

The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

SUMMER, 2014

As another summer passes, and we roll into the busier schedule of autumn, I have been thinking about how to choose wisely, how to spend time and energy, and most effectively use the gifts I have been given to do God's will in church, family, and community life. I hope my "notes to self" will be of some help to you:

1. Guard some quiet time for reflection and prayer. Turn off the screens. Watch TV news and entertainment only occasionally. Take time to pray and meditate on scripture, even when there is too much to do, so you can choose wisely and remember that God is in charge. Sabbath-time (stopping a little every day and a lot one day per week) is crucial for renewing you in hope, strength, and trust. To trust God, you have to stop producing and rest.
2. Communicate well with others. Express your needs clearly so others can understand you, and even more importantly, listen for the needs they express as they are talking with you. Pay attention to their body language and tone. Shift away from email and texting whenever dealing with challenging or emotionally-weighted subjects. When communication fails, forgive yourself and the other, clarify, and be willing to start anew. Trust that God has something to teach you through this relationship.
3. Find roles for yourself and others that energize you, rather than deplete. Notice when your frustration is rising, and ask for support. Avoid being overly critical of yourself or others. Praise

others for their part, and try to find joy in your accomplishments, even the mundane ones. As Brother Lawrence, a 17th century monk in Paris, once said, "Practice the presence of God" in every task of the day so service becomes more joyful!

4. Pay attention to internal and external calls from God. If someone else has a suggestion about what you might be called to do, that's external. It is also external if you feel that someone expects you to do something. An internal call arises from within you. When someone is called to any form of service in the church, there should be both an internal and external sense of call. If you are so called by God, then God will give you all you need to fulfill the call, as you follow the above principles.
5. Disciples of Jesus Christ offer their lives as gifts. It's not about your will but God's will. Doing God's will requires you be your best self—rested, faithful, and discerning. That brings us back to number 1.

Peacefully yours,

Elizabeth

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert
Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church



• Mission •

The Mission Team at Peace is thriving and making a difference! We love God, and we love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Here is how our team is living out God's Commandments.

"To Whom Much Is Given, Much Is Expected." (Luke 12:48)

We promote and participate in the four Presbyterian church-wide Special Offerings each year: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking, and Christmas Joy. For OGHS this year, we challenged the congregation to "Do Lent Generously" by encouraging all to pursue the spiritual disciplines of frugality and simplicity. By intentionally living off less, we invited God to change our attitudes toward money and possessions. Pastor Elizabeth and this team were overwhelmed with your generous \$4,800 contribution! Likewise, the most recent Pentecost Offering in June exceeded our goal with \$2,029 collected.

"Bear One Another's Burdens, And You Will Fulfill The Law Of Christ." (Gal. 6:2)

We gave congregation members the opportunity to donate diapers for the May Mother's Day Drive, and we yielded 1,800 diapers, 850 wipes and \$250 cash for The Community Coalition for Homelessness @ The One Stop Center in Bradenton. In a similar opportunity, we held a Father's Day Drive in June, collecting 34 pair of men's underwear, 108 pair of socks, numerous toiletry items and \$320 cash for the farmworkers @ Mision Peniel in Immokalee, FL. These items were delivered to a very grateful Pastor Miguel, who leads Mision Peniel, which became a ministry of Peace River Presbytery in 2013. It provides services and emergency support to the farmworkers, achieving this through the outreach and compassion of churches like Peace.

Peace is in an ongoing working and personal relationship with Beth-el Farmworker Ministry (on U.S. 301 in Wimauma, FL). A ministry of PCUSA, they offer extensive educational programs (on-site charter, Head Start and public schools, as well as summer VBS) and services to meet the basic needs of farmworkers and their families with a focus on social justice. Junie Miller is our energetic and passionate volunteer coordinator for the "Peace Baggers" who bag groceries on Thursday mornings for distribution the following Tuesday.

Often we are asked to assist in the Clothes Closet or with light administrative tasks, but in the short time we are there, we offer a ray of hope, and we always enjoy our time together! In August, Junie and the team collected 80 backpacks, numerous varieties of school supplies and \$775 cash for the needy Beth-el children to begin their school year on a bright note.

Another opportunity for the congregation to make a huge impact is by participating in one of our 6 blood drives per year. If you are able, we encourage you to sign up to give on a Sunday at Peace, or if it is more convenient, make an appointment at their donation center (SR 64 & LWR Blvd) and mention Peace Church so we may receive "credit." We routinely exceed our goal of ten units every time, according to Nancy Hogue, who spearheads this project. Giving of yourself and one hour of your time can potentially save the lives of 3 patients!!

