

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

-Matthew 18:20



PCPC LIFE

PALMA CEIA Presbyterian Church

3501 San Jose • Tampa, Florida 33629 • 813.253.6047 • www.palmaceia.org

Fall 2017

... from the Pastor's Desk

How do you celebrate a 90th birthday? What's the right way to acknowledge a 90th anniversary? I suggest three things that ought to be a part of such a celebration:

1) Remembering 2) Gratitude 3) Generosity

We remember:

2017 is the 90th birthday of Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church. We were chartered as a congregation by what was then St. John's Presbytery in the spring of 1927. Presbyterians in the greater Southwest Florida area came to the conclusion that the area that we now call South Tampa was ripe for the start of the new Sunday School. In June of 1927, Rev. J. D. Bueno was employed by the Presbytery to preach at the site and to secure signatures of those willing to sign the membership charter of the new congregation. On Sunday evening of July 10, 1927, the church was formally organized by the Presbytery as a congregation of the Presbyterian church. On Sunday morning of September 1927, the first officers were elected, ordained, and installed, and the congregation gathered around the Lord's table for the first communion service. The minutes of the session report, "It was a service of power and dignity, and one long to be remembered by everyone present, and marked the actual and complete organization of the Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church." The Sunday School had preceded the organization of the church by about a year. The roll for charter members was held open until December 4th of that year. The worshipping community began at the present location of the current facility. (The Sunday School had started a year earlier down the street at the intersection of what was then Lisbon and MacDill.)

We are grateful:

For 90 years, Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church has been a beacon of God's love and a witness to the presence of Jesus Christ in this community. Gratitude is an appropriate response for all the ways that God has used this church to

be a blessing. None of us now can remember that chartering season, but a few here still have family connections to it. But reflecting on the gratitude we feel, in our own journeys with this church for its witness and ministry, is something we all can do. John Calvin said that gratitude was the basis for Christian living — gratitude for what God has done for us. We live our Christian lives not out of obligation but out of gratitude. I hope you'll take some moment this season to try and articulate your own gratitude for the life of this church - whether in particular memories, stories, or friendship.

We are generous:

We'll be celebrating that 90th birthday in October. And one of the chief signs of our gratitude will be generosity. Generosity that results in people bringing forward the gifts of funds that sustain the work and presence of the church in the 91st year. I hope you'll join with me in celebrating the birthday of this church by supporting the budget of this church with a stewardship commitment — and by attending the celebration at the church Sunday, October 15th at 5pm. This will be a churchwide celebration including a stewardship project for the children and youth, and a presentation in the sanctuary for the adults. The book of Acts 2:46 tells us that after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the disciples ***"spent time together in the temple, broke bread in each other's homes, and shared in table fellowship with glad and generous hearts."***

Remembering stories and living with glad and generous hearts is a great way to celebrate a 90th birthday.

Pastor John

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Sun., September 3: Labor Day Weekend/End of Summer Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Traditional Worship
 9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship
 6:00 pm - Vespers Service - Service of quiet Scripture reading, prayer, and contemplation in the Chapel. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.

Sun., September 10: Back to Church! All New Sunday Morning Faith and Fellowship Classes Begin

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Traditional Worship
 9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship
 6:00 pm - Vespers Service - Service of quiet Scripture reading, prayer, and contemplation in the Chapel. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.

Sun., September 17: Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Traditional Worship
 9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship
 6:00 pm - Vespers Service - Service of quiet Scripture reading, prayer, and contemplation in the Chapel. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.

Sun., September 24: Kirking of the Tartans

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Worship. Annual celebration with St. Andrew's Society of Tampa Bay with full pipe and drum band at 11am.

9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship
 12:00 pm - Lunch in Fellowship Hall as a part of the *In Community* Speaker Series, with John DeBevoise speaking
 4-7:30 pm - Peace Meal Picnic: *Joint Church Picnic with our friends at 34th Street Church of God at Picnic Island Park, Pavilions 607-609*

6:00 pm - Vespers Service - Service of quiet Scripture reading, prayer, and contemplation in the Chapel. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.

Sun., October 1: World Communion Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Traditional Worship
 9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship
 6:00 pm - Vespers Service - Service of quiet Scripture reading, prayer, and contemplation in the Chapel. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.

Sun., October 8

Some of our congregation will be worshipping at Cedarkirk this morning, as PCPC Weekend Camp concludes.

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Traditional Worship
 9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship
 6:00 pm - Vespers Service - Service of quiet Scripture reading, prayer, and contemplation in the Chapel. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.

