



SONSHINE



The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, June 2009

From Pastor Bill's "Powerbook"



Bon Jour, mes amis; Joyce and I had a great time in France! We started out with a week in Paris in an apartment in Vincennes at the end of the Paris Metro. We took the Metro all over Paris and walked all over!! We had Sunshine, mist, rain, thunder and lightening and lots of great food (even some good vin). From the Louvre to the Jules Vern Restaurant at the 3rd level of the Eiffel Tower to Notre Dame and a fun food festival in front of that great cathedral! To a little place called "Au Chien qui Fume" (the Smoking Dog) with great French Onion Soup where we have eaten before and met Joyce's brother and his wife for lunch, to visiting many known and lesser known museums, etc. Then down south to St. Leon about 300 miles south of Paris by high speed train (100 plus mph) with Joyce's sister and her husband and Joyce's brother and his wife for another week where the six of us rented a lovely 3 bedroom house overlooking a valley and a 12th century village. Cathedrals and medieval churches and villages, pre-historic caves with lots of paintings of ancient animals (15,000 years old!) and artifacts and, of course, fabulous food!

But, it is good to be home. We had great flights on United Airlines from Palm Springs to L.A. to Washington, DC to Paris then Paris to Chicago, O'Hare to L.A. to Palm Springs to HOME!

It really shook me up, and I have seen this many times before, but walking into so many medieval churches and cathedrals with their lovely stained glass windows and beautiful frescoes and their 14 stations of the cross and with priests "performing" Mass, but only a few little old people in worship, I prayed, "God, please don't let PSPC become like these!" One beautiful 12th century church we walked into had become an art gallery - and we bought a watercolor of the town there. Great memories and we have a photo of Joyce with the artist and the painting, but ...*But*, how tragically sad. Looking at these churches, I couldn't help but remember history and how, at one time, these same churches were packed to overflowing with the faithful' but now they are empty except for baptisms, weddings, and funerals or as art galleries or coffee houses and tourist destinations. The question kept popping into my mind "Will we become like that in another 25 to 50 years? A beautiful little church with only a handful of faithful "old" people coming to worship?" We will, I guarantee you, UNLESS you and I reach out to our community' unless we return generously to God's work of the gifts God has given us (it is called money for ministry and caring); unless we invite and bring people to worship; unless we have events and ministries that reach people, like a Parish Nurse ministry; a community garden; an after school music and/or arts program; a disaster preparedness program e.g. earthquakes; Bible studies (we already have good ones for men and women but need more); and you can come up with lots more. The need and possibilities are endless.

We have to be creative and forget those deadly words: "*We have always done it this way*" or "*We have never done it that way before.*" Or, even, "*We don't have enough money or people or energy!*" Those words, and with that thinking, will send us spiraling into a dead and empty, but lovely, little church like you see in so much of France and Europe and in some places in the USA. I do not want that, nor do you!

How about working with Ken McCullen on visiting the people of our neighborhood with information about our church - teams of two or three and not trying to convert anyone? How about

following up with visitors with a welcome bag of goodies like cookies or a cake or ?? the week immediately following their first visit? I always write them but they are really impressed when it comes from you! I am expected to write or call or do something, but you...WOW! That makes a difference!

But, one catch, we need YOU to help make any of these come into being! **YOU!**

Yes, I know, we are basically an older congregation and many of us live on fixed, or kind of fixed incomes, and our energy levels are not what they used to be (mine certainly isn't!), but we dare not leave that as an excuse to turning this church into a medieval-like museum of lost memories!

Need I say more? God has given us this incredible opportunity. Let's not waste it! Ken McCullen and I will help all he and I can, but it is in **YOUR** hands as God guides you and me. And, when you get a "permanent" pastor, he or she will also work to guide and share visions, but it will still be up to you.

May God bless PSPC as God leads us into a potentially exciting future for the Glory of God in the Name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless you and your loved ones in this Adventurous New Year, 2009

Even as I remain, Yours, in Christ's Service,

Pastor Bill

William N. Johnson
Interim Pastor

REMEMBER: **Next Deadline** for July 2009 **Sonshine** is June 24th

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Worship Schedule and Sermons for June 2009

LIFE AND RESURRECTION

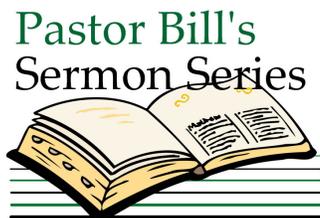
Pastor Bill will continue through the month of June, his series he calls, "Life after Resurrection: Now What?".

