



# SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church November 2010

## Pastor Bill's "Nano-November "

(II Timothy 4:6-8 nrsv)



Where is this year going? My goodness, only two months to go in 2010. By the time you get this **Sonshine** the mid-term elections will be history and we will be moving one direction or another. No matter for whom you voted or how you voted on the various propositions, the central issue of us, as Christians, is that we continue to 1) pray for our nation and our elected representatives; 2) that we remain in contact with our elected representatives letting them know what we think and how we feel; and 3) understand that the so-called "*separation of church and state*" (which is not in the Constitution!) means that the state will not impose a religion on us! It does not mean that the church and/or Christians can not speak to political issues. We can and we must!

With the last Sunday of this month (November 28) we begin Advent - the four Sundays leading up to Christmas: preparing for the Birthday of our Lord Jesus, probably one of the most beautiful seasons of the Church year. With all the pressures around us to be PC (politically correct); all our fears and concerns (*right or wrong*) about Islam and the growing *Islamaphobia* in our country; and with serious questions about our national economy, increasing concerns about undocumented immigrants (aka illegal immigrants), world-wide threats of terrorism, and worries about health and health-care; concerns about our finances and our security; what are our priorities during Advent?

For me the number one priority is to worship and celebrate the coming of the

*"Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, ... the Prince of Peace"* Isaiah 9:6b nrsv

into our midst; into the midst of all creation. One thing no other world religion does and that is to celebrate that fact that God is in our midst. So, my friends, let's celebrate!

The Christmas tree will be going up as will lots of our Christmas decorations; our church will be lovely (it is anyway!) in a very special way; and it is a very beautiful time to bring new people and to greet our first, second, and third time guests. Session will be appointing a committee to do the decorating and their plans, decision, and execution will be **final!** If you have suggestions speak to me or to Jim DeHart, Clerk of Session, and those suggestions will be passed on to the committee in charge.

Oh, yes, I almost forgot, and then there is **Thanksgiving** on Thursday, Nov. 25th. As you sit down with family and loved ones, or even by yourself, take time to think of all the blessings God has given you and do one thing: **Thank God for those blessings!**

I am still convinced that God has a great future ahead of us.

*I firmly believe....*

*God has a great future for us: a resurrection of sorts which is happening.*

*But you and I have to do our parts! I'm trying. Are you?*

*How you and I respond will determine the results of God's future for PSPC.*

May this Fall & Winter continue to bring you and your loved ones God's richest blessings, even as I remain, Yours, in Christ's Service,

*Pastor Bill*

William N. Johnson

## **Worship Schedule and Sermons for November 2010**

November is a month of transition: from summer to fall to winter; from the Ordinary to those special times of Thanksgiving, Advent, and then Christmas. In the midst of all of this we, as Christians, are being challenged by people who don't like us and/or who want to keep us silent. So, what do we do and how do we respond?

Our November services of worship and sermons are designed to help us not only celebrate all God has done for us in Jesus, but how we are to *"fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith"* as Paul said to Timothy. A wonderful time to bring someone new to worship and celebrate with us and to meet some new people. The following are Pastor Bill's preaching plans for November and he hopes you will read the scripture passages he has listed in preparation.

*"Preaching,"* said Pastor Bill, *"is much better when it is a dialogue than as a monologue; reading the scripture passages ahead of time makes it more of a dialogue."*

Nov. 07th ~ **"Standing Firm in a Jell-O World"**

The Lord's Supper

Psalm 98:1-6; Luke 20:27-38; II Thessalonians 2:1-5

Nov. 14th ~ **"Don't Believe Everything You See or Hear"**

Isaiah 12; II Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

Nov. 21st ~ **"How to Get Spiritual Muscle"**

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 23:33-43; Colossians 1:33-43

Nov. 28th ~ **"What Should We Really Believe About Prophecy?"**

**First Sunday in Advent**

Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Potluck Luncheon



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It is with sad hearts that we announce that Cleo Ahlstedt (Gail Jones' mother), died Monday, October 25th, about noon, and is now with our Lord. She died peacefully and was comfortable. Her bright smile and quick responses will be missed. We extend to Gail, and all of Cleo's family, our love and prayers. At this point no service has been planned, but when it is, we will inform all. In lieu of flowers, Cleo's family requests that memorial gifts in honor of Cleo may be sent to Palm Springs Presbyterian Church.



