

# The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

SPRING, 2015

## Spring is a great time of year to invite friends and family to church.

If you are not bringing a guest, be sure to be a good host by giving up your seat, taking time to ask questions, or inviting them to share a cup of coffee. Treat guests at church as if they were in your own home. Do not walk away from them, leaving them with no one to converse (that's a fumble). Always introduce them to someone else before you depart. With guests in your home, you would never sit down and leave them standing with no chair. If your legs work well, get up and move. Invite them to take your seat. Studies show that regular church-goers

## “Ask good questions and listen!”

are not particularly adept at making newcomers feel comfortable, but at Peace, we aim to be exceptional. We expect all members to participate in our welcoming outreach, so here are some practical suggestions:

Members sit close to the choir, leaving open seats for guests near the front desk and parlor. Give them your bulletin. Tell them that we walk forward for communion and that all are welcome. Make sure young families understand we have childcare and we welcome children in worship—whatever is best for them. Tell them that Peace has been worshipping ten years but just moved here 18 months ago. Share what you find meaningful at Peace. Tell them there are all kinds of people from all kinds of backgrounds here.

Don't do all the talking. Ask good questions and listen! Most people form a first impression in the first ten minutes. After worship, offer a tour of the building. Walk them out to see where the sanctuary is going to be built. Lead them to class or coffee. Here are some great questions to ask:

How long have you lived in the area? Where do you live? What brought you to Florida? When they tell you what brought them to Florida—job, retirement, kids, ask follow-up questions like this: Tell me about your family. That's the

very best way to start a conversation that does not make anyone feel awkward. The best way to ask about work/hobbies without tension is to ask this: How do you spend your time? Never say “Are you new to this church?” but say “How long have you been coming to Peace?” Do not assume people have been Presbyterian or have any experience of church. You might ask, “How did you get interested in Peace?” or “Do you have other experiences in faith communities?”



If your friends, family, and neighbors cannot come for Easter, perhaps they could join us for our picnic fundraiser on the last Sunday of April. Always consider the value of inviting friends to social events at church, where relationships are built more easily. As we grow, let's make sure we continue to provide a genuinely warm welcome and an inspiring and relevant service of worship. Those two commitments will keep us thriving, along with a creative approach to nurturing discipleship and a generous commitment to mission. Whether we are able to build the sanctuary in 2016 or not, we know that we will continue to find ways to make God known by growing as disciples, building a community of peace and caring for the needs of others.

Peacefully yours,

*Elizabeth*

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert

Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church

## Adult Education Ministry News

During the Spring, Peace is offering three classes for Adults during our Lively Learning hour.

**Mickey Miller** and **Richard Deibert** are leading a conversation on Luke Timothy Johnson's series of Great Courses videos on *Jesus and the Gospels*, a deeply engaging look at the various early witnesses to Jesus and his earthly ministry recorded in the Gospels, Acts, and some of the books which, even though they didn't make it into the Bible, still left us with art, ideas, and stories that "everybody knows" about Jesus.

**Gail Lowe** and **Bill Clough** are presenting *The Bible from Scratch: The Old Testament for Beginners*. We're helping people get more familiar with the Bible. We're getting an overview of its content, learning how to find our way around it, how to use some basic Bible study tools, how to find books, people, events, and topics, how the books hang together and fit into an overall narrative of those faith-forming "family stories" of the mighty acts of God that form the basis for our Christian view of God and the world.

**Peg Papsch** is doing double duty. Sunday mornings she's leading *The Wired Word*, animated discussions of current topics in light of Scripture and faith. The rest of the week she's getting our Library in order, which has a nice selection of books, both in-depth and popular, historic and contemporary. On another note—more assistance is needed in the library. If you feel called to this ministry, contact Peg.

The Lively Learning hour is Sunday mornings, 9:45 to 10:45 and all of the classes are open to everyone.



The men of Peace Church have a couple of fun events planned for May and June.

**On Saturday, May 16, there will be a repeat of the popular Paintball Game.**

This time it will be near Parrish. The morning start time will be announced. According to **Mark Winters**, "All are invited from church and friends can be included as well. Children must be 12 years old to attend, with a guardian up to age 18. We did this last year and had lots of fun. You can rent all equipment needed to participate. Bring drinks and snacks. You will want to wear tennis shoes (no sandals), long sleeve shirt and long pants. I used gloves as well. Cost is about \$35 for the whole day which lasts about 3 - 4 hours."

