



SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, July 2008



From Pastor Bill's "Powerbook"

Our trip to Israel, Egypt, and Jordan was incredible, as many of you have already heard. Joyce took over 400 pictures and I took nearly 900! At the last "**5:59 Gathering**" we showed about 130 of those pics thanks to Jeff Morgan for getting them on the projector at the church. It was fun and I even wore my Egyptian/Arab headdress for a little local ambiance.

We are approaching some major decisions in the life of PSPC. First, do we stay where we are, nesting in the Seventh Day Adventist Church (and they **are** good hosts to us), or do we figure a way of obtaining property of our own? (I know we have done this a time or two before I came as your Interim Pastor). For the later we have two choices at this point: 1) the old Palm Springs Community (Presbyterian) Church on Baristo, or 2) the Unity Church of Palm Springs on Riverside and South Camino Real? These are decisions with which the Session and ultimately, the congregation will have to decide which also involves the Presbytery and the General Assembly of our Presbyterian Church (USA). It also involves our commitment to pay for any possible mortgage we incur.

As I weigh the possibilities, and pray about them, I have become convinced that in order to grow and to be effective witness to Christ in our community, we have to take some risks. And risks can be expensive. Or, we can *play it safe and keep things status quo*.

What does God want us to do here in Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley?

We had the potential opportunity of joining with the Cathedral City Church, which might have involved moving our worship times, Bible studies and "**5:59 Gathering**," and offices, etc., over to Cathedral City. And the members of CAP were very gracious in making that a viable possibility. But, the question was, and is, what would happen to our Winter Residents and for our witness in Palm Springs with that particular move? Palm Springs is, as we all know, an attractive, almost "*magical*," name and place in the minds of many and that opens doors of opportunities to minister, witness and reach out to others. So, for the immediate future, we have moved away from this option of joining with CCCPC, and are looking at properties in PS as well as the possibility of staying put, right here in the SDA church.

Please be praying about these decisions and share your thoughts.

We will again have some "**5:59 Gathering**" opportunities in July (17th) and August (14th) and also in September. So, watch for announcements. Just to let you know, for dinner on June 19th, we had an absolutely delicious sweet/sour chicken on rice, salad, rolls, dessert, drinks, etc., thanks to Jim DeHart. And, of course, served by all the ladies of our church. And only \$5.00!! Loved by all! Presbyterians love to eat!!!

PLEASE READ THIS IF NOTHING ELSE: We need to grow. *I am asking each of us as members, following worship on Sundays, to seek out visitors, welcome them, and invite them to coffee BEFORE visiting with friends. We are now setting up a couple of tables and chairs in the Fellowship Hall to be more inviting for people to converse as they enjoy after worship fellowship. We are a very friendly church, but visitors do not know this unless we actively show it to them. If we do our job, we will grow, if we don't...*

Thank you all and God bless you and your loved ones in 2008.

Yours, in Christ's Service,

Pastor Bill
William N. Johnson
Interim Pastor

REMEMBER: Next Deadline for August 2008 *Sonshine* is July 24th

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Worship Schedule and Sermons for July 2008

Here is the schedule of worship and preaching for July 2008. As you prepare to participate in worship, please read the noted Bible passages in preparation and ask yourself these questions as Pastor Bill continues his series he calls "Roamin' Today with Jesus Through Matthew & Romans:" ***"What do these passages say to me and how will Pastor Bill present them?" "In what ways have these Biblical passages and the sermon touched and changed/challenged my life in Christ?"***

JULY 06 -"The Power of a Prayerful Life"
Communion by Intinction
Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19



JULY 13 -"The Power of Listening"
Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9,

JULY 20 -"The Power of Change"
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

JULY 27 -"The Power of Therefore"
Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Potluck Luncheon following worship
ALL ARE INVITED AND WELCOME TO THE POTLUCK
The **Desert Bell Tones** Bell Choir will be a special guest on the 27th

AUG 03 -"The Power of a Fish and a Loaf of Bread"
Communion by Intinction
Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

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"HEALTHY" SPIRITUALITY"

While studying elderly people and their immune systems, Duke University scientists discovered that senior adults who attend worship regularly have healthier immune systems than those who don't attend regularly.

And at the University of California, Los Angeles, a study showed that college students who participate in religious activities have better emotional and mental health than those with no religious involvement. A high degree of spirituality correlated with high self-esteem.

Participating in worship and other church activities appears to boost not only your spiritual health but also your physical and mental health. Make a commitment to stay involved-even in the busy summer months.



A Challenge for All of Us:

To Grow means New People. Bring Someone who needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ

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A Special
THANK YOU
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We, the family of Leanne Sowards, would like to express our sincere appreciation to our friends and family at PSPC.

