

# PEACE MEMORIAL

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church *Newsletter*

LENT/EASTER 2013



*The Scott Family - Bob, Linley  
and daughter Emma*

## Welcome to Our New Pastor!

It is with great joy that Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church welcomes The Reverend Bob Scott as our newly called pastor! Bob and his wife, Linley, and family, will be making their way to Clearwater in the next few weeks and settling into their new home, in preparation for Pastor Bob's first Sunday with us on March 3rd.

Many in the PMPC community took the opportunity to meet the Scotts during their visit to Clearwater the last weekend in January. Their time here was a whirlwind of activity, with dinners, receptions, meetings, and even the selection of a new home! The enthusiasm and excitement of the congregation was contagious on that Sunday morning, listening to Pastor Bob's sermon, "The Main Thing."

During the congregational meeting following the service, the vote was unanimous to invite

Pastor Bob and his family to join our church family, as we seek to discern together how God is working in our lives. The congregation was most impressed with his warmth, his energy, and his ability to truly make a connection with us all, from the young children to the young-at-heart. As we look forward to our time together, please keep the Scotts in your prayers as they say their goodbyes to family, friends and their congregation in Palatka, and transition to Clearwater.

The Designated Pastor Nominating Committee needs to be commended for their devotion and faithfulness to the process. Thank you for all who served. Peace Memorial is blessed by your commitment to the future of this church and its ministry.

## OUR MISSION

**Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church is a worshipping community** that, through the love of God in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, uncovers the spiritual gifts of believers, equipping and sending them into the world to share God's love.

Based on the four New Testament Marks of the Church, we are guided to:

**Worship, Connect, Serve & Grow**

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# from the pastor's desk

**To my new church friends and family,**

I'm so glad that I've finally "Found Peace!"

When I first started talking with your Search Committee, I asked: "what's the best thing about your church?" Every member of the PNC answered: "Our members! That's what makes this church so special! The people of this church are truly loving and caring!"

Well, I want you to know that that is exactly what Linley and Emma and I experienced the weekend of the Congregational Meeting! We were overwhelmed and humbled by the warm welcome we received, and I want you to know that I can't wait to get back to Clearwater, and get to work!

My immediate goal is getting to know you. I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible one-on-one, but I also want to meet with all the various committees and groups and ministries of the church, and learn what you do and how you do it. I want to learn about the wider Clearwater community, and I want to know what are the needs and opportunities that you see for our church to better serve the cause of Christ!

We have found a home (1474 Morrow Drive, Clearwater), and my plans are to move down late February. My wife Linley, daughter Emma and son Grayson will move mid-June, once Emma's school year is finished – until then they will be back-and-forth as their schedule permits.

Let me close with the following: On my very first visit to Clearwater back in December – after having been wowed by the Committee and all that I had learned about the church – I went for a walk on the beach in order to ponder and pray: "What was God's will in all this?" As I walked along a simple white shell caught my eye...I picked it up and held it as I walked and talked with God that morning. But soon after, I picked up another... then another...and another...until soon my hands were so full I couldn't hold them all! And in my thoughts and prayers, from then till now, that perfectly describes my feelings about Peace Memorial...I fill as if I have been filled to overflowing, with blessings too many to hold on to!



Since that first day, I have carried my Clearwater Shell in my pocket with me with at all times, I use it as a call to prayer. Holding it in my hand, I have prayed daily for this church, and for myself and my ministry, and for God to make his call as clearly known to both of us, as the waters are on your shores! Let me say how deeply honored and humbled I am by your confirmation of that call. And I promise to continue to carry that shell with me and pray daily for our work and worship together!

*Peace, in deed,*

**PASTOR BOB SCOTT**

## WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a 40-day journey (not counting Sundays!) to focus on God and prepare to remember and celebrate Jesus dying on the cross and rising from the grave to save each of us. Many people decide to "give up" things for Lent to help them remember that Jesus gave his life for us, but you can also "take on" doing good things, just like Jesus did.

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days – like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

**Soup Dinner served in Roebing Hall at 6:00 p.m. Service of Worship, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel.**

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen

In gratitude for the gift of God's love, we seek to live as God desires us to live. Reformation Sunday refocuses Protestants to look to the Bible, Jesus Christ and faith in God alone as the best and most trustworthy guide for our living.

Presbyterians may find it meaningful to give something up for Lent, but it is not required. Some disciples may find a more valuable spiritual exercise in taking something on during Lent—a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity. Whatever spiritual disciplines and preparations are embraced during Lent, they can help us prepare for or renew our baptisms as part of the resurrection celebration at Easter.

short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience, we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever.

