

PEACE MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 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.

These Are No Ordinary Times

In the church liturgical calendar, we are now in the time called "Ordinal Time": as we count off the weeks from Pentecost until October when we celebrate World Communion, Reformation Sunday and All Saints Day. This period in the church is also referred to as "Ordinary Time", because it is outside celebrations of the specific mysteries of Christ—such as Lent, Easter, Advent or Christmas. This is a time for the church to study specific books in the Bible, or individual saints; that is, to study seemingly ordinary lives.

Yet this time is far from ordinary.

Sure, these days are not focused on the glorious splendor of God, or the powerful winds of the Holy Spirit, or the Son of God who arose from the dead. These ordinary times are much simpler. Yet the call from God should be no less clear.

In fact, God's call should be heeded with renewed passion; God's call to serve others, share God's gifts, love thy neighbor, convey hope — these are no less needed in ordinary days than at Christmas or Easter.

So, together, let us make these days extraordinary.

Let our lives be an example of Christ's love, our church be a beacon of comfort and hope,

our prayers be ever in God's ear for those who have no voice of their own. As you go into each sunny summer day, be thankful for each blessing — a roof over your head during a rainstorm, food on your table (plus leftovers for another meal), spare change jingling in your pocket... Let us not take anything for granted. And as you count each blessing, share a little with someone in need of that very thing.

For it is only with so many ordinary days that the special days shine brighter. Otherwise, if each day were equal, even a special day would be mundane.

These days at Peace Memorial are far from ordinary. We have been without a permanent pastor for nearly a year, have celebrated the passing of dear friends, and welcomed babies into the world. Yet still we worship and study together, teach our young children and serve our community, celebrate our graduates, and honor lifetime commitments to God's church.

We are growing in Christ, and seeing the Holy Spirit move in our midst. God is making the tumultuous: calm, and the ordinary: extraordinary. We are not ordinary people, nor are these ordinary times, because together, with God's help we are making them extraordinary.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Peace Memorial Family:

In the past few weeks during worship we have talked about what it means for Christ to have ascended into heaven and for each of us to have received the Holy Spirit. God has made space for us to minister and given us the power to "speak" in other languages - even if we have to speak with our actions more so than our words. Love is the universal language that needs no translation.

In the second chapter of Acts, Peter declares that with the resurrection, ascension and giving of the Spirit, God has ushered in a new age -- an age where the prophecies of old are fulfilled -- specifically for him the familiar prophecy from Joel 2:28-29, "Then I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit."

At the Session meeting in May, I asked the elders to write down what dreams and visions God was giving them -- what hopes and prophecies did they have for their church going forward. When I collected the sheets of paper, I was amazed to see that as unique and individual as we all are, the elders had all received very similar and complimentary inspirations. I have taken those and have woven them into the verses from Joel for us to read and ponder as we seek God's directions in our own lives and ministries here at Peace:

The dreams and visions for Peace Memorial in 2012, adapted and rewritten in the pattern of Joel 2:28-29

'In the days to come, it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon Peace Memorial, and your sons and your daughters shall learn bible stories and sing with gladness as they witness the joy of giving to those less fortunate,

And your young men and women shall bring their families here and they and their children shall be welcomed and find friends for themselves while they learn about their God,

And your old women and men shall have creative activities for keeping their mind's sharp and their dignity strengthened,

And even the business leaders from downtown and the Beaches will use our church and receive inspirations that challenge them to grow.

The ministries of the saints who established this church shall be honored and continued, for their spirits were strong and their love was great. Their personal examples will not be forgotten but retold to those who are welcomed and received into this body and everyone at Peace will have a job to do and a gift to give.

¹⁸ Even upon those who come here with nothing, both men and women, be they Mexican or from the islands, they too will be given food and clothing, education and training in English, and they shall tell others in need that the Spirit of the Lord is alive and well and honored at Peace Memorial."

I hope that we can all see a bit of ourselves and our own dreams and visions for Peace reflected back to us in these verses.

So Get Moving and God Bless!

