

PEACE MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church *Newsletter*

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012



Together, with God's help, we will worship with more people, grow closer to Christ, connect more with each other, and serve more of those in need.

God Working Through Change

As we embark on Epiphany and a new calendar year, there are always new promises and commitments that we make to ourselves and to others. Peace Memorial is going through our own time of change and fluctuation; as Peace actively seeks a new interim pastor, we are identifying church members to participate and lead the entire church in a mission study.

This study is an opportunity to remind us who we are. We know that we are Presbyterians, dedicated to following Jesus Christ, and the polity of the Presbyterian Church. Yet within that, there is a unique character - a welcoming warmth - that is uniquely Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church. We are more than just "the big pink church downtown".

Changes - and chances - like this don't come around often. Prayerfully, we are taking advantage of the opening that God has made at Peace Memorial. It is a time to refocus, refresh, and remind ourselves and the community who we are and what we are here to do.

There are so many ways that each member, friend, visitor, deacon, elder and child serves at Peace Memorial. Together, with our eyes all focused on the same goals and programs, we are even more powerful disciples for Christ. Together, with God's help, we will worship with more people, grow closer to Christ, connect more with each other, and serve more of those in need. It may be a wild ride, but as we are reminded in Romans 8:31, with God on our side - who can be against us?

This mission study and the changes that come with the transition of ministers are great opportunities. We look forward to hearing from our readers - members, visitors, and friends. Pray about where you are called to serve and seek out Pastor Bill, the elders or deacons. There is a place for everyone; because with God's help and our willing hands and hearts - anything is possible.

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor's Desk	2
Worship at Peace	3
Connect at Peace	4
Serve at Peace	5
Grow at Peace	6
Church News	7

from the pastor's desk

Grace for the Journey

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How did I get here as Transitional Interim Pastor for Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church? From time to time I find myself asking that question. It certainly wasn't something I had ever sought but have found to be an experience of deep joy. Three years ago, when I first began to worship here, I never, in my wildest dreams, could have ever imagined myself one day serving as Interim Minister for Peace Memorial.

What a year this has been. Who could have ever dreamed, much less known any of the dramatic changes that have occurred for any of us. Gail's moving opened the door for Kim to become our new Finance Manager. Gary's resignation opened another door for John to become Facilities Manager. Another door opened for Cara to become Receptionist and office assistant. Upon God's calling Pastor Becky to another ministry our Session invited me to move downstairs and become a Transitional Interim Minister. Knowing that God was clearly leading us in all these transitions, the Session unanimously agreed that the Spirit was leading us to invite Kelly to share God's Grace by inviting her to become Director of Family Ministries. Carol, Paula and Charles have exemplified Grace and Love by their acceptance and welcoming all of us as colleagues in ministry.

In all these transitions God has clearly given us Grace for the Journey of faith together. In all these transitions the ministries of Nurture, Mission and Fellowship have not missed a beat. In addition to the ever-changing face of Peace Memorial, God has called, and the congregation elected, four new Ruling Elders and four new Deacons to serve in the class of 2014.

In times of such change and transition it is not at all unusual for a congregation to lose focus and experience some disarray. The only explanation for such positive and harmonious transition must be that God has given all of us Grace for the Journey both as individuals and as members of the Family of Faith we know as Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Jesus' high priestly prayer in St. John 17 was "that we may all be One as he is One with God". Jesus' promise to us in St. John 14 "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

When we claim the promises of our Lord as recorded by St. John we can always be confident that whatever new doors may open for us as we move into a new year, God will always give us Grace for the Journey.

Grace and Peace,

PASTOR BILL COWFER – Transitional Interim Minister

CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN

On Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, March 4, 2012, we celebrate the beautiful women in the household of God who regularly do beautiful things in love and faithfulness to Jesus Christ. There are women in scripture and women in our congregation who regularly do beautiful things and are remarkable saints in the faith.

