



SONSHINE



The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, August/September 2008

From Pastor Bill's "Powerbook" August/September

We are trying something a "*little different*" this summer: combining the August and September SONSHINES into one edition. The October edition will probably come out a bit early, toward the end of September. I hope you enjoy this "double: edition".

We continue to explore the possibility of obtaining our won church property and will keep you posted as events wax and wane. Nevertheless, I ask you to keep PSPC very much in your prayers for particularly two thins: 1) the possibility of purchasing our own church; and 2) finding and calling a permanent, installed, pastor. Although Session has offered me a renewal of my contract here at PSPC, and I happily agreed and Presbytery concurred, we need our own installed, called, pastor.

As I weigh the possibilities, and pray about them, I have become convinced that in order to grow and to be an 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 her in Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley?

Right now we are blessed to have the Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen as our Parish Associate for Evangelism and he, along with Allen Perrier and others are creating ways in which we can attract people and grow numerically. It is good to have Ken available when Joyce and I are away but, frankly, for me, Ken is a partner in ministry here in Palm Springs is just about every way. I feel we are truly blessed. Even better is to have Den's wife, Donna, as an active member or PSPC and, as you get to know her, you will discover her wonderful sense of humor and her deep devotion.

The General Assembly of our Presbyterian Church (USA) met recently in San Jose and Joyce and I were there for a day or two as I was part of the Committee interviewing for a new Presbytery Executive (more about that elsewhere in the SONSHINE). The General Assembly (aka GA) dealt with several issues over which our PC (USA) finds disagreement: basically we are dealing and voting on changes to ordination standards for deacons, elders, and ministers of Word and Sacrament. For me, this is similar to the battles over Biblical interpretation fought in the middle 1800's over African Americans being ordained as pastors, and in the 1940s-60s over women being ordained as pastors. Today, most of us think little or nothing about these past issues.

I am thankful for being a part of a church that is willing to undertake, debate and discuss issues that are sometimes seen as divisive. We look at Scripture, the Creeds of the Church, and our Reformed theology, and seek with God's guidance in deciding what is God's will— not ours, nor the will of our culture. Wouldn't it be sad if we were part of a church (and there are such denominations and para-church groups and independent churches) that does not allow for any debate, differences, or even a vote. "Your agree or don't agree; you are either in or out. No *ifs, ands, or buts!* If you are a Christian you have to agree with this or that...or else you are not a Christian!" Tragic. So against the teachings and actions of our Lord.

For me, one of the wonderful and God-given beauties of our PC (USA) is that you and I can disagree, argue, debate and vote differently, but still unite in the centrality of the worship of our Lord Jesus and be involved in mission here and worldwide in the name of Jesus. Historically, we Presbyterians have argued, fought, debated, disagreed, and still worshipped and worked together

for a common goal. Let's pray that this does not change as the questions voted on by General Assembly work their way through our Presbyteries over the next two years.

And, quite frankly, some of the things we hear via newspapers or the internet and emails about what is or is not happening in our ordination debates and voting is something akin to the rumors and misinformation we see in the Presidential elections coming this fall. If you do not KNOW for CERTAIN that is a fact, find someone who does: Bill Johnson, Ken McCullen or go to pcusa.com on the Internet and read the full and true answers. There is a lot of distortion and lies just like there is about Obama and McCain. It's sad, but true.

By the way, FYI: the question of ordination standards is approved, there is absolutely **NOTHING** in them that forces any Congregation, Session, or Presbytery to go against it's conviction about who can or can not be ordained and/or a member of that body. We have **NEVER** forced congregations, sessions, or Presbyteries to accept as members, as deacons or elders, or as pastors, anyone. And we **NEVER** will force anyone against their conscience that "God alone is the Lord of the conscience" on any issue.

Also ENCLOSED: We have enclosed a letter from the Moderator of the 218th General Assembly, the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the Rev. Gradye Parsons, and the Executive Director of the General Assembly Council, Elder Linda Bryant Valentine, about the actions of this immediate past G.A. *This letter may help clarify some of the rumors and lies we are hearing.*

Please be praying about all of this and share your thought.

We continue the "5:59 Gathering" opportunities on August 14th with a fun evening with Donna & Ken McCullen, and on September 18th with (tba). 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. Donna McCullen prepared a fabulous dinner on July 17th (even though she and Ken had to be out of town). And, of course, served by members of our church. Can't beat the price of only \$5.00!! Loved by all! Presbyterians love to eat!!

