

SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, February 2009



Pastor Bill's "February Futures"

FORWARD IN FEBRUARY FOR FUTURING

We are Blessed! One of the unique things I love about PSPC is the fact that we have a number of Winter Residents (aka *SnowBirds*) who, when they are here, jump in and contribute in so many ways. *Many churches are not so blessed!* Being in an area like Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley, where we have many people who spend anywhere from a few weeks to 5, 6, 7 months a year living and worshipping here, but also have "home" churches, I have discovered these Winter Residents/*SnowBirds* contribute in so many ways, and for that I, along with you, am grateful. They help with the "5:59 Gathering," they help cook, they contribute financially, they participate or lead study groups, they sing in the choir, they wash dishes after meals, they cook and bring food for the potluck lunches, they are valuable assets to our church. To our *SnowBirds* along with our regular members I say: THREE CHEERS and GOD'S BLESSINGS! Keep up the good work!

It seems, from what I am hearing, that our country is coming out of the recession and we all hope and pray that that is true. What, then, is the Church's response? Studies, and my own experience, are that churches, and church members, respond well when there is a financial or economic crisis in our nation. Every church I have pastored over the past nearly 50 years has responded *generously and graciously* during economic difficulties: people get priorities right! So, what about us at PSPC as this nation is pulling out of a deep recession, is facing terrorists, and is dealing with divisive party politics on all levels? How are you and I doing to help make the ministry and mission of Christ's church alive and well here and throughout this nation and world?

As I write this, before our Pledge Campaign is completed, it seems to me that we are responding just as I had hoped and prayed: *generously and graciously*. By the time you read this we will know for sure and a budget will have been adopted for 2010 by the Session.

It is important for all of us to know that your Session is working, planning, and praying for God's guidance in reaching out and growing, but ... it takes all of us to do the task God has set before us. We are in a lovely spot; in a beautiful building, but what is the church and what is its business; and how are we doing?

And then there is the Haiti earthquake and the world's response, including our Presbyterian Church. Through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program (PDA) we have a goal of \$500,000.00 along with portable water systems and latrines and, of course, people with expertise. At last count, PSPC has graciously and generously given \$940.00 to the PDA to help. And I thank each of you. If you have not yet given, but would like to, send your check to Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, 815 S. Camino Real, P. S., 92264 and note for PDA or Haiti and we will forward your check along with others to our Presbyterian HQ in Louisville, KY. so help will be even greater. Remember: *Jesus said that we are to do unto others as we would have them do unto us -- that we are to care for the least of his, and our, brothers and sisters -- and, when we have a major quake here, PDA and others will help us.*

So, what **IS** the business of the church? *To grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ; to proclaim and teach the Word of God; to serve the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters; to wash feet and to turn water into wine; to feed and clothe and help those who are far less blessed as are we; and to step out of our comfortable boxes and reach out to those looking for something of substance in their lives: namely, Jesus.*

How are we doing and how are you doing in response to God's merciful love?

Happy New Year and may 2010 bring you God's richest blessings, even as I remain,

Yours, in Christ's Service,
Pastor Bill
William N. Johnson
"Interim" Pastor

REMEMBER: Next Deadline for March 2010 **SONSHINE** is February 18th.

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

As we begin the New Year, 2010, Pastor Bill's sermons continuing into February will look at who we are, where God is taking us, and how we demonstrate our faith in Christ during these hectic and changing/challenging times. Pastor Bill calls this series, ***"The Word Alive Through Us."*** As we move into this New Year, and this new decade, all sorts of pressures, good and bad, confront us and we need to be able to discern God's presence and will for our lives. This sermon series will help us discover and live God's way more fully. Please bring friends, neighbors, and loved ones to share in this incredible time and read the scriptures in preparation.