## PALM SUNDAY

**Service of Worship, Sunday, March 24 at 10:30 a.m.** Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, a time in the church year when we remember how Christ gave his life in love for the world. As this service opens, the congregation waves palm branches, celebrating Jesus as king. But as the story of the passion unfolds, shouts of praise turn to demands for his crucifixion; he receives a crown of thorns as he is handed over to be mocked and killed.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Service Plans to be Announced, Thursday, March 28.** On Maundy Thursday we remember the new commandment that Christ gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another. We also celebrate the Lord's Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death.

## GOOD FRIDAY

**Service of Worship, Friday, March 29 at 12 noon in the Chapel.** Good Friday is the day

we remember Jesus' crucifixion. The hours of noon to 3 p.m. are particularly significant as these commemorate the time Jesus hung on the cross. It is an especially important time to pray for the church and the world for whom Christ gave his life.

## EASTER SUNDAY

**Service of Worship, Sunday, March 31 at 10:30 a.m. Easter Brunch served at 9:00 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt begins at 9:30 a.m.** The festival of the Resurrection of the Lord (or Easter Sunday) is the center of the Christian year. On this occasion the church joyfully proclaims the good news that is at the very heart of the gospel: that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Join your Peace Memorial Family for a morning of celebration in Roebing Hall. If your children (age 12 and younger) wish to participate in the Egg Hunt, please bring a dozen eggs to share. Activities and food will be provided while the eggs are hidden.

*We gather to listen anew to Christ's call in our lives and to thankfully offer ourselves in response to hearing God's Word.*



*Renew and strengthen your faith during Lent*

# CONNECT

*Opportunities for fellowship and fun to interact with your church family. There are groups for women, men, young families and retired.*

## CONCERT SERIES

**M**usic is a rich part of the heritage of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church. Blessed with an historic building, vibrant stained glass windows, a magnificent pipe organ and concert grand piano and excellent acoustics, Peace Memorial is committed to sharing the joy and beauty of these gifts with the community. This concert series is not a series of sacred music. Rather, it is one way Peace Memorial seeks to give back to our community: by sharing performances of quality music of all genres.

## LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

It's important that the people of Peace Memorial know each other. Please consider participating in a very special ministry at our church - Bread Breakers. Bread Breakers is sharing God's love through a common meal, just as was done in the early churches. It gives us an opportunity in a smaller setting to get to know other members of the congregation we might otherwise only see on Sundays.

Each group tries to meet one time at each house for a shared meal - three meals together

Our church is part of the cultural history and experience of downtown Clearwater.

We welcome both the congregation and community to join us for an afternoon of music. These concerts are an important part of our outreach ministry. We have the chance to extend hospitality to those that visit our church. Many come back to worship with us. The church needs your help in making sure that we are good hosts to the many guests that visit the church for these events.

in four months. Traditionally, the host home provides the main dish, and the other families bring a side dish to round out the menu. The group decides for itself the date, time, and location of the meal. You may also consider an outing to a restaurant, a local park or other special event.

Our community will be strengthened as more and more people join Bread Breakers! If you are interested in joining, please email Siliva Rodriguez at silviar1021@gmail.com.

## PEACE PALS

Peace Pals is a group of friendly, fun loving people who participate in a variety of different events every month around the Tampa Bay area. There are some exciting trips planned for 2013. We would love to have you join us or invite a friend to come along! Here are the latest upcoming events:

•**Tuesday, February 19th** – Armed Forces Museum Tour & lunch

•**Saturday, March 16th** – Lipizzan Trip

## OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI)

OLLI is a program by Eckerd College in St. Petersburg that provides enrichment opportunities for active adults. Held at the church, this partnership offers a series of programs that are an experience in active thought.

- Thursday, February 28th** - Film Noir
- Thursday, March 21st** - Medieval French Cathedrals
- Thursday, April 11th** - Astronomy Secrets

## PEACE LUNCH BUNCH

Looking for some good company and good food? Join us for lunch at 12 noon!

- Thursday, February 14** – Daddy's Grill
- Thursday, March 21st** - TBA
- Thursday, April 18th** - TBA

# SERVE

*We are committed to helping the vulnerable and the stranger in need by showing compassion as Jesus commands us to serve the 'least of these'.*

## MEALS OF HOPE

**T**here is a silent epidemic happening within our country today, and although the reality can be overwhelming, Meals of Hope and its partners are making definite strides in combating hunger and food insecurity here at home," says executive director Stephen Popper.

To a child who is dealing with the stress and insecurity of not knowing how or when they will receive their next meal, a comforting bowl of Macaroni and Cheese or Beans and Rice

(both fortified with soy protein and 21 vitamins and minerals), provides a bit of hope to carry them through another day.