We can't thank you enough for all the love and support we have received from you. In our deepest sorrow, we were lifted up by all you who knew and loved Leanne, knowing that she is now with our Lord and finally pain free. God's love was heavily at work through you, His good and faithful servants.

We would also like to especially thank Pastor Bill, Pastor Ken and all the Deacons in their help through this very trying time. We are indeed blessed to be part of God's family in this church.

As I give and receive hugs from each of you I will remember my sister and how she loved those hugs.

In Christ's love,
David and Family
Barbara and Family
Janice and Family
Arthur and Family



CHURCH OFFICE
SUMMER HOURS
PSPC Office hours
M-W 8:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
Tu - Th 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Our congregation has always been known for it's friendliness to people visiting the church and Pastor Bill recently received a note from one of those visitors:

Pastor Bill,

Thank you so much for greeting me when I visited your church on May 17th. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming.

It is a treasured memory.

Thanks,

Janice Lee

So, congregation: Keep passing the joy of our Lord



Pastor Bill's microphone

MANY THANKS 4 THE MIC

As many of you know, some weeks ago Pastor Bill put out a request to help purchase a wire microphone (mic, not mice) for use in worship. (Editor's note-thanks Pastor, I'll keep that in mind while editing your boo boos! :)~). We are a responsive and gracious congregation: A number of you stepped forward giving and/or offering to help pay for this improvement to our P.A. system including Morella Larsen, Don Howard, and Sylvia Poesch, among others. We will keep you posted on the acquisition of this mic partially pending the success of the SDA church's use of the one they have.



A/C, water, paper and all the rest, continue even in the summer. The cost of maintaining the life, and ministry of PSPC, continues throughout all of the summer even when we are away visiting loved ones or escaping the heat. **Please keep your pledges up to date.** If you are going to be gone for a trip or an escape, please plan on either returning your pledge to God early or send it in from wherever. **But, please do not forget PSPC. Winter Residents (Snowbirds) please note:**

We also always welcome your continued support financially and prayerfully while you are away. Thank you.



Session Meeting

SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

Session met on *Wednesday, June 18th at 9:30 am* for its regular meeting opening with a reading and devotion from the **Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study** and with prayer.

All Session Members were present except for Bob Wulf and David DeVries who are out of the state and excused. Session also welcomed Elder Leon Bennett from the Committee on Ministry (our liaison from COM) of the Presbytery and a member of the Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Bill then read from a proposed overture to the General Assembly meeting in San Jose about the epidemic increase in financial abuses in churches of all denominations and beliefs across our nation. Pastor Bill commented on how pleased and confident he is in our financial procedures that protects all involved.

All committees reported. The Finance and Stewardship Committee reported that as of the end of May, all bills are paid and we are in the **“black”** with some monies in the bank recognizing the *“dryness of the summer”* when so many are gone.

The Worship and Music Committee moved, and the Session approved, to hire Alex Danson as our Music Director/Pianist beginning in September.

The Session approved a slightly revised contract with our Interim Pastor, Dr. Bill Johnson on recommendation from the committee of Harvey Stephens, Jim DeHart, and Jackie Morgan. The revision involves a little extra time for paid vacation rather than any increase in salary at Pastor Bill’s request; the new contract has been forwarded to the Committee on Ministry. Session also voted to reimburse the Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen, our Parish Associate for Evangelism, for mileage incurred for our church.

Session discussed again, and decided to combine our annual BBQ in October or early November with a Rally Day inviting new people to our church. Please plan to help with that!!

Session voted to have no regular session meetings in July and August unless called by the pastor or any two-session members.

Session closed in prayer about 11:00 am and then travelled to see the Palm Springs Unity Church as a possible new location for our church.



Choir News

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The search has ended and we are pleased to announce that Alex Danson has accepted the position of Music/Choir Director and will be signing the contract for \$11,500.00 per year. We are so pleased, as Alex is a great talent and will certainly add to our music program. He relates well to the Praise Singers and to the Praise Band.

The Praise Singers will be taking a vacation during the months of July and August. I have arranged for guest soloists, and our own singers to be soloists or duets. I have two former high school singers with impressive resumes. We are also hoping for instrumentalists.

While Kent McGarity was vacationing last month, George Cebra played in his absence. George has played here many times in the past and always adds to the music.

When fall comes, we are hoping to add to the Praise Singers. If you have ever been in a choir before or feel you have a voice to add to ours, PLEASE, we need you!!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC ELDER
Geri Bintliff



AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

John Adams, who became America's second president, was so elated when the United States was about to celebrate Independence from England that he wrote: "It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward, forevermore



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE.

