"

On Feb. 9th, the Presbytery of Riverside will present their **LEaD** seminar during which I will present a seminar on "*Googling Reformed Theology.*" If you are interested in attending, please see me or I might do it again at the "5:59 Gathering" in March!

As we move into Lent, it is my belief that it is critical that we renew our commitment to Jesus Christ. We hear these days, how Muslims hate/fear Christians and turn an angry eye toward us when we call ourselves "*Christians*" But when we identify ourselves as "**Followers of Jesus Christ**" they respect and listen. *So, what does that tell me?* It says to me that in all we say and do and think it should be centered on proclaiming that we follow our Lord Jesus not matter what! This approach likely applies to our non-Christian neighbors and friends who do not attend church for whatever reason. Maybe, as we discover more and more what we believe as we follow Jesus we will be more capable of inviting others to worship and to learn.

SOMETHING IS POSSIBLY COOKING: You have probably heard *rumors and/or discussion* that the old Palm Springs Community Church on Baristo, just off Palm Canyon, is possibly available. **It is!** Session and others are looking into the possibility of our getting it but, as of this writing, there are absolutely NO decisions. Session members and Deacons have walked through it and have prayed about what God wants for us. We have also seen the attractiveness of the outside, but were overwhelmed by the interior condition. We have to consider the owner, the Cathedral City Church, parking, our finances, whether or not that location would attract potential new members and be a vital witness to down-town Palm Springs, the support of the Presbytery of Riverside, the cost of not only cleaning it up, but the maintenance costs such as utilities, insurance, etc., etc. We will, of course, keep you posted and involve you. It is my hope and prayer that if we do move toward obtaining this facility, we will have your support both prayerfully, in participation, and financially. *In fact, please be praying that not only will God lead us in this but that His will, will be done!*

Further on in this Sonshine, you will see the sermon plans I have for the next several months and the "5:59 Gathering" plans. It should be an exciting, helpful, and stimulating time, of spiritual growth for all of us. Thank you all and God bless you and your loved one in 2008.
Yours, in Christ's Service,

Pastor Bill
William N. Johnson
Interim Pastor

Worship Schedule and Sermons for January - March 2008

CONTINUING IN 2008: WATCH AND WATCH OUT!

This winter of 2008, as we approach the later part of the first decade of the 21st century, I will present a sermon/teaching/thought-provoking series on the role of faith in a world that is struggling with "faith, maybe fait, and/or no faith, even anti-faith." Many with whom I have been talking recently, as well as over the years, have commented on the way in which so much of life seems to be closing in on them: *physically, emotionally, financially, politically, spiritually, environmentally, even religiously*. It is almost as if they have no space or room in which to live; no place to turn; no goal in life; no future and a nearly forgotten past. Life, and even faith, is like a vacuum tube ready to implode or explode; but it is also like a vacuum cleaner ready to suck it all up or blow it out. But few are sure which or what or even when, let alone why. Faith, specifically faith in Jesus Christ, I am convinced, gives us a universe of room to live, experience life, and grow not in a vacuum, but in God's grace. The following sermons point us in the direction we experience in Jesus Christ and through his Body, the Church. I call this series, "**Faith Fights For Fullness.**"

Here is the schedule of worship and preaching for February-March 2008. As you prepare to participate in worship, please read the noted Bible passages in preparation and ask yourself this question: "**What do these passages say to me and how will Pastor Bill present them?**"

Pastor Bill's sermon series will be called, "**Faith Fights for Fullness**" and will guide us as we face so many changes in 2008. The specific Theme of the sermon is in (theme) following the title

FEB. 03 -"Let God Give You a Life" (Depression)

The Lord's Supper Celebrated

Psalm 46; Ephesians 3:14-2

FEB. 10-"Where Do You Want Your Life to Go?" (Vocation)

First Sunday in Lent

Psalm 2; James 2:14-26

FEB. 17-"Now That you are Retired, What Next?" (Retirement)

Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm 32; Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19

FEB. 24-The Crisis of Being Christian at Critical Times" (Politics)

Third Sunday in Lent

Potluck Luncheon

Psalm 2; Romans 13:1-7

MAR. 02 -"There's Power in the Presence" (Power)