### **An Ode to P.S.P.C**

On a corner in old Palm Springs  
 On most every Sunday, you can hear voices sing.  
 Our building is old, not paved in the lot,  
 Sometimes the Lord's Spirit is mainly what we've got.  
 Our numbers are low, we all know each other,  
 We're always getting a prayer for somebody's mother.  
 But every time there's a call for some aid,  
 Our few members stand up and they say paid.  
 If you drive by and happen to look,  
 You will usually see, heads bowed or in the good book.  
 We have no fancy whistles, only one electronic bell,  
 But every day, it tells our story well.  
 We may be a little old, kind of slow to depart,  
 But every day, Jesus looks down with a smile in His heart,  
 He says, "Those folks in Palm Springs, sure do their part".....

*Ernie Moore*  
 Member of P.S.P.C



### **Ladies Birthday Luncheons**

12 ladies celebrated the October birthdays at Leon's Bar & Grill in Palm Springs. As always there was lots of laughter and sharing "summer happenings" with many of our returning "Snowbird Ladies." We meet the last Tuesday of the month, so put the date on your calendar and join in on the fun.  
 A sign-up sheet is always available in the fellowship hall at the end of each month.



### **Have We Forgotten God?**

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole of the American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

—Abraham Lincoln,  
 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation



### **"Pastor Appreciation Day"** **October 24th**

As a congregation, we are so thankful for Pastor Bill, we thought it was an appropriate time, to convey our appreciation for his devotion to P.S.P.C.

A decorated cake and special goodies along with juice and coffee were prepared by the Deacons and served after worship for all to enjoy.



**Two of Our Missions to Those Hurting!**  
**Well-in-the-Desert**  
**Presbyterian Hunger Fund**

Remember: *Jesus said, "if your neighbor doesn't have a coat, and you have two, give your neighbor one of them!"*  
>That goes for food, water, clothes, and blankets as well<

The **Well-in-the-Desert** is one of our Key Mission Projects. You can help by bringing canned food (pop-tops are great), water, clothing, blankets, etc. that are picked up every Monday morning by the **Well**.

Also, our monthly **"2 Cents-a-Meal"** special offering goes to both the Well and to the **Presbyterian Hunger Fund**: 50% each. These are both very concrete ways **YOU** can help our hurting neighbors. Thank you for being so generous especially in these difficult times that have hurt so many more.



**Are You Looking For Something Exciting?**  
**Check Out Our New Website**  
**@ ps-pc.com**

***Listen to music, hear Scripture and sermons, grow in faith, bring a friend or neighbor who is not involved in a church.***

**REMEMBER:** Our email address is:

**info@ps-pc.com**

Our Website is: **ps-pc.com**

Please USE them; Tell others!

Our address is:

815 S. Camino Real at S. Riverside

Palm Springs, 92264

760-320-2769



***The "5:59 Gathering"***  
***Thursday, November 11th***  
***"I Believe! Do You?"***

***ALL ARE INVITED TO COME, EAT, FELLOWSHIP AND LEARN TOGETHER***

The **"5:59 Gathering"** will meet only once this month on Thursday, the 11th because of Thanksgiving. Pastor Bill will continue his series on, **"I Believe! Do You?"** which is about the historic creeds and confessions of the church: This session we will look at two more great historic creeds of the church: the *Scots Confession* and the *Heidelberg Confession*. Pastor Bill, will of course, share some of his crazy jokes before eating and maybe even have another of his masterpiece quizzes! And, as always, we will have some of the best Palm Spring's meals for only \$5.00!

Plan on participating and bring a guest for a great meal and a time of learning.



**Available - PSPC Shopping Bags**

As Christians, we are to be good stewards of God's creation. When you go shopping, instead of using plastic or paper bags; use **OUR PSPC SHOPPING BAGS** and know you are helping to preserve His creation. You say you don't have any cloth bags? Not to worry! See Jim DeHart or Jackie Morgan and they will see that you get some.



*The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.*

*Nubia group*



## Session Notes

The Session met on Thursday, October 28th at 9:30 a.m. Three members of Session were excused for health reasons. Elder Ann Smith from Committee on Ministry was our guest. Pastor Bill opened talking about "who we are, where are we going? and how are we getting there?" as a church and as a Session and reading from Matthew 28 and Ephesians 4. Session then prayed for those mentioned and for the life of the church.

Elder Ann Smith talked with the Session about the progress of the Pastor Nominating Committee in seeking and finding an installed pastor and what are Pastor Bill's plans. Pastor Bill assured the Session that he will not "*pull the rug*" out from under PSPC before they find a called/installed pastor but, when the PNC is ready, he will retire allowing some time between his leaving and the new person's coming.

