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The Sonshiner

Monthly Publication
Volume 250 - Issue 10

Non-Profit
Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sun City, CA
Permit No. 4

Minister: Rev. Hal A. Lingerman

October 2009

Return Service Requested

PILGRIM PINES' Camp & Conference Center Annual Apple Pie Day ! (see enclosed flyer & map.)

Saturday, October 31, 12 noon - 5 pm
Adults \$10 (Children 12 and under) \$6

A fun day for the entire family.

Includes: Chili lunch, homemade apple pie,
games, camp tour and so much more.

39570 Glen Road, Yucaipa, CA 92399
(909) 797-1821 or (800) 616-6612

If you have any questions please call
Carol Hisel at 672-8436.

Annual Harvest Festival **EVERYONE WELCOME !**

Saturday, October 31, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
in Fellowship Hall & Walkway.

Fun for the entire family.

Food, games, pictures cake walks & entertainment.

An alternative to trick or treat!

FREE - FREE - FREE

Sponsored by His Light on the Hill.

Halloween

All Hallows Eve, commonly called Halloween (October 31), offers us a wonderful opportunity to identify, cleanse and purify the goblins blocking and mocking our spiritual living.

Lovingly but firmly, we can view, "lift up" and transform what is annoying, destructive and still un-integrated in us.

We use the process of replacement:

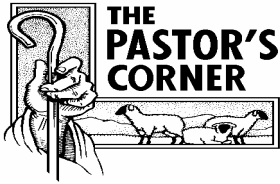
RELEASE THE LESSER FOR THE GREATER!

By contacting a constructive behavior, desire, attitude or motivation that we wish to expand and prayerfully focusing our consciousness on the Good, we will give less energy to that which distracts, disturbs, or even ruins us, until the invader will droop and eventually fall away from our "tree of life."

By focusing on the living Lord Christ and the sterling souls who have mastered life's trials and tribulations,

(All Saints Day - November 1), we can learn from them and bring forth the energies of finer character and overcoming that we need to awaken and mobilize in ourselves.

Let us also remember our departed ones **(All Souls Day - November 2)**, who with the Master Souls, the Christ, the Angels and all those who serve Him. They encourage us and are loving us into awakening, so that each of us will embody the Light and be a completed son/daughter of God.



The Value of Spiritual Festivals

The song you sing will be like that of a **night festival** when hearts are happy, or when to the sound of a flute persons make a pilgrimage to the mountain of God..., with music of tambourine and harp and with dancing....

(Isaiah 30: 29)



Recently, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, suggested that persons and world faiths hold more spiritual festivals, which hopefully with their healing energies will transmute anger and violence into new feelings of forgiveness, joy, celebration and gratitude for the gift of life.

Similarly, the Lord Christ is known to have attended weddings and dances. He loved life and in joy and gratitude gave praise to and celebrated the loving Source of all creation.

In the Christian tradition each calendar year is full of opportunities to praise God and celebrate the gift of our life. Each spiritual festival, retreat or pilgrimage helps us to balance our daily challenges by participating in new, creative and beautiful expressions of purification, gratitude, compassion and a DEEPER interconnectedness with all living beings.

At this particular time of the year, we are blessed with many approaching festivals and celebrations FROM ALL FAITHS that praise God and awaken the holy light in our soul.

IN THE Christian tradition I like to feel the accelerating rhythms of Michaelmas (**September 29**) and the festival day of our Guardian Angel (**October 2**). This is a time not only for us to celebrate God's magnificent kingdom of ministering Angels, but it is also an opportunity to focus on this kingdom of cosmic life, learning about and attuning ourselves to the celestial ones.

On **October 4** followers of the Christ celebrate the life and ministry of Saint Francis of Assisi. It was Francis who celebrated the Christ as Lord of Earth, Angels, all living beings and all religions. Francis was breathed very closely in company with the Angels, in fact so much so in his Christ-like living that it seems as if he may have been an Angel in human form.

His deep compassion for all life and his great obedience to God and the Christ make him always worth revisiting and emulating. His story is beautifully portrayed in the movie, **Brother Sun, Sister Moon**, a marvelous dvd, well worth owning.

