



SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church April 2011

Pastor Bill's "April Antics."



"For I am absolutely convinced (that nothing at all) will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 abridged nrsv

Certainly as we enter more fully into Lent, preparing for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter, this verse stands out as one that has upheld my life over the years. What about you and your faith in Christ Jesus? This is as good a time as any to re-evaluate your walk with Christ and your confidence in him.

What's going on? You have just elected a wonderful, gifted pastor, the Rev. Christine Dickerson, who begins her ministry here on May 1st. During April, because Joyce and I are sneaking away for a brief Caribbean Cruise from March 30 to April 11, you will be blessed by having the Rev. Dr. Charles Hammond, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) preach and administer Communion on April 3rd, and then on April 10 you will be privileged to have Elder Suzanne Swartz leading us in worship. (While we are gone there will be pastoral friends available in emergencies; Jackie will know who they are.) Joyce and I return late on the 11th and I will be leading worship on *Palm Sunday* with a sermon I call, **"Who In the World Do You Think Jesus Is?"** and then on *Maundy Thursday* we will have dinner at 6:00 p.m. and then Communion and the Tenebrae at 7:00 p.m. with our Praise Choir and Celebration Band singing "?????" My Communion Meditation is, **"You Are Chosen"** Then on what I prefer to call *"Resurrection Sunday,"* aka *Easter*, we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection; my sermon is called, **"Christ is Risen! No If's, And's, or But's!"**

But allow me to add this: with the terrible earthquake and tsunami hitting Japan a short time ago, this is another opportunity for us to reach out in the name of Christ to help those hurting so terribly. For me, giving through our **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** ministry is the best way to help. If you are able and so desire send checks to PSPC noting either Japan or **PDA** and we will forward them asap; Joyce and I have already done so.

Also, during April, especially on Palm Sunday and Easter, Presbyterian Churches receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**. You will be reading about the **OGHS** and will receive a letter from me about the OGHS. Please respond generously and graciously, as you always do, to this opportunity and privilege to help others in Christ's name. Joyce and I certainly will! Remember: *PSPC is almost always one of the most generous of churches in our Presbytery, per capita, in responding to these special ways to help. Let's keep that record going.*

Joyce and I will miss all of you for you are deeply loved by both of us. In these nearly six years (*I never thought in my wildest dreams we would be here this long!*) I've served as your Interim Pastor your love, enthusiasm and energy, your commitment to Christ and to Mission, has been and is infectious. The laughs and tears we've shared will never be forgotten; your excitement in obtaining this lovely building; your cooperation in remodeling and getting the PowerPoint is beyond imagination; the "joyful noise" of the Praise Choir and the Celebration Band under the guidance of Alex Danson is an example for all; the faithful ministry of Jackie Morgan and Jim DeHart on an everyday basis is something every pastor longs for as is the PowerPoint running by Jeff Morgan and Daniel Morgan and a few others who are learning the "tricks of the trade."

Continued on page 2

But, you are not quite "rid" of Joyce and me yet - we will be here through Easter and then, *ugh*, I get a new hip. Then, hopefully, I will finish writing some books I've been working on (a mystery/adventure trilogy) and a heavy theological work on Grace as found in St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas and John Calvin and what that means for Presbyterians and all reformed Christians today. (Maybe I can even find a publisher!?) And we will continue to do more traveling both domestically and internationally and, hopefully, find more time with our eight grandchildren. And, frankly, I doubt that I will do any more interims -- you've spoiled me! And, no, we are not moving out of the desert. We enjoy our lives here much too much and it is a headache to move.

It is my prayer that as Palm Springs Presbyterian begins an exciting and challenging new chapter in it's life, you will be so touched by our Lord Jesus that you will strive to live up to the message of the cross that gives power not only at Easter but always. God's blessings on you, your loved ones, and on PSPC.

Pastor Bill
William N. Johnson



Worship Schedule and Sermons for April, 2011

April 03 ~ The Rev. Dr. Charles Hammond, former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, guest worship leader and preacher.
The Lord's Supper will be observed

April 10 ~ Elder Suzanne Swartz, guest worship leader and preacher.

April 17 ~ "Who In the World Do You Think Jesus Is?" - Palm Sunday,
Pastor Bill Johnson leading worship and preaching
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-25

April 21 ~ "You Are Chosen" Maundy Thursday Tenebrae and Communion. Pastor Bill Johnson
Dinner at 6:00p.m. and Worship at 7:00p.m. Praise Choir and Celebration Band
singing, "???????"
Exodus 12:1-4, 1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; I Corinthians 11:23-26;
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 24 ~ "Christ is Risen! No If's, And's, or But's!" Pastor Bill Johnson
Resurrection Sunday
Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20"1-18



Easter's Meaning

In a 2010 Barna Group survey, two-thirds of Americans knew that Easter is a religious holiday. But only 42 percent connected its meaning to Jesus' resurrection. And only two percent of adults said they would describe Easter as the most important holiday of their faith.

