



Palma Ceia Messenger

Note From The Pastor

Are you starting this new year by telling yourself and God all the things that you are going to achieve in it? Or is there any sense in which you are starting the new year by lifting it up to God and saying, "This year is yours, Lord. Use me in it as you would."

This attitude is well captured in the words of Isaiah, who said, "Here I am, Lord. Send me." This prayer stimulates a certain Christian humility within us, the knowledge that we are not God and we are not Lord over our own lives. May it serve as a prayer nurturing within us a desire to serve the God of love seen in Jesus Christ in each day of the year ahead.

Adult Education

Many continuing and new opportunities for adult education will be available in the Spring. Below is a short list of the titles and dates. A Lenten bible study and many more classes are planned. See details at www.palmaceia.org/adult-education.

Sundays – Year-Round, 10:05am

Faith in the Presbyterian Tradition
The Chapel Lectionary Class

January 10th & 17th – Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition

January 13th to April 20th – Wednesday Night Bible Study at 6:15pm. A study on the book of Amos

February 14th, 21st & 28th – Empty Nesters Q&A sessions with guest leaders

PCPC's *In Community* Speaker Series

Wednesdays 6:15pm – 7:15pm

Come join us this spring as we launch a speaker series that will host a variety of folks from the Tampa Bay community and members of PCPC, to talk about a wide range of topics. Bring a friend. Choir members are welcome; the talk will break before 7:00pm to allow choir members to make it to choir practice. Full schedule of speakers is available at <http://palmaceia.org/events/in-community-speaker-series/>

- January 20th : **Phil Jones**, President of the Hillsborough Education Foundation
- February 17th - **Rodney Kite-Powell**, Saunders Foundation Curator of History at Tampa Bay History Center

Bel Mar/Presbyterian Villas Bible Study : on Thursdays 11am-12pm., beginning January 14, 2016. It will be a study on the parables of Jesus. All are invited to attend. Contact Will, will@palmaceia.org for more information.

Worship Calendar

8:30 & 11:00 am Traditional Worship – Sanctuary
9:00 am Contemporary Worship, The Connection – Gym
6:00 pm Vespers Service – Chapel

January 10th: The Baptism of Jesus

January 17th: Sunday of MLK weekend

January 24th

January 31st: Ordination of new Elders at Vespers service

February 7th: Souper Bowl Sunday

February 14th: First Sunday in Lent with Communion

Children's Education

CIT Training Day

January 24th 12pm-2pm

All persons who have completed or will be completing 6th grade by June 1, 2016 are invited to become a CIT (Counselor In Training) for summer camps and other programs. Send your name and contact information to Mrs. B (Linda@palmaceia.org) by January 15th.

Human Sexuality: Introductory Class

January 31st

All fourth and fifth grade girls, fourth grade boys AND a parent or guardian are invited to meet with Mrs. B and Dr. Diane Straub for an introductory class in Human Sexuality. Class meets from 12-2:30pm. Register using CE Registration forms found in the office; cost is \$15 and a pizza lunch will be served.

Youth

Middle and High Schoolers! January and February are full of AWESOME off-campus activities for the entire month! Some of the things we will be looking at doing are movie nights, ice skating adventures, and bowling! Be on the look out for our spring newsletter! Dates and venues will also be sent out via email. Not sure if you are on the email list? Contact Kenny Hubbell at ken@palmaceia.org to make sure! See you soon!

Upcoming Events

Confirmation Class - It's Not Too Late to Join! **9th thru 12th graders - January 10th - February 21st** **Sundays 10 am to 12pm - 2nd floor youth rooms**

Join the 7-week course to learn about: church history; the Presbyterian church and PCPC; the Bible; and answers to personal questions about faith.

At the end of the class, students have an opportunity to join the church by making a personal profession of faith.

For questions or to register, email bonnema@palmacea.org. To register include: name, email and cell phone for both the student and parent(s).

Young At Heart

Thursday, January 21st, 12:30-2:00 pm

\$8.00 at Hyde Park United Methodist Church
Speaker is Rodney Kite-Powell of the Tampa History Museum
RSVP: Bruce Farnell 813-253-6047 or receptionist@palmacea.org

Creative Writing As A Spiritual Practice **January 25th-27th**

AT CEDARKIRK

Come away from the busyness of your life to experience creative writing as a spiritual practice. When we write creatively, we open ourselves to grow in spiritual practices like attentiveness, intentionality,

empathy, and gratitude - gifts we want to grow as disciples of Christ. Challenge yourself creatively and spiritually, and leave with a sense of peace at having drawn closer to yourself and to God. For registration information, please visit www.cedarkirk.org.

Pottery Class for Adults

February 8th - March 7th—Mondays 6-9pm

AND February 3rd - March 2nd—Wednesdays 9am- Noon

If interested, please contact Linda Beckham, linda@palmacea.org or BJ Johns, bj@palmacea.org. Cost \$60.

Ash Wednesday

February 10th

Wednesday, February 10th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, and a period of 40 days when traditionally Christians have turned their hearts and minds to confession, repentance, and a renewal of the disciplines of the Christian life and practice.

Presbyterian Women

Bingo Night Feb 19th! Come play some bingo and win fun prizes! All donations and money collected will support church ministries.

The next PW General Meeting is Feb 22nd, and includes a special presentation on women's nutrition. Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring a friend.