As the tides of Christmas are already fast approaching us, the celebrations of All Hallows Eve (**October 31**) All Saints day (**November 1**) and All Souls Day (**November 2**) are also inspiring to spiritual seekers.

These days can re-energize us with opportunities to purify our lives, remember the great souls in the inner worlds who encourage us to awaken spiritually and send love to departed ones who will greet us when the span of our present lifetime on Earth has come to a completion, and we cross over into the "many mansions" (larger dimensions) of continuous life.

As Christ and His heavenly Host are already approaching us this year at Christmas to bless and re-charge the planet and every life passing through it, make each day a celebration ! Enter into each moment with enthusiasm, and with every breath live for the Christ by helping to bring heaven to Earth.

From the Associate Pastor

Those who seek to walk the way of Christ, sooner or later, discover the center of his calling to be a ministry of healing presence; one of silence, listening and conversation, in that order. *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: A time to be born and a time to die, . . . a time to keep silence and a time to speak. . . . God has made everything beautiful in its time.* And I would add, only in its appropriate time. At every moment God graces us with the capacity for silence, listening and speech and invites us into a healing rhythm of truthful speaking, waiting for the right time.

We're face to face with a matter of spiritual discernment — when to speak, when to refrain from speaking. Most distractions on our spiritual journey find their source in an almost insatiable impulse to speak at the expense of silence and listening. *Because we have said everything before there was anything to say, we shall be left speechless at the moment of our greatest decision* (Thomas Merton).

Silence and speech define each other. We are limited in what we can say; also we know more than we can tell. We know what it is to come to the edge of speech, the unthinkable edge of language. The language for expressing the unthinkable is either **poetry or silence**. We learn to go slow to allow the questions to form — the question given to each. Too many questions, no answers, for they are the wrong questions. In all four gospels, Jesus asks about 183 questions and only answers three. How can we be so stone-certain about what we have to say?

We never know what is enough unless we know what is more than enough. Without limits, we would have no feel for the infinite. Without limits, we would be free from the soul of our longing. Maybe we most need to restrain ourselves simply by saying less. The best conversation calls for fewer words and reverence in the words we offer. Words allow us to find one another and then to get out of the way. The less we offer the more we savor. Passion is there but saying is reticent. Some of the most effective language in the world takes you to the brink of silence and leaves you there in wonder. It becomes crucial to restrain our speech to witness to the limits of what we can say without damage.

We can pour out our lives in useless words. Healing speech arises out of inner silence, not out of anxiety or some compulsion to be heard. Our true self has deep and continuing parts that at the level of the soul are preverbal. A gap exists between what we think and feel, and what we say. Things most real are precisely those too deep for words — why we love, the why of pain, being overtaken by fear, a sudden intrusion of joy, and a reason to hope. Truth is not only spoken but felt. We say things as true our hearts know as false. But head and heart are connected. For healing to happen, we move down from our head into our heart. And the heart has its reasons. There is a truth our hearts believe and love, a communion in trust, an integrity beyond ourselves, holding us in a continuous unspoken dialogue with the unmanifested presence of God.

My experience at the side of the dying has begun to teach me about faith in conversations that heal. Healing conversations involve the trustworthiness of at least one other person. Two or more people speak for other purpose than to deeply meet each other with no agenda beyond this soul to soul encounter. To be present to people you must desire to understand them on their own terms.

Each participates in the life of the other intimately, at some depth. Together we can find a way through. The conversation has no intended outcome beyond the exchange itself. Something profoundly real comes into being as you take a step in a transformer encounter. No one needs to change; everyone needs to have the conversation. What previously existed between people now abides within them.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, traveled across Spain spending nights in hospitals and hospices, talking with those who suffered. He noticed that transforming moments often arise. These moments he called *consolation to the soul without a previous cause*. He envisioned his ministry as the **Conversational Word of God**, as another ministration of the word of God. *. . . through hearing confessions, in reconciling the estranged, in a holy way assisting and serving those who are found in prisons and hospitals. 'We do not preach but we do speak familiarly of spiritual things with some people, as one does with friends after dinner. People hurting. . . want to see a person of faith — not necessarily a priest, but someone who believes in the resurrection. It is important that people who are dying hear that they are loved by God.'* We sit and listen simply as one dying person to another asking where to find new life.



