



SONSHINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church October 2010

Pastor Bill's "October-fest"

(Ps. 139:1-6 nrsv)



October is a **"festive"** time and leads us up to some of the most wonderful times in the Church year: Advent and Christmas. As **"festive"** as this fall and winter will be, what a wonderful time Joyce and I had on the east coast with our two oldest grandkids, Kallie, age 16 and Caleb, age 15! And we thank you for the time we had as we re-visited our American heritage from Williamsburg to Gettysburg and everything in between. If I tried to tell you even a fraction of what we saw and did you would throw this issue of the **Sonshine** away and call me a doting old grandfather for sharing every detail. So, I won't but you will hear snippets here and there, obviously.

Seeing all the beauty and history of our heritage as Americans reminded me so clearly of our heritage as brothers and sisters of Jesus. In II Timothy 2 Paul writes to Timothy,

"You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus"

and those are words so applicable to us today; hopefully they can become our "by-word" for this fall and winter as we worship, study, pray, fellowship, serve others as well as our selves, and grow in the *"grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

A recent study indicated that we, as Evangelicals and as Mainline Protestants, have a strong faith but are basically unable to explain or define our faith or theology or the Bible especially in contrast to Muslims and Jews. I hope and pray that we at Palm Springs Presbyterian Church will be...

First, "strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus;" and

Second, will be committed to knowing what and why we believe; and

Third, that we will be able to share our faith with others; and

Fourth, that we will make a point of sharing that faith.

It is my prayer, hope and goal for this coming year that all of us at PSPC make a commitment to study the Bible more, to pray more, to learn more about what and why we believe so that we can share this belief with others welcoming them into fellowship with us and with our Lord Jesus.

On Sundays I will be aiming in my sermons to help us understand what the Bible and our Reformed theology teaches about God and God's loving grace in Jesus Christ and how we can communicate that Good News to those around us. Basically, I will be using the Lectionary for the selection of Scriptures for Preaching and, as I do, I will be letting you know ahead of time the Scriptures and general directions of those sermons. I hope and pray that you will prayerfully and thoughtfully read and study those Scriptures before I preach on them!

For the **"5:59 Gathering"** on Thursdays, I will be leading us in a series on the historic Creeds and Confessions of the church and what they mean for us today and, hopefully, how we can communicate that with others around us.

We have now been in this beautiful little church for over 1 1/2 years; what are you and I doing to help it grow and be an effective force in this community?

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Have you noticed on Hwy 111 the large church being built as you drive toward Cathedral City? What message about the Grace and Love of God will they share? What are you and I sharing that makes a difference in people's lives?

Last, but not least: last spring we had five women who helped with reading for 3rd graders at our neighboring Elementary School. What a joyful experience for all concerned. Hopefully, we will do this again and will have even more volunteers - female and male. Speak to me if interested and I will see that your name gets passed on.

And last, as we were traipsing around the historic places on the east coast I was thinking: what are you and I, and we as a church, doing to help those who have far less then do we? I believe that we can **continue** to make a difference; do you? Will you?

We were created and born to worship God; Thus:

Sundays continue with worship at 10:00 a.m.

Yes, we had a great time with our grandkids on the east coast, but it is good to be back with you all and to be moving ahead in the "*grace that is in Jesus Christ*" as Paul wrote to Timothy and as it speaks to us as well.

I am going to keep saying this and hope/pray that you agree:

I am convinced that this church has a great future; that is, 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! Are you?

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

May this fall 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
"Interim" Pastor



Worship Schedule and Sermons for October-November 2010

While we were gone you were blessed with some wonderful pulpit guests: the Rev. Dr. Chuck Rassieur; the Rev. Dr. Chuck Hammond, former Moderator of the General Assembly; the Rev. Pat Stout, and now I am back. As I often do, I will be building my sermons on the "assigned" Lectionary passages including a Psalm, an Old Testament Lesson, a Gospel Lesson, and an Epistle Lesson. The point of my preaching this fall and winter will be to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ alive and well and real to us in this 21st century.