Session decided to support the Christmas Joy Offering in December and the Heifer Project. Session was reminded that on a *per capita* basis PSPC is the most generous giving church in this Presbytery for special mission giving.

Session also decided to have our Stewardship "Campaign" for 2011 from mid-January to mid-February, 2011 so that our Winter Residents can participate. More details to come.

Session approved the Women's Retreat for April 2, 2011 and a Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 4th for the retreat, and a Bake Sale on Feb. 13th.

Session approved inviting a Disaster Preparedness Presentation during the Winter, 2011 to be available to all, including the Winter Residents and the neighborhood.

The Worship Committee recommended, and Session approved, a Christmas Eve service at 7:00p.m. including Communion and that Communion be served while seated in our pews beginning in November, 2010 through June 2011

The Finance Committee reported on PSPC's finances through September and the Session, recognizing that we still have a way to go, was pleased with the support we are receiving and the relatively good condition PSPC is in at the end of the 3rd quarter, September, 2010

Appreciation was expressed to those from the congregation and our Winter Residents for their support and generosity with the letter sent this summer about finances from Pastor Bill.

Session was also apprised about the new A/C costing \$7,500.00 that was installed early summer and that in fact, that we were able to pay for it from the Building Fund. Appreciation was also expressed to the General A/C, our A/C maintenance provider, for reducing the price by 25% since we are a church

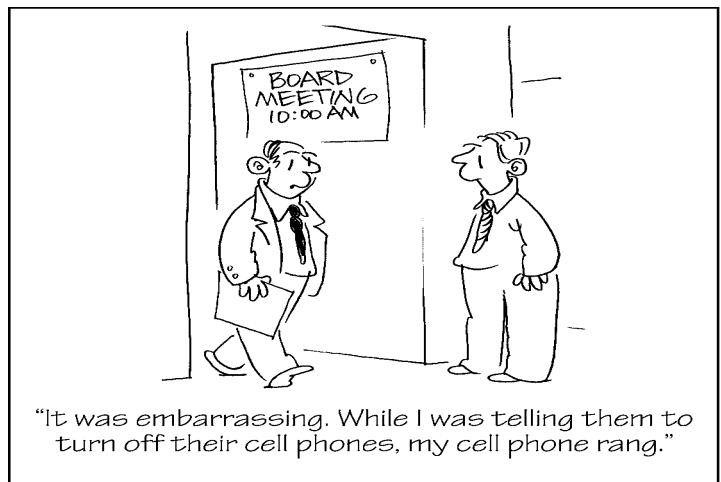
Reports were received from the various committees including Nominating, Christian Education, Membership (*we have a new member class of at least 6 or more coming in soon*), the Clerk of Session, and the Deacons.

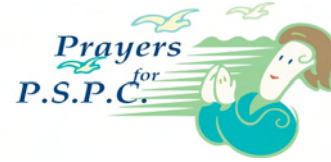
The next Presbytery meeting will be at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Indio, from 10:00a.m (9:00a.m. for breakfast) to 1:00 p.m. being represented by Elders Bob Wulf and Jackie Morgan, also attending will be Geri Bintliff and Margaret Pace as observers.

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, November 17th at 9:30 a.m. The next Session meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov. 17th at 9:30a.m.

Session members are - alphabetically: Geri Bintliff, Sue Cooper, Fran Gotenstein, Jim DeHart, Harry Henderson, Jackie Morgan, Margaret Pace, Harvey Stephens, and Bob Wulf, with Pastor Bill being the Moderator and member of Session. Any member of the church is welcome to visit a session meeting at any time without vote.

Session adjourned at 11:25 a.m. with prayer.





## Prayer Commitment

As members and friends of P.S.P.C., it is our responsibility to pray asking for God's wisdom and guidance for the future of His church. God is available 24/7. How much time will you commit to prayer? Call Jackie at the church office and sign up on the Prayer Calendar. The number is 760 320-2769.



Veterans Day

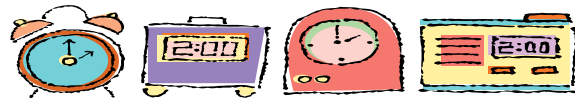
## Honoring our Veterans

Veterans Day, which is November 11th each year, is a holiday to honor America's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our nation's common good.

Christians follow the Prince of Peace, so war is a dilemma that often challenges people of faith. Some Christians are pacifists, while others believe in a "just war." Many believe that the goals of freedom, justice, equality and democracy are worth the cost required.