Meditations of the Moderator

Art Peterson

When I first decided to run for the Wisconsin state legislature as an idealistic young man just out of college I accepted many public speaking engagements so as to become better acquainted in the community. My father, a Congregational pastor, would sometimes accompany me to assess my presentations and to make suggestions.

One night after I had given a particularly long and not very good speech he got me aside and said, Arthur, let me tell you a little story that may help your speaking. “Yesterday, he said, I went shopping with a bandaged finger. Our neighbor, Fred, noticed my injury and asked me, “What happened?” I told him I was shaving and got to thinking about my sermon for next Sunday and cut my finger. “Well,” the neighbor Fred replied, “I would suggest that next time you get to thinking more about your finger and cut your sermon”.

We all get so enthused and anxious to contribute our part in meetings of all kinds we forget that **brevity** is the sour of good conversation, letters and participation in productive and enjoyable get togethers.

As you noticed in the Church Bulletin we are reactivating the regular meetings of the Board of Trustees starting with October. It was felt that it is important to abide by our Church By-Laws and maintain an active fiscal guidance on our expenditures, a function with which the Board of Trustees is charged. In order to try to encourage **brevity** in these meetings, Trustee Chairman Jim Wilson has suggested we schedule the Board of Trustees for 9:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month followed immediately by the Church Council meeting at 10:00 a.m. That will encourage brevity at both meetings and I am sure our productivity will not suffer!!

Dad had a great storehouse of favorite poems which he would recite at a moment’s notice. On the occasion of my “long-winded” speech I recall well the one he offered me as further advice. It was a poem by Joel Chandler Harris, an old time editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* and creator of *Uncle Remus*.

When you’ve got a thing to say,
 Say it! Don’t take half a day.
 When your tale’s got little in it,
 Crowd the whole thing in a minute!
 Life is short — a fleeting vapor
 Don’t you fill the whole darned paper
 With a tale which, in a pinch,
 Could be cornered in an inch!
 Boil her down until she simmers.
 Polish her until she glimmers.
 When you’ve got a thing to say,
 Say it! Don’t take half a day.

SCRIP

So many of you have been overheard to say that you are so glad Staples has opened locally. Yes, it's convenient. But have you thought what else it might be? Staples SCRIP, normally gives the church a 5% bonus, however between now and the middle of October, they are offering an additional 2%. With a little foresight, you can make your Staples purchase pay the church **AND**, if you use the church' rewards account # 0032700437, you can make it go even further. The church buys paper and other office supplies from Staples! A personal rewards account adds up to a good discount based on purchases. With your added purchases using your SCRIP the accumulation will help the church budget with our office supplies.

SCRIP cards are always good. There is no expiration date on cards purchased in California, so if the total amount is not used immediately, you can use it next month or next year. We all need groceries and 3 stores in the area have SCRIP. You can even take additional bonus points if you shop at Albertson's. Several restaurants offer great rewards. Marie Calendar's routinely pays 25%. Please support the church finances by purchasing SCRIP. It doesn't cost you a thing and the rewards multiply.

A big "THANK YOU" to Eleta who worked all summer by herself selling SCRIP during my latest medical adventure. Eleta has worked as assistant coordinator from the beginning. Now, our roles have been reversed. She will be the main coordinator and I will be the assistant. Both of us will continue to make ourselves available to help you with your SCRIP needs. Thank you, Becky

THANK YOU

**A big thank you to
Ken & Jeanne Dukes,
Jack & Virginia Young,
Donna Goodrich and Gil Scott,
for taking over the after church
Fellowship Hour for me,
while I am recuperating from knee surgery.**

**Thank you & God Bless,
Carol Hisel**



What Is Good Stewardship ?

Good stewardship means to value and take good care of what God has given to us.

It means sharing and being generous but not wasteful.

Good stewardship also means to "care about," as God cares so deeply for each life.

How do you show that you care about your church?

