

PEACE MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church *Newsletter*

APRIL/MAY 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.

Celebrate Easter With Peace Memorial

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.

It is said that every Sunday is a little Easter. Easter Sunday is something like the keystone of an arch – the top and center stone upon which all the other stones lean and depend – both in terms of its theological significance and its relation to other events in the Christian year. Theologically speaking, the faith we claim and the life we live depend on the affirmation, celebration and proclamation of Christ's resurrection.

For Western Christians (Catholics and Protestants) the date of Easter is the first Sunday that comes after the first full moon that occurs on or after March 21 (the Spring Equinox) – occasionally shifted to the following Sunday, when the original date happens to coincide with the Jewish Passover. This computation means that Easter

always occurs sometime between March 22 and April 25, inclusive. Easter is not simply the miracle of a dead person raised from the grave, but a celebration of power that can shatter death in order that people can freely serve the God of life. In the resurrection of Christ, God's awesome purposes were on display, revealing a radically new world of peace and harmony and equality and mutuality, about which we can only dream.

We hope that you can join us as we celebrate the Resurrection on Sunday, April 8th at 10:30 a.m. A church-wide brunch and Easter egg hunt will precede worship at 9:00 a.m. in Roebling Hall.

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 clerk's desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Peace Memorial Family:

I have stood before you twice now, at the start of worship, to share updates on Peace Memorial's search for a new pastor and head-of-staff. While we have had some proverbial bumps in the road during this process, I have every confidence in the membership and leadership of Peace Memorial.

As those present in worship on March 18th heard, I shared an apology from Rob Allen of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) for the unfortunate missteps in communication during earlier phases of the transition process. The COM apologized for any of its actions that may have caused anxiety and reinforced that COM acted with integrity in all matters relating to leadership at Peace Memorial. I pray now that we will be able to put behind us the missteps, anxiety and frustrations that have taken place. COM and the Executive Presbyter are committed in their support of our ongoing search process. It is most important that we work together to move forward, listening for God's voice to lead us to find and support a new leader.

During its March 19th stated meeting, Peace Memorial's Session decided on specific next steps in the search for a new pastor. Church leaders discussed several options, as recommended by the Presbytery. I wanted to share with you their most recent decision, which comes in two parts: **First, we will seek a Temporary Pulpit Supply Pastor.** The Session approved a job description that includes a 25-hour work week and responsibilities focused on leading worship and some administration. The term of the Temporary Pulpit Supply Pastor will be until July 31, 2012, renewable in 30-day increments as needed. The person in this temporary position will be expected to lead worship and preach on Sundays, while we seek a more permanent pastor.

The Presbytery will offer a recommended slate of candidates (with active participation from our Executive Presbyter, Nancy Kahaian), to the Personnel Committee. Personnel will then review and select a candidate to be approved by the Session. This leads to the second part of the Session's decision: **to seek a Designated Pastor.** This is a new option for Peace Memorial. This requires the creation of a Designated Pastor Nominating Committee (DPNC), which will have to be elected by the Congregation. (Stay tuned for details on when a Congregational Meeting will be held to elect this group.) The DPNC will then work with the Presbytery to seek and review candidates to serve as Designated Pastor. This position is for a full-time pastor who will serve a term of 2 years. During this 2-year term, we will review the relationship, and at the end of the term, there will be an option to call this person as our installed pastor.

Confused? **Let me summarize:**

1. Right away, we'll be looking for someone to preach on Sundays through July. (Personnel Committee will work with the Presbytery to seek a Temporary Pulpit Supply Pastor.)
2. The Congregation (yes, you!) will elect a Designated Pastor Nominating Committee (DPNC) who will search for a new designated pastor. He or she serves for 2 years. If they are a good fit for Peace Memorial, we can invite them to become our permanent pastor.

I realize it's a lot to take in, and our transition is not yet over. Please pray for the church, our leadership, and the DPNC members - everyone involved in seeking new leadership. In all things, keep in mind that God has a great plan for this church. We need only to listen for where He is calling us.

