

# PEACE MEMORIAL

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church *Newsletter*

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 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.*

## Have you met James?

The Lectionary readings have been taking us through the book of James this season. Pastors tend to favor the Gospel Lesson when writing a sermon – but James has caught the attention of both preacher and congregation alike.

James is a short letter tucked between Hebrews and First Peter in the New Testament. “James” has traditionally been identified as James the brother of Jesus (Gal 1.19), who became the leader of the church in Jerusalem and who was martyred before the outbreak of the Jewish war of 66-70 CE. The memory of James was widely revered in the early church and the name may have been used to preserve his legacy.

The book of James is not an historical narrative detailing the acts of specific people, but a classical letter of advice to Christians and early churches. The work is considered New Testament wisdom literature because, like Proverbs it consists largely of moral exhortations and precepts.

James is loaded with statements, slogans, and imperatives to live by the rules! it accents the need to internalize the teachings, offering

instructive insights for believers living the Christian faith. This letter is a clear statement to believers about personal religious integrity, spiritual maturity, unselfishness in relations, and how to live responsibly in the church and the world.

Be sure to look up and review these key verses in James:

James 1:2-8	Whenever you face trials
James 1:12-13	Blessed is anyone who endures temptation
James 2:1-13	Acts of favoritism
James 2:14-26	If... you have faith but do not have works?
James 4:1-17	Conflicts and disputes among you
James 5:13-20	Are any among you suffering?

## 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 kelly's desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Peace Memorial Family:

I would like to share an excerpt from a blog post written by J. Barrett Lee, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Boonville, NY. He shares,

"Whenever a congregation goes looking for a new pastor, the first question on their minds when the committee interviews a new candidate is: Will this pastor grow our church? I'm going to go ahead and answer that question right now: No, she will not."

It was these opening sentences that caught my attention. Is he writing specifically about our church? I kept on reading and suggest you do too. "No amount of pastoral eloquence, organization, insightfulness, amicability, or charisma will take your congregation back to its glory days. What can [a new pastor] do to grow your church? Nothing. There's nothing your pastor can do to make your church grow. She can't save your church. Your church already has a Savior and it's not her.

She can push you. She can open doors. She can present you with opportunities. It's up to you to take advantage of them. She can plant seeds and water them. It's up to God to make them grow. And what if that happens? What will growth look like? Will all those old, inactive members suddenly return? Will the pews be packed again? Will you need to start a second service and buy the lot next door in order to expand the parking lot? No. You might see a few new faces in the crowd. There won't be many of them. Some might stick around but some won't. Those who stay won't fit in with the old guard. They won't know about how you've always done it. They'll want to make changes of their own. Their new ideas will make you uncomfortable. Your church won't look or feel like it used to. You'll feel like you're losing control of this place that you've worked so hard to preserve."

I'm not sure what to tell you about these growing pains. As of October 1st I will have been at Peace Memorial for a year. Within that year we've experienced a lot of transition – but we've managed to hold it all together remarkably well. I feel like we are primed for a transformation. I feel like we are on the verge of something great – but what great is isn't the glory days relived. It can't be. There is something new on the horizon.

The community that surrounds Peace Memorial has changed. Downtown Clearwater has changed. It's up to us to trust that God will provide a way for us to continue to do God's work in the world as the church. Continue to hold the work of the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee in prayer. We pray specifically for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their discernment process and interactions with potential candidates. Continue to pray for the church and for you to find where you can be part of the future of Peace Memorial.

*In Christ's Service,*

**KELLY FITZGERALD** – Director of Family Ministries

## REFORMATION SUNDAY

The last Sunday in October (October 28th) is recognized as Reformation Sunday. On this Sunday, Christians remember the Reformation, revisit its great truths and recommit to its guiding principles.

The Reformation was a period in history (generally 1500 to 1600) when Christians in many churches in Europe sought to return to the essential and critical biblical truths of the Christian faith. Out of this movement came the existence and growth of the Protestant churches in the Christian family, such as Lutherans, Presbyterians and Baptists.

Early reformers included Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, Heinrich Bullinger and John Knox. While Luther was the catalyst that exploded the movement, Calvin was its chief theologian, systematizing the biblical truths

rediscovered from the scriptures. John Knox, a Scotsman who studied with Calvin in Geneva, took Calvin's teachings back to Scotland, where we trace the origins of the Presbyterian Church.

Key aspects of reformed theology include the authority of scripture and the doctrines of grace. These focus on the sovereignty of God's grace, especially in salvation. Our relationship with God and our freedom from sin and death don't come from our works or specific acts. We cannot earn God's love; it is a gift called grace.

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.