**June 7th, 1 p.m. is the time for the Men's Golf Outing.**

Bring \$30 for a golf/cart/lunch at The Links At Greenfield Plantation (just north of SR 64 on Upper Manatee Rd). Arrive by 12:30 please. Lunch will be sandwiches and chips and two drink tickets. RSVP by Thursday June 4. Watch for the Email going out to all the men and RSVP to it, or see the sign-up list on the desk at church. For more info see Mark Winters or Jim Robinson.

## April 10 Concert at Peace

The Park Larks (right) are performing a concert Friday night, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. This group is celebrating their 11th year under the direction of **Barbara Staton** (far left). The women sing throughout the year at nursing homes, assisted living facilities and for various organizations in the Sarasota, Venice and Bradenton area. Admission is free and a free will offering will be taken for the Peace youth music scholarship fund.



## Peace Music Ministry

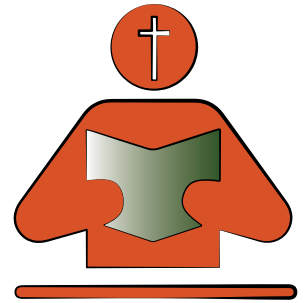
Six groups now compose the music ministry team at Peace Church. They are the **Voices of Peace** (choir), **Ringers of Peace** (chimes), **Gospel Guys** (our men's group), **Harmonizing Women** (our women's group), **Seekers of Peace** (our youth group), and our **Brass Quartet**, which is just beginning. The newest groups, the Harmonizing Women, which is 8 strong and still growing, and the Seekers of Peace, 9 young people and shooting for 15 ages 8 – 15, are increasing in numbers every week. Our Music Director, **Gia Havener**, is hoping to get the youngest

children involved in a music program over the summer. There will be more about music camp in our next issue. Anyone can join any group at any time. Contact Gia if you would like to add music ministry to your life.



## Participate in Worship Services

You are invited to be a **READER** at Peace. At various services throughout the year we like to have different voices from the congregation be Readers. Do you wonder why no one has asked you to be a **READER**? Probably because we didn't know you would be interested in doing that. Unless we are doing some sort of a dramatic presentation, there is usually only one rehearsal (often the same day as the service). Once you have committed to reading at a specific service, you will receive a copy of what you are to read. Please practice at home, and be ready to go. This is a wonderful way to contribute to the Worship Services. If you would like to be added to the list of **READERS**, please let **Gia Havener** or **Jane Taylor** know ... we would love to have some new voices heard!



Three hundred fifteen walkers from 20 churches participated in this annual event by securing pledges and walking 2-3 miles over the Green Bridge from Palmetto to The Bradenton Riverwalk and back.

Thirty-six Peace participants enjoyed simple fellowship, gorgeous weather, and magnificent views of the Manatee River. Approximately \$20,000 was raised for Church World Service, with a very generous \$2,197 coming from Peace. Twenty five percent of the total raised stays in Manatee County where the need is great. Our 36 CROP walkers, a new record, represents approximately 13% of our congregation! Mission Team is always ecstatic when we reach or exceed our “10% goal.” Much gratitude to Jim Padula for organizing us, and to all who walked, supported, and showed compassion for our brothers and sisters in need.



*On Feb. 22 Peace CROP Walkers helped to raise \$20,000 for hunger with 25% remaining in Manatee County.*

Some younger Peace family members learning from the Gospel of Mark on a Sunday in March.



Members of Peace kayaking on the Manatee River in February.



Youth and Children made crosses as a craft for Holy Week.



## Cedarkirk Summer 2015 Camp Registration

Registration for Cedarkirk's 2015 Summer Camps is open! Whether you are in first grade or high school, a family with young children or a grandparent seeking time with your grandchild, Cedarkirk's summer programs have something for you.

Camps for all ages and stages of life are available, emphasizing opportunities for fun, community-building, and spiritual growth in a beautiful, natural environment. To ensure your choice of programs, pick up a brochure in the church office or visit [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org) today. If you have any questions, please contact the camp office at 813.685.4224 x2 or [camps@cedarkirk.org](mailto:camps@cedarkirk.org).

## Update from the Property Team



A new air conditioner was installed in the Café on March 16. This should help in cooling off the room when we have meetings, dinners, etc. There will be a workday for spring-cleaning on either 5/2 or 5/9.

It is time to form a real Property Team. Jim and Sherry Robinson have been the team since before moving into our current building. We would like to have 4 or 5 folks step forward and volunteer. The time commitment will be minimal and there will be very few meetings to attend.