"...I tell you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."



Upcoming Mission Project dates

October—Trick or Treat Food Drive

November/December—Angel Tree Gifts (to benefit the children of Beth-el at Christmas)

February—CROP Walk, a charitable walking event to end hunger (comprised of Manatee & Sarasota County churches and coordinated by our fit and most knowledgeable Team member on this, Jim Padula).

Come, see what we're about, and give us a try! We are 12 strong and growing. We are made up of seasonal and year-round residents. All are welcome and your ideas are valuable! We generally meet on the 3rd Monday of every month @ 7:00 PM (but check the bulletin for updates). You can contact one of the Team Leaders at any time: (Mary Scheper—mbscheper1@gmail.com or Sally Schoeffel—schoeffelk@aol.com), or speak with our Team Elder, Nancy Hogue.

We are blessed to be able to serve, and we are grateful to you, Peace Presbyterian Church!

A large group relishes the church family night in June



The children at Sunday morning classes looked for new ways to share the Good News



Clair and Dan working on food at the August beach party



*What is Roger doing at the beach party?
Playing Frisbee!*



Several Peace adults also attended retreats at Montreat in North Carolina



The newly-formed PeaceCrafters made blankets for premature infants at SMH



The Young Adult Group painted rooms at Peace



The youth group with leader Neil and chaperones posed at the IHOP and at Montreat



Property Management Team

ATTENTION EVERYONE! There will be a general work bee at the church for cleaning, etc. sometime in September. It



has been nearly a year since we moved in and it is time to spruce things up again.

Property Management has a sub-group called the Pruners, Planters and Pickers. This is under the supervision of Martha Waldrop. We need

more hands to come out and weed, mulch, plant and beautify the grounds. Nothing is to be planted unless they check with Martha first for her to approve. Many hands will help keep weeds under control and our grounds looking beautiful for the glory of God. No set schedule is needed to come and weed. Thanks to all who have helped to make our new home look so beautiful.

For those who have not seen it, please stop in and look at the new kitchenette off the Café. Thanks to Denny Noto for all his time and efforts.

Gratitude Team

The Gratitude Campaign, which will begin in October, will



involve the entire church for four weeks. The program was created by Mike Slaughter, pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio. It is called, "First: Putting

God First in Living and Giving." And subtitled *Shining Gods; Finding Freedom from Things that Distract Us.*

The 4-week educational program and video series for discerning how much is enough, is divided into chapters called:

1. Naming Our Idols
2. Money, Work and Debt
3. Be Faithful, Save and Give
4. Heart Giving

In addition to the classes, a companion, personal devotional book is offered, along with youth and children's study plans. This topic will also be applied to worship at that time.



Saturday Night Singles does not meet over the summer. We will be meeting on September 27th at the church at 7:00 pm. This is a group for women only—single, divorced, widowed, or never married. Open to all faiths and all ages.

Peace Dinner groups start September 20th



Dinner groups: definition—dining in homes with your Peace friends the third Saturday of the month.

When—3rd Saturday of the month. Look for announcements in the Sunday Bulletin to sign up at the front desk for next month's dinner, month by

month, no long term commitment. You may host a table of 6 or 8 if you like.

Dinner Group Coordinator—Suzi Regulski She will let the hosts know who will be joining them at their table and the hosts will contact you to let you know the time and menu. Folks usually bring a dish from the menu to share. Dinners can be paper plate casual or china and crystal formal.

Please come give it a try. It is a great way to get to know new Peace friends. The 3rd Saturdays will be September 20th, October 18th and November 15th. We will skip December as it falls the Saturday before Christmas



Free Movie Night at Peace Every Month

On the second Friday of every month, you can watch and discuss a free movie at Peace Church. The social time begins at 6:30 and the film begins at 7:00 p.m. This is hosted by David and Dottie Thomas. Check out the schedule on the next page for films and discussion co-leaders and hosts.

PEACE'S FAITH & FILM 2014-2015 Schedule

Peace Presbyterian Church, 12705 E. SR 64, Bradenton, FL 34212

Theme for the year: Fully Human

Second Fridays of the month, 6:30 Social Time, 7:00 Film Begins.