This is second Sunday of Lent and assigned lectionary texts direct us to God's covenant with Abraham (Gen. 17) and his exemplary faith (Rom. 4). On this Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, we do well to consider also the story that slips through the cracks: that of Hagar, the other woman in Abraham's life.

Her full story is not featured in the lectionary but it is fitting to consider Hagar's story during Lent, a season of repentance. Remembering this story also provides an occasion to honor Hagar's courage and struggle to survive, to carve out a future for herself and her child with the help of God. Her commitment to survival and flourishing, amid the challenges that beset her, mirrors that of many women around the world to this day, and such commitment is to be celebrated.

We are blessed to have a guest preacher this day lead us in worship - Rev. Dr. Nancy Kahaian now serves as the Transitional Presbyterian for the Presbytery of Tampa Bay.

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

UPCOMING SEASON OF LENT

Lent is marked by forty days (excluding Sundays) of penance. Traditionally, Lent was a time of preparation for Baptism, a time for learning the creeds, the teachings of Jesus, and the disciplines of the Christian faith. Lent is a journey... from the wilderness to Jerusalem to Golgotha... from self-serving to self-giving... from holding on to letting go... from death to life. This year February 22, Ash Wednesday, is the first day of Lent. In traditional services the worshipers are marked on the forehead with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes are made by burning the

palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday. We hope that you will make a special effort to observe Lent this year by joining us in worship. It is a popular trend to give up something for Lent – this practice is not dictated by the Presbyterian Church. We at Peace Memorial suggest that you take something on (for example a new spiritual practice or discipline) that helps to build a stronger relationship with Christ. Please keep an eye out for updates regarding the programs and worship opportunities we will have to help you observe this important season of the church year.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir will be assisting in worship on Sunday, January 29th and February 26th. This group rehearses each Sunday right after worship (around 11:45 a.m.) in the Choir Room. This group is small but mighty and learning to read music. Parents please check with Carol Alexander to get your child involved.

INQUIRER'S CLASSES

Are you interested in learning more about Peace Memorial and the Presbyterian denomination? Sign up for our next Inquirer's Classes to be held on Sundays 2/26, 3/4, & 3/11/12 at 9 am. New members' join in worship with reception after on 3/18/12.

PEACE CONCERT SERIES

Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 p.m. The Peace Concert Series continues with "Romance in the Air" Violinist Olga Caceanova will join pianist Michael Bukhman for a beautiful program of romantic duos and solos for your musical valentine. Ms. Caceanova is a past winner of the Kiev Violin Competition and has toured extensively with the Kremlin Chamber Orchestra. Visit www.PeaceMemorial.org/concerts for the complete concert schedule.

MEMORIAL GIFT

Alfred and Patricia Lewis in memory of Nancy Veghte.



Sanctuary decorated to celebrate the "Baptism of the Lord." Font was draped in blue tulle to remind us of our own baptism.

CONNECT

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

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

On January 20, 2012, the chapter of Center Pinellas of Church Women United will meet at our church for Heritage Day. Breakfast will be served in Roebbling Hall at 9:30 a.m. We encourage all women of Peace Memorial to attend. CWU has just celebrated its 70th anniversary. This is an opportunity for us to socialize with Christian women from other churches and have an exchange of ideas as to ways in which we can live our lives as the Lord has called us to. We support the Least Coin Effort, RCS, and other mission causes such

as Habitat for Humanity, the Young Life Center and Good Samaritan, among others.

It is not necessary to be a card carrying member of CWU to attend. You are welcome and urged to gather with this amazing group of women from all denominational backgrounds for Christian fellowship. Please circle January 20, 2012 on your calendar and start off the New Year on the right foot!

Please contact Fay Wolling if you plan to attend or have further questions.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women have been very busy considering they are celebrating their 90th birthday this year. They are growing stronger and attracting new members.