Ordination and Installation of New Elders **January 31st 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

The entire congregation is invited & encouraged to participate in the Elder Ordination and Installation service Sun., Jan. 31 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. This service is an important part of our communal life together as we focus on Jesus Christ and the mission and ministry of the church. We'll be ordaining and installing 9 new elders to serve, and installing 3 previously ordained elders for a total of 12 in the class of 2018. This Vespers worship service will also allow us to acknowledge and lift up prayers of thanksgiving for those elders who are rotating off of Session, having fulfilled their three year term. A reception will immediately follow in the Fellowship Hall. The 12 new elders (joining the continuing 24 in the junior and senior class) are: *Jeff Andrews, Carrie Fowler, Sally Glisson, Derek Guida, Rick Hardesty, Bill Lewis, Carol McCammon, Deon McFayden, Erin McKenney, Kim Miller, Jennifer Pandolfi, and Kem Toole.*

Wednesday Night Dinner

www.palmacea.org/whats-for-dinner

Whenever we gather around tables to share meals with one another, it can be a sacred experience as our bodies and souls are fed and nourished. The meal is served from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

January 13th: January Birthday Celebration / Epiphany

Spaghetti

January 20th: 80 + Birthday Bash

Fried Chicken, Potatoes, Peas

January 27th

Roast Pork, Sweet Potatoes, Collard Greens

February 3rd

Chicken Pot Pie

February 10: Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday

Pot Roast & Vegetables

February 17th

Coretha's Choice

Volunteers Needed

Presbyterian Women Seeking Volunteers

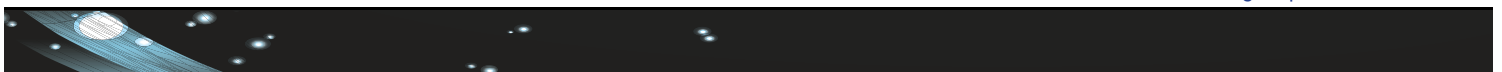
One of the PW circles meets on the first Monday of the month and needs extra help tending to their little ones while the moms are meeting. If you can volunteer from 8:30am-10am once a month, you'll find great joy in taking care of the sweetest children! The time goes by quickly while you play with them, feed them lots of animal crackers... and give them back to their moms. Contact Nancy Nelson at NLnelson3@verizon.net (new address) or 813.839.2008.



PHAT SUNDAY

February 7th

This is PCPC's pre-Lenten pancake breakfast. If you can help with the cooking, serving, or cleanup, please contact Gay Rivas, griv53@gmail.com, Rick McClintock, rick.mcclintock@verizon.net, or Cameron Clark, cameron.clark@thesinclairgroup.com.



Steeple News

Generous Giving

- We collected 71 Boxes of Hope plus a about \$1,000 in gift cards
- Joy Offering collection— about \$10,000



- Giving Tree— about 200 gifts distributed to FED, Beth-El, Guardian Ad Litem, and CREATED
- Christmas In Africa collected \$26,741
- And we are grateful for the many generous responses to PCPC's steeple lighters campaign. While the finance committee is still preparing a budget, you have helped to keep the steeple light burning across 2016! The Holy Spirit is apparent in your generosity. People are seeing what Jesus is doing through his Church in their lives, and in the lives of others. **Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!**



From the Witness & Service Committee

By Dr. Sylvia Campbell

“Passion” and “Compassion.” These words define PCPC. It is a place where passion for God's unconditional love becomes alive and real. A place where the community within the brick walls is nurtured and allowed to grow in faith, in love, and in humanity, reaching out beyond its boundaries to the wider surrounding Tampa Bay area.

Yet it does much more, touching lives and changing them forever, giving hope and sharing Christ's compassion: with the farmworkers of Beth-El, the inner city of Fed, the outreach to Honduras, Jamaica, Poland, Uganda, Haiti.

WHAT A GIFT to each of us to be part of this compassion.

BUT... without your support, your pledges, your continued belief in this outreach of God's love, this will not continue.

Remember: miracles occur each day. We just must be open to see them. In the seeing, we become part of the story. **WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT THESE MIRACLES WILL NOT CONTINUE.**

Please look into your heart, see the lives that are forever changed by the compassion of PCPC, and support the work done here. **ONLY YOU CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN!!!**

Keep the incredible passion and compassion alive with your pledge, your support, and your love.

Seasonal Offering

Souper Bowl Sunday February 7th is when we take up our Souper Bowl of Caring Offering at worship doors. PCPC joins youth groups across the U.S. on this Sunday as they take up a collection for the hungry, using soup bowls. 1 in 7 Americans struggle with hunger. 100% of donations collected in the soup pots this Souper Bowl Sunday will go to local charities.



tacklehunger.org

Financial Report

Thank you for your gifts to the church and your pledges for the year ahead.

Save the Date

Young At Heart

Thursday, February 18th, 12:30 - 2:00 pm

At Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church

SoHo Indigo - A Jazz Duo

Singer & Songwriter - Pam Rubenstein & Guitarist-Chuck Hill

LENT TO LASAGNA Family Event

Sunday, March 13

Bring the whole family and your neighbors and/or friends and explore the stories and symbols of Lent followed by a lasagna dinner.



*Sausage Sunday
A December Tradition*

Coming Soon

Presbyterian Women

General PW information can be found on the website at www.palmaceia.org/presbyterian-women. Circle meetings will be posted on the website, www.palmaceia.org/pw-circles, and in the bulletins and eNews. If you need information that is not available, please contact Nancy Nelson, nlnelson3@verizon.net

PCPC Life

The full PCPC Life newsletter will be published in early February and include articles, events and information in the same format as prior newsletters for Lent until Easter.

Vacation Bible School, Camps and Middle & High School Summer Trips

Information will be published in the next newsletter and on the website.

Reflection

Enough Light for the Next Step

"Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, 'How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or ten years from now?' There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step: what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day. The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all shadows away."

-Henri Nouwen, "Bread For The Journey"

*How precious is
your steadfast
love, O God! All
people may take
refuge in the
shadow of your
wings.*

-Psalm 36:7

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