Whatever individual Christians decide about any given conflict, most Christians believe that men and women who strive to make this world free of tyrants are to be respected. As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Thank you to all the men and women who served or are now serving our country.



DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME ENDS

## Daylight Savings Ends Nov. 7th

*Just a reminder: Daylight Savings ends at 2:00a.m. on Sunday, November 7th. So, set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 6th and get an extra hour sleep before coming to Church and celebrating the Lord's Supper on the 7th.*



Multiply your thanks

We have so many reasons to give thanks to God. When we take time to count our blessings, we realize they just keep multiplying and adding up.

Use your multiplication or addition skills to answer each equation. Then use the word key below to write out Psalm 100:4 (NIV).

### WORD KEY

22= him 16= courts 4=gates 24=name 9=praise 8=and 2=to  
12= his 18= give 6= with 10= Enter 20= thanks 15= thanksgiving

"

$$\frac{\quad}{5 \times 2 \text{ or } 5 + 5} \quad \frac{\quad}{12 \times 1 \text{ or } 7 + 5} \quad \frac{\quad}{2 \times 2 \text{ or } 3 + 1}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{6 \times 1 \text{ or } 5 + 1} \quad \frac{\quad}{3 \times 5 \text{ or } 5 + 5 + 5} \quad \frac{\quad}{4 \times 2 \text{ or } 6 + 2}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{6 \times 2 \text{ or } 6 + 6} \quad \frac{\quad}{8 \times 2 \text{ or } 8 + 8} \quad \frac{\quad}{3 \times 2 \text{ or } 3 + 3}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{3 \times 3 \text{ or } 3 + 3 + 3} \quad \frac{\quad}{9 \times 2 \text{ or } 9 + 9} \quad \frac{\quad}{10 \times 2 \text{ or } 10 + 10}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{1 \times 2 \text{ or } 1 + 1} \quad \frac{\quad}{11 \times 2 \text{ or } 16 + 6} \quad \frac{\quad}{8 \times 1 \text{ or } 3 + 5}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{9 \times 1 \text{ or } 5 + 4} \quad \frac{\quad}{3 \times 4 \text{ or } 4 + 4 + 4} \quad \frac{\quad}{8 \times 3 \text{ or } 8 + 8 + 8}$$

"

Answers: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name;" (Psalm 100:4, NIV)



### Annual Bar-b-q a Huge Success!

October 31st., found many hungry people lined up for Chef, Harvey Stephens, gourmet hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken. He and his helpers were kept busy filling the plates as the people waiting, could almost taste the aroma of the food cooking on the bar-b-q.

Emilie Warren, a member who is now living in Arizona and visiting for the day, was the big winner of the 50/50 drawing.

All in all, the day was a HUGE SUCCESS! A BIG THANK YOU to Harvey and all his helpers.



### Save Your Bottles and Cans

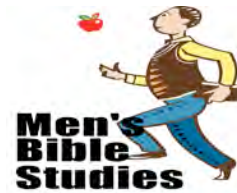
The church continues to collect glass and plastic bottles and aluminum cans. The monies raised has been a big help to the church.

If you have recycling, you can leave it in the church office for Harvey Stephens who is heading up the recycling drive.



### Women's Fall/Winter Bible Study *"The Real Women of the Bible"*

Come join the ladies of the church and friends to Bible study every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 In the church's Fellowship Hall. Elder Joyce Johnson is our very knowledgeable and wonderful leader.



### Men's Bible Study

The men's Bible group, led by Allen Perrier, is beginning an intense study of Apostle Paul. We are beginning with his missionary trips in the Book of Acts and extending the study through his several letters to churches.

After the meeting we have breakfast at one of the local restaurants. Come and join us.



### Sunday School Adult Bible Study

Meets each Sunday, at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The course of study is from the Kerygma "Discovering the Bible" series and led by Dick Erickson



### Centering Prayer

#### Tuesday evening:7:00 p.m.

Prayer is essential in our hectic lives. Prayer also comes in many forms. There is a prayer meeting at the church each Tuesday evening at 7:00. The Tuesday evening prayer is commonly known as Centering Prayer.

Usually each participant silently concentrates in being in the presence of the Lord by using a holy thought such as "Jesus" as extraneous thoughts enter the mind. It is also helpful to some by continually thinking the Jesus prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." There are no hard and fast rules to Centering Prayer, except silence.

Participants are convinced meeting as a group expands the energy of God and also encourages them to be present at the next meeting. The group is small and needs you to join them. Try to be there soon.

