

The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

FALL, 2015

Everybody needs a small group of friends—people who know you well, people who care. Maybe you find your small group in the neighborhood or at work. Maybe your small group is a music group or a ministry team at church. It needs to be a group where you can both care and receive care. Our Congregational Care Team watches out for you by assigning you a person who cares and pays attention and prays for you. But everybody still needs a group—a group of friends with whom to laugh and cry, complain and celebrate, share and grow.

“... your job to care, your job to listen, your job to encourage Christian growth.”

six times between October and May. In those groups, I hope will share a meal and share your lives. I hope you will take responsibility for one

Peace used to be a small church, so everybody knew everybody. Not so anymore. Peace used to be small enough for me to try to be a friend to everyone. I cannot find the time anymore.

So I invite you to sign up to be in a group. Not an intensive weekly group, but a monthly group that meets

another. I hope you will consider it your job to care, your job to listen, your job to encourage Christian growth. Your group will not be perfect. In fact, it will be messy. Such is life with human beings, especially if we get involved with one another. But the mess and effort will be worth it if we take our mutual responsibility for helping one another grow seriously, and if we are prayerful, diligent disciples of Christ.

Don't walk alone. Find your group and support one another. As Paul said to the Romans, *Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.* (Romans 14:9, NRS)

Peacefully yours,

Elizabeth

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert
Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church



SMALL GROUPS

Peacemaking Dinner is September 27

For the 4th year Peace will once again have the International Peacemaking dinner. The event will be held Sunday, September 27th in the café beginning at 5:30 pm.



The following countries have been chosen for this year's event: Cameroon, Columbia, China, Cuba, Germany, India, Jamaica, Korea, Poland, Spain and Syria, Sign-up sheets for attendance and food are in the lobby.

Following the dinner there will be cross-cultural activities, including songs from several countries, in the Chapel.

This event has become better each year! Make plans to attend and be sure to sign up!



Saturday Night Singles welcomes all single women to join our monthly get-togethers. We meet on the 4th Saturday of the month for fellowship at different

locations. Sometimes it's in a member's home, sometimes it's an event or outing. All you need to do is send your name, E-mail address and phone number to Ivy Ruark (ivyruark@gmail.com, 941-704-7978) and you will receive monthly notifications. We embrace women of all faiths. Some of us are widowed, some never married and some are divorced. All are caring, compassionate and supportive, so why not give the group a try?

Peace Comes Through Again!

In our last blood drive, we exceeded our goal by 20%! In the process we helped save up to 54 lives. This was our most successful blood drive yet. Our next blood drive is on Sunday, October 18th. Please save the date to donate blood to help others.



DONOR The blood drive runs from 9:15-12:15ish.



THE GRATITUDE TEAM

This year's stewardship theme is "I Like Giving!" I Like Giving exists to inspire the world to live generously through stories and actions. We will hear stories from some very special people who have turned giving into an art.

Their inspiring stories should amaze and motivate all of us.

So, mark your calendars to attend the following Gratitude suppers at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday:

Wednesday, October 21st—**Baked Potato Bar**

enjoy a hot "baker" with all the toppings

A brief congregational meeting will be held to receive an update from the Building Vision Team and to elect elders.

Wednesday, October 28th—**Salad Bar with Chicken**

how many things can you put on your salad?

Wednesday, November 4th—**Italian Dinner**

compliments of who else? GIA!

On Sunday, November 8th—**Stewardship Sunday**

we will give our pledges to the Lord during the worship services.

Our team's gratitude goes out to the Fellowship Team for their assistance with each of the dinners!

Hope to see you all there!



Gia and Troy unveiling the Mexican fiesta in August.

Peace Youth Report on Summer Trips and Missions

On August 12, Peace members dined on a Mexican Fiesta, cooked by Gia, and listened to the youth relate their adventures of the summer, on mission trips and at camp and Montreat.

Rebecca Deibert traveled to both Paraguay and Nicaragua on mission trips. She told of how completely different her expectations were than the actuality of the visits. In Nicaragua she stayed with a local family who gave her the only bed in the home. She helped to build a house and had her faith renewed from the smiles, gratitude and the presence of Jesus in the faces of the people there.



The Joy of Communion

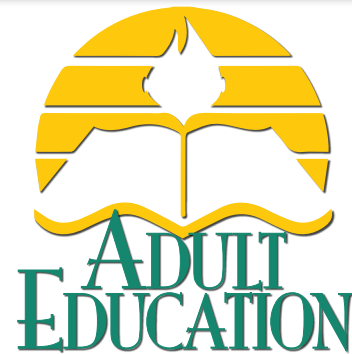
At Cedarkirk, the campers from Peace Church found the “best camp ever”, in spite of the ban on electronics during the week. They found a whole different world from their schools, with new friends, Bible study every day, activities the whole camp participated in, and they learned that “all are leaders, all are followers.”