4th Sunday in Lent

Acts 2:1-14; II Corinthians 3:3-6, 8-9, 17



Session Meeting

SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church met on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008 at 9:30 am, in the Lounge. Pastor Bill gave opening devotion. All were present. Business included planning on a walk-through of the old P.S. Community (Presbyterian) Church on Barest along with our Deacons, a representative from Presbytery, Elder Leon Bennett, and Dr. Ken McCullen. We decided to meet the following Sunday, after worship, to decide our next steps. Reports were received from all session committees and approved. The Annual meeting of the congregation was set for Sunday, January 30, 2008; committee assignments were made and are listed in the Annual report for 2007. Cal Custer, Allen Perrier, and Harvey Stephens presented a brief report on the last meeting of Presbytery. A report was given on the continuing conversations with the Cathedral City Church, but no decisions have been made. Allen Perrier and Cal Custer were elected as our Commissioners to Presbytery for 2008.

The next meeting of Session met on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008 to discuss the old PS Community Church. It was decided to investigate thoroughly the costs of “purchasing,” repair and improvements, continuing maintenance costs, etc. Also, looking into the possibility of grants, etc., and asking a professional to give us an estimate of costs to bring the building into shape to use. You will be kept posted!

The next Session meeting will be on Wednesday, February 20th at 9:30 am. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 11:10 a.m.

Pastor Bill Johnson
Moderator of Session

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

As you may know, we now have a website and you can visit it at palmspringspresbyterian.com

We keep adding to it and it is Session’s and Pastor Bill’s desire that it will keep all interested, up-to-date on the comings and goings at Palm Springs Presbyterian Church. Potentially it is a help to anyone new or visiting the Palm Springs area and is looking for a Presbyterian Church in which to worship and participate. Any comments or suggestions are welcome. So, LOOK IT UP! Tell us what you think.



The Well in the Desert

Food Needed

The Well in the Desert, one of our Mission outreaches, continues to need food. So, please, as you come to worship on Sundays, bring canned or boxed food supplies for those in need. Thank you.



SOUPER Bowl Luncheon:

Feb. 3rd

What Better Way to Support Mission?

Lot’s of folks look forward to the Super Bowl of professional Football fame (N.E. Pats vs. New York Giants). Millions across the country gather in living rooms, glued to the TV watching, eating, “drinking.” and visiting; some even cheering! (A few will know the score!) Most of us will do something similar. BUT, before the Kickoff, join us, along with Presbyterians across the nation, after worship in the Fellowship Hall for a SOUPER Bowl Luncheon!! NOT a potluck, so don’t bring anything, only a generous donation for delicious soup, chili, bread and/or??? Along with coffee, tea, lemonade, water, etc. Just come and enjoy. All donations will to 100% to mission outside our church-so be generous; you don’t have to cook! And you will get home in time to watch the game...if you wish!



“A Big Thank You” to all those who bought shares for the Heifer Project. The amount given was \$1,165. In addition to this \$120.00 was donated by the Mission Committee bringing the total to \$1,285. We were able to purchase many items to help those in need.

The Heifer Project is always available for purchase year round at the Mission Table.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Ruth Teaford continues to add to our music program along with the Praise Band. Katharine Taylor, M.A. of Joshua Tree will be joining our choir for practice on Thursday, Feb 7th and playing for the service on Sunday, Feb. 10th. She is a candidate for Director/Pianist.

We are busy rehearsing Easter music. Ruth will not be able to continue after Easter and she will be sorely missed. However, the Bell Choir from PDPC will be with us on the 17th and our choir will sing one song with them.

We always welcome new voices to our choir. We need you!! We meet at 5pm on the days of the “5:59 Gathering” and at 2pm on the other Thursdays. Come join us!

Joyce Reimer donated a great deal of older music to the church and if you play the piano, please stop in the office and look at some of the piano works and feel free to take them.

Geri Bintliff
Worship and music



PRAYER COMMITMENT

Every single one of us can do this! To commit some time every week or day throughout February and for the rest of 2008, praying for PSPC and God’s guidance in the future. How much time? That is between you and God. But, prayer does make a difference!

To sign up on the Prayer Calendar, call Jan Perrier at 346-7790 or call the church office, 320-2769 and give day and time.



As We Start the New Year

TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR

2008

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost.

God whispers in your soul and speaks to your mind. Sometimes when you don’t have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at you. It’s your choice: Listen to the whisper, or wait for the brick!