If you have further questions about the process to this point, these decisions, or the next steps, please direct them to me. If you would like to serve on the DPNC, please let Rebecca Futral-Anderson, Beth Daniels, or me know that you'd like to be considered. We have been tasked by our fellow Session Members to provide the Session with a slate of DPNC candidates to be approved by the Session and ultimately by you.

In Christ's Service,

DAN JOHNSON – Clerk of Session

MUSIC ENRICHES WORSHIP

A good worship service is made of many parts: prayer, scripture, congregational responses, other spoken liturgy, preaching and music—hymns, anthems, solos, instrumental music, sung responses. Without music, worship is all about the words—left brain, mental activity. Music adds another element—it engages our right brain, our emotions, sometimes in a way that is unexpected, or we don't understand. An unfamiliar hymn can leave us feeling unsettled, uncomfortable, left out somehow... while an old familiar hymn releases all kinds of good endorphins, engaging not only our minds, but our spirits, souls and bodies. New hymns, accepted with

an open mind and learned, can give us new ways of expressing ideas and feelings. Here are the opening words of a hymn by Thomas Troeger about how music adds to worship:

For Remembered Music Sounding
For remembered music sounding
When the last note fades away
And our hearts are left abounding
With new confidence to pray

May our worship at Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church continue to engage our heart, mind, and soul as we seek to grow closer to God.

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

CONCERT SERIES A SUCCESS

With the beautiful sounds of the Butler University Chorale, the 2011-12 concert series draws to a close. Peace Memorial should be proud of the variety and quality of concerts presented: from jazz to classics and singers to instrumentalists. Our members and the community greatly enjoyed these musical offerings.

The series is an important ministry for Peace Memorial. Through it, we share our inspiring sanctuary, fine acoustics, and instruments. People are uplifted by the universal language of music. As one guest commented, "Where else can I hear such good music when I can only afford to put a couple dollars in the plate?"

Thanks to faithful Peace Memorial members, with their contributions of funds and talent, the Concert Series is a true cultural gem in Clearwater. Here are just a few of the jobs done to accomplish each successful concert: planning and hiring the groups, publicity, chancel set-up, ushering, sound system, receptions, and clean-up. Stay posted for a possible bonus concert in April! To be involved with this program, contact Beth Daniels about how you might help with this vital mission.

Bookmark www.PeaceMemorial.org/Concerts for next year's schedule.

WELCOMING VISITORS

The Evangelism Council works hard to organize a ministry for church visitors, but you are an important part of the equation. The ministry of greeting guests in worship requires sensitivity.

The visitor who arrives early and begins by looking around is asking to be engaged in conversation. Say something like "Hi, My name is Frank. I don't believe we've met." This won't offend the long-time member who you've never met. It is also the perfect opening for the newcomer with questions.

The visitor who makes a beeline for the pews without making eye contact if at all, should not be stopped and made to talk. Someone may not quite be sure they want

to be in church yet, and so may not be ready for a conversation on their first visit.

The goal is to balance a genuine welcome with not wanting to overpower visitors. We do not do this in order to grow a church. We do this because hospitality is part of who we are as Christians. Sunday is the Lord's Day and all who come should be welcomed as if we are welcoming Christ.



Concert Series reaches out to many members of the community – not just church members!

CONNECT

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

MEN'S GROUP STUDIES PRAYER

The Men's Group is a source of mission and ministry at Peace Memorial. Though they often work behind the scenes, the group is active in many facets of church life from Peace Café to fellowship meals. They meet once a week on Saturday mornings for study and prayer.

They are currently using a DVD-assisted workbook, "When God's People Pray", produced by the same group that put together "The Bible in 90 Days." They explore the ways that God answers Prayer. The value of consistent prayer is not that God will hear us, but that we will hear God. One can observe that unbelievable and unexplainable blessings

can come from Prayer.