Not everyone who connects Easter to religion has the facts straight. Two percent of Americans said Easter is about Jesus' birth. Another two percent said it's about Jesus' "rebirth." And one percent said it's a celebration of his second coming. Another three percent described Easter as a celebration of spring or a pagan holiday.

In the same survey, 31 percent of active churchgoers said they'd definitely invite an unchurched friend to worship with them on Easter weekend.

This Easter, share the truth and joy of the holiday with someone who doesn't know Jesus. News of the resurrection is too good to keep to ourselves! 2

A THOUGHTFUL ACTION FOR TODAY

A Ministry Funding For Tomorrow

A number of churches with which I am familiar have encouraged members to "plan ahead!" for future ministry. For example: in one of them a member who is in her 70s has a paid-up insurance policy with a cash value of \$50,000.00. She does not need this to protect or support her family; she has changed the beneficiary to her church which also gives her a tax deduction for the cash value of this gift. It is payable to her church upon her death.

In another church a member in his 50s wants to help in outreach and mission and has purchased in the church's name a whole life policy worth \$100,000.00 payable to the church upon his death. It, too, is tax deductible.

Gifts like this are popular and easy and a good way to help support the future of your church. Have you done this or even thought about this? If you are interested please speak to either Elder Jim DeHart (Clerk of Session) or to Pastor Bill both of whom can give you more information. Or, just speak to your insurance company or contact the Presbyterian Foundation.



PSPC

Has Aprons for Sale

The message says...

*"Have You Hugged
a Presbyterian Today?"*

They come in many colors and make great presents for yourself and others. They are a real bargain at \$16.76 and any profit benefits the church. Please see Morella Larsen if you would like to buy one.



Bibs or Aprons? Which Are You?

Bibs are for people who only want to be fed.
Bibs are for those who are not yet ready or willing to feed themselves.
Bibs are for those who are more interested in being served than in serving.
Bibs are for those who insist that the church exists for them and their needs.
Bibs are for babes in the faith, those who haven't caught God's vision for the church, or those who are not yet of the faith.

Aprons are for those who have a heart to serve others in Jesus' name.
Aprons are for those who know that they are the church.
Aprons are for those who don't mind getting their hands dirty.
Aprons are for those who take the time daily to feed their spiritual hunger.
Aprons are for those who are growing in faith, and hunger to help others grow.

Church growth consultant, Win Arn, interviewed thousands of Christians in America several years ago and asked them, what they thought the church existed for. Eighty-eight percent said, "The church exists to serve my needs and the needs of my family." In other words, 88% of Christians in America are still wearing bibs.

On the night when he was betrayed, just hours before he was crucified, the very Son of God took off his outer garments, wrapped a towel around his waist, and washed his disciples' feet. When he was done he said, "I have just given you an example to follow." In other words, Jesus called his disciples to wear aprons, not bibs.



Session Meeting

Session Notes Highlights

The Session met on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 9:40a.m. Session convened with prayer, many Session members bringing before us people and events about whom we prayed, trusting in the comforting and healing presence of our Lord. Pastor Bill lead us in a devotional on loving our neighbors as Jesus commanded, reminding us that when anyone in the church says "we always do something this way" or "we never do it that way" is not a loving message and is destructive to God's work; we then opened with prayer. All Session members were present with Elders Harry Henderson and Sue Cooper being excused. Our guest was Elder Anne Smith from the Committee on Ministry of Presbytery.

Much business was conducted including approving communion by intinction on Maundy Thursday, the development of a Grant Seeking Committee with Ernie Moore and Bob Wulf heading the committee, the design and development of a Celtic Cross to go on the top of the church under the guidance of Ernie Moore, the approval of the terms of call for the Rev. Christine Dickerson, encouraging all members of the Session and inviting members of the congregation to attend the Presbytery meeting on March 26th when Christine Dickerson is present to and received by our Presbytery. Session also approved the income budget for 2011 with appreciation for the increase in pledges for 2011 - about a \$21,000 increase over 2010! We expressed disappointment with the poor turnout for the Disaster Preparedness seminary held March 12th but were confident that those who attended were helped.

Session was reminded by several members that it is imperative that we continue the "transparency" we practice so that, except in Personnel Matters, all that we do is open to the congregation as we do now.

Session adjourned about 11:15a.m. with prayer and with Pastor Bill expressing deep appreciation to the Session for their commitment and hard work -- he would not trade the session of PSPC for any other! Pastor Bill also reminded the Session that once he was gone, he and Joyce are gone, and he will deeply miss the people of PSPC but this is the way the Presbyterian Church works. The next Session meeting is Wednesday, April 20th at 9:30 a.m. in the Social Hall of the church if needed.

