

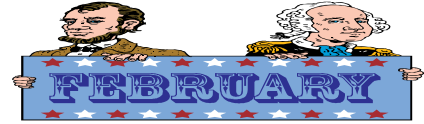


SONSHINE



The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, February 2009

From Pastor Bill's "Powerbook"



Valentine's Day is about here! About love and love. But, the love God has given us in Jesus Christ and the loving guidance God gives each of us.

We have had wonderful results for our Capital Campaign for "A Place of Our Own;" nearly \$90,000.00 pledged over three years! Thank you all! But, as we make this move we all have to pledge or tithe for our 2009-operating budget as well. Session is proposing a 10% increase for 2009 in order to meet all our increased operating costs, including salaries as well as the need for us to find and call a permanent pastor ... not just an interim. As you read this, please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge or tithe to Palm Springs Presbyterian by at least 10%.

One other thing: I know one of the temptations when making a Capital Fund Pledge is to subtract it from our regular pledge or tithe. We sometimes do this for special mission giving such as the Christmas Joy Offering or the One Great Hour of Sharing. Please do not do this! The "A Place of Our Own" and special mission offerings are to be "Over and Above Giving." At this time, as we make this move, we need more than ever to maintain and increase our giving including all the special offerings we make available, especially in these rather uncertain economic times. Certainly Joyce and I have done this all of our adult lives and continue to do this on a regular basis.

As I write this, we are moving closer and closer to moving into our own new church. Still much to do: finish all the escrow legalities; get a piano and P.A. system and Power-Point; remodel the kitchen and even the pastor's office, obtaining tables and chairs and stoves and refrigerators, etc., get the yard in shape and do whatever repair and correction work needed. **Let's make the church glow and invite all to worship and work with us.** Session is working long and hard in prioritizing all of these needs and any help or ideas you have will be deeply welcome and appreciated. In fact, all Session members have been assigned and/or volunteered to take on specific responsibilities; but before any actions takes place, or work done, all items will be brought before the Session of prioritizing and approval. But, I believe, we will be in our new church before the end of February - in time for the Women's Retreat in March and in plenty of time for Easter. Won't that be a celebration!!

Many, if not most of us, never thought this would happen in our life times; but God intervenes, works and surprises us ... and this, I believe, is a clear demonstration of God at work! Let us give God all the glory, honor, praise and thanksgiving for this new start and opportunities for PSPC.

Let's not let God or our community down! This will take every one of us pulling together.

Joyce and I are going to escape for a few days in the middle of February for our Anniversary; more on that later ... maybe, but not in much detail!!

Look elsewhere in the **SONSHINE** for announcements about the "5:59 Gathering," which will meet on Thursday, February 5th & 19th and again on March 5th & 19th for some interesting insights to what is happening in the Christian world; the Women's Bible Study on Luke, led by Joyce Johnson, continues on Tuesdays, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall; the Men's Bible Study, also on Luke, with Allen Perrier continuing on Wednesday at 7:00 am.

One last thought: If you have not yet given a gift or made a pledge for the "A Place of Our Own," I urge you to do so as soon as possible. I am convinced that it is important for all of us to support prayerfully, financially, and physically, our move toward "A Place of Our Own" and help make this a reality for PSPC after 20+ years of renting and wandering.

REMEMBER: Next Deadline for March 2009 **SONSHINE** is February 19th. Please see our editor, Margaret, for more details.

Thank you all and God bless you and your loved ones in this Adventurous New Year, 2009 moving into "A Place of Our Own," Really, God's place!