Prayer crosses religious and cultural boundaries and is the cornerstone of the spiritual life of Christians and non-Christians alike. In experiencing prayer, the community is given insights into the power of prayer to create change. This group has a vision that a vibrant prayer group can and should become a central ministry of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church. Look forward to more information about how you can join and offer your support to this powerful spiritual practice of our church community. If you would like to be involved please contact Larry Powell, Dan Johnson, or Bill Trautwein.

GROWING ADULT MINISTRY AT PEACE MEMORIAL

The "baby boomer" generation is quickly becoming the largest older adult population in world history. The importance of a strong Adult Ministry in Presbyterian congregations increases with each passing year. That is why we should focus on expanding horizons for older adults. The success of our work will have a huge impact on the life of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church.

What does it mean to age successfully? Research and evidence support the conclusion that our response to life events is usually more important to our sense of well-being than the events themselves. Though each of us have limited control over the challenges that come our way, we can

maintain and even improve our quality of life by the choices we make and the spirit we bring to those choices. There is no denying the difficult issues that often come with aging. But as one looks ahead into the future, knowledge is power!

And remember: there is good news about aging. It is too easy to focus just on the challenges of growing older. The good news about aging is that maturity brings certain gifts. As you face the concerns of your own aging, or the aging of someone you love, it is good to recognize these gifts in yourself and your congregation and put them to work for you. Make a new connection with our congregation today!



Claire Bernius was recently recognized during worship for her years of dedication to the choir!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN GATHERING

Join more than 2,000 Presbyterian women (and a few men!) from around the world in Orlando, FL at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, July 18–22, 2012. The theme of the 2012 Gathering is "River of Hope," based on Psalm 46:4–5. If you register by May 15 you will save \$40.00!! Contact Dorris Folwell for more information.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI)

This program encourages the development of a vibrant learning community for older adults. Upcoming programs at Peace Memorial: Thursday, May 3 – Program on Will Rogers Learn more at www.eckerd.edu/olli/

PEACE PALS

A group of friendly, fun loving people who participate in a variety of different events every month. New friends welcome!

•**Wednesday, April 18**- Coffee Concert at Ruth Eckerd Hall entitled "Celebrate Broadway"

•**Sunday, May 27**- Frances Wilson Playhouse to see "Pajama Game"

PEACE LUNCH BUNCH

This group searches for good food and great company! Join them on Thursday, April 26th at 12 noon for lunch at 3 Oaks Cafe for the last lunch of the season!

PACK-A-SACK 4 KIDS

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church joined the Pack-A-Sack 4 Kids program sponsored by the United Methodist Church in April 2011. The purpose of the program is to provide snacks for the weekend to children in the public school system that receive free lunches during the week but have no food during the weekend. The program here at Peace Memorial started with 10 kids from Ponce de Leon Elementary School and has continued to increase. We are currently sponsoring 40 kids! The ministry is funded by the Deacons and Men's Group. In addition, 18 people have each committed to sponsor

a child this year for just \$16 a month! There is always room to grow this program. Pray how you can become involved in this effective community outreach!

A note received from the administration at Ponce De Leon Elementary School: "Dear Peace Memorial Church, Thank you so much for providing weekend snacks for children in need at Ponce de Leon Elementary School! The Pack-A-Sack program has been such a blessing for these students and their families. We are so thankful for your generosity and willingness to reach out to those in need. Thank you so much!"

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 SUCCESS

The Cold Night Shelter season has officially come to an end. We were only open 4 nights, that's right 4 nights! Last year we were open 11 nights and 14 nights the year before that! That doesn't mean your time was not appreciated! In just 4 nights, a total of 111 people have given of their time for a total of 396 volunteer hours! You provided meals, comfort and a warm, safe place for 259 people. The Deacons at Peace Memorial appreciate all of your efforts and prayerful support.

Even during the warm months ahead, we appreciate your continued donation of clothing and personal care items. That includes jackets and blankets during the colder weather, but on an on-going basis,

people request a better pair of shoes when their pair has holes in it, a clean t-shirt, a pair of jeans, even socks and underwear! When you clean out your closets, replace your sneakers, or see a great bargain on both men's and women's socks and underwear – we pray you feel inspired to make donation! Know that your gifts are greatly needed and immensely appreciated by those we serve!