## JAZZ SUNDAY

In the spirit of the Clearwater Jazz Festival ([www.clearwaterjazz.com](http://www.clearwaterjazz.com)) we celebrate worship with our own 'Jazz style'. Jazz Directions Combo will join us in leading music for this special service. The director is Jim Burge.

The legendary trumpeter Miles Davis once said, "When you hit a wrong note, it's the next note you hit that makes it good or bad." This serves as a fine metaphor for the grace-infused Christian life. And it reminds us that, despite its past, jazz has a potentially bright future within the church, blessing God and God's people.

Interested to hear Christian Jazz Music? Search for Jim Martinez on the web ([www.jimmartinez.com](http://www.jimmartinez.com)) to hear a few sound bites.

Bill Carter, a Presbyterian preacher from Pennsylvania, is perhaps the leading figure exploring the use of jazz in worship. His website, [www.presbybop.com](http://www.presbybop.com), features links to his own recordings and the annual October conference he organizes on Jazz and the Church. Best of all, Rev. Carter has put together a small hymnal of over sixty musical settings of psalms, hymns, and spiritual song.

Be sure to visit [christianjazz.blogspot.com](http://christianjazz.blogspot.com) to discover his unique style as well as others that blended Christian praise with jazz stylings.

## CHOIR ROOM RENOVATED

Unveiled on Rally Day, the 2nd floor choir room now has a new look. New wood floors and an additional level of seating now make this space open and even more conducive to making music. Ask Carol Alexander or a choir member for a tour.

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir now has its own room. Moved down the hallway, across from the children's enrichment room, an underutilized room has been tidied and reorganized to welcome our young singers. The Children's

Choir rehearses **most Sundays, after worship, at 11:45 am**. See Carol Alexander for more information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the dates of these upcoming special worship services:

- Nov. 4** Commitment Sunday
- Nov. 25** Christ the King
- Dec. 2** 1st Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 16** Advent Lessons and Carols - worship service
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 5:00pm and 7:00pm

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



*In our Kirkin' service on September 30, we remembered ancient times, as well as asking for God's help and blessings in the future for our church family.*



# CONNECT

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

## CONCERT SERIES & RECEPTIONS

The 2012/2013 Concert Series resumed on **October 14th at 3:00 p.m.** with "Music of the Americas" by saxophonist Michael Hernandez and pianist Liz Ames.

This series, running October through March, on the second Sunday of the month, is an opportunity to open the doors of Peace Memorial and share music with the community in the acoustics and beauty of our unique sanctuary.

Most concerts begin at 3:00 p.m. Be sure to note the special December concert by Holiday Brass begins 2:30 p.m. Members are needed

## MEN OF PEACE

Has a new meeting time! They will now meet on the **2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.** On October 10 the men welcomed speaker Kip Corriveau, Director of Housing at the Salvation Army. Keep an eye out for more special programs.

Men's Bible Study will continue to meet on Saturday Morning at 8:30 a.m. They will study 1 Corinthians using the Interpretation Series.

and encouraged to attend the concert and assist with welcoming, and mingling, and serving refreshments to our guests during the post-concert reception.

To sign-up to help at a concert reception, contact Pam Chapin - pchapin49275@gmail.com or Silvia Rodriguez - silviar1021@gmail.com

Details on upcoming concerts (including the printable 2012/2013 concert series brochure) can be found at [PeaceMemorial.org/concerts](http://PeaceMemorial.org/concerts).

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women (PW) is an independent organization within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) of more than 300,000 women.

The programming and resource options for the organization offer a variety of ways for women to live out their faith in an inclusive, caring community. Peace Memorial hosts two circles of women, Martha and Catherine. They meet once a month for Bible study and fellowship and are active in supporting many mission organizations. Interested in becoming involved? Pick up a new PW Brochure at the church office today!

## PEACE PALS

Peace Pals is a group of friendly, fun loving people who participate in a variety of different events every month. Join them for interesting and informative field trips to various locations in and around Tampa Bay. Events are primarily targeted at retired or 55+ individuals.

•**October 25-** Nature Coast Boat Cruise on the Withlacoochee River, departing from Yankeetown, and lunch at Izaak Walton Lodge.

•**November 14-** St. Petersburg Museum of Fine arts and lunch at 400 Beach Seafood and Tap House.

•**December event-** To be announced.

•**January 22-** Mixon Citrus Farm in Bradenton.

Keep an eye out for more exciting trips in 2013!

## OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI)

Are you 50 years of age or better and looking for learning opportunities that challenge you without tests, grades, or papers? Then OLLI is the program for you. Become part of the learning community today..Cost per lecture for non-members is \$15.

Call Kay at 727.865.7886 to become a member for only \$49 - attend all the lectures for free. Special New Member Incentive - join in 2012 and extend your membership through December 2013!