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 October 2008 Sonshine is September 25th

Please see our editor, Margaret Pace, for any excuses



Worship Schedule and Sermons for August - September 2008

Here is the schedule of worship and preaching for August & September 2008. As you prepare to participate in worship, please read the noted Bible passages in preparation and ask yourself these questions as Pastor Bill concludes in August 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?**" In September & October, Pastor Bill will have a brief 5 part series on Paul's Letter to the Philippians he calls, "**On Being One in Christ.**" Then, later in October into November, he will lead us on a journey through the "**Apostles' Creed 4 the 21st Century.**" So, watch, pray, come, and bring a guest.

Oh, yes, if you noticed, Pastor Bill not only has his sermon outline in our Order of Worship but room for you to take notes... yes, **NOTES** to think about during the week!

**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**

**AUG. 10 -"The Power of an Olympian Life"~ The Beijing Olympics Beginning
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-23**

**AUG. 17 -"The Power of Merciful Unity"
Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28**

**AUG. 24 -"The Power of Decisiveness"
Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20**

**AUG. 31 -"Hidden in Plain Sight" ~ The Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Summer Salad Potluck for all!**

Pastor's
Sermons



**SEPT. 07 -"Who Walks on Water?" ~ The Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen
Communion by Intinction
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33**

**SEPT. 14 -"All I Ask!" ~ Philipians Series #1
Psalm 114; Matthew 18:21-35; Philipians 1:3-18**

**SEPT. 21 -"What is Living for Christ all About?"~ Philipians Series #2
Psalm 105:1-6; Matthew 20:1-16; Philipians 1:21-30**

**SEPT. 28 -"Do you Have the Same Mind that was in Christ?"~ Philipians Series #3
Psalm 78:1-4; Matthew 21:23-32; Philipians 2:1-13
Summer Salad Potluck for all!!**

A Time to Take Stock:

To Grow means Deepening Commitment to Christ; a Stronger Sense of Community in the Church; New Ideas, New People. As a Presbyterian Disciple, Bring Someone who needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.



MY CHURCH

My church is composed of people like me. We make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am, its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring them.

My church will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with those things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be!



HOW ABOUT "THEM" BEIJING OLYMPICS?

Can you believe it? The **2008 Beijing Olympics** are about to begin: August 8th, for two weeks. **INTENSE, EXHAUSTING! NOT MUCH ELSE ON TV.** Many of us will be glued to our TV sets and to streaming via the Internet on our computers. We will see amazing athletes from countless nations but, for all of us, we will be cheering for our USA swimmers, runners, gymnasts, equestrians, volleyball and soccer players, tennis, basketball, shooters, and all the rest of those young men and women who strive for the gold in face of overwhelming odds. Remember, Paul talked about "running the good race..." when he talked about his faith in Christ and desire to proclaim Christ as Lord and Savior. As we watch and cheer, and sometime moan and groan, *let's keep all these athletes, coaches, trainers, and officials, in our prayers.* To use the words of the famous football coach, Grantland Rice, "*It is not whether you win or loose that matters; it is how you play the game,*" and that, in my opinion, is what counts when it comes to the Olympics or any other part of life. (Thanks to Charles Ferguson for reminding me of the quote!) As a former athlete, I know the pressure, the joy, and pain of winning or losing but, in the long run, it is how you play the game, how you compete, that counts on the stage of eternity. **And, I promise, we will talk about the Olympics one way or the other.** bj

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CHURCH OFFICE
SUMMER HOURS

PSPC Office hours

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

Tues. – Thurs. 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Closed on Friday



2008 BUDGET AND GIVING

A/C, water, paper and all the rest, continue even in the summer. The cost of maintaining the life, ministry and programs 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 where ever. **But, please do not forget PSPC. Extra gifts are always welcome!**

Winter Residents (Snowbirds) please note: we also always welcome your continued support financially and prayerfully while you are away. Thank you.

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Labor Day, first celebrated in 1882, provides a day of rest for working Americans, showing their importance to the country's well being.

Christians see work as a gift and command from God. Adam was put in the garden to "till it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15, NRSV). Even Jesus chose workers to help carry out His mission.

Rest is just as significant as work. God commanded us to rest one day each week (Exodus 20:10). The Sabbath is a time for worship, family activities, renewal and recuperation.

Labor Day is a reminder to be grateful for the creativity, ingenuity, minds and muscle power of countless workers—all gifts of God. That's worth setting aside a day to appreciate.



Session Meeting

SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

Session met on briefly on *Sundays, June 29th and July 6th*. Session opened with prayer about 11:30 am in both cases.