Presbyterian Women hosted a very successful bake sale last November and have added \$845.00 to our mission fund. Thanks to Dolores Harmon and all who contributed to this very successful effort.

One of their members, Nancy Veighte died in December. Nancy and her family were long time members of our church and she was a part of the Martha Circle.

The 21st Annual Presbyterian Women Presbytery Gathering will be on Saturday, February 18th, 9:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian

Church in Zephyrhills. Transportation will be provided. These gatherings are very lively affairs with a very interesting speaker. Would you like to attend? Let Dorris Folwell know!

The 2012 Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women which will take place July 18-22, 2012 in Orlando, Florida. Registration is now open. If you register by May 15 you will save \$40.00!!

They are in process of making up our budget for next year. A copy of this budget will be presented at Circle meetings for approval.

Presbyterian Women wish the families of Peace Memorial a happy and healthy 2012.



Thanks to all who participated in the church bake sale.

PEACE PALS

There are some exciting trips planned for 2012. We would love to have you join us and invite a friend to come along! Here are the latest upcoming events –

- Trip to Ocala Horse Farm on February 7th at 8:00 a.m.
- Trip to Selby Gardens in Sarasota on March 15th.

PEACE LUNCH BUNCH

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

- January 19 - Columbia Restaurant, 11 Gulf Blvd., Sand Key
- February 16 - Kally K's Steakery and Fishery, 1600 Main St., Dunedin
- March 15 - Rhumba Island Bar and Grill, corner Gulf to Bay and Keene Rd., Clearwater

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI)

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (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.

<http://www.eckerd.edu/olli/about/index.php> or www.PeaceMemorial.org/OLLI

OLLI DATES AT A GLANCE:

Thursday, January 26 - TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Thursday, February 9 - RENAISSANCE ART

Thursday, February 23 - MACBETH

Thursday, March 8 - P.T. BARNUM

Thursday, March 22 - RACHMANINOFF

BUTLER UNIVERSITY CHOIR NEEDS HOSTS

Here is a chance for you to extend the gift of hospitality. From March 10-11th Peace Memorial will host the Butler University Choir. They will sing in worship on Sunday and also perform a concert at 3 p.m. We need hosts to house approximately 60 singers, their director and assistants. Hosts will pick up their guests on Saturday, March 10 in the afternoon and host them for dinner and a comfy night

stay. The next morning the students will need breakfast and transportation back to church. Please help us extend a warm welcome to our guests and volunteer to host! Sign up sheet will be in Roebling Hall on the large music bulletin board – let us know how many individuals you will be able to welcome into your home!

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'.

COLD NIGHT SHELTER

As many of you know we host a Cold Night Shelter when the evening low temperature reaches 40 degrees or lower. Many dedicated members and friends of Peace Memorial are on call to transform the rooms surrounding Peace Café into warm sleeping arrangements for both men and women. The shelter can accommodate up to 63 men and 12 women. Would you like to help this important outreach ministry? Jackets, sweatshirts and sweaters as well as travel-size toiletries are needed. Contact Chris Bowers if you would like to serve on the overnight team of volunteers. Be sure to keep the shelter in your prayers when you see a cold night on the weather forecast.

SANTA VISITS PEACE CAFE

For the guests of Peace Café, Thursday, December 22nd brought more than just a warm meal. Santa took a break from his holiday preparations to stop by and spread a little Christmas joy. Santa and his 'elf helpers' gave each guest a boxed gift of a backpack, warm socks, toothbrush, flashlight and even a couple sweet treats. Everyone was a child again as they talked with Santa. Through his visit, Santa and his helpers spread God's love to our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Santa and his helpers spread God's love to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

WE FEED THE 5000

We have all heard the story a hundred times from the Gospel accounts - Jesus finishes talking with the crowd as his disciples approach him and ask about sending the people home to eat. Jesus says to feed them. The disciples ask him how they are supposed to do this since they have nothing to give and there are 5000 to feed. Jesus tells them to ask around for what food is available. They come back with a couple of fish and a few loaves of bread. Jesus tells them to feed my sheep. They do just this with what they collected and in the end, there is plenty left over after everyone has eaten.