Ponce de Leon Elementary school's sign thanked Peace Memorial for the Pack-A-Sack program

HOMELESS SOLUTIONS UPDATE

Recently you have seen Peace Memorial raising funds for Homeless Solutions of Clearwater. What is this group exactly? It is an organization that began around a dinner table here at Peace Café.

Living as a homeless person means isolation. All focus is put on the survival of the individual. Homeless Solutions seeks to offer a place to transition back into the "we" mentality. The question of survival for "me" is changed to how are "we" going to do this?

With the help of Peace Memorial Members, approximately 25 Homeless people have applied for a grant from Self-Development of People (SDOP), a ministry PC(USA) that seeks to participate in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and

disadvantaged people. With their plan to start a thrift store, Homeless Solutions has been chosen as a finalist to receive the \$20,000 SPOD Grant. Homeless Solutions of Clearwater will be interviewed by the SPOD Partnership Committee in mid-March. They will receive notice of their selection by May. Please be in prayer for this group as they seek to make a long-term change for themselves and our community.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Visit the website at PeaceMemorial.org/Serve

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.

TALKING WITH CHILDREN ABOUT LENT AND EASTER

It's a short few months between the joy of Advent and the passion, pain and triumph of Lent and Easter. Most adults can grasp the symbolic nature and annual rhythm of the Christian year. But for the child who is more literal, the interval between the baby Jesus, whom we meet at Christmas, and the adult Jesus, whom we crucify and bury during Holy Week, is just too short. How do we help our young concrete thinkers embrace the meaning of Lent and Easter without scaring them? As we involve children in the various events of the season, we allow them hands-on experiences of repentance, forgiveness, community, sadness and joy.

The Last Supper, which we will recall on Maundy Thursday, Jesus and his friends are likened to an extended family, as the

church community is the extended family for those who worship together. Common table elements are blessed, shared, and eaten, just as families often share common foods at home. The reality of life is that sadness, pain, and disappointment exist. All children have experienced these emotions on some level in their lives. Easter morning and Jesus' resurrection stand in our faith tradition as ringing affirmations that there is good. God is good. Light shines and darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:5)!

We want to talk to our children about these things. Experiencing events in concrete ways, participating, worshiping, praying, and celebrating give openings for the words we want to share. Let's walk along with our children and deepen our faith together.

THE EASTER SEASON

Easter isn't just a Sunday— it's a season. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith— that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a "week of weeks"), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord. Today, the Easter season may still provide a good opportunity to focus on what it means to walk the Christian Way in the world. Here are some ideas to celebrate the great 50 days in your home:

Choose a new devotional or special book to read during this time. Give Easter Lilies to your neighbors or local retirement home. Bring your Bible with you—stop at a park or head out to the beach and read a few chapters. Consider adopting a simplified version of morning or evening prayer for the Easter season. Invite a church family or visitor to lunch following worship to meet someone new! Who knows? Once you get in the habit, you may even continue the practice once Pentecost has passed!

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

There are many small groups that meet regularly for Bible Study. Have you become involved in one of these opportunities to grow in your faith? Visit the website PeaceMemorial.org/Grow for more information. We are also looking for new teachers! Is God leading you to share your gift of small group leadership?

- What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian: A Guide to What Matters Most by Martin Thielin- a list of ten things you need to believe to qualify as a Christian. Helpful in grounding your faith.
- The Hunger Games Trilogy by Suzanne Collins- suggested for readers 13 and up.

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

Looking for a new inspirational book to read? Head to the library, your local bookstore or download a digital copy of one of the following:

- Anything by Henri Nouwen- you can't go wrong!
- Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff- Christ's Childhood Pal by Chris Moore- a light, funny, poolside read.

PEACE MAKES A SPLASH!