**JUNE 07 - "Will You Look At That"!
Celebrating the Lord's Supper
Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17**

**JUNE 14 - "Walking With Faith" with Pastor Bill
Psalm 20' II Corinthians 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34**

**JUNE 21 - "Working For God in an Economic Turndown"
Psalm 9:9-20; II Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41**

**JUNE 28 - "The Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen
Summer Salad Potluck Luncheon**



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WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN FAMILY?

A CHRISTIAN FAMILY is one in which parents so live the CHRISTIAN life, and practice the presence of God that children come to accept God as the greatest reality of life.

A CHRISTIAN FAMILY is one in which each member is accepted and respected as a person having sacred worth.

A CHRISTIAN FAMILY is one that accepts the responsibility of worship and instruction to the end of developing the spiritual life of each person.

A CHRISTIAN FAMILY is on that manifests a faith in God, observes daily prayer and grace at meals.

A CHRISTIAN FAMILY is one that is committed to behavior in keeping with CHRISTIAN ideals for family relations, community life, and national and world citizenship.



Father's Day

What Makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so,
He called it ... Dad

Author Unknown



FOCUSING ON THE TRINITY

Christians are monotheists, meaning we believe in only one God. Yet, we talk about the doctrine of the Trinity. In the church year, the Sunday after Pentecost is known as Trinity Sunday. It's a day for focusing on what theologians call the Triune God - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Someone said about the concept of the Trinity, "You will lose your soul if you don't believe it, and you will lose your mind if you try to explain it."

The bottom line is this: God (one Person) has been revealed to mankind in three ways. He is our Creator, who then came to Earth as our Savior (in the person of Jesus) and is eternally present with us as the Holy Spirit.

On Trinity Sunday, we praise our Triune God for meeting all our needs.



STARS AND STRIPES

Since the early 1800s various groups have observed a day to display the American flag. Presidents Woodrow Wilson (in 1916) and Calvin Coolidge (in 1927) issued proclamations marking June 14 as National Flag Day. But, it wasn't until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved June 14 as a day of national observance. President Harry Truman signed it into law.

The American flag has changed designs more than any other flag in the world. In fact, the United States didn't have a standardized flag until 1912! And even after standardization, the flag changed three more times with the addition of new stars representing new states.



CALLING ALL MEN Wednesday @ 7:00 AM

The Men's Bible Study continues to be led by the dedicated leadership of Allen Perrier, on Wednesday mornings in the Fellowship Hall, meeting at 7:00 am with a study of the **Books of Luke and John**. What 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).

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, 320-2729

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BOARD OF SESSION

SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met on Wednesday, May 27th at 9:30 in our Fellowship Hall with Parish Associate Ken McCullen and Moderator Pastor Bill Johnson. All session members were present except for Bob Wulf who is out of state and excused.

Session began with Pastor Bill reading from Revelation 3 about the church that was neither hot nor cold and told of French churches that were empty and the danger of our becoming like them if we do not reach out to the community and be creative and risk taking, in our ministry and mission.

Session opened with prayer led by Ken McCullen. Session approved all minutes from the April meeting and the two meetings of the congregation. Margaret Pace and Barbara Stephens presented a request for kitchen appliances to be installed when the kitchen is remodeled. Session approved the purchase of the appliances at approximately \$3,000.00 from Home Depot who gave us a 20% discount. Thanks Home Depot and thanks Margaret, Barbara and the Kitchen Committee for a job well done.

Session also approved renewing Interim Pastor Bill Johnson's contract for another year and is forwarding the contract to the Committee on Ministry for concurrence.

Session voted to sell the old piano stored at Joyce Reimer's for \$500.00. Session also received a gift from Harry and Barbara Henderson, a time-share in Fort Lauderdale, FL which Session is free to sell or rent or gift to someone for use. Thank you Barbara and Harry.