RESPONSE TO THE MIDWEST FLOODS

Our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program responds to ALL needs. If you wish to give to PDA especially to help with the flood victims in the Midwest, send a check to our church marked, PDA-DR000162 and we will direct it immediately. Or, send it to:

Presbyterian Church (USA)
Individual Remittance Processing
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Mark you check, PDA-DR000162

HELP NEEDED

FOR BLIND PALM SPRINGS RESIDENT

David Findley, age 51, is a visually impaired person whose father has been recently hospitalized at Desert Regional.

David needs someone with whom he can talk to in person or on the phone. He lives alone with his father when his father is not hospitalized.

If interested, with no strings attached, talk to Jackie Morgan or Pastor (after he returns). Pastor Bill talked with him shortly before leaving for General Assembly and feels this is a true need.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG BEAR
Proudly Presents Their 1st Annual
Craft Show & Boutique

Saturday August 2, 2008
9:00am - 5:00pm
at

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG BEAR
579 Knickerbocker Rd.
Big Bear Lake, CA

We are looking for crafters that want to join us in selling their handmade creations and be there in the making of a yearly tradition at the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG BEAR. Any questions or for more information please call Jennifer at (909) 866-5683, Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-12:00pm.



A CONDENSED NOTE FROM GAIL JONES

From a recent e-mail to Jackie from Gail tells us of her wonderful summer in Washington.

We celebrate Mom's birthday this week with several events. Then again with our big family on Father's Day in Seattle. Mom's Great Granddaughter is getting married in Vancouver, WA on June 28th. So all of us will converge on the Hilton there.

I just planted dozens of flowers and loved every ache. It brings me such inner peace. I have also been doing my own Bible study of Matthew. I get up at 6 am and enjoy the time of study and prayer before the world becomes too intrusive.

We have attended many events on campus since we returned home. We have such a

fantastic arts program. Everything from musical theatre to orchestra to brass concerts to orchesis (dance) programs.

Our home here is so precious. Built in 1903 but totally modern and yet so warm and inviting. Our front porch is delicious.

Love from Mom and me



Pastor's Business Card

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door.

Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10."

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock," Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

"A cheerful heart is good medicine"
(Proverbs. 17:22)



ARE YOU LOOKING? CHECK OUT
OUR WEBSITE

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

palmspringspresbyterian.com

This website is kept up-to-date weekly by Mario Janesin in our Presbytery office in San Bernardino. We keep adding to it and it is Session's and Pastor Bill's desire that it will keep all interested, and 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. And, we have had visitors comment that they looked us up on the website. Wonderful! Any comments or suggestions are welcome.

So, LOOK IT UP! Tell us what you think. REMEMBER: Our email address is: **pspresby@verizon.net** Please USE it.



CELL PHONE VS BIBLE

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- What if we gave it to kids as gifts?
- What if we used it when we traveled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go...hmm...where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the Bill!

Makes you stop and think, "Where are my priorities? And no dropped calls!"



Men's **Bible Study**



Bible Study: Wednesday—7:00 AM

The Men's Bible Study, under the insightful and dedicated 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).

We are on the Internet!
So, Give us Your E-mail Address

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

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 happenings 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 ___

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Women's Bible Study on the Gospel
According to Luke WILL CONTINUE
in the fall of 2008



SHOPPING BAGS AVAILABLE

The shopping bags are here! A \$5.00 donation for the larger bag and \$3.00 for the small one. Take advantage of this to publicize our church and to treat the environment well. Pastor Bill & Joyce use their bags every time they *remember* to take them out of the car! (Sometimes Joyce sends Bill out to the car to retrieve the bags when they forgot them in the first place!)

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 or carefully used clothing* for those in need. They are usually picked up first thing Monday morning. Thank you.

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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



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 Jan Perrier at 346-7790 or call the church office, 320-2769 and give day and time

┌ **DEACON'S CORNER** ┐
 From Sue Cooper's Kitchen

PARTY CHICKEN AND PASTA SALAD

Prep Time: 40 minutes
 Start to Finish: 40 minutes
 Servings: 12 servings (1 1/3 cups each)
 Salad:
 5 c uncooked Rotini pasta (16 oz.)
 4 c cubed cooked chicken
 1 c thinly sliced celery
 1/2 c chopped green onions
 12 oz. fresh snow pea pods, trimmed, halved crosswise
 2 c seedless red and/or green grapes, halved



Palm Springs
Presbyterian Church
P.O.Box 582
Palm Springs, CA 92263
(760) 320-2769

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the Good News of God by reaching out to others and inviting them into a new relationship with Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves, therefore, to be a center for spiritual growth and friendship, where the teachings of Jesus Christ are faithfully received and God's grace is celebrated joyfully with Christian friends!

Interim Pastor:
Dr. Bill Johnson

Pastor Emeritus:
Dr. Harry Summers

Parish Associate
Dr. Ken McCullen

Music Director:
Alex Danson

Church Secretary:
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:
Margaret Pace



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