•**November 1-** King Lear: Parents & Children in Conflict

•**November 8-** Exploring Virtual Reality

•**December 6-** Douglas MacArthur

## PACK-A-SACK 4 KIDS

Pack-A-Sack 4 Kids is a community outreach program of local school boards in Pinellas, Manatee, and Pasco Counties, and area churches and collaborative partners. The program is designed to help address the problem of chronic hunger among elementary age children in our public schools. This has been estimated to be approximately 10-15% of all children eligible for free or reduced meals at school.

Peace Memorial has partnered with Ponce de Leon Elementary School to provide over 40 food sacks for hungry children in our community. Eligible children are identified by a teacher or school personnel because that child exhibits behaviors that may indicate

## 3 CENTS A MEAL

We invite every member of all ages to contribute a few cents at every meal. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command "You give them something to eat."

For every dollar collected \$.25 cents stays in our congregation to benefit food ministries; \$.35 cents goes to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry to help with their weekly food distribution in Wimauma, Arcadia, Ft. Meade and Immokalee; \$.35 cents goes to the

chronic hunger or food insecurity, as well as any younger siblings living in the same home. Food insecurity is describe as limited or uncertain access to a nutritionally adequate diet, characterized by skipped meals, reduced food portions and/or uncertainty of being able to adequately feed all household members.

Thanks for all you do for this program. Deacon Carlos Rodriquez meets on Wednesday mornings to pack lunches. You can also sponsor meals on a weekly basis. Forms are available in Roebbling Hall. There are many more opportunities for direct service to Ponce de Leon Elementary if you would like to be involved.

International Mission Partnership Committee of the Presbytery for distribution for the needs that arise in Honduras. The remaining \$.05 cents also goes to IMPC for administrative costs, such as helping with the annual container shipment to Honduras.

Make sure you have a Peace Memorial Bank on your table at home so you can remember to contribute 3 cents a meal as a spiritual discipline at each meal. Collection dates will be announced.

## RCS FOOD BANK

RCS Food Bank Volunteers from RCS come to our church each week to pick up our food donations. Sometimes they leave empty handed! Renew your commitment to help those who are hungry in our community.

RCS accepts any unopened food. Nonperishable items are best. Turn your weekly grocery shopping trip into a spiritual practice. Try to get in the habit of picking up extra food to donate each time you go to grocery store. Be on the look out for deals and sales that can help feed those who are hungry in our community.

# 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'.*



*Peace Memorial Deacons made an extra \$1000 donation to RCS to help during food shortage!*



*Larry and Bill celebrating at Rally Day on September 9th!*

*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.*



*Faith traditions are foundational for a lifelong relationship with Christ!*

## HAVE YOU READ THE HUNGER GAMES?

Throughout The Hunger Games, Katniss faces the challenge to be both courageous and trusting. Courage and trust are two qualities that God also seeks from us in our lives. Katniss must place her trust and her life in the hands of other people. She is faced with whether or not to trust her stylist, other tributes, and her mentor. She shows courage in many ways throughout the book too. Sometimes she shows courage in large and grand ways and other times in small and humble ways. Katniss shows trust and courage through her friendships, her teamwork, and her decisions.

- Toward the beginning of the book (mainly in chapters 1-3), how did Katniss show courage?
- How did Katniss' courage change later in the book? How did it expand?
- What things gave Katniss courage in the book?
- Who gave Katniss strength to be courageous?
- Where did you see courage from other characters throughout the book?

## HOLY MOLY!

Holy Moly captures the imagination of kids by bringing the Bible to life. Kids walk away from class excitedly retelling the stories they just learned and eagerly awaiting what's next. Each lesson invites kids into the story with a DVD of animated Bible story retellings, reinforces the lesson through the colorful pages of the Holy Moly Bible Storybooks, and encourages creativity and imagination with Learner Leaflets that bring the stories to life.

Designed for kids in kindergarten through fourth grade, Holy Moly focuses on individual Bible stories.

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

Both children and adults can easily slip into "automatic pilot" participation in the Lord's Supper. Here are a few practices for sustaining meaningful participation:

- Look back—over the long history of God's faithfulness, especially in life of Jesus.
- Look forward—to the feast we will share in the kingdom of heaven.
- Look "up"—to the ascended Jesus in heaven, remembering how he prays for us and how we trust in him.

This courage gave Katniss the strength to expand her trust in people. Her situation and some of the people made it difficult for her to trust people throughout the book.

Courage and trust are not easily attainable. We often search for each. It is difficult to have courage without having trust in yourself, others to lean on, and trust that God is with you through everything. Even in the toughest of challenges, we are reminded that Jesus will be with us always. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus asks the disciples to risk everything and to go out to make more disciples. He reminds them that even though this is a tough task, he will be beside them. Paul reminds us in Romans 8:38-39, that nothing can separate us from the love of God. We can have courage when we trust in our faith in God. Jesus will be with us "right up to the end of the end of the age" and "nothing can separate us from the love of God." This message from Jesus gives us courage and trust.