**Feb. 07 ~ "Players or Spectators"**

**Communion??**

**Psalm 138; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11**

**Feb. 14 ~ "Bold or Fearful" -**

**Psalm 99; II Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36**

**Feb. 21 ~ "The Power Source"**

**1st Sunday n Lent**

**Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13**

**Feb. 28 ~ "Whether to Fight or Run"**

**2nd Sunday in Lent**

**Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35**

**Pot Luck Luncheon**



### **PRAYER COMMITMENT**

Every single one of us can do this! To commit some time every week or day, praying for PSPC and God's guidance in the future. How much time? That's between you and God. But, prayer does make a difference! To sign up on the Prayer Calendar, call the church office, 320-2769

## **DON'T MISS THIS!!! -- Feb. 19-20, 2010**

### **Dr. F. Dale Bruner, Ph.D. on John**

We are invited to share with the Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church their "*Weekend in the Word with Dr. Dale Bruner, Ph.D.*" Dale is a long-time friend of our Pastor, Bill Johnson (*both having been active at the First Presbyterian Church, Hollywood*), and is an outstanding speaker and authority on the **Gospel According to John**. He is a graduate of Occidental College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and the University of Hamburg, Germany. He was Professor of Theology at Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines for 11 years and Wasson Professor of Religion at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington for 22 years. He is now "*retired*" and living in Monte Vista Groves, one of our Presbyterian Retirement homes, here in Southern California. He is the author of several books and is completing a much-anticipated commentary on John.

**Dr. Dale Bruner** will be speaking at the Palm Desert Church on

- 1.) Friday, February 19 - with dinner *by reservation* in Miller Hall at 5:30p.m. and then speaking at 7:00p.m. on **"Jesus' Grace - the Samaritan Women in John 4."**
- 2.) Saturday, February 20 Morning Bible Study and Coffee in Miller Hall at 8:30a.m. to 10:30a.m. on **"Jesus' Truth - the Blind Man in John 9"**

**Don't miss this great opportunity.** There is no cost for the Saturday morning coffee and presentation, but registration is appreciated by calling 1-760-346-8195 x 0 and verbally indicating your attendance. Dinner on Friday night *needs reservations* for meal planning at the same phone number. **Cost for dinner: \$3.00 with advance reservation, \$5.00 at the door. Make Reservations ASAP since space is limited!!**

Or, call PSPC at 1-760-320-2769 no later than Sunday, Feb. 7th and we will send in your dinner and/or coffee reservation for you *if they are still available and room*.

Palm Desert Presbyterian is located at 47-321 Highway 74, Palm Desert, 92260. Take Hwy 111 to Highway 74 (Monterey); go south, across El Paseo, staying on 74 to the church (just before the St Margaret's Episcopal Church).

Pastor Bill and Joyce will most likely attend both dates, always good to see an "*old*" friend.



### **PSPC SHOPPING BAGS STILL AVAILABLE**

Do you ever go shopping? *Certainly!!* We all shop for food, clothing, gifts, and sometimes, new cars or new homes. I know.... cars and houses won't fit into a shopping bag but items for them, will!! And, guess what! We have just the things for you to carry them in....**OUR PSPC SHOPPING BAGS!!!**

### **WHAT A WAY TO EVANGELIZE!**

If you do not have one or two, we can help you change that. Talk to Jim DeHart or Jackie Morgan



The "5:59 Gathering" will gather on Thursday, Feb. 11 and 25, 2010 with more great food and thought-provoking discussions. Watch for further details but, hopefully, Morella Larson will present the program on Feb. 11th and Pastor Bill will do so on Feb. 25th with, of course, some of his crazy jokes before eating!

## WHAT LOVE MEANS TO A 4-8 YEAR OLD . .

Touching words from the mouth of babes.  
A group of professional people posed this  
question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds,  
'What does love mean?'

The answers they got were broader and  
deeper than anyone could have imagined  
See what you think:

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she  
couldn't bend over and paint her toenails  
anymore. So my grandfather does it for her  
all the time, even when his hands got arthritis  
too. That's love.'

Rebecca- age 8

'When someone loves you, the way they say  
your name is different.

"You just know that your name is safe in their  
mouth.'

Billy - age 4

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a  
boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out  
and smell each other.'

Karl - age 5

'Love is when you go out to eat and give  
somebody most of your French fries without  
making them give you any of theirs.'

Chrissy - age 6

'Love is what makes you smile when you're  
tired.'

Terri - age 4

'Love is when my mommy makes coffee for  
my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it  
to him, to make sure the taste is OK.'

Danny - age 7

'Love is when you kiss all the time. Then  
when you get tired of kissing, you still want to  
be together and you talk more. My Mommy  
and Daddy are like that.