CLAUDIA HENDERSON – Temporary Pastor

WELCOME GUEST PASTOR, REV. CLAUDIA SANOW HENDERSON

Rev. Claudia Henderson began her journey with Peace Memorial, by leading worship on May 20, 2012, and preaching a message about "Making Space". In her role as temporary pastor, Claudia will lead worship through much of the summer, as well as help to oversee office staff, make hospital visits and be available to deliver the sacraments.

Claudia has been the Chaplain at Westminster Suncoast, a Presbyterian non-profit organization dedicated to the needs of senior adults, for over 5 years. In her previous careers, she did strategic planning and M&A

work for GTE/Verizon as well as running her own consulting firm. She worked on an MBA at The University of Tampa and a Masters in Biblical Studies at USF before graduating from Louisville Presbyterian Theology Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky with her MDiv. She was ordained by The Presbytery of Tampa Bay in 2007.

Claudia has one son, William, who graduated from H. B. Plant High School on June 1 and will be attending the University of Florida this summer.

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

THE CHILDREN SHALL LEAD US

The children shall lead us in worship on **August 12th at 10:30 am.** That Sunday will be the culmination of Third Annual Children's Summer Drama and Music Camp at Peace Memorial. This year, the children (ages 7-16) along with enthusiastic youth and adult volunteers to help 'backstage', will perform "The Lost Boy: Jesus in the Temple".

This is the story of Jesus as a boy, as told in the Gospel of Luke. Mary and Joseph lose track of their twelve year old son, and find him in "his father's house" impressing the teachers

with his understanding of God. The message in this musical tale is sure to comfort anyone who has ever been a parent, child, or even those who have misplaced Jesus for a while.

The deadline to register for the camp is July 15th. Camp begins with a read-through on Sunday, August 5th, and continues Monday - Saturday, 9:00 am - Noon. Cost is \$25.

More details and the schedule can be found at www.PeaceMemorial.org/SummerCamp, or contact Carol Alexander.

LEND YOUR VOICE THIS SUMMER

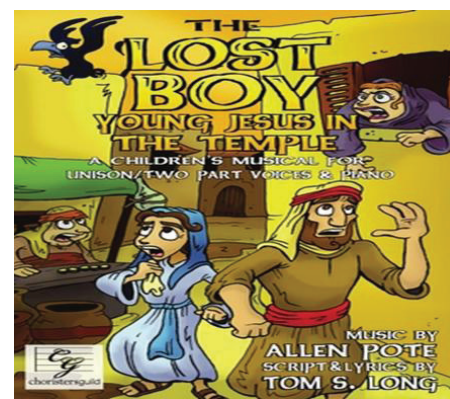
Lend your voice this summer with the Chancel Choir on a summer break, voices are still needed to help lead worship. All are welcome to participate in summer choir, which will be held the first Sunday of the month - **July 1 and August 1.** Rehearsal begins Sunday morning at 9:30, prior to worship. See Carol Alexander or a Chancel Choir member with any questions.

MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Harold Updike Man of the Year Award will be presented on **June 17th** at 10:30 a.m., during worship, to a dedicated man in our congregation.

JUNE BAPTISM

On **June 24, 2012**, during the 10:30 am worship service, we will celebrate the baptism of Sarah Teresa (Tess) Meyer, daughter of Keith and Nancy Meyer, and sister to Laura.



*The Children's Drama
and Music camp at Peace
Memorial will be held August
5th- 12th. Deadline to
register is July 15th.*

CONNECT

In every place and at all times we are committed to being the face of Jesus Christ to boldly share His story of salvation with family, friends and neighbors.

EVANGELISM IS NOT A SCARY WORD

What do you think of when you hear the word Evangelism? Do you think of going door to door? Or standing on the street shouting: "Repent, or Else!"? Well, the truth is that Presbyterians generally do not approach evangelism with these bold actions. Yet, does that mean we should not be bold?

There are many ways we can share the good news of Jesus Christ and participate in the church's ministries of sharing the love of Jesus Christ through word and deed. It is, after all, what we as Christians are called to do.

We can start by inviting someone to church, and making them feel welcome. Let's take a fresh look at how we each welcome new friends and visitors - stepping outside our comfort zone - to extend a hand as Christ would, if He stood at the doors of our church, or sat in our pews during worship.