This miracle is brought to mind when you think of the number of hungry we fed this year at Peace Café. We averaged one hundred people for 52 weeks, this comes out to just over 5000 neighbors we were able to feed. We have been able to do this because we were given \$5000.00 in our budget from the

Deacons. We also received donations from the congregation throughout the year to help us with Peace Café. Several restaurants continue to give us food each week to supplement our food sources. The volunteers from our congregation continue to grow each week. Because of all this help we still have funds and food left to assist the Cold Night Shelter. Our freezers are full. Do you see some similarities to the Gospel story?

The Spirit is alive and well at Peace Café and at Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church. Jesus said "Feed My Sheep," we have and continue to do so. When was the last time you were able to feed a large group of people for only a dollar per meal and still have enough left over to feed some unexpected guests? God is good! The Men of Peace thank you for your continued support

GROW

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.

DISCIPLESHIP 4 TODAY

Discipleship 4 Today is Saturday, March 10 at North Lakeland Presbyterian Church. What is Discipleship 4 Today you ask? It is a Presbytery Wide Event designed to inspire participants to grow in faith. There is Opening Worship and Keynote followed by 3 Sessions which you choose out of a variety of options. The discipleship focus provides education for Christian Education, Evangelism Tools, Youth Ministry Ideas, practical help for church leaders and mission opportunities in our area and beyond! This is an event for you to get excited about ministry possibilities and take back good ideas to spark creative work and service at Peace Memorial. Celebrate your Presbyterian identity by joining in this event!

The Keynote will be given by Doug Pagitt - the founding pastor of Solomon's Porch - a

Holistic Missional Christian Community in Minneapolis, MN (www.solomonsporch.com). Doug seeks to find creative, entrepreneurial, generative ways to join the hopes, dreams and desires God has for the world.

The Rev. Landon Whitsitt will preach at the worship service. He is currently the Executive and Stated Clerk of the Synod of Mid-America.

Contact Kelly (KFitzgerald@PeaceMemorial.org) by March 1st if you plan to attend. More information will be available in Roebing Hall or at <http://www.presbyteryoftampabay.com/pdf/events/d4treg.pdf>. Cost is \$20 which includes lunch. We'll take the Peace Memorial bus to curb individual transportation expenses. Child care is provided for an additional \$15.

FEASTING ON THE WORD CURRICULUM

Peace Memorial recently switched curriculum for Adult Sunday School and Children's Enrichment opportunities. Feasting on the Word offers pastors and church educators focused resources for sermon preparation and education. All resources in the Feasting on the Word collection utilize the biblical texts assigned by the Revised Common Lectionary, and for each text, readers will find brief essays on the exegetical, theological, homiletical, and pastoral challenges of the text. It's really a neat compilation and offers resources for all

educational levels - children, tweens, youth, young adults, adults and clergy.

This new curriculum begins with a solid scriptural and theological base for leaders and invites leaders and learners deeper into the rhythm of the church year. It utilizes a common Bible passage for all learners, making it easy for families to learn and live out their faith together. The Nurture Council would like to see people of all ages involved in Christian Education. Be on the look out for an opportunity for you to learn more!



Worship Bags are now available for children to use during the worship service! Designed to enhance the worship experience for children ages 3-12!

EARLY BIRD BIBLE STUDY

For you early risers, you can once again start your Wednesday with Bible Study and a hearty breakfast. The group resumes their meeting on January 4th with a study on Luke. Sign up at the church office!

CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT ADOPTS A PIG

Are you familiar with the Heifer Project? The children at Peace Memorial now are! They voted to raise money to buy a pig. Go to www.heifer.org to learn more and be on the look out for some PIGS around the church. Hopefully you can help them meet their goal.