They look gross when they kiss'

Emily - age 8

'Love is what's in the room with you at  
Christmas if you stop opening presents  
and listen.'

Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

'If you want to learn to love better, you should  
start with a friend who you hate,'

Nikka - age 6

*(we need a few million more Nikka's on this  
planet)*

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt,  
then he wears it everyday.'

Noelle - age 7

'Love is like a little old woman and a little old  
man who are still friends even after they know  
each other so well.'

Tommy - age 6

'During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I  
was scared. I looked at all the people watching me  
and saw my daddy waving and smiling.

He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared  
anymore.'

Cindy - age 8

'My mommy loves me more than anybody  
you don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at  
night.'

Clare - age 6

'Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece  
of chicken.'

Elaine-age 5

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and  
sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert  
Redford.'

Chris - age 7

'I know my older sister loves me because she  
gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and  
buy new ones.'

Lauren - age 4

'When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up  
and down and little stars come out of you.' (*what  
an image*)

Karen - age 7

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet  
and she doesn't think it's gross.'

Mark - age 6

'You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you  
mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a  
lot. People forget.'

Jessica - age 8

And the final one.

The winner was a four-year-old child whose next  
door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had  
recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into  
the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap,  
and just sat there.

When his Mother asked what he had said to the  
neighbor, the little boy said,

'Nothing, I just helped him cry'

When there is nothing left but God, that is  
when you find out that God is all you need.

Requested by Pa



## **BE A LOVEBIRD**

Many stories about the origin of Valentine's Day have come down through the centuries. There's no definitive story, but most revolve around the imprisonment of Valentinus (St. Valentine) for his disregard of Roman laws.

Many legends are also associated with Valentine's Day. For example, because birds seemed to arrive and mate in some countries in mid-February, human couples came to be called "love birds."

In 1667, the first recorded Valentine card was printed. Today, people will give their sweethearts countless millions of cards and acres of heart-shaped boxes filled with candy. But why wait for Valentine's Day to share love with others? Remember Jesus' words in John 13:34 (NRSV): "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.



## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

If there was any doubt in your mind about Alex Danson's artistry at the piano, it was wiped out by his playing of Duke Ellington's "Sunday Morning" as requested by Pastor Bill. What a talent! We are so blessed to have Alex and all that he does for the church's web site, choir and Praise Band. I hope that you will tell him how much we appreciate him.

Choir is FUN!!! You don't know what fun we have and what you are missing by not becoming a part of a great group. I am especially proud of the fact that the choir will be given a new song, and within an hour, has it down pat.

The "Singing Sunday" was a huge success! Thanks to Jackie for her leadership and to all the readers. The one thing that Presbyterians love to do is sing to the Glory Of God!!!

Worship service has been filling with visitors, first time worshipers and regular members.

5

Isn't it great to see the church full and

having to "make room" for those attending? Welcome, one and all, to our "Place of Our Own".

Gerl Bintliff

Elder, Worship and Music



## **BOY SCOUT'S ANNIVERSARY**

Lord Robert Baden-Powell (1857-1941) was a lieutenant general in the British Army who loved hiking and camping in the wilderness. He wrote a small handbook for soldiers called Aids to Scouting. It became so popular among teachers and youth leaders that he rewrote it with young people in mind. Scouting for Boys was immediately a best seller and led to the establishment of many Boy Scout groups in England.

Soon afterward, scouting groups began popping up across America. Churches were so supportive of the movement's values that many churches sponsored Scout troops — and still do.

The official beginning of Scouting in America was February 8, 1910. Each year, many churches recognize their Scouts on the Sunday before February 8.

The leaders of Boy Scouts of America have designated September 1, 2009, through December 31, 2010 as "A Year of Celebration." The year's highlight will be Jamboree 2010 (July 26–August 4, 2010), which promises to be the largest celebration of Scouting in America. More than 43,000 scouts and leaders are expected to attend the event at Fort A.P. Hill, a 76,000-acre camp outside Washington, D.C.



## **Thinking of Lent**

Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word gospel means "good news.")