You may be a good steward by giving financially, by laboring - **doing** something for your church that may seem mundane but which is necessary to sustain the church's ministry to God.

Pray for the church. Visualize it opening its doors to reach out in a Christ-like love and compassion to whoever is in need.

Most of all, good stewardship means **SHOWING UP**. The rhythms of daily prayer and regular worship in a faith community enriches you and your relationship with God. Casual or sporadic worship, study and prayer do not build power of the Spirit in you.

If you are unable to attend your church regularly, Remember to **LIVE your religion** in your daily relationships, your interests and pursuits, your study, devotional practices and in your service to God and God's creation.

Use every moment to live **MEANINGFULLY**.

Let go of the trivial: gossip and all heavy baggage. Go to sleep each night, taking time to recall any daily acts of kindness and helpfulness; treasure the good that you can do. Do not withhold in any area of your life where your willingness to respond could make a positive difference. Clear your slate **NOW** of all grudges and past resentments. Enter into each time of sleep grateful and light as a feather.



OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS
GREETERS

10/04 - Ed Gross
10/11 - Gil Scott &
Donna Goodrich
10/18 - John Neidert
10/25 - Richard Westlund

GUEST BOOK

10/04 - Ken & Jeanne Dukes
10/11 - Richard & Dorothy Flory
10/18 - Jim Luna
10/25 - Gil Scott &
Donna Goodrich

LAY READERS

10/04 - Eleta Tidwell
10/11 - Eleanor Sorenson
10/18 - Donna Goodrich
10/25 - Jo Pohl

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

10/1 - 10/31 - Carol & J. Hisel

SOUND TECHNICIAN

10/04 & 10/25 - Todd Ross
10/11 & 10/18 - J. Hisel

SECURITY

10/01 - 10/15 - J. Hisel
10/16 - 10/31 - Don Ross

**Let everything you do
be done in love.**
(1 Corinthians 16: 14)

OCTOBER Anniversaries

Pastor Hal & Rosemary, 6th
(31 years)

Jason & Amy Frahn, 8th
(15 years)

Jim & Faye Hartline, 19th
(52 years)

Charles & Shirley Smith, 20th
(66 years)

OCTOBER Birthdays

Jan Ferguson, 6th
Richard Westlund, 6th
Margaret Wilson, 9th
Lucia Gallo, 13th
Morris Nyquist, 16th
Dorothy Flory, 18th
Jim Hartline, 20th
Marijane Huber, 23rd
Ken Dukes, 24th
Jason Frahn 25th
Pat Hinz, 27th
Maame-Ekuq Mensah, 27th
Anne Edmondson, 28th
Shirley Wilson, 29th
Frances Howell, 30th
Eckart Seeber, 31st

**Lectionary Lessons
for October**

**10/04- Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

(Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost)
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
“Neighbors in Need
Special Mission Offering”
Job 1:1; 2:1-10 * Ps 26 or
Gen 2:18-24 * Ps 8
Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16
ENFOLDING LOVE

**10/11- Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

(Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost)
Job 23:1-9, 16-17 * Ps 22:1-15
or Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Ps 90:12-17 * Heb 4: 12-16

Mark 10:17-31
WHAT MUST I DO?

**10/18- Twenty-ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

(Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost)
Job 38:1-7, (34-41) * Ps 104:1-9,
24, 35c or Isa 53:4-12
Ps 91:9-16 * Heb 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45
GREAT SERVICE

**10/25 – Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

(Reformation Sunday)
(Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost)
Job 42:1-6, 10-17 * Ps 34:1-8, (19-22)
or Jer 31:7-9 * Ps 126 Heb 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

**Let us leave behind us
all the elementary
teaching about Christ
and concentrate
on its completion,
without going back over the
fundamental doctrines again:
turning away from dead
actions and toward faith
in God (demonstrated) .**
(Hebrews 6: 1, 2)

**Treasurer’s Report
Month Ending August 2009
General Funds Only**

<u>Aug Inc</u>	<u>Aug Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
12,008	15,257	(- 3,249)

Year to Date Totals

<u>8 Mo Inc</u>	<u>8 Mo. Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
118,765	138,754	(- 19,989)

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Westlund

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