Session reviewed several plans for putting in walkways from the parking lot to the front of the church and plans for renovating the Chancel. Both were tabled until further information and other plans become available. Session also approved placing "Handicapped" signs in front of the church on Sundays and at other meeting times. It was also announced that the city of Palm Springs has approved directional signs for the area directing people to our church; they will be in place within 2 - 4 weeks. Thanks Palm Springs city leaders.

Session voted to establish a Sunday school for children with volunteers committing to one Sunday a month: we need 4 - 5 volunteers and they will be provided age appropriate curricula for children. Session also approved Elder Dr. David DeVries teaching an adult class in the fall from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

Session approved all reports and adjourned with prayer at 11:45 a.m. to meet either on June 17th and/or on call

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FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



UPDATE FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The Session recently agreed to purchase 2 stoves, 2 above stove microwaves, and a refrigerator from Home Depot after receiving a 20% discount on an existing low bid with a total cost of \$3,149.54. More items will be needed in the near future as the remodeling of the kitchen starts. Listed are the items and the approximate costs:

Double kitchen sink-\$261.

Kitchen faucet-\$108.

Disposal-\$169.

Commercial dishwasher-\$3,080.28

If you can see in your heart and pocketbook to give over and above your pledge to the building fund, all donations will be gratefully received.

Margaret Pace, Chair



LADIES BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS

Nine ladies joined together for the May luncheon even though none of them had a birthday that month! We just had a good time enjoying each other's company and a good lunch at the Olive Garden. We decided at lunch, to celebrate the June birthdays at the Capri Restaurant in Desert Hot Springs. A sign up sheet will be available in the Fellowship Hall, toward the end of each month. We hope all you ladies that spend the summer here will come and join in on the fun, fellowship and tasty lunches in an air-conditioned restaurant with your fellow "Desert Mice"(I won't call us rats)!



PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY, HURTING AND LONELY

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

The **Well in the Desert** still needs support. Just because we have moved, doesn't mean the Well doesn't need us ~ they do. Keep up the good work with **food, clothing, blankets, money, water, etc.** These items are usually picked up the first thing Monday morning. Please keep them in your prayers. *Thank you.*



CHANGING A LIGHT BULB THE CHRISTIAN WAY

How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?

- Charismatic:** Only 1
Hands are already in the air.
- Pentecostal:** 10
One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.
- Presbyterians:** None
Lights will go on and off at predestined times.

- Roman Catholic:** None - Candles only.
- Baptists:** At least 15.
One to change the light bulb, and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad and fried chicken.

Episcopalians: 3
One to call the electrician, one to mix the drinks and one to talk about how much better the old one was.

Mormons: 5
One man to change the bulb, and four wives to tell him how to do it.

Unitarians:
We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, you are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your light bulb for the next Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, 3-way, long-life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

Methodists: Undetermined
Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Bring a bulb of your choice to the Sunday lighting service and covered dish to pass.

Nazarene: 6
One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.

Lutherans: None
Lutherans don't believe in change.

Amish:
What's a light bulb?



PSPC SHOPPING BAGS

The shopping bags are still available, but going fast! With our **PSPC Logo on them, it's a great way to publicize our church!** The cost is minimal...a \$5.00 donation for the larger bag and \$3.00 for the smaller one. What a wonderful way to help the environment.



The "5:59 Gathering"

Pastor Bill plans for another "SURPRISE" for the June 18th "5:59 Gathering" but says it won't be in French. So you can leave your books of translation at home!!!



A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The congregation extends its congratulations and best wishes to Cleo Ahlstedt as her family gathers to celebrate her 95th birthday in grand style, on June 7th. Cleo, we wish you many, many more years of joy and good health.



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



Board of Deacons

DEACON'S CORNER

You know that your board of Deacons do various jobs throughout the church and one of those jobs is to pick up the flowers from Jensen's and place them on the Lord's table every Sunday. Did you know that there is a Flower Calendar? It is on a stand by the Mission table and your Deacon would love for you to pick a Sunday to put flowers on the Lord's Table. You might want to celebrate a special occasion, a blessing in your life, remember a loved one, or "just because."