A college student decided to work his way

through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for his Lenten devotional time. Soon he was fascinated by the stories, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees trying to trap Jesus in debate. The brilliant Jesus handled every occasion with wisdom, leaving the authorities dumbfounded.

During his devotional time, the student was filled with laughter and amazement at the brilliant Son of God, who was only in his 30s. Get to know the good news, and you'll understand the young man's amazement.



Food & Fellowship

You know a funny thing happened.....” recently. A group of people was seen driving around the area, commenting on the view of the mountains, and the collectables or ambience of the places where they stopped to eat. There were serious conversations, as well as, much laughter, and even some teasing along the way, but the important thing was: they just enjoyed each other's company, and that of a couple of dogs. Were you one of those people? If not, you could be.

This was the scene of the first luncheon gathering of the “FOOD and FELLOWSHIP” for this season. Although, scheduling and illness caused some to miss the event, 16 people were on board that day, car-pooling from the church where the January one began. Although all participated in the potluck, it began with a host/hostess for each of the four courses, starting with appetizers by Ellie and Bill Cushing in the fellowship room of PSPC; then north to Fran Gotenstein's home for salad and an unobstructed view of the San Bernardino Mountains; south to Morella Larsen's community room for the main course; and ending with dessert at Jim DeHart and Robert Kemp's home, where Monte and Sneakers were the center of attention. Lasting several hours, with great food and long on fellowship. A good time was had by all.....and, the good news, no one needed dinner.

The next event will be February 18<sup>th</sup>. Phone the church office, Morella Larsen, or Margaret Pace 760-329-3333 who is “Chief” of the February event, to get your name on the list if you are interested in participating in the potluck-progressive luncheons known as

“Food and Fellowship” (Presbyterian style).  
Morella Larsen



**BAKING FOR OUR FIRST-TIME VISITORS**

Lately we have had many new visitors to our church and they have been delighted to receive home bake bread and cookies.

We have several dedicated bakers but can always use more. It would be a welcome addition. Please call Frances at (760) 320-2025 if you would like to assist in the treat-giving endeavor.



**WE ARE NOW IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY!**  
**CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND EXCITING WEBSITE & EMAIL**

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



Men's Bible Study

**MEN'S BIBLE DISCUSSION**

Why do the men have the habit of meeting each Wednesday morning in the church fellowship hall at 7:00 am for over 20 years? Formerly, it accommodated their work schedules and currently it satisfies their Presbyterian attachment to communal feasts as they join in breakfast at local restaurants after the meetings.

The discussion is non-judgmental and their spirit of love is unconditional. Their current discussion centers on the Book of Matthew.

Join the men as they seek God's love together.

Allen Perrier, Elder



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

With Elder Joyce Johnson

**Begins Again on Tuesday, January 5th**

Our Bible Study on Romans continues, on Tuesdays, 9:30 am to 11:00 am in our Fellowship Hall. All women of the church and friends are invited and welcomed to come and learn from Joyce, our very knowledgeable

DEACON'S

## DEACON'S CORNER

Our first meeting of the year was held January 19th at the PSPC social hall. We have nine deacons serving on the board; Ruth Ash, Kathryn Smith, Audrey Bergquist, Virginia Allen, Lucille Kraehling, Jan Perrier, Robert Kemp, Richard Brenner and Pauline Craig. It was agreed Richard Brenner would continue to serve as the Deacon's Treasurer, Kathryn Smith is our Secretary, Robert Kemp will continue to handle our Prayer Chain & I will serve as the Deacon's Moderator. Our deacon meetings will continue to be held the second Sunday of each month in the Church Sanctuary, after Worship Services.

We will continue to have our "Deacons' Moments" which is coming up February 7th at which time we will have more information of things we are planning to accomplish this year. We are now excited to perform the duties that we will be called upon to serve and minister to our congregation and community. We welcome any suggestions any of you might offer and we appreciate your continued support.

Thank you and Blessings to all,  
Virginia Allen  
Deacon Moderator



## LADIES BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS

WOW!! Twenty-three ladies attended January luncheon at Billy Reed's restaurant in Palm Springs. We not only enjoyed having a good time laughing and visiting we also enjoyed delicious food. The next luncheon

will be on Tuesday, February 23rd. If you have not joined us, please do, and share in the fellowship with other ladies.