Date	Feature and Discussion Co-Leader with David Thomas	Social Hosts
September 12	Elephant Man , 1980 PG 124 min. Richard Deibert A Victorian surgeon rescues a heavily disfigured man who is mistreated while scraping a living as a side-show freak. Behind his monstrous facade, there is revealed a person of intelligence and sensitivity.	Barb Day Lee Sorenson
October 10	Gravity , 2013 PG-13 91 min. Mickey Miller A medical engineer and an astronaut work together to survive after a catastrophe destroys their shuttle and leaves them adrift in orbit.	Peg Papsch (open)
November 14	Mary and Martha , 2013 PG 90 min. Anderson Kajang Hilary Swank & Brenda Blethyn fighting malaria in Africa.	Barbara & Denny Noto
February 13	The Truth About Cats and Dogs , 1996 PG-13 97 min. Bill & Betty Clough A successful veterinarian & radio show host with low self-esteem asks her model friend to impersonate her when a handsome man wants to see her.	Gertie Rinner Barb Mendison
March 13	Cherry Blossoms , 2007 Unrated 127 min. David Mullen After Rudi's wife Trudi suddenly dies, he travels to Japan to fulfill her dream of being a Butoh dancer. (Film in English, German and Japanese with English subtitled. Very brief nudity during a skirt/dance.)	(open)
April 10	The Monuments Men , 2014 PG-13 118 min. Roger Kragt An unlikely World War II platoon is tasked to rescue art masterpieces from Nazi thieves and return them to their owners.	Barb Mendison
May 8	Philomena , 2013 PG-13 98 min. Elizabeth Deibert A world-weary political journalist picks up the story of 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.	Dirk & Diane Brinkmeyer

Adult Christian Education Fall Plans

Over the summer the class on various Psalms has been well received and the Daniel Plan class went well and will restart in order to give more people the opportunity to experience the class. Starting on Sept. 11 the mid-week study of the Beatitudes that has been led by Debbie Clay will continue under the leadership of Peg Papsch. This class will focus on the Sermon on the Mount and meet on Thursdays at noon

This fall a variety of Sunday adult education classes will begin.



A “Robin Williams Memorial” affinity group that will discuss mental health issues such as those that Robin Williams confronted.

A class on the “with me” principle that was suggested during the visioning process.

“Jesus and the Gospels”—a 36-video lecture series by Luke Timothy Johnson.

The Gratitude four-week classes on “*Shiny Gods, Finding Freedom From Things That Distract Us.*” These classes will be offered Oct. 19 & 26, Nov. 9 & 16.

Time to Gear Up for Fall for CYF*

Make sure to be at Peace Church on Sunday, Sept. 7. We are hosting a Fall Kick-Off event between services. We’ll provide a light breakfast, talk briefly about our class offerings for the fall and invite everyone to visit all the newly decorated rooms, chat with the teachers and learn more about our new approach to learning for grades 3–6. Then on Sept. 14th, classes begin for all children and youth.

In the near future, October 1st, 8th and 15th and November 5th, 12th, 19th, we are planning an evening youth fellowship program which we hope will become an all-church event. Planning is in the beginning stages but we hope that the evening will include classes/activities for all age groups and a guitar contemporary worship experience.

*Children, Youth and Family Team (CYF—the new name for Children’s and Youth Christian Education).

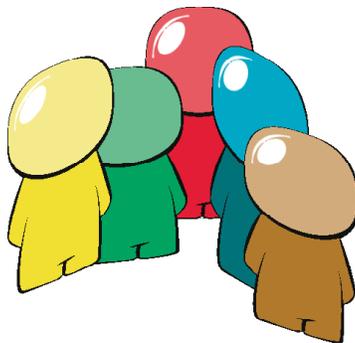


Small Groups at Peace

As Peace grows larger, we want to find ways to involve more folks in smaller groups. To that end, a group of crafters has started, and a group who wanted to shed a pound or two formed to study the Daniel Plan.

Groups can be very short term, as in the one-time Care Cluster gathering, which we did this summer during the Lively Learning hour. Or, a group could form for a quarter, as the two Women’s Bible study groups did.

I’ve been thinking about groups called “ANYBODY WANT TO?” As in: ANYBODY WANT TO go out to dinner (or lunch or breakfast) once a month? Or ANYBODY WANT TO go for a walk on the beach at sunset? Or ANYBODY WANT TO go for a banana split? You get the idea. Let’s make up some groups for getting to know each other better. Send your ideas to Emily Miller (egmiller1126@gmail.com) and we’ll put some on paper and let folks sign up.



The Peaceful News is published quarterly by:

Peace Presbyterian Church
12705 Florida 64
Lakewood Ranch, Florida 34212
941-753-7778

www.PEACEpcusa.com

Pastor: *Elizabeth Deibert*

Editor: *Diane Brinkmeyer*

Graphic Design: *Peter Miller*

Photos: *Neil MacQueen*