There are two ways that you may supply the flowers, but both need you to sign up for a Sunday first! When you sign up, simply write your name and if there is a reason, write that in also. There is standing order for flowers from Jensen's and if you choose this option, the only thing left to do is to give

\$16.50 (checks are fine!) to Jackie Morgan. The Deacon's will make sure it is picked up and placed on the Lord's Table. If you are one of those fortunate people that has a green thumb, (which I do not have!), you may bring in your flowers from home and place them on the Lord's Table yourself. Just let one of the Deacon's or Jackie know so that we are able to cancel the standing order at Jensen's.

There are lots of open Sundays'. So please consider providing flowers.

Christine Lutke

Deacon, Chair

We HAVE Moved: New Life for PSPC

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?



ARE YOU LOOKING? CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE & EMAIL

REMEMBER: Our email address is:

pspresby@verizon.net

Our website is:

palmspringspresbyterian.com

Please USE them; tell others!

Our new address is:

815 S. Camino Real at S. Riverside

Palm Springs, 92264

760 320-2769



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We are becoming fewer in numbers because of the exodus of the winter visitors but are still maintaining a good number of regular members and guests. Hopefully, the neighborhood will bring in a few more guests and potential members.

Communion servers have had to learn a new way of doing the serving, not being able to serve on the outside edges of the pews, but the system now in place will take care of that. Two will serve from the back, and two from the front, with one for the choir. During the summer months, Communion will be served by Intinction.

The choir now has 12 members with Inez, Lucille, Ken and Kelly recently joining us. We are having fun, and singing some great songs, where are you? If you love to sing, can carry a tune, perhaps read music, can sing a solo, we are looking for you!

Alex, Kent, and Elvio, certainly add to our music and again, if any of you play an instrument, we would like to see you on Thursdays for practice at 1 PM on the days there isn't a "5:59" dinner and 4 PM on the days that there is a dinner. Come on folks, let us rock these walls in the way Psalm 150 asks us to do!

Choir will sing through July 5th and vacation during the remainder of the month and through August. We will start again in September.

Geri Bintliff
Elder, Worship and Music



SAVE YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS

Don't know what to do with your plastic bottles and aluminum cans???? Bring them to the church! While helping the environment you will also be supporting "A Place of Our Own," as the money received from the recycling will be used for the maintenance of the landscaping.

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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



From Morella Larsens' Kitchen

(Actually her Mother's Kitchen)

Mom's Cranberry Gelatin Salad

- 1 pkg. (3 oz) raspberry gelatin
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 large apples (with peel) diced moderately fine
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice (Real Lemon okay)
- 1 can (16 oz) whole cranberry sauce
- 1/2 c finely diced celery
- 1/2 c chopped walnuts (unless omitted for allergies)

Prepare gelatin as directed on package but using only 1 1/2 cups water. Add remaining ingredients and mix thoroughly. Spoon into a 10" ring mold*, if desired, and refrigerate until firm. Best if made the day prior.

*Optional pan. Can be in a deeper serving dish or ?? Just remember if it is a deep dish, it will take longer to set. A large medium depth-serving dish is probably the best. If serving on a bed of lettuce on individual salad plates, a double recipe could be put in a 13x9" cake pan, but it won't necessarily come out in perfect squares, it just depends on how the fluids set up, sometimes more solid than others. This can be a "mushy" Jell-O salad served in a bowl with a large spoon, and it has a great texture and fresh flavor to compliment many menus.



This Month's Birthdays	
Duane Leetzow	1
George Hoover	3
Cleo Ahlstedt	7
Daniel Morgan	9
Judi Leetzow	9
Harvey Stephens	11
Donna McCullen	15
Virginia Allen	16
Lucille MacEwan	16
Kim Egan	16
Bob Zenker	22
Barbara Henderson	26
Gail Jones	28



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

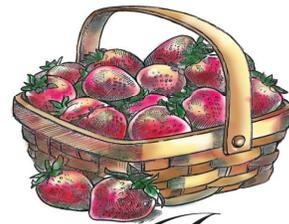
Pastor Emeritus:
Dr. Harry Summers

Parish Associate
Dr. Ken McCullen

Music Director:
Alex Danson

Church Secretary:
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:
Margaret Pace



June

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.