Sun., October 15: 90th Birthday Sunday/ Stewardship Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Traditional Worship
 9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship
 5:00 pm - PCPC's 90th Birthday Party! Family-friendly, with a stewardship project for children ages 4 and up. At 5:30pm adults will gather in the sanctuary for a short service and video presentation. At 6:00 we'll all enjoy a dinner and birthday cake!

The birthday recognition at 5:30 in the sanctuary will serve as the Vespers Service for this evening.

Sun., October 22: Children's Sabbath

International Christian emphasis on lifting up needs of hurting children around the world

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Traditional Worship
 9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship
 6:00 pm - Vespers Service - Service of quiet Scripture reading, prayer, and contemplation in the Chapel. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.

Sun., October 29: Reformation Sunday

2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Traditional Worship
 9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship

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12:00 pm - Lunch in Fellowship Hall as a part of the *In Community* Speaker Series, with a panel speaking on the contemporary relevance of the Reformation

6:00 pm - Special Reformation Vespers Organ Concert by Adam Brakel. *The Music of J.S. Bach.*

Wed., November 1: It's "Trade and Treat" night at Wednesday Night Dinner! Bring in extra Halloween candy for a good cause.

Sun., November 5: All Saints Sunday

All services will include a memorial reading of the names of the members of the church who have died in the last year.

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Traditional Worship

9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship

4:00pm - Tampa Oratorio Singers (TOS) Concert in Sanctuary. Schubert Mass in E Flat.

6:00 pm - Vespers Service - Service of quiet Scripture reading, prayer, and contemplation in the Chapel. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.

Sun., November 12

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Traditional Worship

9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship

6:00 pm - Special Vespers Concert featuring the USF Chamber Choir

Sun., November 19: Thanksgiving Sunday

International Christian emphasis on lifting up needs of hurting children around the world

8:30 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary Traditional Worship

9:00 & 11:00 am - Contemporary Connection Worship

12:00 pm - Stewardship Picnic Meal and Kids' Carnival!

6:00 pm - Vespers Service - Service of quiet Scripture reading, prayer, and contemplation in the Chapel. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.

Wed., November 22: Thanksgiving Eve Service

6:30pm in the Sanctuary. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.

THIS YEAR'S PEACEMAKING OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN UP IN WORSHIP ON OCTOBER 1ST.

This year's Peacemaking Offering will be taken up in worship on October 1st. The offering was initially intended for the Refugee Housing Ministry.

Tampa Bay is home to the second largest population of refugees in Florida. This population faces numerous obstacles in their resettlement process. Then grace and tragedy unfolded. A \$50,000 grant came in from Presbytery to help the refugee relief. Then Hurricane Harvey struck Texas and Louisiana. As the devastation unfolds, the Witness and Service committee felt compelled to re-designate the offering. Just as displaced refugees face traumatic mental and physical health issues due to the circumstances they have fled in their home countries, folks in Texas and Louisiana will be facing similar challenges.

Now we have a housing crisis in Texas and Louisiana as rebuilding of structures, roadways, and people's very way of life gets underway. Our hearts cry out for all refugees, those born of political division, and those rendered homeless by disaster. Early funding gives hope in this dark time and connects us with our struggling brothers and sisters in Christ. The long term effects of the destruction will be with us for years to come.

PCPC will oversee directing funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which is already deploying resources to storm victims. God reminds his people we have all spent time in vulnerability and so we should help and serve especially strangers. *Matthew 25.*

A vicious storm has created refugees in our land. Let us be moved to shroud them in acts of kindness and giving. Your gift can help people return to self-sufficiency. Thank you for considering.

WORSHIP

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

If you haven't been over to Covenant Hall, PCPC's Preschool invites you to come take a look at our renovated space! Where there once was a large desk, there is now a beautiful atelier.

Ateliers are an integral part of the Reggio Emilia approach to learning — the learning model that the preschool strives to implement. While we have dreamed of this type of space for our children for a long time, it was only this past winter that we were finally able to get the process of turning this space from a dream to a reality started.

With a special thanks to the Sinclair Group for their leadership on this project, Wally Wilcher and his entire facilities team for helping to coordinate all the details, the Christian Educators who share the space in Covenant Hall and Eastminster for their patience and flexibility while their spaces were turned upside down, and Madison Kenney - our atelierista - for bringing the whole project together.

In this art space, children will be able to use art to explore their world and to express the things that they are learning. They will have the opportunity to learn how to work with a variety of art mediums and they will be able to engage in extended projects based on their interests and on their classroom learning.