So invite someone to church next Sunday. Be gracious about it without pushing. Be warm and welcoming. Treat them with Christ's

kindness, warmth, understanding and love. (Were you once a first time time guest who was welcomed this way?)

The Evangelism Council is planning a special service for "Evangelism Sunday" (on September 9th, also Rally Day). In preparation for this, think about the people you know who might benefit from being surrounded by a group of people who care for them. Consider someone who is going through a difficult time and might need some encouragement.

Pray. Ask God to lead you. Then be bold and extend an invitation. Getting people through the doors may be the biggest step. But if we are bold, God can do great things.

You are an important part of the Evangelism equation at Peace Memorial. Your faith equips you to be an evangelist. Listen for God's call to you share the good news. As Peace Memorial's guiding principle states "...we are committed to being the face of Christ to boldly share His story of salvation ..." Be Bold!

REV. DAVID LOLENG LEADING WORSHIP JULY 29TH

With a sermon title "What is God Up To?" and a theme of evangelism, no one will want to miss worship on Sunday, July 29th, when it will be led by guest Rev. David LoLeng, Associate for Evangelism for PC USA.

A graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary, Rev. David Loleng has over 20 years of ministry experience in Presbyterian Churches, most recently as a pastor in a large Presbyterian Church in Southern California for nearly 9 years. He was called to be the Associate for Evangelism for the PC (USA)

General Assembly Mission Council in January of 2010. He is co-author of the Engage Resource and Engage Online Training Course. Rev. Loleng has presented at conferences, camps, synods, presbyteries, and churches nationally about evangelism, discipleship, missional ministry and culture. Rev. Loleng is married and has two young children. His hobbies include book collecting, and taking long walks...to the refrigerator.



The Esther and Martha Circles of Peace Memorial's Presbyterian Women, represent many generations of faithful service to Christ.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN GATHERING

The 2012 Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will take place **July 18-22, 2012 in Orlando, Florida.**

Registration is now open. Contact Dorris Folwell for details.

PEACE PALS

A small group of friendly, fun loving people who participate in a variety of different events every month. Events are primarily targeted at retired or 55+ individuals.

•**Family Movie Night, June 13th** - at 6:30pm "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" will be presented

in the church's movie room, upstairs, near the children's enrichment room. Join us at O'Keefe's on Fort Harrison Ave at 5:00 pm for a Dutch Treat Dinner, the enjoy Greek pastries during the movie. Sign up in Roebing Hall. Free.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Each year, an Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women is conferred upon an individual in recognition of faithful service in some area of church work. During worship on May 13th, Presbyterian Women recognized Harriette Barber for her service to the community and church.

BEING A MISSION CHURCH

Did you know that Peace Memorial is a mission church? A giving church? You may have 'felt' it in the atmosphere during worship or in Fellowship in Roebling Hall, but there is also proof. The numbers tell us so.

Peace Memorial gives more than 10% back to the missions of the church. This is in large part due to the foresight of the members who God called, years ago, to give generously at their passing to set up an endowment for Peace Memorial. The interest off of this initial gift (we don't spend the principal investment)

allows Peace Memorial to invest in missions such as Peace Cafe, RCS Food Bank, Isaiah's Inn, Beth-el farmworkers Ministry, and more.

All of these missions allow us to follow God's call to serve others. As in Matthew 25: 40 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Each church member and visitor should feel proud that we are a giving church, that returns the blessings of God back to God's people who need them.

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'.

HOMELESS GIVE BACK TO PEACE MEMORIAL

Thank you to all the many hands and hours and effort put forth by all those who keep our wonderful historic church in downtown Clearwater in good repair.

Countless hours are donated by numerous church members towards general repair, house cleaning, gardening and more - to make Peace Memorial the beautiful place it is for worship, fellowship and ministry.

We would like to extend a special thanks to a group of "Homeless" who have given back to Peace Memorial by providing labor to re-mulch and repaint around the church grounds. These individuals are regular attendees at Peace Café's Thursday night meal. To express their gratitude for these meals, they have volunteered time and labor

to assist in various repair and maintenance projects at the church.

Thanks and blessings to them for this gift. Our church is a better place because of their efforts.