Yours, in Christ's Service,
Pastor Bill
William N. Johnson

Worship Schedule and Sermons for February 2009

LIFE AND RESURRECTION

FEB. 01 - "Immediately Astonishing"
Celebrating the Lord's Supper
Psalms 111; Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Mark 1:21-28
Souper Bowl Sunday to benefit Missions

FEB. 08 - "Power, Power, Power"
Psalm 147:1-11,20c; Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39

FEB. 15 - "Making me Clean, Also"
Psalm 30; II Kings 5:1-7; Mark 1:40-45

FEB. 22 - "Transformer or Transformation"
Psalm 50:1-6; II Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9
Potluck Luncheon

MAR. 01 - "Whose Time is Fulfilled?"
Celebrating the Lord's Supper
Psalm 25:1-10; I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

A Time to Take Stock:

What is Your Prayer for PSPC? How willing are you to Help Make That Happen? God Has and is Blessing Us; Will you and I Bring God's Love and Grace to Our Community and World? In What Ways Will God Honor Our Efforts and Will We Grow?



Ash Wednesday is a time for repentance and the beginning of Lent. Ashes were used in ancient times, according to the Bible, to express penitence. Dusting themselves with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sins and faults. An ancient example of one expressing his penitence is found in Job 42:3-5. Job says to God: "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (v. 5, NRSV).

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Lent is the fourth season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day, not counting Sundays. This means Lent always begins on a Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday.

Lent commemorates Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness of Judea Province, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness.

The only way our Lord's forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence.

Some Christians fast during Lent. This denial of bodily comforts can help encourage self-reflection about the need for Jesus' forgiveness.

PRAYER FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest appreciation for this blessed land. Stir up a sense of stewardship in every citizen so we all may care for our national and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders. Prompt everyone in a position of authority, from local to national leaders, to strive for righteousness, justice and the welfare of all citizens.

Finally, we pray that we may be ever mindful of the psalmist's teaching that "Happy is the nation who's God is the Lord ..." (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise become real "from sea to shining sea." Amen.

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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!

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LETTERS FROM FRIENDS



A NOTE FROM EMILIE WARREN
A MUCH MISSED MEMBER

1-6-09

Hi Friends,

Hope all is going well for you. All is fine here.

We had snow on the 26th almost a white Christmas, and it lasted on the ground for three days. It was fun to sit in the warm house and watch.

I enjoy the newsletters and keeping up with all of the church business.

Miss all of you and our fellowship.

Fondly,
Emilie



SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

Session met at its regular time on Wednesday, January 21st at 9:35 am with Elder Leon Bennett from the Committee on Ministry as our guest. Excused were Bob Wulf and Francis Gotenstein. Session expressed appreciation to David DeVries for his service on Session. Pastor Bill reminded the Session of the Great Ends of the Church as our goals. Session then opened with prayer. The primary business was to begin to prioritize the needs of "A Place of Our Own" as we prepare to close escrow and move in hopefully, by the end of February.

The Trustees (all Session members) convened with Jackie Morgan, Secretary, meeting for the purpose of electing officers for 2009: President, Bob Wulf; V-Pres., Jim DeHart; Secretary, Jackie Morgan; and Treasurer, Harvey Stephens.

Session reconvened and various committees were assigned. Session agreed that with our new home, the whole Session would, for the time being, act as the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Session agreed that with the move pending, we would call special Session meetings at any time needed, to act on matters relating to our move. Session will meet next on February 18th at 9:30 am.

Session adjourned at 11:12 am with prayer by Pastor Bill.



SAVE YOUR CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS, POSTAGE STAMPS & POP-TABS

These items benefit worthy charitable organizations and would otherwise just be thrown away. Please take the time to save these items to help people in need. Thanks
The Mission Committee

The Mission Committee is sponsoring PFC JON COLLINSWORTH who is deployed in Iraq. Needed Items are:
White Socks-Hard Candy-Deodorant -Soap-Shaving Cream-Razors-Beef Jerky-



ARE YOU LOOKING? CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE & EMAIL

REMEMBER: Our email address is:

pspresby@verizon.net

Our website is:

palmspringpresbyterian.com

Please USE them; tell others!