We will leave you with this quote from Meri Cherry, a Reggio atelierista, to give you a sense of what we will be working to create in our new space: *"Working in a reggio inspired art studio is about listening, being patient, and caring about children and what they have to offer. It's not about reinventing the wheel, or telling anyone what to do. It's about guiding and strengthening and offering a safe space to explore and grow. Each child is honored for who they are and how they share who they are with the world."*

PRESCHOOL



Music Notes....

SPECIAL UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS AT PCPC

Sunday, October 29, 6:00 pm

Reformation Organ Concert by Adam Brakel
The Music of J. S. Bach

Sunday, November 5, 4:00 pm

Tampa Oratorio Singers Concert
Schubert Mass in E flat

Nancy Callahan, Music Director

Tickets available for church members in the PCPC office

Sunday, November 12, 6:00 pm

USF Chamber Choir Concert

All are welcome. A free will offering will be taken up.

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Would you like to ring handbells?

Trinity Bells and Junior Bells rehearse on Wednesdays. Trinity Bells meets at 6pm, and Junior Bells meets at 4pm. Trinity Bells is open to high school, college and adults. Junior Bells is open to children ages 9+. Please contact Bonnie Givens at bgivens50@hotmail.com if you are interested in ringing. We have openings!

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Dennis Bradt represents Village Partners International at the Mission & Ministry Fair

CHRISTMAS IN AFRICA 2017

“Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”

Proverbs 11:25

The foundation of a church lies not in the structure that contains it, but rather in the principles and actions that define it. Within the walls of Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church lies a defining spirit that cannot be dampened, a gathering of hearts that care beyond measure, and a love that reaches out not only into this community, but into communities around this hurting world.

As the Holy Season of Christmastide approaches, we step back and look not only deep inside our own hearts, but also into the hearts of others. And in this time of Christmas reflection, anticipation and gratitude, we think of those with whom we share this world, who have great need.

Once again, Christmas in Africa will serve as one opportunity to give gifts that continue to help those far away, day after day, month after month, year after year. This program began at PCPC as a way to share the gift of love with family and friends, as well as to address the needs of those in the village of Papoli, Uganda. By purchasing a gift, you are helping feed children, address poverty, open the door to a future through education, and provide means of self-sufficiency to this community. Through Christmas in Africa, loved ones can be honored by providing gifts in their name: a tree, a goat, or a mosquito net; a day of food for a sick child; a book for learning, the gift of schooling; or other items can be purchased and given to another in the name of the person you choose.

A list of gifts to choose from will be available. Each giver will receive a card to share with those being honored on which details of the gift can be written, or you can download your card of choice if you purchase on line. Tables will be in the breezeway each Sunday, beginning Nov. 26 and continuing through Christmas Eve, with details about the program, and purchases can be made at that time. You can also stop by the church office and receive the information there, or e-mail Sylvia Campbell at sylcamp@aol.com or Lindsey Mineer at kmineer@tampabay.rr.com. If you wish to volunteer to help on Sundays, contact Anne Strozier at strozier@usf.edu. Gifts can also be purchased online and cards printed at www.villagepartnersinternational.org.

At this time of year, when we remember the greatest gift ever given to us, please consider sharing your gift of love with others, both here, and far away.

For by reaching out to help another, we find what is true within our own selves.

‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Matthew 25:40

Plastic Grocery Bags, Crocheting, and the Homeless

Would you like to help crochet a mat?

What’s the connection between plastic grocery bags, crocheting, and the homeless? Well, plastic grocery bags can be cut into strips and tied together. This is known as plarn (plastic yarn). The plarn can then be crocheted into sitting and/or sleeping mats for the homeless.



PCPC is making plarn mats, and we could use your help.

The light weight plarn mats can be rinsed off, dry quickly, don’t get smelly, and, due to the plastic’s thermal qualities, provide a warm barrier between the person and the ground. The mats are also a cleaner way of sleeping. They’re portable. And, bugs don’t like them.

Not only are they free to make, each mat will also keep bags from the landfills and our waterways. Would you like to help crochet these mats? Or even simply help cut the bags and make them into plarn? If so, please contact Martha Spicklemire at 813-837-8903.

There is a large trash can outside Fellowship Hall for donations of clean grocery bags.

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Food and Clothing Drives Through the Social Work Ministries Committee

September: Food Drive to benefit Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry

Beth-El feeds over 2,400 men, women and children every week with a Tuesday food distribution.