Special acknowledgement also goes to Carlos Rodriguez, who has become a local 'Picasso' by all the painting he has done around the property. What a difference it has made in the appearance!

With an old historic property, there are always numerous small and easy projects that need to be done. If you would like to help us in tackling some of these projects, please contact Elder Scott Tyler or Facilities Director John Hooker.



RCS Needs Peanut Butter: this protein-rich cupboard staple is running low on the Food Bank shelves. Please bring a couple jars to church next Sunday for RCS Food Bank.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR HONDURAN CHILDREN

The International Mission Partnership Committee of the Tampa Bay Presbytery is planning a shipment of goods to Honduras, primary for children.

During the month of May and first two weeks in June, our Global Mission Committee will be accepting donations for the Honduras Children Fund. Bins are located in Roebling Hall.

Education is the most important tool to overcome poverty. Please share your resources with these children.

Peace Memorial will be adding to this shipment and is requesting donations of the following items:

- Notebooks and paper
- Spiral notebooks
- Crayons
- Children's scissors (round tip)
- Chalk and chalk erasers
- Pencils, erasers and pencil sharpeners
- Colored pencils
- Rulers that include metric
- Construction paper
- Plastic storage boxes for school supplies

Please contact Silvia or Carlos Rodriguez with any questions: (727) 953-7297

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.



- Bradford family joyfully celebrating their graduates.
- Clapp Scholarship recipients graduating from Eckerd College beam proudly as Peace celebrates them and their achievements.

CEDARKIRK: A WALK IN THE WOODS FOR ALL AGES

Owned by the Presbyteries of Tampa Bay and Peace River, Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center calls itself "A Place Apart". For those who have walked along the pine needle strewn paths, shared a campfire or a cabin, or read the Bible in the woods, you know that God dwells in this place.

The goal of this camp in Lithia, FL is to provide developmentally appropriate activities for all ages, the opportunity to build lasting relationships with peers, and the joy of

worshiping together in Bible studies and daily gatherings. At Cedarkirk, you have the opportunity to discover God and yourself. If you've not yet visited Cedarkirk, consider doing so this summer.

If you have any questions or would like to receive a 2012 summer camp brochure, visit www.cedarkirk.org, email the camp office at camps@cedarkirk.org or call the friendly office staff (813) 685-4224 ext.1.

PEACE MEMORIAL MEN'S GROUP TO START UNIQUE STUDY

When I first met Danny, he said, "Preacher you need to know that I'm an atheist. I don't believe the Bible. I don't like organized religion. And I can't stand self-righteous, judgmental Christians."

In spite of Danny's avowed atheism and my devout Christian beliefs, we became close friends. Over the next year Danny and I engaged in numerous conversations about God, religion, and faith. During that time Danny softened his stance on atheism. One day, after a long conversation, he announced with a laugh, "I've decided to upgrade from an atheist to an agnostic." Several months later Danny said, "I've had an epiphany; I realize that I don't reject Christianity. Instead, I reject the way intolerant Christians package Christianity." A few weeks after that conversation, Danny said, "Martin, you've just about convinced me on this religion stuff. So I want to know- what's the least I can believe and still be a Christian?"

What's the least I can believe and still be a Christian?" What a great question! This little book represents my best effort to answer that question. Part 1 presents ten things Christians don't need to believe ... Part 2 presents Ten things Christians do need to believe... Like Danny, many people in the twenty first century hunger for an alternative

expression of Christian faith that's different from the judgmental and narrow-minded caricatures they see on religious television and in the news. This book offers an alternative...

Preface from What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian? By Martin Thielen

Beginning on **Saturday, July 7th at 8:30 am**, the Peace Memorial Men's Group will begin a unique 10-week study event based on this engaging new book about mainline and moderate Christianity.

You can help us prepare for this dynamic 10-week experience in the following ways: pray for this important event, invite your friends to attend, and purchase copies of What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian? prior to our first meeting in July. The entire male membership of Peace and their friends are invited to attend. The series will continue every Saturday morning through September 8th, 2012. **All classes will be held in the Peace Café, Saturday mornings from 8:30 am – 9:45 am.** Please contact Bill Trautwein at (727) 463-6916 with any questions.