NEW OFFICE HOURS

PSPC Office hours

M-W-F 8:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Tu - Th 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



DESERT BELL-TONES COMING FEB. 17th

The Desert Bell-Tones, under the direction of Ray Allen, in which both Frieda Nichols and Joyce Johnson play, and Ruth Teaford is their pianist, will be here on Sunday, Feb. 17th playing four numbers. As we all know, this is an outstanding bell choir and we look forward to their being with us again. A great time to invite and bring a neighbor to worship.



Thoughts for Valentine's Day

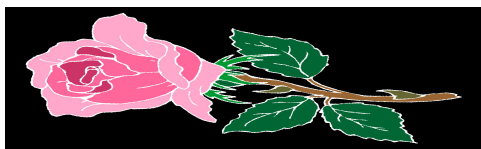
Valentine's Day, a time when thoughts turn to love, But, what is love? Is it a box of chocolates, or a pretty valentine? Is it a red rose, or maybe a dozen? Is it a peck on the cheek, a fond embrace, or a big bear hug?

Well, sometimes love is known in those ways. But love, real love, is how we relate to God and to one another if life is what it ought to be....beautiful!!

Something Special for Valentine's Day

The Women of Cathedral City Church extends an invitation to all the women to attend "**Something Special for Valentine's Day**" at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, February 13, 2008.

Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, Feb. 10th by either calling the church office or Ellie Cushing at 321-6013



NEW FLOWER REGISTRY

If you have a special occasion you would like to celebrate or a loved one to remember, please **SIGN UP for FLOWERS** on the new 2008 Flower Registry, which is located in the Narthex



WHY ASH WEDNESDAY?

Traditionally, the Christian church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.

First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap.

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!



"The 5:59 GATHERING" in Palm Springs Presbyterian Church "
Everyone is WELCOME!! The "5:59 Gathering" includes an outstanding meal for a \$5.00 donation plus lots of fellowship, time of learning and growing together. The "5:59 Gathering" generally meets every other Thursday during the late fall, winter and early spring.

TIME: 5:59 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.

PLACE: Palm Springs Presbyterian Church (we meet in the 7th Day Adventist Church on Sunrise near Ramon).

FOR WHOM: Members, winter residents, and friends who wish to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and in understanding the Presbyterian Church/Reformed, Calvinist Theology.

The Following is the Projected Schedule

Jan. 24 -"An Irresistible Invitation"- The Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen, part 1

Feb. 07 -"An Irresistible Invitation"- The Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen, part 2

Feb. 21 -"Stewardship of the Environment" - The Rev. Julie Hodges, Associate Pastor, Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church

Mar. 06 -"Why Some Presbyterians are leaving the PCUSA & We are Not!"- Pastor Bill Johnson

Mar. 20 -"Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae" – Pastor Bill Johnson-Cathedral City Community Presbyterian Church eating and worshipping with us!

Apr. 03 -"TBA" (a possible hint: "Googling Reformed Theology" or some up-to-date, critical subject grabbing all of us!)-Pastor Bill Johnson

Apr. 12-*Pastor Bill & Joyce leave for Israel, Egypt and Jordan!* Will return May 11th for worship...Gasp! Tired & glad to be home.

Dinner at 5:59 p.m. for \$5.00 and with reservations—call 760 320-2769. Class from 6:60 to 7:45 p.m. in the church social hall.

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Ladies...mark your calendars!



Presbyterian
Women's Retreat

March 15, 2008

Registration starts
Feb. 17th

We are now on the **Internet** and our **email address is**
pspresby@verizon.net



CONTINUES on Tuesday, February, 2008
DURING FEBRUARY & MARCH, the Women's Bible Study will continue to meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the church with Elder Joyce Johnson (Pastor Bill's wife) leading a Biblical study on **Paul's letter to the Philippians**. **All women of the church are invited and urged to bring a neighbor or friend.** Pastor Bill will probably continue to make coffee for the caffeine addicts!