We are collecting in September:

Rice; Pinto Beans; Canned goods like tomato sauce, vegetables, fruit, individual cans or bags of processed meat for people to take to the fields (sardines, tuna, chicken, etc.), pasta

AND/OR gift cards to Publix, Winn Dixie, or Walmart

October: Winter Clothing Drive to benefit students at Just Elementary School

When the children of Just Elementary don’t have winter clothing, they often stay home when Tampa’s weather turns cold. Last year fortunately was a mild winter but in the winter of 2015, Tampa saw one of the coldest Novembers in recent history. During that winter, school attendance at Just Elementary rose from 78% to 98% after the children received your generous donations of winter clothes.

We are collecting in October:

Warm clothing (new or gently used) for boys and girls, ages 3-12. The biggest needs are boys and girls long-sleeved sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets/coats, long pants, socks. Cash donations to be used specifically for winter clothing are also accepted.

MISSION

NURTURE your FAITH

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

*Nurturing Faith
Connecting Women
Serving God*

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN KICKOFF FALL 2017

ALL women of this church are invited to join us as Presbyterian Women (PW). Whether you are a new member of this congregation, or you have been a member for 50 years, we encourage all women to join in. We have two General Membership Meetings per year, where we meet as a whole, and we have smaller groups called “circles”, which meet monthly for fellowship and bible study. This year, most of our circles will be studying the book *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews* by Melissa Bane Sevier. This study will allow us to explore the community of faith that supports and surrounds each of us in our own journey of faith.

Our Kickoff (first General Meeting) is scheduled for Sunday, September 17th at noon in Fellowship Hall.

Come learn about PW, hear a brief introduction of the Bible study, and learn about our current circles to see which may be best for you. Or, learn about how you may start your own circle! This will be a **covered dish luncheon**, so please bring a dish to share with others – bring it with you to church and we’ll keep it for you in the kitchen as needed. At noon, please join us in Fellowship Hall for the short meeting and lunch.

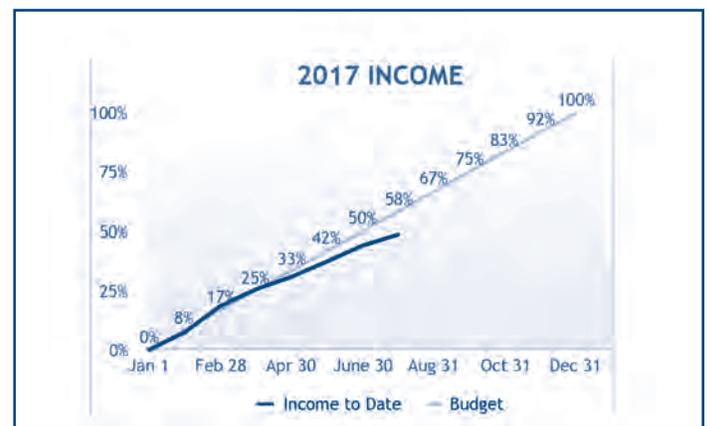
For more information, please contact Sarah Stichter at pw@palmaceia.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

**October 15, 2017
Stewardship Campaign Kickoff
and
90th Birthday of PCPC!**

Beginning at 5:00, this event will include a stewardship project for children ages 4 and up. The project will benefit the children of Beth-El Farmworker Ministry and children in the FED program. What better way to teach our children about stewardship than by having them use their time and talent serving others?! Childcare will be provided for younger children. While the children and youth participate in the project, the adults will attend a short service in the sanctuary, led by Pastor John, which will include a video presentation. After the service we will have a delicious dinner and celebrate with birthday cake! #90YearsofGratitude

**Please mark your calendars for
October 15th at 5:00.
You will not want to miss this!**



GREAT NEWS!

The Refugee Ministries Team at PCPC was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay to assist with this important ministry. The grant will focus on the housing and resettlement needs of refugees in Hillsborough County. Refugees are given services for 60-90 days after their arrival. After that point, they are on their own. Our team will step in at this point to continue to assist housing needs post-90 days. Your PCPC team is now hard at work using these funds to care for this vulnerable population in Hillsborough County and will have a full report in October.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAYS

Faith and Fellowship for Children on Sunday Mornings

Beginning September 10th, we will have wonderful NEW opportunities for our children (ages 3 through 5th grade, with nursery care for infants through age 2) on Sunday mornings at 10:05am. Our school year-round teams will lead them in a "Deep Blue" Adventure! "Deep Blue" is the new awe-inspiring resource for children which includes adventure, exciting stories, science experiments, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games — all combined into a living-faith experience that will help children discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today! And, if you are interested in mentoring as an adult, please email Nancy Creedon at nancycc@palmaceia.org or Kelly McCord at ce@palmaceia.org.