SERVICE²

Calling all 6-12th graders! There is an exciting new opportunity on the horizon for you. We'll go to worship on Sunday morning - but leave after the Children's Message. We'll then head upstairs to the Youth Room to do a Bible study. Then we're off! Off to the community to do some sort of service project or activity! Put down January 29th as our first Sunday of SERVICE 2! More info will follow!

CHURCH LEADERS NEEDED

Are you interested in becoming more involved in church leadership? You don't have to be an elder to serve on a church council. We are seeking new members to share their gifts. Perhaps you have talents that could benefit one of our working councils. Communications Council works on the newsletter, website and other promotional items from a Public Relations standpoint. Evangelism Council seeks to find new ways to include more members and share the good news of the Gospel with all we contact. Worship Council works with the pastor and music director to coordinate

both Sunday worship and special services throughout the church year. Christian Nurture focuses on the educational ministry of the church and collaborates with the director of family ministries. Property Council works on the maintenance and upkeep of our facility. Finance Council deals with all money issues – money in and money out – and also plans the annual stewardship campaign. Personnel Council supports church staffing issues. Please let an elder know if you would like more information. We would love to have your talents work towards building up the congregational life of Peace Memorial!

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.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Are you looking for the Liturgy, Sound or Ushering Schedule? The upcoming schedules should arrive separately in your mailbox or you can contact the church office for a copy. We greatly appreciate your service to the church in helping Sunday morning worship run smoothly!

TIME CHANGE

Be sure to note that Daylight Savings Time begins on March 11th. Be sure to move your clocks an hour forward before going to bed on March 10th. We don't want to miss you in worship that Sunday morning!

CHURCH CALENDAR

An updated church calendar can be found online at www.PeaceMemorial.org. Be sure to bookmark that site to visit the calendar for up to date information. You may pick up a paper copy of the calendar in the church office. Contact Paula if you would like one mailed to you.

LETTER FROM MODERATOR OF PC(USA)

Visit <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2012/1/6/alive-and-well/> to read a new year's letter addressed to the Presbyterian Church (USA) from the current moderator Cynthia Bolbach.

LECTIONARY TEXT

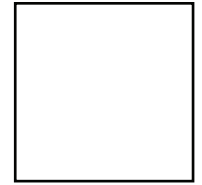
The lectionary is a 3 year cycle of Biblical text that provides a disciplined way to read through the Bible. There are many online resources to help you keep up with your Biblical Study. Visit <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/devotions/> to read the lectionary online, print the lectionary readings, or subscribe to receive the daily lectionary in your e-mail. Contact the church office if you would like a print out mailed to you.

NEW NEWSLETTER

We're sure you've noticed the new format for the Peace Memorial Newsletter. Please be patient with us if you see something missing! Please celebrate with us if you like the change! Either way – please let us know what you think. Comments can be directed towards Julie Bostick, Chair of the Communications Council or Kelly Fitzgerald, Director of Family Ministries. Be sure to keep the church office updated with any events or programs that you would like to share in the next issue of the newsletter. Events can also be shared on the web at anytime!



110 S. Fort Harrison Avenue • Clearwater, FL 33756
www.PeaceMemorial.org • 727.446.3001



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.

.....
(727) 446-3001
www.PeaceMemorial.org
facebook.com/PeaceMemorial
@PeacePresChurch

110 South Fort Harrison Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33756



Changes Abound!

Change can be scary – but it can also be a time for growth and renewal. As you can see the congregation of Peace Memorial is alive and well. We are continuing to grow and change as we seek to meet the needs of the community that surrounds us. We are seeking to find new ways to help you on your journey of faith in both worship and educational opportunities.

Please contact the church office or visit the website to update your contact information. We would love to have your email address in order to send you weekly updates of the opportunities that abound at Peace Memorial. Be sure to share this good news with a friend!

