



SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, January 2008

From Pastor Bill's "Powerbook"

January 2008

A Happy "belated" New Year to all of you and to your loved ones. Two Thousand Eight is here, like it or not. The question in my mind is, as we begin this new year, what will 2008 bring? Probably most of us are think about the same thing. Health, wealth, illness, sadness, moves, problems, pain, joy, fellowship, new beginnings or the "same old..."? Time will, of course, tell.

It is my hope and prayer that as we move into 2008 we will experience exciting and challenging changes and growth. Of course, we all understand that the Cathedral City Community Presbyterian Church's possible merger with us is still up in the air and has many wrinkles to work out and, of course, will ultimately be up to a vote of both congregations.

But, other exciting possibilities lurk just around the corner and more will be shared if and when they begin to gather momentum and reality. Just keep your ears and eyes open and your prayers going for God's guidance in all possible decisions.

*Of course, there is a great big **THANK YOU** to those of you who have made your pledge for 2008 and have committed to helping make our future a possibility. **But there is one big concern I have and that is for those of you who have not yet made your pledge for 2008 for the future of PSPC.***

Please, if you have not made you 2008 pledge, please turn it in to the church office as we have to prepare the budget soon.

I look forward to being with you as we move quickly into Lent and Easter—which comes early this year.

Be prayerful about the future in which God is taking us that we will listen, respond, and follow as God guides. I am confident that God is at work with us and that God has an amazing future in store for us.

Further on in this Sonshine you will see the sermon plans I have for the next several months and the "5:59 Gathering" plans should be exciting, helpful, and stimulating times of spiritual growth for all of us. Thank you all and God bless you and your loved one in 2008.

Yours, in Christ's Service,

Pastor Bill

William N. Johnson
Interim Pastor

Next Deadline *For February 2008 Sonshine is January 24th*

Worship Schedule and Sermons for January—February 2008

Here is the schedule of worship and preaching for January—February 2008. As you prepare to participate in worship, please read the noted Bible passages in preparation and ask yourself this question: “***What do these passages say to me and how will Pastor Bill present them?***”

Pastor Bill's sermon series will be called, “**Faith Fights for Fullness**” and will guide us as we face so many changes in 2008. The specific Theme of the sermon is in (theme) following the title: **Pick up and bring** a friend, neighbor or loved one to church.

JAN. 06 -“General Faith or Specific Faith!” (Faith's Quest)

The Lord's Supper Celebrated

Psalm 29; Hebrews 11:1-3, 39-40; 12:1-2

JAN. 13 -“Dare to Follow the Leader?” (The Church)

Ordination/Installation of New Elders/Deacons

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 4:1-6

JAN. 20 -“Locking God Out and Our Personal Prison” (Faith)

Psalm 29; Ephesians 1:3-14

JAN. 27 -“Don't Let Anxiety Rob You of Life” (Anxiety)

Potluck Luncheon

Psalm 40:1-11; Matthew 6:24-35

FEB. 03 -“Let God Give You a Life” (Depression)

The Lord's Supper Celebrated

Psalm 46; Ephesians 3:14-21

FEB. 10-“Where Do You Want Your Life to Go?” (Vocation)

First Sunday in Lent

Psalm 2; James 2:14-26

FEB. 17-“Now That you are Retired, What Next?” (Retirement)

Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm 32; Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19

FEB. 24-The Crisis of Being Christian at Critical Times” (Politics)

Third Sunday in Lent

Potluck Luncheon

Psalm 2; Romans 13:1-7

COMING IN 2008: WATCH AND WATCH OUT!

January & February 2008, Pastor Bill will begin a sermon series he calls, “**Faith Fights for Fullness.**” Question: What is the role of faith and religion in a world that is struggling with the whole idea of faith or not faith? Many with whom I have talked over the years and recently have commented on the way in which so much of life seems to be closing in on them: physically, emotionally, financially, politically, even religiously. It is almost as if they have no space or room in which to live; no place to turn; no goal in life; no future and a nearly forgotten past. Faith, specifically faith in Jesus Christ, I am convinced, gives us lot of room to live, experience life, and grow in God's grace. My sermons this winter and spring point us in the direction we experience in Jesus Christ and through his Body, the Church. Plan on participating in worship and invite and bring a friend to also grow in God's grace.



SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of PSPC met on Wednesday, Dec. 12th at 9:30 a.m. at the PSPC with prayer by the pastor. Session discussed many proposed actions including approving a contribution of \$250.00 toward a dolly for the piano to the Seventh Day Adventist Church, continuation of the Dinner For Eight with flyer inserts in the Sunday bulletin, Dr. Ken McCullen speaking on "Inviting People to our Church" at the 5:59 Gathering on Jan 24th and Feb. 7th, approving additional advertising for a Choir Director and Pianist, heard a report on pledges of approximately \$57,000. Annualized received thus far for 2008 and discussion on the possible merger and alternatives with the PNC in limbo in the interim.

The next Presbytery meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8th.

The next Session meeting will be on Wednesday, January 16th at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 11:15 a.m.



"I learned to tithe my shoe!"

As you noticed, for a couple of Sundays last month, an influx of young people were sharing the church facilities. Following is a sweet note of appreciation from them:

To our Presbyterian family,

Thank you for such long-suffering spirits. ☺ We were grateful to have such loving people to receive us—even though it was somewhat unexpected for you. You are bright lights to this community. May God ever bless you as you serve Him in such a beautiful way.

Your children in ministry!
Souls West Bible College
2999 Iron Springs Rd.
Prescott, AZ 86305

The **Well in the Desert**, one of our Mission outreaches, continues to need **food**. So, please, as you come to worship on Sundays, bring canned or boxed food supplies for those in need. Thank you.

Below is a thank you note from Arlene Rosenthal, President of the Well in the Desert.

Dear Friends,

We send all of you warm wishes for a beautiful holiday season and thank you from our hearts for your continued support for our work for the needy at the Well in the Desert.

WEBPAGE NOW!!

If you are interested and are computer friendly, check out our new WEB PAGE at www.palmspringspresbyterian.com

Much more will be added over the next weeks, but this is getting us into the 20th century, at least!! Our **Web Page** will be updated weekly so that visitors and newcomers will be able to see what is going on at our church.

Enjoy and give us your additional suggestions!!



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We have been so blessed to have Ruth Teafora with us for several Sundays and we hope to see her again in January. We can pray for that goal. If she cannot continue in January, we will of course ask Alex.

Choir continues with Geri Bintliff leading them through the practices. It has been an answer for Ruth and Alex not to come to Thursday evening practice. Everyone has enjoyed the lively music and the voices of the choir. Anyone that would love to sing with us, please come, and join us!

Worship service continues to be blessed with Pastor Bill sermons and we miss him when he is gone. Ken McCullen will fill the pulpit when Pastor Bill and Joyce are on leave.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and God's continued blessing on our church.

Geri Bintliff

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PRAYER COMMITMENT

Every single one of us can do this! To commit some time every week or day throughout January for the rest of 2008, praying for PSPC and God's guidance in the future. How much time? That is 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.



As We Start the New Year

WHAT AWAITS US?

We're at the starting gate of a new year. What will it hold for us? Only God knows. Yet, if God knows, why not try to discover his plan for us each day?

We should carry on a daily dialog with God. Following His lead is always interesting and challenging. And much of the time it's filled with wonder and joy.

I remember the story of a small boy who prayed to God at the end of a fun, interesting Monday; "It's been a wonderful day, God. What do you have in mind for Tuesday?"

What does God have in mind for you in 2008? Keep in touch with Him, and you'll enjoy the trip around the sun!

Charles Ferrell

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NEW OFFICE HOURS

PSPC Office hours

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

Tu - Th 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE.

PDA/NRT to Washington State

At noon on December 8th, I received my first call for an official deployment as a member of a National Response Team (NRT) of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and by noon on, Saturday, December 9th, I was in the Seattle airport, waiting to meet a fellow team member. We were assigned to assist in the area of Washington Olympia Presbytery, which included the flooded areas inland, and the wind damaged areas at the coast.