The purposes of both meetings were to discuss more fully the possibility of purchasing the former Unity Church of Pal Springs. On June 29th, Dr. Ken McCullen moderated; on July 6th, Pastor Bill moderated. The decisions of both meetings was to proceed to see if this is a viable option and one we can undertake without overloading our congregation. Both meetings closed in prayer.

Please keep our Session and our congregation in your prayers..



DID YOU KNOW?

We have recently received notice of an upcoming bequest by a Winter Resident from the State of Washington who recently died. He left Palm Springs Presbyterian Church 1/3 of his estate. One third will go to an environmentalist group, 1/3 to an animal rescue group, and 1/3 to us. We gather it will be well over \$100,000. Thank you so very much for your thoughtfulness, love and desire to further the Kingdom of God.

Questions: **How many of us have done something similar for Palm Springs Presbyterian Church? It is never too late.**

Another: **“Did you know?”** From the Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church: a homeless person who received help from their Deacons recently died and left them a check for \$2,000.00. One never knows when one does a good deed what may be the results.



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.



Choir News

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The choir has been enjoying the summer rest and we hope you have been enjoying the special music. Beginning with June 29th, Jim DeHart was the soloist and on July 6th, we had Shantel Robinson. We has so many favorable comments we asked her back and she and her sister, Jentre will be back in August. On July 13th, Rosanna Gamboa was with us and she too, had a lovely voice and was well received. Caryl Williamson was our soloist on July 20th and we always enjoy her lovely voice. The Bell Choir from Palm Desert, along with Ruth Teaford on piano and Bob Brown on organ, were with us on July 27th.

On August 3rd, we will have flautist Sheila Molazadeh, August 10th, Caryl Williamson will sing again and on August 17th, Shantel and Jentre Robinson will be with us again. On August 24th, we will hear that wonderful voice of Ken McCullen and last but not the least, we will hear from our own Susan McGuire.

The Praise Band has continued with their contribution and Alex Danson, our Director/Pianist has certainly added to the music.

The choir will be starting again in September and we are looking for singers. Come join us and enjoy with us.

Geri Bintliff
Elder, Worship and Music

ADVANTAGES OF JOINING THE CHOIR

1. You have excellent seats and are assured a reserve seat for Christmas and Easter.
2. From your advantageous seat, you can smile at, gawk at, ignore and otherwise enjoy the rest of the people in the congregation.
3. The pastor is nearly always looking the other way.
4. You’re in a wonderful spot to see new members.
5. The cost for all these benefits? Just one evening a week.
6. Oh, yes, one more reason to join the choir: You’re a leader in the worship experience.



RESPONSE TO THE MIDWEST FLOODS

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has had an extremely busy year. Responses have been to various events, mostly tornadoes and floods, but now the hurricane season starts. And, of course, there are the ongoing longer commitments to Katrina and the Asian Tsunami. Go to www.pcusa.org/pda for more information.

Presently, there is an urgent need in Iowa for equipment and volunteers as efforts are being made to get homes "mucked out." The clock is running on all of the untreated homes and the mold is advancing rapidly with the summer heat and humid weather. The small Iowa town of Oakville has put out a special plea for assistance as a levee was breached and now some homes are two and three blocks from where they belong. (Regarding Oakville, contact Stan Tate:stantate2@iowatelecom.net)

Blue silicone wristbands with the inscription "Out of Chaos, Hope" (the PDA logo) have been popular. Associate Pastor Jim Langley, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, whose church distributed 2000 of these, said, "It'll just be a tangible reminder for folks that in bad times, there is hope." His church, along with St. Andrew Presbyterian in Iowa City, is housing volunteers who come to help the victims of the massive floods. (Volunteer teams: Contact Richard at Presbytery of East Iowa 319 354-9220)

To donate to the Midwest flood recovery (#DR000162) send a check to the church noted with this number and the funds will be forwarded.

Closer to home, the PDA-National Response Team maintains contact with The Presbytery of San Diego and The Presbytery of Riverside as victims continue to recover and rebuild from the 2007 October fires. To donate to the California wildfires recovery (#DR000015) send a check to the church noted with this number and funds will be forwarded
Morella Larsen

PSPC SHOPPING BAGS AVAILABLE

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!** 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!) **But, these bags help and some grocery stores give credit for using them rather than their plastic or paper bags!!**



A FUNNY STORY

An old pastor lay dying. He sent a message for an IRS agent and his lawyer to come to the hospital. When they arrived, they were ushered up to his room. As they entered the room, the pastor held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of his bed.