If you have concerns you wish the Session to consider, please speak to one of our Session members, to Jim DeHart, Clerk of Session, or to Pastor Bill. Thank you.



END THE ACLU AN EASTER CARD THIS YEAR!

Why not treat the ACLU (American "Civil" Liberties Union) with an Easter Card this year since they are trying so hard to remove God from our country; it will only cost you 44¢ plus the cost of a card for a "good" cause.

ACLU
125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004-2427

Please do not be crude or rude; just wish them God's Blessings.

Someone said two tons of mail would freeze their operations since they would not know what was what and would have to check all mail for any checks.



Ladies Birthday Luncheons

The birthday luncheon for March found 20 ladies gathered at Billy Reed's in Palm Springs. As always, when ladies meet there is a lot of conversations going on and a lot of laughter.

We meet the last Tuesday of the month. So ladies, put the April date on your calendar and look forward to having a "fun" day with us. The sign-up sheet is always available in the fellowship hall at the end of each month.



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING EXCITING IN THE 21ST CENTURY? CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

@ps-pc.com

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

*Take your laptop to a shut-in
and share this wonderful gift with them or, if
they have a computer, show
them how to get us on the internet. What a
great gift.*

REMEMBER: Our email address is:
info@ps-pc.com

Our Website is: **ps-pc.com**
Please USE them; tell others!

Our new address is:
815 S. Camino Real at S. Riverside
Palm Springs, 92264
760-320-2769



Well-in-the-Desert

Presbyterian Hunger Fund

Luke 3:11 "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

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. In 2010 we raised \$1,381.76 which was evenly shared.



PSPC SHOPPING BAGS ARE AVAILABLE

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.



P.S.H.S. Band

Please Save Your Used Ink Cartridges

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

"5:59 Gathering"



The NEW AND IMPROVED **"5:59 Gathering"** **Maundy Thursday April 21** **Tenebrae & Communion**

ALL ARE INVITED TO COME, EAT, FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

The "**5:59 Gathering**" will gather on Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 5:59p.m. for another delicious meal and our Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae.

As always, we will have some of the best Palm Spring's meals for only \$6.00.

Plan on participating and bring a guest for a great meal and a time of worship & reflection



MANY, MANY THANKS

How many of us know who makes the "goodies" that are given away every Sunday to first time guests? Make a guess? Answer: Elder Fran Gotenstein is the basic baker helped by several others including Dorothy Hollerback. We keep these "goodies" frozen in the church's freezer to be taken out on Sundays (*and the staff NEVER samples those although it is tempting!*) Have any of us ever thanked Fran and Dorothy and the others for this labor of love?

THE GIFT

He loved her more than life itself
and often told her so.
He promised his undying love
but yet, she still said, *No*.

Her blindness overwhelmed her
with such a futile life.
Repeatedly she told him
she couldn't be his wife.

But miracles do happen
when much to her surprise,
the doctor said a donor had
a transplant for her eyes.

She readily accepted
for much to her delight,
she knew she'd see her lover's face
when she regained her sight.

Before the bandage lifted
she longed for his embrace
and couldn't wait to have him there
to meet him face to face.

Imagine then, the shock she had
when she awoke to find
her sweetheart sitting by her bed
and realized *he* was blind.

She knew she couldn't marry him.
It still is me, he said.
I've waited many years for you
assuming we would wed.

She told him that she did not want
a blind man for a mate.
She said she'd never change her mind
and they should separate.

He turned away, but as he left,
he told her tenderly,
Please treat your eyes with loving care,
they once belonged to me!

Marilyn K. Walker
P.S.P.C. Affiliate

Prayer Commitment Calendar

In Paul's writing to the Thessalonians, he urges the people to "pray without ceasing"....As members and friends of P.S.P.C., it is our privilege to pray for God's wisdom and guidance for the future of His church and "in everything give thanks"....for what He has done. God is waiting to hear from **YOU!** 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.



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.



Sunday Morning
"Discovering the Bible"

Sunday Mornings with Ernie Moore

For those of you wanting a Sunday morning Bible class, we are continuing with Ernie Moore, using Kerygma, every Sunday from 8:30a.m. to 9:30a.m. A great time of learning, study, fellowship and growth in our faith. All men and women are welcome. We meet in the Social Hall near the kitchen. Coffee is always available; even donuts.



Men's Bible Study

The men's Bible group, led by Allen Perrier, is the book of Romans. All the men in the church are encouraged to come and grow in the knowledge of God's word.

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



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.



Sunday Coffee Hour Update Weather Permitting?

Now that spring is almost here and weather is getting better and better, we will be making our Sunday Coffee Hour available outside as well as inside. Please feel free to enjoy "goodies" and fellowship in either place after introducing yourself to a first-time guest and then introducing them to some of your friends.