A GRADUATION MILESTONE

On May 6, Peace Memorial recognized and celebrated its graduates. Two Bradford siblings graduated from high school, and 5 recipients of Clapp Scholarships graduated from Eckerd College. All of our graduates were celebrated in worship and during Fellowship hour in Roebing Hall.

BIBLE STUDIES SUMMER BREAK

The Adult Bible studies will be taking a break for the summer. (See above for the Men's group study). **Adult classes will resume September 9th.** Visit the website calendar at www.PeaceMemorial.org for an update on the new curriculum.

PEACE HOSTING CRU THIS SUMMER

Since mid-May, students and staff involved with Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) ministries on their college and university campuses have been meeting at Peace Memorial as part of the Clearwater Beach Summer Project (CBSP).

For over 15 years, students from across the country (mostly TN, KY, SC, and NC) have been coming to CBSP to learn more about their own walks with the Lord, to gain ministry skills for use back on campus and for a lifetime, and to develop both a greater heart for those who don't know the Lord as well as a Biblical philosophy of evangelism. This year, 30 students and 18 full-time campus ministers with Cru are here – the students

have jobs in the community (from Surf Style to Cap'n Memo's Pirate Cruise) and are involved in various ministry activities at night and on the weekends.

On Monday nights, the main teaching meeting takes place in Roebling Hall, and on Thursday nights, the men and women split up – the men to dive into a study on the life of Samson, and the women to discuss what it looks like to live out the gospel in their lives. Cru is incredibly grateful for Peace's willingness to partner with them. Please pray that they would continue to look to Christ as their source of life, and that they would leave this summer knowing God more (John 17:3). For more information, visit www.cru.org.

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.

HAPPENING AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

The 2012 Evangelism and Church Growth Conference will be held July 30 – August 2, 2012 in St. Pete Beach, FL. Five of the ministries of the Evangelism and Church Growth area will host their individual conferences, while sharing group meals, worship, and plenary speakers with the other conferences. www.ECG2012.org

The 220th General Assembly Meeting is in Pittsburgh, PA on June 30 – July 7, 2012. Please pray for the representatives of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay (of which Peace Memorial is a member), who will be traveling to the meeting. To follow what's happening at General Assembly, including live, streaming video, visit www.pc-biz.org

RALLY DAY - SAVE THE DATE

On Rally Day we share opportunities to worship, connect, serve and grow at Peace Memorial. Learn about the church's missions and service and the ways you can get involved in the life of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church. All are welcome - this is a great day for visitors and members alike to learn about all that is happening within - and outside of - Peace Memorial's big pink building.

Please join our "Rally" and sign up to get involved -- see you in Roebling Hall immediately following worship on **September 9th!**

IN MEMORIAM

With prayers of peaceful rest for our departed members and memories that bring joy for their families and friends, we remember:

- Alice McManus Loeffler
- Wilma Krentzman

CHURCH BUILDINGS CLOSED DURING JUNE

Both church buildings will be closed to be tented for termites **June 18 - 23**. No one will be allowed in the buildings at that time. Contact the church office in advance, or check the website for emergency contact information.

PITCH - IN SUNDAY

Join us for "PITCH - IN SUNDAY" on **August 19th, 2012**. Come and join our PEACE Family for a fun lunch: hot dogs, chips, and watermelon, immediately following worship in Roebling Hall. Find out more about the great stuff going on at Peace Memorial.

Please RSVP/Sign-up in Roebling Hall or call the church office.



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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**
110 South Fort Harrison Avenue
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CELEBRATING LIFE!

In recent weeks, the Peace Memorial family said farewell to longtime dedicated church members and hello to new little Sisters in Christ.

Alice Loeffler and Wilma Krentzman (pictured) were welcomed into the heavens to rest with their Lord. Newly arrived in the world: **Baby Ellis Amelia Frandsen** (pictured with big sister, Emory), daughter of our own Kelly Fitzgerald, and her husband, Mike Frandsen; and **Baby Sarah Teresa (Tess) Meyer**, daughter of Keith and Nancy Meyer, baptised on June 24th.



Say a prayer for these Sisters - for the lives they lived and touched and the joy they brought - and will bring - to us all. We are blessed by each of them.