Well, it was sure a great feeling to arrive back in Palm Springs after a long-hot-four months in the Midwest. It is especially wonderful to be back in Palm Springs Presbyterian Church and worship with all of you. We are

missing a few faces, and we have gained some new and friendly faces.

The Deacons had their first meeting of the fall, on Sunday, October 10. We planned the little reception in honor of our wonderful Pastor Bill on October 24th with a cake and card. October is designated, National Pastor Appreciation month, and it was such a treat to honor him. P.S.P.C. is so blessed with a gift of having Pastor Bill and Joyce with us now for five + years. Congratulations and we wish you both, many, many, more years with us. We love and need you both.

We will be continuing to collect, gently used clothing, for the girls at the Hacienda Valdez. Some of the deacons will be visiting the ladies this month and take them the donated items. They are always so appreciative of our caring for them and look forward to our visits. You can bring any of these items, clothing, hair brushes, make-up, lotions, toothpaste, shampoo, manicure items, etc. This does help them as they have little or no money for these essentials. You can bring the donations to worship on Sundays & I will store them in my car until I can get to Desert Hot Springs.

A Big Thank You to all of our church members, visitors & affiliates that fill our "special green envelopes" so generously five times a year. I did fail to acknowledge this in our October Sonshine. With your help, we are able to carry out our duties of ministry through out the year.

The Prayer Chain is busy and going well. Robert Kemp is back to take your requests for your joys and concerns. Please telephone him with these requests.

Blessings to all of you,

*Virginia Allen*, Deacon-Moderator



## Worship and Music

Welcome back to our choir!

This summer was filled in with wonderful solos and music by Alex Danson and the Praise Band. Not one person failed to do their solo. Thank you all so much for making the summer great with your music.

We have a new person in our choir, Robert Tryce, and I hope you will take the time to stop and welcome him to PSPC and our choir. We are missing Susan as she is with her daughter in Fresno who is recuperating from surgery. Cal has been under the weather for a couple of weeks but we hope to see him soon. Jim has been on vacation but hopefully, will be back next Sunday. We welcome back Elivo Ditta from his trip to Italy, and send out a big thank you to Jim Kirwan for sitting in for Elivo while he was gone.

We are hoping that as Thanksgiving approaches and the Advent season and Christmas, we will see more of you "would be" choir members step up and join us. We know you are out there as we see you singing. So come join us as we are not a "closed choir."

All are welcome.

*Geri Bintliff, Elder*

Worship and Music



## PSPC is Having a Rummage Sale November 5th and 6th

This is the time to get those articles in for the rummage sale. The articles are being sorted and priced to go on sale Friday, November 5th and Saturday, November 6th.





**Now that the cooler weather is with us, we'll continue with the soup recipes from Souper Bowl!**

**Sunday**

**From Jackie Morgan's Kitchen**

**Vegetable Beef Soup**

Step 1

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 lbs. beef shank or short ribs | 2 celery stalks, chopped |
| 2 qts. water                    | cups diced tomatoes      |
| 1 onion, chopped                | salt                     |
| 2 carrots, chopped              | 1 bay leaf               |

Combine ingredients in crock cooker and cook at low for 12 hours. Remove beef from soup and trim meat from bones, return meat to soup and refrigerate overnight so the fat can congeal and be easily removed.

Step 2

Add your favorite vegetables to the defatted meat broth and cook till the vegetables are tender. I like to use peas, corn, and green beans. Adjust the salt if necessary. One of the best parts of this soup is that the vegetables are so colorful. It makes the soup pretty.

Hope you enjoy. Jackie



**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.**

**Cell phone-(818) 314-5104**

**Sonshine Deadline**  
**Nov. 16th**  
 Please send articles to my home by  
 Fax: 329-8084 or e-mail:  
 maggie1952@roadrunner.com



**NOVEMBER**

Christine Lutke	2
Bill Cushing	4
Susan McGuire	15
Don Howard	25
Kayley Lillard	28

The Sonshine always wants to recognize birthdays so if I have missed your birthday, please let Jackie know so you can be included next year.



**P.S.H.S. Band**

**Save Your Used Ink Cartridges**

The Palm Springs High School Band is collecting used computer ink cartridges to help finance their trip to Costa Rica next year. A collection jar is sitting on Jackie's desk. Thank you



**CHURCH**  
OFFICE HOURS

**PSPC OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday through Thursday**  
**8:00 am - 12:00 noon**  
**Closed on Friday**





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

Music Director:  
Alex Danson

Church Secretary:  
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:  
Margaret Pace



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