Welcome to Worship

For 2nd graders (and older) & their parents

Welcome to Worship is a program that is designated to welcome our second graders into full participation with the community at worship on Sunday morning. On September 10th, 17th, and 24th from 12:00-1:30pm, children AND their parents will investigate and explore the who, where, and why's of Presbyterian Worship. All students second grade and older are welcome! RSVP to ce@palmaceia.org so we can be sure we have enough materials for everyone.

Justice Seekers (*New*!)

For 4th & 5th graders

Starting September 10th, all fourth & fifth graders are invited every Sunday from 4:00-5:00pm to deepen their faith by rotating topics from the four categories: Fellowship, Christian Living, Bible, and Mission & Service. This bible study club will be taught by Kelly McCord in a youth group style with regular guest visits from Kenny Hubbell. Most meetings will be held in the Art Room (W212). Some meetings will be held off campus depending on the category of the week. Look for more details coming soon!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Music and Movement (*New*!)

Ages 0-Pre K-3 Starting Sept. 6

Hey little ones! We are now offering a music class during the same time as the other choir classes. Ages 0 to Pre K-3 and their parent or guardian are invited every Wednesday night from 5:00-5:45pm in room W202/W204 to dance around and sing with Miss Laurel & Miss Kelly, starting September 6th!

Courtyard with Kelly (*New*!) Starting Sept. 6

Hey kiddos! Are you energetic after finishing your supper on Wednesday nights? Do the delicious desserts of Wednesday Night Dinner make you want to run around and play with your friends from church? Starting September 6th from 6:15-6:45pm, all kids are invited to burn off some energy in the courtyard. Just remember one parent or guardian must be present to ensure your safety!

FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Connecting with God and each other

YOUTH GROUP - Wednesday Evenings

Middle School (6th-8th): 6-7:30 PM

High School (9th-12th): 7:15-8:30 PM

BIBLE STUDIES - Monday Evenings

All (6th-12th): 7:15-8:15 PM

FORMATION X - Sunday Mornings

Middle School (6th-8th): 10:00-11:00 AM

Below are special events for both our middle and high school students. Off-campus events are marked with an asterisk.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

September 13th - World Record Night

October 4th - Meme Expo

*October 18th - Westshore Movie Night

November 15th - Messy Game Night

November 22nd - No Youth Group

December 6th - White Elephant Gift Exchange

HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

*September 9th - Rock the Universe

*October 1st - Mall Invasion @ Westshore

*October 28th - Beach day

December 6th - White Elephant Gift Exchange

To receive full details regarding special events and consistent updates, please email the youth director, Kenny Hubbell, requesting to be put on the email list: ken@palmaceia.org

*Owe no one anything, except
to love one another; for the
one who loves another has
fulfilled the law*

-Romans 13:8

YOUTH

Bring A Friend To Church Sunday September 17th

As a part of the national “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday” initiative, PCPC will share this year with over 3,000 churches in the United States observing Sunday, September 17th as “**Bring a Friend to Church Sunday.**” Research shows that the majority of people who visit churches, and who go on to find a church home there, arrive for the first time through the personal invitation of a friend – someone they trust -- such as a neighbor, relative, business associate, or school friend. Really, every Sunday should be Bring a Friend to Church Sunday, but there are benefits in a shared special emphasis on one Sunday.

It should be a welcoming and friendly day, and here’s how you can take part:

-Begin to pray now about who the Spirit might lead you to invite. We are especially interested in welcoming people who don’t already have a church home in this area. We hope you’ll look particularly for a friend who isn’t already regularly attending a church.

Consider what you might say in the invitation.

The goal is not simply to have lots more people at PCPC, but to practice evangelism.

The church’s mission of welcoming into the faith those who may be seeking, never nurtured faith, or simply never have been invited.

“... I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.” - John 15:15 (NRSV)

HOSPITALITY SESSIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS

One Sunday a Month; 9:30-11am

September 10 • October 15 • November 12 • December 3

PCPC offers a monthly Hospitality Session for anyone who has an interest in learning more about Palma Ceia Presbyterian and its ministries. Some people who attend this new members class have a desire to become members of PCPC and decide to join at the end of the class.