After attending Sunday services the next morning at Westminster Presbyterian in Chehalis, which is where the freeway (I-5) was under water along with many businesses and homes, we drove west through the river valleys seeing homes and farms totally devastated included their livestock and livelihood. The next day we were in Aberdeen, which had damage from strong winds. The churches in the Presbytery all escaped major damage, with the most being only broken windows. But, as expected, in both areas there was much personal angst about the future.

Although our initial contact is the Presbytery and their needs, the efforts of PDA are ecumenical, working with all assets available to meet the needs of God's people. We met with the General Presbyter, Lynn Longfield, whose first concern had been of pastors, congregants and the physical churches, and was then wondering how and where did people turn to begin recouping and recovery. Some assets were in place. United Way in Chehalis was already operating a receiving and distribution center, and we located other organizations, some faith based, that were just beginning their distributions. FEMA and insurance appraisers were arriving as we departed.

Our final general meeting was with GP Longfield, many participating Presbytery pastors, and representatives of other organizations, to develop the blue print which will assist them in going forward with the recovery from their disaster.

Please keep these affected families and the churches in your prayers during their long recovery. And, of course, through our church, contributions can be made to PDA for this, or any other disaster.

Morella Larsen (Elder, FPC)

National Response Team Member of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

PCUSA

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The members and friends of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church generously shared their gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering of \$1,275.00

God's love in human form is certainly among us and may our gifts bear joyful witness to that uncontainable love.

"The 5:59 GATHERING" in Palm Springs Presbyterian Church

Everyone is WELCOME!! The "5:59 Gathering" includes an outstanding meal for a \$5.00 donation plus lots of fellowship, time of learning and growing together. The "5:59 Gathering" generally meets every other Thursday during the late fall, winter and early spring.

TIME: 5:59 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.

PLACE: Palm Springs Presbyterian Church (we meet in the 7th Day Adventist Church on Sunrise near Ramon).

FOR WHOM: Members, winter residents, and friends who wish to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and in understanding the Presbyterian Church/Reformed, Calvinist Theology.

The Following is the Projected Schedule

Jan. 10 -"The Cost of Falsely Predicting"- Pastor Bill Johnson

Jan. 24 -"An Irresistible Invitation"- The Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen, part 1

Feb. 07 -"An Irresistible Invitation"- The Rev. Dr. Ken McCullen, part 2

Feb. 21- Let's talk about **"Why Ash Wednesday"**: as we prepare for Lent & Easter. - Pastor Bill Johnson

Mar. 06 -"Stewardship of the Environment" (tentatively planned) - The Rev. Julie Hodges, Associate Pastor, Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church

Mar. 20-"Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae" – Pastor Bill Johnson

Apr. 03-"Why Some Presbyterians are leaving the PCUSA & We are Not!"- Pastor Bill Johnson

Apr. 12-*Pastor Bill & Joyce leave for Israel, Egypt and Jordon!* Will return May 11th for worship.

Dinner at 5:59 p.m. for \$5.00 and with reservations—call 760 320-2769. Class from 6:60 to 7:45 p.m. in the church social hall.

This is something you will not want to miss!

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Items Needed:

Toothpick

Rubber Band

Band Aid

Pencil

Eraser

Chewing Gum

Mint

Candy Kiss

Tea Bag

Why??

TOOTH PICK-to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others. Matt. 7:1

RUBBER BAND-to remind you to be flexible; things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out. Romans 8:28

BAND AID- to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's'. Col. 3:12-14

PENCIL-to remind you to list your blessings everyday. Eph. 1:3

ERASER-to remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's OK. Genesis 50:15-21

CHEWING GUM-to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything. Philippians 4:13

MINT-to remind you that you are worth a mint! John 3:16-17

CANDY KISS-to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or a hug everyday. I John 4:7

TEA BAG-to remind you to relax daily and go over that list of blessings. I Thess. 5:18

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, share a word of praise; pray for us and they always open their hearts to us.