The pastor grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything. Both the IRS agent and the lawyer were touched and flattered that the old man would ask them to be with him during his final moments.

They were also puzzled because the pastor had never given any indication that he particularly liked either one of them. Finally, the lawyer asked, "Pastor, why did you ask the two of us to come here?" The old pastor mustered all his strength, then said weakly, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I want to go."



**NEW EP COMING TO RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERY**

For the last 5-6 months Pastor Bill has been part of a Presbyter committee of seven members (three clergy, four elders) seeking a new Executive Presbyter (EP) for the Presbytery of Riverside succeeding the Rev. Dr. Jeff Silliman. We had numerous excellent candidates but eventually boiled these down to five and then to three and then, obviously, to one. The vote of the committee was

unanimous! Presbytery will meet on August 24th to vote on issuing our candidate a call as EP. Once that vote is taken Pastor Bill will be free to introduce this person to all of us; and he eagerly looks forward to doing this. Frankly, Pastor Bill (and the others on the committee) is excited at the possibility of this person serving us over the years that lie ahead. Please be in prayer as the final decisions are made both by the Presbytery (Cal Custer is our representative to Presbyter with Allen Perrier as the alternate. Pastor Bill and Ken are automatically members) and by our candidate

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The congregation is deeply saddened by the death of Dick Mash, a longtime friend of PSPC. We extend our love and prayers for comfort to his wife, Billye and the family

thank you, all!

To all of our dear friends at Palm Springs Presbyterian Church.

I wish I could thank you in person-you're all so dear and meant so much to us. We loved coming to church. Dick said it was the first time he had really enjoyed going to church.

I miss you all so much. I wish I could continue coming, but I have moved up to be with my daughter, Nancy. As she says, "It's a good thing we like each other so much!" My address is 220 Verbena, Nipomo, CA 93444. If you are ever up this way, I'd love to see you. Telephone 1-805 929-2909.

Thank you and Pastor Bill & Rev. Ken for helping me through this terrible time. I miss Dick so much.

I love you all.
Billye Marsh

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Women's Bible Study on the Gospel According to Luke WILL CONTINUE in the fall of 2008 ~ beginning in October and led by Elder Joyce Johnson



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.

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Bible Study: 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 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)

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A Summer Need:
The Well in the Desert
Food & Clothing Needed
The **Well in the Desert**, one of our Mission outreaches, continues to need **food**. This is so evident as more and more people are

homeless or nearly so, as people loose jobs and children are hungry. **Food is always needed.** 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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Birthdays

DEACON'S CORNER
From Ellie Cushing's Kitchen

OATMEAL CAKE

Ingredients:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 c quick cooking rolled oats | 1 tsp. nutmeg |
| 1-1/2 c boiling water | 2 eggs |
| 1 cube margarine/butter | 6 tbs. butter |
| 1-1/2 c flour | 1 c coconut |
| 1-1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon | 2/3 c packed brown sugar |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | 2 tbs. milk |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 3/4 to 1 c chopped walnuts |
| 1 c granulated sugar | 1/4 tsp. vanilla |
| 1 c packed brown sugar | |

Directions:

- Grease a 13x9x2-inch baking pan. Set aside.
- In a small bowl, combine oats, butter and boiling water; let stand 20 minutes.
- In a small bowl, combine flour, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, granulated sugar, brown sugar and nutmeg.
- Add eggs to the oatmeal mixture.
- Gradually add flour mixture to the oatmeal mixture, beating until combined (if necessary, stir in last portion by hand) Turn the batter into prepared pan.
- Bake in 350 degree F oven for 30 to 40 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Place pan on wire rack.
- In saucepan, combine butter, coconut, the 2/3 c brown sugar, and the milk. Cook and stir until boiling. Stir in walnuts. Spoon over hot cake. Cool. Makes 16 servings.

AUGUST	
Karol Egan	2
Earl Siems	8
Harry Henderson	17
Marilyn Walker	18
Evelyn Wulf	27
SEPTEMBER	
Howard Webb	7
Morella Larson	9
Barbara Stephens	30



**The Deadline for the
Sonshine is July
24th**
Please send articles to my
home by
Fax: 329-8084 or e-mail:
maggie1952@roadrunner.com

COULD THIS BE OUR NEW CHURCH?



These are pictures of the Unity Church, which is for sale and that Session is considering.

Please let Pastor Bill and Session know what you think about this.





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



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.