We are being inundated more and more by those who do not like Christians -- atheists, Muslims, the unconcerned and overly comfortable, spiritualists who worship trees and golf-courses or tennis courts, and other extremists. So, what do we believe and why? How do we stand strong and share God's Good News with others making our faith real and effective in this complicated and fast-paced world in which God has placed us?

Oct. 03rd ~ "**Gratitude or Shame?**" Pastor Bill has returned.

The Lord's Supper by Intinction
Psalm 137; II Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

Continued from page 2

Oct. 10th ~ **"Do Your Best for Christ!"**

Psalm 66:1-12; II Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Oct. 17th ~ **"Standing Firm in a Muddled World"**

Psalm 119:97-104; II Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Oct. 24th ~ **"Crossing the Finish Line of Faith"**

Psalm 65; II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

Oct. 31st ~ **"Giving Thanks to God for"**

Psalm 119:137-144; II Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
Annual Bar-B-Q

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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THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Earlier this summer, before we left on vacation, I wrote a letter to all of us about financial needs of our church. Wow! the response. How can any of us say enough "Thank you's!" But we try. We have finished September in better financial shape than has happened in a long time thanks to so many of you and to your commitment to our Lord Jesus.

Now, as we move into the fall and our winter residents begin to return and we have more and more visitors, let's continue and increase this generous response to God's graciousness to us as we welcome friends and guests alike.



The congregation is deeply saddened by the death of Fran Gotenstein's husband, Lou who went to be with the Lord on August 6th. Rev. Sally Weber, a retired minister who gave so much to the church in the short time she attended P.S.P.C. was also called home by our Lord on August 23th. We lift up our prayers for comfort and guidance for their families.



Our Mission to Those Hurting!

Jesus said, "For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me".....

The **Well in the Desert**, always needs our support whether its monetary, food, clothing, bottled water, blankets, etc. With those who are homeless, and out of work in our desert, we as a very generous congregation have an opportunity to reach out in the Mission field.

Your donations may be brought on Sunday mornings leaving them in a box by the front door, marked, "**Well in the Desert**" as they are generally picked up on Monday mornings.

The last Sunday of the month we have the "**2 cents a Meal**" which 1/2 goes to the **Well** and the other 1/2 goes to the **Presbyterian Hunger Fund**.

Following is a letter the church received from Dr. Wayne McKinney on behalf of the Well in the Desert.

Dear Pastor and members of the congregation. Thank you for your gift to The Well and the people we serve. This "thank you" comes from our hearts. This is not a trite phrase generated reflexly with the sincerity of a parrot. No, this is from a bunch of us who deeply appreciate the kindnesses of your church now and through the years. Your food, clothes and money help us in our mission to the poor and homeless on this end of the valley. For me, you will always be the little church with the big heart.

God's Aloha,
Wayne McKinney for The Well in the Desert

"5:59

Gathering"



The "5:59 Gathering" Thursday, October 7 & 21

"I Believe! Do You?"

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

The "**5:59 Gathering**" will gather on the **FIRST** and **THIRD** Thursdays of October at 5:59p.m. for another delicious meal and the beginning of a series, Pastor Bill calls, "**I Believe! Do You?**" which will be on the historic creeds and confessions of the Church. This will afford us the opportunity to look at what the church has said over the centuries about our beliefs and what we believe today. Pastor Bill, will of course, share some of his crazy jokes before eating! 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.



Ladies Birthday Luncheons

10 ladies celebrated the August birthdays at Babe's Barbeque and Grill at the River in Rancho Mirage. The September birthdays were held at Las Casuelas Terraza with 9 ladies celebrating. The women who attended both luncheons enjoyed a wide variety on the menus and came away happy with their choices. As always there was lots of laughter and great stories going around the table. We will continue to meet the last Tuesday of the month and look forward to our "Snowbird" ladies returning to join in on the fun.

A sign-up sheet is always available in the fellowship hall at the end of each month.



Prayer Commitment

As members and friends of PSPC, we should commit some time every week or day, praying for the church and God's guidance in the future. How much time? That's between you and God. But, **prayer does** make a difference! Call Jackie at the church office and sign up on the Prayer Calendar. The number is 760 320-2769.