Others attend the class simply as part of their exploration toward learning more about the ministries that PCPC has to offer individuals and families. All are welcome on the above dates in the Bride’s Room next to the chapel, and we look forward to seeing you!

the LIFE of the church

WEDDING:

07/15/17 Leah Pearl Sailer & Jayce Allen Barbel

BIRTHS:

07/15/17 Michael William Packer,
son of Maggie (Charles) & Mike Packer

08/16/17 Ezra James Elswick,
son of Salem (Willis) and Tony Elswick

BAPTISMS:

05/28/17 Olivia Aeris Lamb,
daughter of Lisa & Aaron Lamb

05/28/17 Olivia Katherine Fielder,
daughter of Jessica & Kevin Fielder

07/16/17 Emma Katherine (Emma Kate) Bell,
daughter of Jennifer (Jenni) & Stevn Bell

07/23/17 Braxton Ford Whitmore,
son of Xandy & Chase Whitmore

07/23/17 Camryn Kay Mathews,
daughter of Dalyn & Ben Mathews

07/23/17 Gary Glen Foster, III,
son of Ashley & Glen Foster, Jr.

08/20/17 Anderson Ross Rudisill,
son of Elizabeth & Joseph Rudisill

08/27/17 Tucker Thomas Simpson,
son of Allison (Kirkwood) & Troy Simpson

NEW MEMBERS:

06/04/17 Stevn & Jenni Bell

06/04/17 Lois M. Smith

07/16/17 Andrea T. Davis

07/30/17 Ian Charles Lanning

07/30/17 Tracy Ann Woodward

08/13/17 Emma Barlow

DEATHS:

06/16/17 Grace Levy

08/10/17 Betty Yanger

08/25/17 Elaine Bogue

WEDNESDAY DINNER

Wednesday Night Dinners are a longstanding tradition at PCPC. They are a time to gather at the “family table”, to sit around a lovingly prepared meal, and to join in casual fellowship with family, friends, and “strangers” alike.

The cost is \$5.00 a person, \$3.00 a child, or \$15.00 for a family. Reservations are not necessary and guests are always welcome! High chairs are available for small children. Menus for each week can be found on palmaceia.org/church-events.

See you at the table Wednesdays at 5:30!

YOUNG AT HEART

Fun, Food, & Fellowship

Young at Heart is a shared monthly interdenominational luncheon, fellowship, and program for men and women age 55+. The group meets the 3rd Thursday of every month 12:30-2pm (but no December meeting!). The cost is \$8 at the door. Please RSVP to Bruce Farnell at receptionist@palmaceia.org or 813-253-6047. For further questions, contact BJ Johns at bj@palmaceia.org.

Thursday, September 21st

12:30 - 2 pm in the PCPC Fellowship Hall.

Program: “Changing the Way You See — Georgia O’Keeffe.” Presented by Nan Colton. Since 1998 the performing artist in-residence at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, Nan brings to life more than 37 portraits of remarkable women characters, including Georgia O’Keeffe.

Thursday, October 19th

12:30 - 2 pm at Palma Ceia United Methodist Church

Program: The Chihuly Collection, presented by the Executive Director of the Chihuly Collection, Andy Schlauch.

Thursday, November 16th

12:30-2pm at Hyde Park United Methodist Church

Program TBA!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT OCTOBER 27 AT 5:30 P.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL

FALL FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT! Join us for a FREE evening of family fun, hosted by PCPC’s Children’s Ministry team. We’ll gather in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 27 at 5:30 p.m. to watch the 5 Dove Awards recipient & G-Rated classic film, “Homeward Bound.” Dove’s review: “This family comedy is wholesome and entertaining as the viewer is able to ‘get inside’ the heads of the old dog Shadow, the younger dog Chance, and the frisky cat Sassy.”

Bring a blanket or low chair & a friend! Kids can wear their jammies. We’ll feast on hot dogs & popcorn picnic style, or you can pack your own picnic if preferred. Hope to see you there! Please RSVP to nancyc@palmaceia.org.

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PCPC RETREAT AT CEDARKIRK OCTOBER 6-8 SIGN UP NOW!

We invite you (and your family!) to get away with us to Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center for the weekend.

WHO: Everyone who considers themselves a part of the PCPC family of faith

WHAT: A fun weekend enjoying the great outdoors, playing games, building relationships, and worshipping together. Possibilities include: hikes, canoeing, swimming, line dance, campfire, zip-lining, and rocking in rocking chairs on the back porch.

WHEN: *Columbus Day Weekend, October 6-8, 2017.* Check-in will be between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. on Friday and departure is 11:00 a.m. on Sunday following an onsite worship service.

Register at <http://palmaceia.org/events/cedarkirk-retreat>.

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YOUNG ADULTS

The Young Adults group at PCPC has an active fall planned! We will be continuing our Monthly Dinner Groups. We will also be continuing the Trivia Nights we started in the summer that will happen Wednesday nights after Wednesday Night Dinners at 8pm at the Blind Goat. Email Andrew Rametta at AndrewR@palmaceia.org to get on the Young Adults email list!