The use of this new curriculum shifts the focus from teaching the lectionary to focusing on learning the people of the Bible. The Christian Nurture Council felt it is important to lay a strong foundation of Bible knowledge for the children of our church. An important part of this new curriculum is the take home storybook which allows the stories to continue to be told among friends and family. Be sure to ask our young people who they are learning about in Children's Enrichment. You might learn something new yourself! Be sure to join us on **November 4 for Family Bible Study!**

- Look around—at the people of God who promise to love each other and serve the world.
  - Look within—to see our own sin and need for a Savior and to remember that we are loved by God and are members of God's own family.
- Note that we celebrate **Communion on the first Sunday of every month.** Children's Enrichment will not be held that day so children can experience the rich tradition of worship in its fullest. Children's Worship bags are available to help engage your child throughout the service.

## RALLY DAY A SUCCESS

The church certainly rallied! September 9th was a festival of fun and feature - as we highlighted church missions, ministries, councils and activities. There were prize drawings and joyful children with balloons and whistles - not to mention the highly coveted foam "Peace Sign."

Success comes not only from the crowd that gathered but the seeds of ministry that were planted. It is our hope that Rally Day is not just seen as a commercial for church

## SERVANT OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Freeman Teuton receives Harold Updike Servant of the Year Award on June 17th.**

The name of Freeman Teuton, a member of Peace Memorial for over 30 years, has been added to the Plaque which hangs permanently in Peace Café. This award is named for Harold Updike, a founding member of the Men's Group who was an active participant in Peace Café until shortly before his death. This award is intended to recognize and honor an individual who has provided significant service to the vibrant and growing Men's Ministry at Peace Memorial.

Freeman is just such a person. He has served Peace Memorial in just about every capacity, including chairing the Personnel Council and service on the Finance Council. For many years, Freeman was an active supporter of the Cold Night Shelter and continues to be part of the Early Morning

## STEWARDSHIP TWENTY-THIRTEEN

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Let us be thankful for God's gifts to us every day by pledging a gift back to God's church, so that God can do even more for others who need it.

**Stewardship Sunday is November 4.** You will be hearing more in worship and reading more in the mail about the stewardship campaign. Take time to reflect on your giving back, and pledge to renew your gift to God's church on Stewardship Sunday.

activities but as a way for helping you see that your acts of service are a faithful way of living out the gospel. The programs and ministries at Peace Memorial set aside a space in your life for growth in faith and opportunity to know Christ more deeply.

Thanks to all who set-up, cleaned up, and everyone who attended to learn about Peace Memorial. The day was a true blessing and just the beginning of an exciting, enthusiastic year at our church.

Bible Study and Sunday School Groups. More recently he has been an important part of Peace Café where he is known as a bread slicer par excellence.

He has been married to his wonderful wife Ann for 68 years and they have a daughter, a son-in-law, and two grandchildren. He was educated as a lawyer and had a successful career in the Transportation Industry. He is a veteran having served as a Naval Officer both in WWII and later in Korea when he was recalled to active duty. He was cited for "Gallantry in action and meritorious dedication to duty."

Freeman Teuton's dedication to Peace Memorial is self-evident to all who know him. We are thankful to have this opportunity to honor him and recognize his service to our church.

*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.*

## WE CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF BETTY MCGEACHY ERNST!

Betty's father was Dr. Daniel McGeachy, Jr. who was Senior minister at Peace Memorial for 24 years (1942-1966). Her mother, Beth McGeachy was active in the church for many years as well.

Betty named her street in Montreat, North Carolina 'Peace Lane' in honor of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church as well as for peace around the world! Betty passed away on July 26, 2012 in Asheville, North Carolina.



*Grateful for Freeman's faithful service to Peace Memorial!*





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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 Newsletter*

**LET'S RALLY**

To rally is to call together for a common purpose. Peace Memorial's purpose and mission are clear: to reach out with the love of Jesus Christ, seek God in our lives, build each other up in love, and help those in need.

Yes, there is lots happening and changing at Peace Memorial, but with those definitions, how could we not be rallying? Rally Day was a launching off point. We must keep rallying – growing and learning with our family in Christ. Come, be a part of the Rally!

Would you prefer to receive the newsletter by email, or be added to the mailing list? Let the church office know at [Peace@PeaceMemorial.org](mailto:Peace@PeaceMemorial.org).



*L to R: Carlos cleaning up at Peace Café, Rally Day foam peace signs, Wendy, the Rally Day Emcee, reads a winning ticket.*