**Peace Memorial is sponsoring a food packing event on Sunday, March 24 following worship.** People of all ages are invited to roll up your sleeves and in the matter of two short hours, pack thousands of meals that will be given to our local food bank, RCS. Invite a friend to volunteer with you!

## PARTNERSHIP WITH WORLD MISSION

Presbyterian World Mission brings God's global family together to heal the wounds of poverty and violence and proclaim God's saving love in Jesus Christ. The year 2012 marked the 175th anniversary of international mission by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. Over the years, Presbyterian missionaries have planted churches, built hospitals, and started schools on every continent. The seeds sown by those missionaries have, in many places, developed into self-sustaining churches and institutions now led by local Christians. In fact, more than 94 million Christians around the world now belong to churches that were founded or co-founded by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) mission workers.

Today, nearly 200 mission co-workers in approximately 50 countries are engaged

in equally vital ministries of sharing faith and working against poverty and violence. Presbyterian World Mission helps Presbyterians offer a witness to Jesus Christ in today's world by sending mission personnel to face the challenges of evangelizing and continuing the historic emphasis of the Church. In collaboration with U.S. Presbyterians and global partners, World Mission inspires, equips and connects communities of mission practice to engage in God's mission: to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, help the most vulnerable—women and children—and promote reconciliation amidst cultures of violence. We invite you to step into the circle of global discipleship with World Mission. Visit [www.presbyterianmission.org](http://www.presbyterianmission.org) to learn more.

## PEACE CAFÉ

Every Thursday evening, the Men's Group of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, along with dedicated volunteers, host Peace Cafe. Together, they provide a hot meal or sandwiches and/or soup and snacks, for approximately 100 of our hungry neighbors. Servers needed the first three Thursdays of the month. Also consider making sandwiches or cookies to share with this group.

have one. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Deacon: Chris Bowers via the church office at (727) 446-3001.

## PACK-A-SACK.

Every week during the school year, Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church participates in this program by packing a weekend take-home "Sack" for 40 students at a local elementary school. Selected by the school's authorities, these students receive healthy food items to help with meals during non school days (August-June). This program is funded in part by the church Deacons and in part by the generosity of individual donors. For more information or to offer to help pack the sacks, please contact Deacon Carlos Rodriguez by calling the church office.

## COLD NIGHT SHELTER

When evening temperature's drop below 40 degrees, Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church volunteers go to work. On these evenings, the adjoining church building becomes base for the Cold Night Shelter, to provide a warm meal and a place to stay for those to might not otherwise



*Join us for a food packing event on March 24 to combat hunger*



*Have a new adventure with your friends at Peace Memorial*

*The Bible is God's living word to us. God's messages to us through the Word are constantly changing as we live our lives. Join us to nourish yourself with God's word and grow in the greater body of Christ.*

## CHURCH WIDE STUDY

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. Consider joining this church-wide book study during Lent to enrich your own biblical knowledge and spiritual growth. In his inspiring book 24 Hours That Changed the World, Adam Hamilton guided us, step by step, through the last day of Jesus' life. Each chapter is designed to help experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death. Whether readers are long-time Christians or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, you are invited to join the author in retracing the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.

## CREATIVE PRAYER

Often prayer is done in solitude and silence. However, why should we not respond to God with joy and delight in praise for all that has been given to us? Look around you, both inside and outside, and enjoy the fullness of God's Holy Spirit - our God who rejoices over us, takes delight in us, and considers us the apple of God's eye.

During the Season of the Lent, the chapel area will be transformed into an area with several prayer stations. These interactive prayer stations

## PRAYER AT HOME

During the Lenten Season, we encourage households to pray together at home each day. If you don't already do so, pray before one meal each day or at bedtime each day or pray the Lord's Prayer together each day (perhaps learning it in the process). Daily prayer can involve using printed devotionals for households of different ages. Young children learn the practice of daily prayer by praying with their parents. Older children often begin to pray on their own when provided a printed guide to be followed for a set period.

There are a couple of ways you can be involved: Join with our Adult Sunday School Class at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning beginning on February 10 in Roebing Hall. Taught with DVD companion to visit the sites in the Holy Land.

Take home a companion devotional which offers 40 days of devotions enabling you to pause, reflect, and dig deeper into scripture.

Start a small group! Pull together a couple of friends and use the devotional as a guide to meet and pray together during Lent. Peace Memorial will provide a copy of the DVD if you would like.

are designed to invite and elicit prayer through the use different tools for praying. The activities evoke new senses out of us in our response to the movement of the Spirit in our lives. We see new things and we hear a new Word from God as we pray in new ways.