There are many resources that help people prepare for parenthood, but not ones that tell you how to introduce Bible stories to babies, talk about God with toddlers or establish prayer rituals during meals. Our youngest members (birth-3) will now receive a monthly newsletter which will provide fun and easy ideas for bringing faith into everyday life for infants and their families. Grandparents- if you would like to sign up your grandchildren (church members or not) please contact the church office!



Children made a long list of what they praise God for. What would your list look like?

MEN AND WOMEN OF PEACE MEMORIAL

The **Men of Peace** and **Presbyterian Women** are two organizations within our church that tend to operate “behind the scenes.” There is plenty that these amazing groups of people do that shape life at Peace Memorial as we know it.

Did you know.... that the Presbyterian Women graciously host receptions for families following a funeral service?

Did you know.... that Presbyterian Women support many local and international charities (Mission Haven, Columbia Friendship Circle, Beth-El, Kimberly House, RCS, Clothes 4 Kids) - spending \$3500 on mission (separate

from the church budget)?

Did you know.... that the Presbyterian Women bake sale raises money for these missions and charities?

Did you know... that the Men of Peace cook meals and are pros on the church grill?

Did you know... that the Men of Peace are sharing their lives and faith stories with our homeless and hungry neighbors?

There are so many stories of the men and women Peace. We celebrate them all. Let us know if you have a story to share. Email Julie Bostick at juliembostick@gmail.com.

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.

A LITTLE PRESBYTERIAN HISTORY

Presbyterians have featured prominently in United States history. The Rev. Francis Makemie, who arrived in the United States from Ireland in 1683, helped to organize the first American Presbytery at Philadelphia in 1706. In 1746, Presbyterians founded Princeton University in order to train ministers. Other Presbyterian ministers, such as the Rev. Jonathan Edwards and the Rev. Gilbert Tennent, were driving forces in the so-called “Great Awakening,” a revivalist movement in the early 18th century. One of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the Rev. John Witherspoon, was a Presbyterian minister and the president of Princeton University

from 1768-1793. Presbyterian denominations in the United States have split and parts have reunited several times. Currently the largest Presbyterian denomination is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which has its national offices in Louisville, KY. It was formed in 1983 as a result of reunion between the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (PCUS), the so-called “southern branch,” and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (UPCUSA), the so-called “northern branch.” Other Presbyterian churches in the United States include the Presbyterian Church in America, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Sunday, April 1**, Palm Sunday- Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Communion Served.
- Thursday, April 5**, Maundy Thursday- Meal and Service in Roebbling Hall at 6:00 p.m. Communion Served.
- Friday, April 6**, Good Friday Mid-Day Prayer Service at 12 noon. Sanctuary open from 11am-1pm for prayer and reflection.
- Sunday, April 8**, Easter- Church-wide breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt at 9:00 a.m. Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Communion Served.

FRESH, NEW AND REDESIGNED

Want to know about this summer’s General Assembly? Looking for the PC (USA) Constitution or statements from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly? Check out newly redesigned website at oga.pcusa.org/

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, March 19th, we welcomed four new members to Peace Memorial, by letter of transfer:

- Janet Hoover
- Chris Lewis
- Emily Lewis
- Marc Sterling

All 4 members are already involved in bible studies, Peace Cafe, music and more. Please introduce yourself when you see Janet, Chris, Emily or Marc. Welcome friends!



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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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**Peace Memorial
Presbyterian Church**

110 South Fort Harrison Avenue
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THE CHURCH IS THE PEOPLE IN IT!

Have you heard this rhyme: “Here’s the church, here’s the steeple, open the doors, see all the people”?

It could be describing Peace Memorial’s pink steeple. From the Lenten season children’s crafts to Casual Sunday with a cookout: God’s people are what make Peace Memorial the special place it is.

Bring a friend to worship, re-introduce yourself to an old friend, say hello to an unfamiliar face. Even amidst change and transition, this church is growing and spreading God’s blessings into the community and the world.

Would you like to receive the latest edition of the newsletter by email? Let the church office know: Peace@PeaceMemorial.org and we’re happy to add you to the email list.