CHURCH OFFICE WINTER HOURS

PSPC Office hours

M-W 8:00 a.m. -12:00 noon

Tues. - Thurs 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Closed on Friday



5:59 Gathering

The "5:59 Gathering" will meet on February 5th with Joyce Johnson continuing her Chronological Holy Land Adventure with this one, on the Life of Christ through Jerusalem. In January, she did the Holy Land Adventure with Abraham and Moses going back as far as about 6,000 B.C. The purpose of the "5:59 Gathering" is to see our Judeo-Christian heritage within a chronological setting and how that fits with our Biblical understanding. Another great dinner will be provided. Please plan on attending.

The February 19th, "5:59" is yet to be determined but, as usual, it will be good.

Sunflower seeds
Thank you for your help

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**PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY AND COLD**

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

The **Well in the Desert**, one of our Mission outreaches, continues to need **food, clothing, blankets, etc.** This is so evident as more and more people are homeless or nearly so, as people loose jobs and children are hungry. 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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DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The Presbytery of Philadelphia is bringing the grace of Jesus Christ into the heart of the city through "a different kind of faith community" know as Broad Street Ministries (BSM). A number of congregations pool their resources to support it. BSM attracts a growing community of artists, scholars, intellectuals, blue-collar workers, city workers, and the poor and homeless. They come together Wednesday evenings in "No Holds Barred Bible Studies" where those who are searching for meaning engage deeply with Scripture and with each other; and "No Barriers Dinners," where the mayor of Philadelphia and a seminary professor may sit at a meal with a mother on welfare and a man who lost his toes to the cold while living on the streets. Their website is:
www.broadstreetministry.org



Choir Notes

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

The Worship Committee has put in place two Elders and two Deacons for serving Communion on the first Sunday of the month. In the past the Ushers have done this, but this will include more people and make everyone who is or has been an Elder or a Deacon a part of the service. It has worked out well and if you are an Elder or Deacon, a

winter visitor, or an affiliate member, please let me know.

The choir has gained a few new members. Welcome to Harvey Stephens, Jan Snyder and Frieda Nichols. What a blessing, Alex Danson and the Praise Band is to this congregation. No matter what we throw at them musically, they just do it and do it well! Thanks, guys!!

We will begin practicing Lenten and Easter music soon and need a few more voices. We meet on Thursdays at 1 pm and on the day of the 5:59 dinner; we meet at 4 pm.

Geri Bintliff

Elder, Worship and Music



WOMEN'S RETREAT BAKE SALE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8th

Bakers & Buyers Are Needed!

We need all kinds of goodies, cakes, candy, cookies, pies, and breads. Please bring your baked goods donations with you on that Sunday morning (February 8th) to place on the Women's Retreat table in the Fellowship Hall.

All donations go toward sharing God's word and loving fellowship with women in our congregation and the community.



I would like to thank all who gave or made a pledge to our Building Fund. I hope you all know what that means to the congregation of PSPC. This is a very exciting time for us as we are finally moving in the direction of having our own place to worship.

As you know, the cost to operate the church will be greater than renting and we now have more of an obligation than ever. We haven't asked for an increase in the pledge to our General Operating Fund for a while. We now ask that you continue to pay you General Pledge as well as continue with the Building Fund Pledge. If it is possible to

increase either of these pledges, it will be greatly appreciated as we need to do some renovation in our new church and of course, that is an additional expense.

We ask for God's blessing for our new church, the congregation and our future ministry to the community. Thanks again, for all your pledges. Remember also, that Stewardship is not only your monetary gift, but also, your service to the church and our Lord.

Elder, Harvey Stephens

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**TITHING**

I wonder why the Lord did ask, for tithes, from you and me,  
 When all the treasures of the earth are His - eternally?  
 But He said to bring our little, and He would add His much,  
 Then all the heavenly windows would be opened at His touch.  
 And blessings running over - even more than has been told,  
 Will be ours; but there's no promise if His portion we withhold.  
 Are we afraid to prove Him? Is our faith and love so small?  
 That we tightly grasp our little, when He freely gave His all?

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**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, 320-2729

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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**



**Women's Bible Study on the Gospel According to Luke led by Elder Joyce Johnson 9:30 am to 11:00 am on Tuesdays**

Joyce Johnson, our Pastor's wife, continues to lead the Women's Bible Study meeting on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 am to 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall of the church. This year's study is on the **Gospel According to Luke** and all the ladies of the church are welcome to come.