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PLEASE FEEL FREE: to call our **Interim Pastor, Dr. Bill Johnson**, anytime you have an emergency (like going to the hospital) or with questions, concerns, ideas, etc.
Home phone- (760) 345-2993
E-mail-drwnj57@aol.com
Cell phone- (818) 314-5104

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DEACON'S CORNER
 From Virginia Allen's Kitchen

BRISKET WITH PORTOBELLO MUSHROOMS AND DRIED CRANBERRIES

- 1 cup dry red wine
- 1 cup canned beef or chicken broth (low sodium)
- 1 cup frozen cranberry juice concentrate (thawed)
- 1/4 cup Wonder flour
- 1 lrg. onion, sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 1/2 tbs. chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 4-pound trimmed flat-cut brisket
- 12 oz. Pkg. Med. Portobello mushrooms- scrape dark gills off (then slice)
- 1 cup dried cranberries

Preheat oven to 300 degrees: Whisk wine, broth, cranberry concentrate and flour in bowl. Mix onion, garlic and rosemary. Place brisket (fat side up) in roasting pan. Salt and pepper, then spoon wine mixture over brisket. Now spread onion, garlic and rosemary over brisket. Cover with heavy foil. Bake until very tender, basting with juices every hour for about 3 1/2 hours. Transfer brisket to platter

That gets us into at *least* the late 20th century if not the 21st!! So...please give us your **email address** so we can email you the latest going-ons of PSPC: letters, the **Sonshine**, other important information and activities. We will **NOT** give this to anyone else without your permission!!

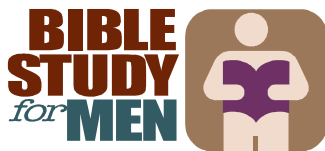
Please leave the form below in the offering plate, give to the office, or mail to the church office
Thank you!!

Name _____

Member _____ Affiliate Member _____
 Friend _____

My/Our email address _____

You have my/our /permission to give others in the church my/our email address:
 Yes _____ No _____



Bible Study: Wednesday—7:00 AM

The Men's Bible Study, under the capable leadership of Allen Perrier, continues on Wednesday mornings at the church in the Lounge, meeting at 7:00 am with a study of the **Book of Matthew**. This is a great way for men to gather together in the middle of the week to renew our spiritual batteries as we study the Bible. Then at 8:00 am, for those who wish, we go to breakfast and continue our fellowship. All men of the church and any other men are welcome. Just show up on Wednesday mornings about 7:00 am. BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible) and GTBT (Go To Breakfast Together).

to cool (about 1 hour). Thinly slice across the grain. Arrange slices in pan with sauce, overlapping slices slightly. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Next day, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place mushrooms and cranberries in sauce around brisket and cover pan with foil. Bake until mushrooms are tender and brisket is heated through, approx. 45 min. to 1 hour.

ENJOY!!!

PORTABELLO MUSHROOMS

6 LARGE Portobello mushrooms

Remove stems from Portobello's-scoop out mushrooms, enough to hold stuffing.

Sauté stems and pieces in 1 tablespoon of olive oil and 1 tablespoon of butter with 1 clove of garlic, about 5 minutes. Add 1 tablespoon Wonder flour and 1/4 cup of dry white wine. Simmer until wine evaporates (about 5 min.). Add salt and pepper. Let cool. Beat 1 egg yolk and add to cooled stems.

Fill mushrooms-sprinkle breadcrumbs on top of filled mushrooms, then Parmesan cheese and dot with butter.

Bake 375 degrees approx. 15 min. Serves 6
ENJOY!!!

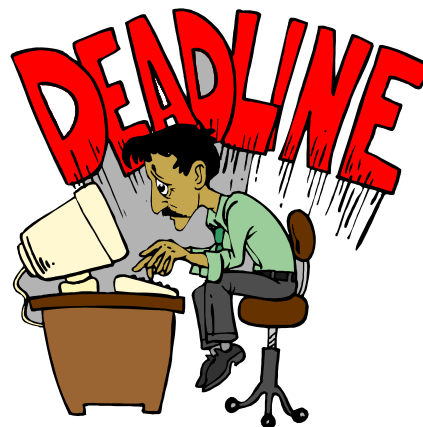


Next Deadline for March Sonshine is February 21st



February Birthdays

Cal Custer	9
Ellie Cushing	11
Kate Walker	15
Karen Egan	16
Christine Siems	16
Verna Cuthbert	22
Jim DeHart	24
Heather MacEwan	25
Iain MacEwan	25
Geri Bintliff	27
Kent McGarity	27



The Deadline for the Sonshine is February 21st

Please send articles to my home by
fax: 329-8084 or e-mail:
maggie1952@roadrunner.com
Thank you



Palm Springs
Presbyterian Church
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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:

Church Secretary:
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:
Margaret Pace



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