## The Outreach Team

I recently agreed to be the leader for the Outreach Team; it wasn't until after I said "Yes," that I stopped to ponder the question, "What is outreach?" Technically speaking at Peace it is the marketing and communications—internal and external—and replaces the often-unmentioned word in the Presbyterian Church, that of "EVANGELISM." While the members of the Outreach Team are responsible for developing and implementing the more formal marketing tools—newspaper ads, mailers, bulletins, newsletters, banners, signs, bumper sticker, business cards, brochures—and fulfilling our Mission Statement: *To make PEACE's presence known in the community through website, signage, publicity and special events. To welcome guest warmly, providing follow-up contact to encourage their return visits, this is just the "tip of the iceberg."*

The real job of Outreach at Peace is the responsibility of you, the entire congregation, and that takes place everywhere you are, every day of the week. You are the best ambassadors of our church, how you interact with neighbors, friends, strangers, relatives, and dare I say, even in-laws, goes a long way in "making Peace's presence known in the community." Every chance you get to "Spread the Word," take the opportunity. It may only be with a nod or a smile, a kind word to the grocery bagger, or letting a driver in before you, just remember, "We are PEACE, wear it proudly!"

Peter Miller

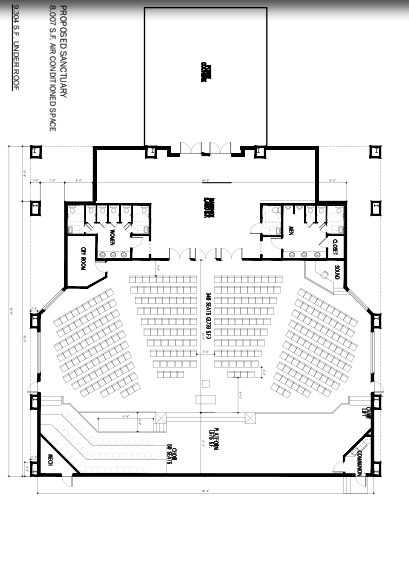


## Coming Soon! A New Sanctuary for Peace Church

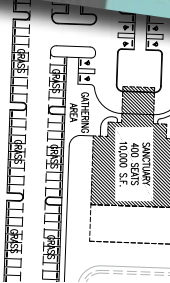
Plans for a new sanctuary, including floor plans and elevations showing each side of the prospective building were presented to the congregation in March. At this time Peace Church is also initiating a capital building campaign to pay for the new worship space.

Since we bought the current building in December 2013, we have continued to grow as a congregation and are in need of more space, especially for worship services. We need to raise close to \$1,000,000 in order to get the bank loan to start the process. The hope is that we can break ground early in 2016 and have the building finished and ready to use a year after that.

The Building Vision Team has been working hard since 2009 to present the best location for our continuing call to do God's work and this is the most recent piece of the puzzle. For more detailed information on Peace's Journey of Trust and a pledge form for the sanctuary building, check at the front desk of the church. For questions or discussion about the project, contact BVT members **Pastor Elizabeth Deibert, Grant Lowe or Sue Seiter**. Here are some depictions of what our new sanctuary will add to our property.



PROPOSED SANCTUARY  
MASTER SITE PLAN  
6-8-2012  
SCHEM1



PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1000 S. 10TH ST. LAKEWOOD, CO 80022



- 2003 THE VISION FOR A LWR CHURCH DEVELOPED AROUND A KITCHEN TABLE
- 2004 REGULAR PLANNING SESSIONS AT A VARIETY OF LWR LOCATIONS
- 2005 SUNDAY NIGHT MEETINGS AT LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH
- 2006 SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AT MANATEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (SCT)
- 2007 ACTIVITIES EXPAND TO LOCATIONS AROUND LAKEWOOD RANCH
- 2008 LORRAINE BOND SITE PURCHASED BY PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY
- 2009 PEACE CHURCH CHARTERED AS 39<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH IN PRESBYTERY
- 2010 PEACE RELOCATES TO THE MANATEE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS FACILITY
- 2011 BUILDING VISION TEAM BEGINS MASTER PLAN & PHASE ONE
- 2012 BUILDING VISION TEAM UNVEILS THE INITIAL IDEAS TO THE CONGREGATION
- 2013 AURORA MINISTRIES PROPERTY IS IDENTIFIED AND PURCHASED
- 2014 PROPERTY IS DEDICATED ON FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> AS OUR CHURCH HOME
- 2015 BUILDING VISION TEAM UNVEILS EXPANSION PLAN FOR OUR PROPERTY

## • Opportunities from the Mission Team •

### Beth El Open House

Have you wondered what this “Beth El” thing is that Peace Presbyterian members talk about? Come see for yourself why this farm worker ministry is important to so many people. On Sunday, April 19, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Beth El will be hosting an Open House to share what this ministry is all about. There will be tours and a Bi-lingual worship service (at 4:00 p.m.). Directions to Beth El will be in the church office and in the bulletin.