We are on the Internet!
So, Give us Your E-mail Address

We are now on the Internet and our email address is
pspresby@verizon.net

That gets us into at *least* the late 20th century if not the 21st!! So...please give us your **email address** so we can email you the latest going-ons of PSPC: letters, the **Sonshine**, other important information and activities. We will **NOT** give this to anyone else without your permission!!

Please leave the form below in the offering plate, give to the office, or mail to the church office
Thank you!!

Name _____

Member _____ Affiliate Member _____ Friend _____

My/Our email address _____

You have my/our /permission to give others in the church my/our email address: Yes____No____

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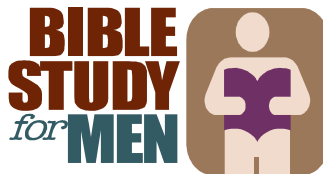


Women's Bible Study

Begins Again on Tuesday, January 8, 2008

This year, the Women's Bible Study will continue to meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the church with Elder Joyce Johnson (Pastor Bill's wife) leading another Biblical study. **All women of the church are invited and urged to bring a neighbor or friend.** Pastor Bill will probably again make coffee for the caffeine addicts!

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Bible Study: Wednesday—7:00 AM

The Men's Bible Study, under the capable leadership of Allen Perrier, continues on Wednesday mornings at the church in the Lounge, meeting at 7:00 am with a study of the **Sermon on the Mount**. 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 Challenge for All of us:

To Grow means New People. Bring Someone who needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

DEACON'S CORNER

From Elder Jim DeHart's Kitchen

SAUCY CARROTS

A small amount of sauce gives a great flavor.

6 c thinly sliced carrots	4 tsp. sugar
2 c boiling water	1 c. orange juice
1 1/2 tsp. salt	2 tbsp. butter
1 tbsp. cornstarch	2 tsp. grated orange rind

In a large saucepan boil the carrots, water and salt, covered, just until tender—about 5 minutes; drain in colander. In the clean dry saucepan, stir together the cornstarch and sugar, gradually stir in orange juice, keeping smooth.

Cook over moderate heat, stirring constantly, until thickened; stir in butter and orange rind. Add carrots; reheat. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Note: About 1 1/2 pounds carrots will be needed. Pare carrots and cut crosswise with knife held at an angle to make thin slices as long and oval as possible.

DEACON'S BAKE SALE AND BAZAAR

Thank You
for your
Help!

Due to the generosity of the bakers and buyers in the congregation our bake sale and bazaar was a huge success. The total amount of giving was \$268.00.

The Deacons are grateful to have such supportive help in helping us, to help others in need.
God bless you all.

PLEASE FEEL FREE to call our **Interim Pastor, Dr. Bill Johnson**, anytime you have an emergency (like going to the hospital) or with question, concerns, ideas, etc.

Home phone- (760) 345-2993

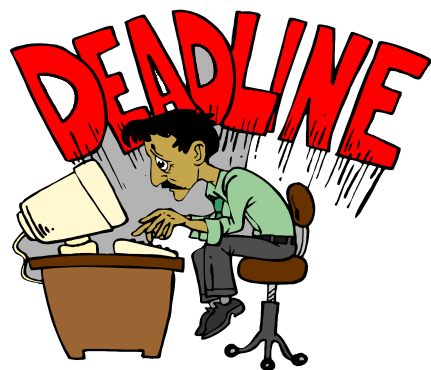
E-mail-drwnj57@aol.com

Cell phone- (818) 314-5104



January's **Birthdays**

Michael Lutke	6
Richard Cuthbert	11
Annie MacEwan	13
Sydney Webb	20
Trent Webb	20
Margaret Pace	22
Suzy Zenker	30
Francis Spreitzer	31



The Deadline for the Sonshine is January 24th

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



Palm Springs
Presbyterian Church
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(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

Music Director:

Church Secretary:
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:
Margaret Pace



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Thank you