It's a great opportunity to study a book written by one of Jesus' disciples (who also wrote the Acts of the Apostles) and see its relation to our lives today.

Believe it or not, decaf coffee and/or tea and/or water will be made available, thanks to Pastor Bill!! Anyone for cookies or brownies or ???

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**CALLING ALL MEN 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 Luke. 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)

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As most of us know, **the shopping bags are here with our PSPC Logo for a \$5.00 donation for the larger bag and \$3.00 for the small one!** What a great gift for ones

self or friends and also good for the environment. **These bags help and some grocery stores give credit for using them rather than their plastic or paper bags!!**

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**PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL**  
**CONCERT**

**THE BEATLES: HELP**

**February 11, 2009 7:30 PM**

**PSHS Auditorium**

**Tickets \$25.00 PS Residents \$20.00**

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**GREAT EVOLUTION ANSWER**

A little girl asked her mother, "How did humans get started?" The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so people were on the earth ever after."

Later, she asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many years ago there were only monkeys, but some of the monkeys grew and changed and became people."

The confused child returned to her mother and said, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me the first people were created by God and Papa says they used to be monkeys?"

With a smile, the mother answered, "Well dear, it is very simple. I told you how my side of the family started and your Dad told you about his side."



**From Jackie Morgan's Kitchen**

**BANANA CAKE**

**Ingredients:**

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1/2 c butter, softened            | 1 c banana pulp, mashed |
| 1 1/4 c sugar                     | 1 1/2 c cake flour      |
| 2 eggs (lightly beaten)           | 1/4 tsp. salt           |
| 1 tsp. soda                       | 1 tsp. vanilla          |
| 4 tbs. sour cream or plain yogurt |                         |

- Preheat oven to 350 deg.
  - Cream butter and sugar; add eggs. Add the soda, dissolved in the sour cream or yogurt. Beat well; then add the bananas, flour salt and vanilla. Mix well.
- Bake in well-greased and floured 8-inch square or 9-inch tube pan for 35 to 45 minutes.

Tickets are available at the Camelot Box Office, Double photo (corner of Sunrise & Ramon) or the PSHS Band Room  
**Proceeds go to support the music education program at Palm Springs High School**

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The church is continuing to collect empty ink cartridges (a business in town will pay the band for them) helping the band raise money for their scheduled summer trip to South Africa. You may bring them to church on Sunday or to the office during the week as a jar will be available for collection



Cal Custer	9
Francis Gotenstein	9
Ellie Cushing	11
Kate Walker	15
Karen Egan	16
Christine Siems	16
Pauline Gregg	18
Verna Cuthbert	22
Jim DeHart	24
Heather MacEwan	25
Iain MacEwan	25
Geri Bintliff	27
Kent McGarity	27



Feb. 19th

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



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

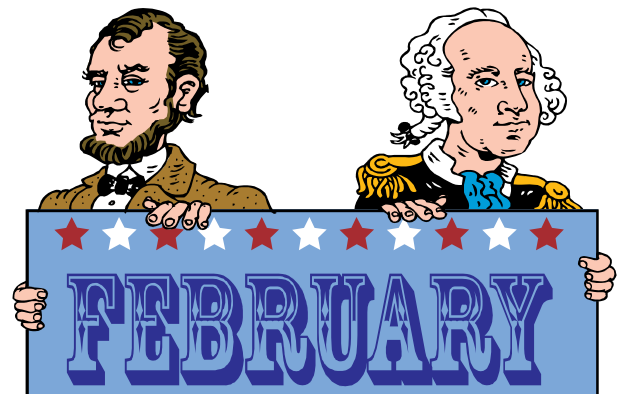
Pastor Emeritus:
Dr. Harry Summers

Parish Associate
Dr. Ken McCullen

Music Director:
Alex Danson

Church Secretary:
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:
Margaret Pace



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Thank you.