### New Soup Kitchen Ministry for Beth El

Beth El will be starting a soup kitchen. We are hoping to find teams of 3–4 people to work Thursday evenings. It would be from approx. 4:00–7:30 p.m. If we have enough people, it would be only one Thursday a month.



### First of the Month Protein Food Drive

The congregation has been so generous in so many ways, but especially in providing needed protein items for Beth El. We’ve been given some suggestions that will help our farm workers. They can use small cans of protein items, such as Spam, Vienna sausages, Spaghettios, etc., that have pop tops and can be opened while they are working in the fields. Keep the canned meats, peanut butter, etc. coming. Canned Pinto beans are a real favorite with our farm workers also. Thank you for “feeding the hungry” in Christ’s name.

### Coming in May

Mother’s Day is May 10. What better way to honor Mom than to give diapers to mothers who can’t afford to buy them.

*He is Risen!  
He is Risen Indeed!*

EASTER SERVICES  
SUNDAY, APRIL 5  
8am, 9:30am & 11am

## • Upcoming Activities for Peace Church Groups •

### Faith & Film

Friday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.—*The Monuments Men*, (2013 PG-13) George Clooney made and stars in this fact-based film about a team that went into Nazi Germany near the end of WWII to save art. Discussion led by **Roger Kragt**.

Friday, May 8, 6:30 p.m.—*Philomena*, (2013 PG-13) This Oscar nominated movie follows the story of a world-weary political journalist and a woman’s search for her son, who was taken away from her decades ago after she became pregnant and was forced to live in a convent. Starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan. Discussion by **Elizabeth Deibert**.

### Peace Dinner Groups

April 18 and May 16. Sign up at the church for meals with your friends from Peace. A great way to meet new people.



### Beth-el Baggers

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m., packing food for Beth-el Mission.

### Peace Lunch Bunch

Meets every Thursday between 11:45 and Noon at Crispers on Highway 70, Lakewood Ranch. Object—to meet new friends, eat and converse. Show up whenever you can.

### P3—Pace, Pray, Plant

Any Saturday morning through May. Anyone can participate. Pace—9:00, Pray—9:30, Plant—10.

### Men’s Bible and Prayer Group

Every Tuesday, 6:30 a.m. at the church.

### Mah-Jongg

Players meet Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. at the church.

## Upcoming Younger/Older Youth Calendar

### Saturday, April 11—Orange Grove “Gleaning” to Feed the Hungry Mark Your Calendar!

All adults, youth and kids are invited to this fun and helpful mission to pick fresh citrus for food pantries across the state. Carpool from the church at 8:15 or arrive at the Nokomis Orange Groves in Venice at 9. Pick as long as you like. Wear sturdy shoes and clothing. Friends welcome. Lunch provided. Watch your church email for further details.

### Sunday, April 26, from noon to 3:00 p.m.

There will be an **All Church Picnic and Youth Fundraiser**. Some of the highlights include Live Bluegrass Music, games & activities, and picnic foods. Please bring your own lawn chairs, although there will be some available at the church. Bring, appetite, checkbook, and fun spirit! Homemade desserts welcome.

This event raises money for our annual Montreat Youth Conference. At the picnic, there will also be a Silent Auction and a Raffle of Gift Baskets. If you have an auction item to offer (trips, tickets, special services, unique item, etc), or a gift basket to raffle, contact **Suzi Regulski** or **Eirinn Camphire**.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The tickets will be sold in advance. Make sure to put this event on your calendar.



### June 7 is Graduation Sunday

Come celebrate in-between services with Rebecca Deibert, Matthew Grantham, and Richie Polinice.

### The Youth Group’s Summer Montreat Registration has begun.

\$50 due in the church office by April 1. Conference dates are July 18–26 for this year’s youth Montreat trip. Eight students have signed up for this and there is one spot left. Again this year, Peace is renting a bus with Church of the Palms for the trip to North Carolina. Contact **Neil MacQueen** for more information.

### Montreat Worship and Music Conference—June 27-July 4.

Contact Pastor Elizabeth Deibert for more information.

### 3rd-6th Grade Sunday School Stories

APRIL: *The Walk to Emmaus*

MAY: *Jesus, the Disciples, the Boat, and the Storm*

Our 3rd-6th grade class spends up to 4 weeks per story so that we can better explore and remember them.

Stop by our newest classroom: The Bible Surf Shack down by the Youth room. Bible stories in the Shack are taught through software and Bible games, with an emphasis on memory and Bible skills.

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