A sign up sheet will be available in the fellowship hall.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

**Ladies, mark your calendars and make your reservations!!**

**Saturday, March 20, 2010**

Our speaker this year is Rev. Pat Stout who has led our worship services several times in the absence of Pastor Bill.

The theme of the retreat is, "Sing a New Song", and from the topic, the day will be filled with joyous music, singing, fellowship and a thought provoking message from Rev. Pat.



**Session Meeting**

## SESSION NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met for it's regular meeting on Thursday, January 14th in the church's social hall at 9:30a.m. Present were: Jim DeHart, Margaret Pace, Sue Cooper, and Jackie Morgan. Session began with a devotional from Pastor Bill and prayer. Session began with a brief discussion on who and what we are as Presbyterians and Session members.

Session approved offering our congregation the opportunity to help by giving to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance ministry (PDA) and it was announced on Thursday at the "5:59 Gathering" and again on the next few Sundays.

Session looked at the proposed Wedding Brochure and made constructive suggestions that will be implemented.

The Session approved the budget for 2010. Session also approved February 11th for the Annual Meeting and for the celebration of the church's first anniversary on March 31, 2010.

Session adjourned about 11:25 a.m. with Pastor Bill complementing them on a job well done and with prayer.

## *It Is STILL COLD Outside!!!*

### The Well in the Desert: Food & Clothing Needed.

Remember:

Jesus said, "if your neighbor doesn't have a coat, and you have two, give your neighbor one of them!"

The **Well in the Desert** still needs support. Now that we are well settled doesn't mean that we can forget the needs of the Well-in-the-Desert ~ they still need our support. Keep up the good work with food, clothing, blankets, money, water, etc. Bring your donation on Sunday mornings, leave them by the front door in the box marked "**Well-in-the-Desert.**" They are usually picked up first thing Monday morning. Let's all join together bringing to church, an extra can or two or three to help feed the hungry or bring in some no-longer used coats, sweaters, shirts, shoes, socks, etc. Thank you.



### From Peggy Lynn's Kitchen

#### Lemon Chicken Rolls

8 boneless skinless chicken breast halves,  
pounded to 1/4" thickness

1 c bread crumbs

2 tbsp chopped parsley

1 tsp kosher salt

2/3 c grated Parmesan cheese

1/8 tsp pepper

1 clove garlic, minced

1 stick melted butter

1 tbsp fresh lemon juice

Paprika

Mix bread crumbs, parsley, salt, cheese and pepper together. Mix butter, garlic and lemon juice together. Dip chicken in butter mixture, then in crumb mixture. Roll into firm rolls and place in baking pan. Pour any remaining butter mixture over and sprinkle top with paprika. Bake covered at 350 for 20 minutes. Uncover and bake another 10-15 minutes until brown and cooked through.

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



**YES**, we are still collecting cans and bottles, so keep them coming!! As you know, maintenance of the landscaping is an ongoing expense to the church and the money we receive from the recycling is being used for that purpose. While you helping the environment you have also been supporting "A Place of Our Own." Bring them with you when you come to church! A **BIG THANK YOU** to all of you that have been helping.



|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Cal Custer         | 9  |
| Francis Gotenstein | 9  |
| Ellie Cushing      | 11 |
| Kate Walker        | 15 |
| Karen Egan         | 16 |
| Chris Siems        | 16 |
| Pauline Gregg      | 18 |
| Verna Cuthbert     | 22 |
| Jim DeHart         | 24 |
| Heather MacEwan    | 25 |
| Iain MacEwan       | 25 |
| Geri Bintliff      | 27 |
| Kent McGarity      | 27 |



February 18<sup>th</sup>

Please send articles to my home  
by

Fax: 760 329-3333 or email  
[maggie1952@roadrunner.com](mailto:maggie1952@roadrunner.com)

Thank you



**PSPC Office hours**  
**Monday through Thursday**  
**8:00 am - 12:00 noon**  
**Closed on Friday**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE:** to call our **Interim Pastor, Dr. Bill Johnson**, anytime you have



Palm Springs  
Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 582  
Palm Springs, CA 922

#### 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  
Alex Danson

Church Secretary:  
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editor:  
Margaret Pace



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