We are also looking for Young Adults who are interested in planning and helping lead our first annual Young Adults’ mission trip happening next year. Stay tuned this fall for more opportunities to serve our community, join in fellowship together, and grow in our faith as the Young Adult Ministry at Palma Ceia continues this fall!

FELLOWSHIP

adults & families

NEW FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS FALL 2017

Church & State

Sundays, September 10th – October 1st, at 10:05am in EM305/306

Led by Don Upton, this class will explore our Reformed tradition's connections to concepts of religious freedom and limits on the state's favoritism of faiths. Though the four-week class will focus primarily on the American journey, some time will be spent on ideas emerging from antiquity, Renaissance and Reformation. For newcomers to the discussion, this class will provide historical insights for future discussion. For students of church and state, this will be an opportunity to revisit key events and commentaries.

Jesus of History, Christ of Faith

Sundays, September 10th – October 29th, at 10:05am in EM307/308

Led by Will Wellman, this class will explore the person and work of Jesus Christ. Over eight weeks, the class will be an opportunity to examine and learn about Jesus through the lens of history, theology, and scripture. The class will work through these various angles to paint a comprehensive picture of Jesus, and ultimately to understand how this figure relates to and informs our Christian faith. All are welcome! For more information, email will@palmaceia.org.

Faithful Giving

Sundays, October 8th – October 29th, at 10:05am in EM305/306

The practices of charity and tithing have a long history within the Christian tradition. This class will examine what charitable giving means and the belief behind it. Additionally, the class will take a practical look at the budget of PCPC and the financial structure of the PC(USA) Church. Lastly, the class will examine what stewardship looks like within our own church family. Led by various.

The Ridiculous Journey

Sundays, November 5th – December 17th, at 10:05am in EM305/306

Led by Scott Stichter, this class will view and discuss the Work of the People video series, *The Ridiculous Journey*. This class will explore the meaning and purpose found in the story of Jesus Christ: *"A search for purpose and meaning in the events and choices of our lives. A costly journey with an unknown destination. A Middle Eastern homeless man from twenty centuries ago and why he still stirs the souls and imagination of so many."* Videos include Christian leaders such as Rowan Williams, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Brene Brown, Richard Rohr, and more.

Faith and Doubt. November 5th – November 26th.

Sundays, November 5th – November 26th, at 10:05am in EM307/308

Led by Paul Clark, this class will discuss the many forms of doubt that have been consistent companions of the Christian faith from biblical times to the present. We will also look at many of the great doubters of the past two thousand years and the role that doubt played in their faith journey. For many Christians, various forms of doubt have been a source of embarrassment and have led to a feeling of inadequacy. Other Christians have considered their doubt a precious gift that became the fuel which pushed them toward a courageous and more engaging inquiry. Many of this latter group attest to achieving a Christian life based more upon faith and a personal experience of God's grace than one based upon a prescribed set of beliefs. Hopefully, we may share our own experiences in this discussion-oriented setting.

Preparing for Christmas. November 5th – November 26th.

Led by Nicole Abdnour & Kelly McCord.

Sundays, November 5th – November 26th, at 10:05am in EM301/302

With the appearance of Christmas decorations in stores before Halloween, the church season of Advent and Christmas often gets lost in the mass marketing of Christmas. How do we as parents, grandparents, and others journeying with children reclaim the meaning of the season? Come join Pastor Nicole and Ms. Kelly to talk about and explore some practical ways to slow down, prepare thoughtfully, and make space to hear with joy the story of God's greatest gift.

In Community Speaker Series — Join us for a lunch and speaker on select Sundays from 12:00-1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. This upcoming year we will mark the 500th anniversary of Reformation through talks addressing the contemporary relevance of this historical event.

September 24th, Speaker: John DeBevoise

October 29th, Speakers: A panel including

John DeBevoise, Father John Lipscomb, and more

Faith Seeking Understanding

It's time to get back to the basics! Have you ever wanted to learn more about the Bible but not known where to start? Or what makes our community of faith distinctively Presbyterian? Do you want to engage your faith and practice it in new and meaningful ways? Then we invite you to come and be a part of PCPC's new core curriculum, Faith Seeking Understanding.

This year, we'll continue our Faith Seeking Understanding offerings with courses that will equip participants with a thorough background, understanding, and basic skills in the areas of Bible, Christian Belief, and Worship & Sacraments. These introductory classes will provide the foundation for a broader and deeper engagement and participation in Christian learning and practice. Classes last an hour and a half and start at 12:30pm on Sundays.