As a congregation we are asked to pray for people and we not always know the outcome. The following is an email Sue Cooper received from her friend....

Good Morning

Thank you so very much for all the prayers I have received from you and your congregation, please tell them for me they worked. My doctor was shocked with my past history that it wasn't cancer. The doctor even said, "You are one Blessed lady." That I am.

"And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive." Matthew 21:22

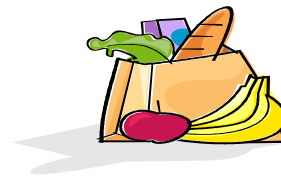


Session Meeting

Session Notes

The Session did not meet for its regular meetings in August or September because there was not enough required business; no sense in meeting just to meet.

Next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, October 28th at 9:30 a.m. If you have concerns you wish the Session to consider, please speak to one of our Session members, or to Jim DeHart, Clerk of Session, or to Pastor Bill. Thank you.



Available - PSPC Shopping Bags

Apparently the law outlawing plastic bags died before it hit the floor! But that doesn't mean we should stop being good stewards of God's creation. We can start **NOW** by purchasing **OUR PSPC SHOPPING BAGS** and help with the environment. Do you have yours??? If not, see either Jim DeHart or Jackie Morgan and they will see that you get some.



PSPC Summer Mission Project

The Coachella Valley Rescue Mission held its annual Backpack Giveaway on August 28th for local children in need. This helped to ensure that they would have a successful start to the new school year.

Barbara, Jackie and Margaret filled up Margaret's trunk (see photo below) with about 20 backpacks and lots and lots of school supplies you so generously donated and took them to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. They were so appreciative and commented on how generous the congregation had been last year and how we had brought even more this year.

Thank you for reaching out to the children. Barbara, Brenda, Jackie, Susan & Margaret
The Mission Committee





Upcoming Bar-b-q

It's almost here! On October 31st., the Annual Bar-b-q everyone looks forward to. Our great chef, Harvey Stephens, and his helpers will be preparing a gourmet meal for our consumption.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall so we can get a count of those who will attend. So mark your calendars for Oct. 31st. It will follow the worship service and we hope you all will attend.

Quotes For The Day

If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more.

If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough.

Prayer is not a "Spare Wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but is a "Steering Wheel" that directs the right path throughout.

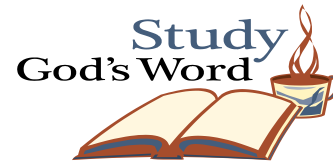
Do you know why Car's Windshield is so large and the rearview mirror is so small? Because our Past is not as important as your Future. Look ahead and move on.

Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, Loved Ones, it's just a bend, not the end.

When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you're safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

Worrying does not take away tomorrows' Troubles; it takes away today's Peace.

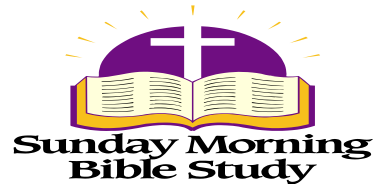
Have a Wonderful Day



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

Centering Prayer meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It involves meditation, contemplation, silence and much more which enables us to have a mysterious union with God. Allen Perrier leads the group in prayer.



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

The Bible study for the ladies of the church and friends begins on Tuesday, Oct.5th at 9:30 to 11:00 In the church's Fellowship Hall. Elder Joyce Johnson is our very knowledgeable and wonderful leader.

A BIG THANK YOU to the Deacons Jan Perrier, Kathy Smith, Robert Kemp, Ruth Ash, Lucile Kraehling, Richard Brenner, Audrey Berquist, and to Pauline Gregg who kept busy during the summer months

while I have been away. They all helped each other, keeping flowers on the Lord's table and providing the cookies and refreshments, following worship each Sunday morning.

Robert Kemp was very busy with the Prayer Chain and did a marvelous job keeping all of us informed and getting the word out for all those in need of our prayers.