With Spring here, please remember the Ladies at Hacienda Valdez as you are clearing your closet of unwanted clothing and jewelry. Items can be brought to church and Deacon Barbara Stevens will bring them

over to the facility in Desert Hot Springs. They are always so appreciative of these items.

The deacons received lovely thank you letters from Margaret Pace and her daughter for our role in helping with the Celebration of Life ceremony for Leroy Pace. We were glad that we could be there and show our support for the family.

The prayer chain is going well. Please contact the church office if you would like to be on the prayer chain. Also, If you are the last person on your group list, please circle back to Audrey Bergquist to let her know the chain is complete. Her phone number is 760-864-8665 and her email is audreybergquist@yahoo.com.

Kathy Smith, Deacon
Moderator



The Legend of the Dogwood

There's a legend that the dogwood was once the size of the oak and other forest trees. It was so strong and firm that it was chosen as the timber for Christ's cross. This greatly distressed the tree. Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed the tree's regret and told it:

"Because of your sorrow for my suffering, never again shall the dogwood grow large enough to be used as a cross. It shall be slender, bent and twisted. Its blossoms shall form a cross – two long and two short petals. And at the outer edge of each petal will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red. In the center of the flower shall be a crown of thorns. And all who see it will remember"



Worship and Music

This past month has brought us new and former members to our choir and some new music we hope all enjoyed. We always have room for new members so if you feel the call, we would love to have you, especially you men that sing bass. Cal Custer would like some company!

We are fast approaching Maundy Thursday services and Easter services and so we are meeting at 2:30 pm on Thursdays rather than 3:00pm. We have a special service planned for Maundy Thursday services and it will include both the choir and the congregation singing the Cantata. It is a beautiful piece of music and hopefully will give more meaning to the service.

This time of year also means we lose some of our faithful members. Donna Ward and her lovely soprano voice will be returning to Michigan. Frieda Nichols, a wonderful alto will be returning to Oregon, and Patricia Wenzel, with us on March 27th will also be returning to Michigan. Robert Tryce is on the East Coast for three weeks.

We have some wonderful music planned for Palm Sunday and Easter. May God be honored by our music.

Geri Bintliff
Elder, Worship and Music



Perfect Attendance

The church choir director was frustrated because at least one member was missing from each Easter cantata rehearsal. At the final rehearsal, she announced, "I wish to publicly thank the tenor for being the only choir member to attend every rehearsal."

"It's the least I could," said the tenor, "since I won't be here for Easter."



From Kay Chabot's Kitchen
Souper Bowl Recipe

Vegetable Beef Barley Soup

- 1 1/2 lb. stew meat or round steak, fat trimmed, and cut in bite size pieces
- 7 1/2 c water
- 2 cans (14-15 oz) diced tomatoes in juice
- 1/2 c chopped onion
- 1 1/2 tbsp. salt (do not omit-need it)
- 1 tbsp. Worcestershire
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 tsp. chili pepper
- 3 bay leaves
- 1 1/2 c sliced celery
- 1 1/2 c sliced carrots
- 1 1/2 c diced potatoes
- 2 to 3 c shredded cabbage-I use 3! (the package slaw is fine)
- 3/4 c barley

Put all ingredients in a 6 qt slow cooker or large kettle on top of stove. Bring to boil, then simmer for 4 hours on stove top. In a slow cooker, I start on high for an hour then turn to low for about 5-6 hours. I actually prefer this on top of stove as it doesn't get as "mushy." If you like a thicker soup, you may increase barley. It freezes beautifully!



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



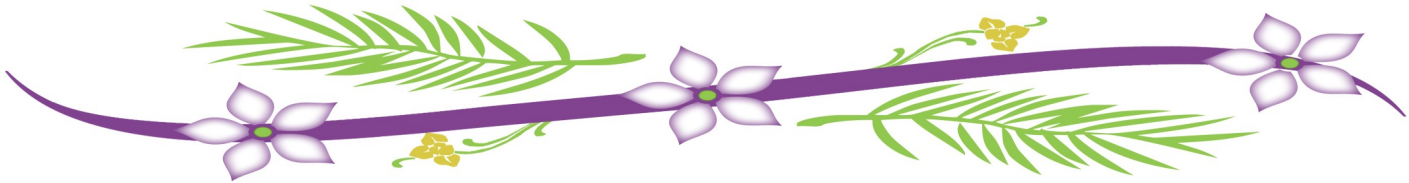
APRIL

Leslie Lutke	5
Jeff Morgan	5
Melissa Yezek	6
Carie Webb	8
Katherine Weezorak	15
Sue Cooper	18
Robert Kemp	23
Angelene Hemy	27
Kay Chabot	27

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. Thank you.

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

Sonshine Deadline
April 18th
Please send articles to my home by
Fax: 329-8084 or e-mail:
maggie1952@roadrunner.com





Palm Springs
Presbyterian Church
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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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