You are invited to visit the prayer stations before or after worship in the next few weeks. There will be spaces for contemplative meditation along with areas where you can let your joyfulness bubble forth.

## CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

One parenthetical "children are welcome" will not do the job. Children are not only welcome, but are encouraged to attend. We are trying to make this the common practice at Peace Memorial. In order to accommodate children and families we are need to keep in mind... are the set times of events before bedtime on a school night? are there meals included with programs? can we add children's activities? should we offer nursery care? Family Ministry is so much more than warehousing children during "adult" church. Help us become more inclusive by offering your suggestions and insights - email kftzgerald@peacememorial.org.

## INTERESTED IN JOINING PEACE MEMORIAL?

New Members Classes will be held February 17 and 24 following worship in the parlor. Join us for a time of discussion about the PC (USA) Denomination and the ministries of Peace Memorial. New Members will be received in worship on Sunday, March 3.

## FAREWELL TO LIBBY

Rev. Libby Shannon will be concluding her ministry with us on Sunday, February 24. To show our appreciation to Libby for her time with us these past few months, we are planning a celebration following worship. Please plan to join us for cake and coffee as we celebrate the gifts that Libby has shared with our congregation. Fancy footwear is encouraged.

## CHURCH WORK DAY

Saturday, March 16 at 9:30 a.m. come fellowship and have fun as we tackle some projects around the church. There is something for everyone.

## CHURCH FAMILY COOKOUT

Sunday, March 17 following worship. Bring a side dish or salad to share. Church will provide burgers and hotdogs on the grill. Presbyterian Women will host a Bake Sale for dessert. Bounce House for the kids. Dress casual!

## ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Place an order for Easter flowers by March 17. Call the church office to arrange for flowers in honor or memory of a loved one.

## BRIGHT SUNDAY

Sunday, April 7 we remember loved ones through a unique worship experience that ends with a butterfly release in the garden.

## SPRING FLING

Can you hear the steel drum band already? Save the date for April 27. Details will follow!

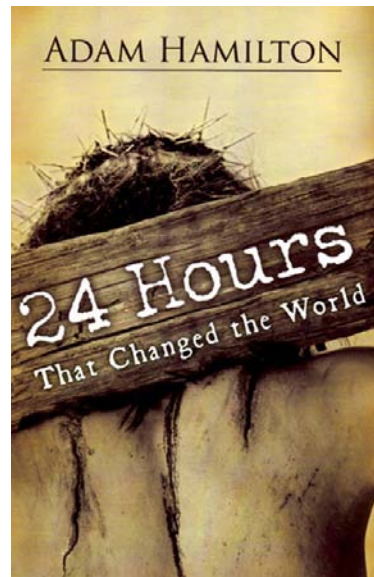
## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 13** - Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm in the chapel
- **February 17** - Dr. Chuck Jones leads worship the first Sunday in Lent
- **February 24** - Rev. Libby Shannon returns to lead worship with us. Sacrament of baptism.
- **March 3** - Rev. Bob Scott joins us for his first Sunday as our new pastor
- **March 10** - Season of Lent continues with Rev. Bob Scott preaching
- **March 17** - Special Service of Lenten Hymns and Readings. Church Family Picnic will follow worship.
- **March 24** - Palm Sunday Service - Holy Week Begins.
- **March 28** - Maundy Thursday Service TBA
- **March 29** - Good Friday Service at 12 noon in the chapel.
- **March 31** - Easter Sunday - Egg Hunt before worship at 9:30 am
- **April 7** - Bright Sunday - a special Sunday of remembrance and celebration of new life.

*The Church is the body of Christ both in its corporate life and in the lives of individual members, and is called to give shape and substance to this truth.*



*Share your time and talent!  
Help lead Children's Enrichment!*



*In his best-selling book, 24 Hours that Changed the World, pastor and popular author Adam Hamilton helped readers relive the one day in history that changed everything.*



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**For more information**

on the ministries of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, or to find out how you can serve, please visit our website, contact the church office or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

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Presbyterian Church**  
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*Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter*

**COME SEE WHAT'S NEW AT PEACE**

God of new beginnings, we are walking into mystery.  
We face the future, not knowing what the days and months will bring us  
Or how we will respond.  
Be love in us as we journey.  
May we welcome all who come our way.  
Deepen our faith to see all life through your eyes.  
Fill us with hope and an abiding trust  
That You dwell in us amidst all our joys and sorrows.  
Thank You for the treasure of our faith life.  
Thank You for the gift of being able to rise each day  
With the assurance of your walking through the day with us.  
God of our past and future, we praise You.



*Come be a part of the new beginnings at Peace Memorial.*