Good news to share - Audrey Berquist, one of our Deacons, has now been given the okay from her doctor to put 100% weight on her leg and getting around with a walker. Audrey broke her leg back in April - May and has been confined to a wheelchair. Great News Audrey!!!!

We lost two good friends over the summer months, Lou Gotenstein August 6th and Sally Weber

August 23 who went to be with our Lord. A service for Lou Gotenstein was held in Burbank, CA. A memorial service for Sally Weber was held on Saturday, August 28th in P.S.P.C., followed by a reception in the Social Room. Kathy Smith, secretary for the Deacons emailed me the service and the reception was beautiful, well attended by church members, family and close friends. We will keep the Gotenstein and Weber families in our prayers for continued strength during these difficult days ahead.

The Deacons next meeting will be held Sunday, October 10th following Worship Services and Fellowship.

It will be wonderful to be home after a long hot, but interesting summer. I ask for your prayers for safe return as I start my drive of 1700 miles from Omaha to Palm Springs. Blessings to all of you,

Virginia Allen, Deacon
Moderator



Worship and Music

Choir practice will begin October 7th at 4:00pm and as always, asking for new choir members. We have been blessed during the summer months with great singers, instrumentalists and of course our praise band. I know you are enjoying wonderful music.

I hope you are having an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you soon

Ceri Bintliff, Elder
Worship and Music



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

This is a grand time to clean out your cupboards, closets and garages for items you no need but are gently used! You can bring smaller items to the church but hold larger items until Monday, Nov 1st if you can. If you cannot hold them, call Harvey Stephens and he will arrange to pick them up and store them until the time of the sale.



Save Your Bottles and Cans

The church is continually collecting glass and plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Since January, \$241.00 has been raised.

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



From Donna Den Bleyker's Kitchen
Her Mother's recipe for Blueberry Pie

- 2 pints blueberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 Tablespoons flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 Tablespoons lemon juice
- pie crust

Mix berries with sugar, flour, salt, and lemon juice. Pour into pie crust and cover with the top crust. Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes, then at 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes longer.



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



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



OCTOBER

Fae Custer	4
Winnie DeVries	10
Charles Walker	23
Peggy Lynn	26

The Sunshine 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.



P.S. High School 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 for your help.

Sunshine Deadline

Oct. 20th

Please send articles to my home by

Fax: 329-8084 or e-mail: maggie1952@roadrunner.com



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



If you have received this issue of the SONSHINE in error or wish to be removed from our mailing list, please fill in your name and address below and send it back to us. Thank you.



The Kid's Corner

A TASTE OF GRACE

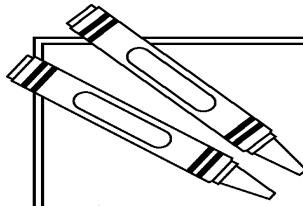
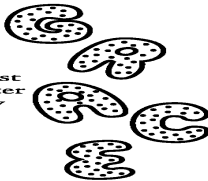
Because Jesus died and rose for us, we have the free gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. That's the meaning of grace: "God's Gifts At Christ's Expense." Celebrate God's grace by "spelling it out" with this fun, nutritious recipe.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 2 bowls
- Mixing spoon
- 1 Tablespoon yeast
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 1/3 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Cutting board
- Cookie sheet

What you do:

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.
2. In a small bowl, stir the yeast with the water and honey. Let the mixture sit for five minutes.
3. In another bowl, stir the flour and salt together.
4. After five minutes, add the bubbly yeast mixture to the flour and salt mixture.
5. Stir everything together, first with a spoon and then with your hands. The dough is ready when it's still a little crumbly.
6. Put the dough on a cutting board with a little flour. Knead it into one big ball.
7. Divide the dough into 12 pieces, and roll each piece into a snake shape.
8. Form the letters **G R A C E** (twice). Then form the two extra pieces into any shape you choose.
9. Bake your letters and shapes on the cookie sheet for about 10 minutes. Let cool, and enjoy!



Just for **KIDS**

THE GIFT

God has given us a gift that we can't work for or buy. Discover what this gift is by reading Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV.

Fit the words in bold into the word puzzle below. We've provided two letters for you.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."