September 17th (Bible)

October 22nd (Christian Belief)

November 12th (Worship & Sacrament)

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

All Men are invited to join this bible study which will meet every other week on Monday mornings at 7:30am. The group will be studying the book "Across The Spectrum: Understanding Issues In Evangelical Theology" by Gregory Boyd and Paul Eddy.

The book provides a great opportunity to discuss challenging topics in Scripture. Each chapter explores different ways to understand the topic. Books are \$15 and can be picked up in the church office.

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THIRD GRADE BIBLE LOCK-IN

Third Grade Bible Lock-In (Oct. 27-28) teaches third graders and their parent(s)/guardian(s) the foundational tools for exploring the bible for a lifelong journey of reading and study. The lock-in begins October 27th with a child/parent session at 6:00 p.m. Third graders are invited to spend the night at the church for additional learning and games Friday evening and Saturday morning. The lock-in concludes with a final child/parent session 10:30am - noon on October 28th. Bibles will be distributed to all third graders in our worship services on Sunday, October 29th. Contact Kelly McCord with questions at ce@palmaceaia.org.

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PEACE MEAL PICNIC JOINT CHURCH PICNIC WITH 34TH STREET CHURCH OF GOD FOOD, GAMES, AND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP!

Sun. September 24th, 4pm-7:30pm
(with sunset at 7:25!)

Picnic Island Park, Pavilions 607-609

PCPC has had two wonderful "Peace Meals" with the 34th Street Church of God, a historically black congregation led by Rev. Tom Scott, during which members of both congregations enjoyed fellowship and sought to further our Christian bonds. Because these two dinners were so successful, both churches wanted to continue to work together and decided to plan a joint picnic to further communications with a broader group of congregants.

As Christians, this type of sharing and communicating is more important than ever. We need to reach out to "others" in Christian love and understanding, whether the "other" is race or religion, sexual orientation or gender. We hope this simple picnic will help bridge the racial gap, bring needed understanding, and foster Christian love. Please join us Sept. 24th.

God's Troublemakers

A Prayer for Reformation Sunday

Lord God of reformation, we praise you for calling a people to be your agent of blessing in this world. You called Abraham to bear your blessing and the people of Israel were eventually born; you sent Jesus Christ, to bring forth a new Israel his body in this world, the church.

We thank you for the many reformations you have brought about when your people have grown complacent and corrupt; when your people have refused to be a holy people; when your people have refused to bear your blessing, thinking of themselves as special because of your call — you brought forth trouble-making reformers to stir up change and bring about a new faithfulness to your call.

-We praise you for your trouble-making prophets ... for Jeremiah and Isaiah, for Amos and Hosea. For men and women in the Old Testament who never forgot your call to be a blessing to others; people who often stood alone challenging the power of those who ruled only to be treated as traitors.

-We thank you for the troublemaker John the Baptist for the way he alone spoke to the powers of his day of the blatant immorality of Herod's family and court. He was to be silenced only by beheading.

-We thank you for the troublemaker Paul as he proclaimed a gospel of grace alone refusing to believe we could in any way earn your love. He was scorned and rejected by his own people and forced to defend himself before the powers of Rome.

-We thank you for the troublemakers of the Reformation ... for Luther and Calvin; Zwingli and Knox and for all those who challenged the entrenched power of a church turned in on itself — abusing the gospel entrusted to it.

-But we are most thankful for the troublemaker from Nazareth. He called us to repent because the kingdom of God was at hand. His proclamation shook the very foundations of both synagogue and empire.

We ask for forgiveness when we, as your church, have failed to be faithful to your call of blessing.

-May we hear and heed the voice of your reforming troublemakers today.

-Give us sight like you did blind Bartimaeus that we might clearly see where our life needs changing.

-And make us part of your army of troublemakers — reformed yet always in need of your reformation.

We make our prayer in the name of the one who calls us to faithfulness... Our Father...

Amen.

-Bill Wallof

DISCIPLESHIP



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Presbyterian Church

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Fall 2017

WE'RE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Follow us on:

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Website www.palmaceia.org

PCPC is praying for the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

We will direct our Hurricane Harvey Relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Gifts to PCPC designated "Harvey Relief" will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (<http://pda.pcusa.org/>).

Please join us in praying for courage for those who are suffering; wisdom and diligence among agencies and individuals assessing damage and directing relief efforts; and for generosity to flow as powerfully as rivers and streams, as we respond to the deep human needs left in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.