The high school students who spent a week at Montreat, North Carolina, found ways to feel closer to God. The theme, “Our Stories are Intertwined,” brought intense emotions to the surface in the small groups of 20, among people they had never met. They realized you can’t tell at face value what a person is like. Kim Adams, our Pastoral Intern for Children, Youth, & Families, agreed. “The theme allowed people to dig deep” and it was the most memorable time at Montreat she has experienced.



Peace Youth relishing the Hiking Lookout at Montreat in July.



In Colossians, Paul wrote, “from the first day we heard of you, we haven’t stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works.” (Col 1:9, The Message). To help in you acquire “wise minds and spirits attuned to God’s will” Peace will offer several Lively Learning opportunities for adults this coming fall.

We’re thankful to **Craig and Kathleen Hardesty** who will revive Nooma for four Sundays, 9/20–10/18 on the theme “What Does God Want from us?” in Room 9.

Bill Clough and **Peg Papsch** will lead the second iteration of Bible from Scratch, the New Testament. The New Testament, the distinctively Christian Scriptures, are shorter than the Old and the personalities of the authors of the books stand out more. It will run 9/20–11/22 in the Gathering Room.

David Mullen will lead *The Wounded Prophet: The Life and Teaching of Henri Nouwen*. Father Nouwen was a priest, author, and professor who firmly believed that the most profound truths of God are experienced in the most personal experiences of life. It will run 10/11–11/22 in Room 19.

And **Mickey Miller** and **Richard Deibert** will lead a walk through the book of Ephesians, a prison epistle urging us to be deeply united and grounded in Christ. It will run 9/20–11/22 and meet in Room 17.



October 9, 2015

Imitation Game

Discussion Leaders: Adriana and Jim Padula
Refreshments: Peggy Donaldson

As World War II engulfs Europe, a group of English mathematicians are assembled at Bletchley Park to work in secret on cracking the code of a captured German Enigma encryption machine. With England's fate hanging in the balance, the group's leader, the brilliant, eccentric Alan Turing, must hide his homosexuality or risk arrest and persecution by the country he is fighting to save.

Benedict Cumberbatch as Alan Turing; Keira Knightley as Joan Clarke; Allen Leech as John Cairncross; Rory Kinnear as Detective Robert Nock; Mark Strong (II) as Stewart Menzies

November 13, 2015

The Good Lie

Discussion Leader: Patti and Shannon Jung
Refreshments: Peg Papsch

They were known simply as "The Lost Boys." Orphaned by the brutal Civil war in Sudan that began in 1983, these young victims traveled as far as a thousand miles on foot in search of safety. Fifteen years later, a humanitarian effort would bring 3600 lost boys and girls to America. In "The Good Lie," Philippe Falardeau brings the story of their survival and triumph to life.

Sudanese actors Arnold Oceng, Ger Duany, Emmanuel Jal, and newcomer Nyakuoth Weil, many of whom were also children of war, star alongside Academy Award winner Reese Witherspoon and Corey Stoll

December 11, 2015

McFarland

Discussion Leaders: Denny and Barbara Noto
Refreshments: Jim and Adriana Padula

From Disney comes MCFARLAND, the true against-all-odds story of the 1987 McFarland high school cross country team in an economically challenged Mexican American community. Disney

Kevin Costner as Jim White: Maria Bello as Cheryl White:
Morgan Saylor as Julie White: Martha Higareda as Lupe: Sergio Avelar as Victor Puentes: Hector Duran as Johnny Sameniego

January 8, 2016

Welcome to the Sticks

Discussion Leader: Ivy Ruark
Refreshments: Bob Cutler

A French public servant from Provence is banished to the far North. Strongly prejudiced against this cold and inhospitable place, he leaves his family behind to relocate temporarily there, with the firm intent to quickly come back.

Stars: Kad Merad, Dany Boon, Zoé Félix

February 12, 2016

Places in the Heart

Discussion Leaders: Peg Papsch and Richard Deibert

Refreshments: Barbara Staton

After her husband is killed, Sally Field is forced to take over the debt-ridden Texas family farm herself. She accepts the help of African-American Danny Glover and blind boarder John Malkovich. Despite almost insurmountable odds, Field manages to bring in the cotton crop and to hold her farm together.

March 11, 2016

Color of Paradise

Discussion Leader: Bill Clough
Refreshments:

In this Iranian film, Mohammad is a student at a special school for blind children in Tehran. The summer vacation in the country is a joyous experience for Mohammad, until he discovers his father is thinking about remarrying and considers his handicapped son to be a stumbling block.

April 8, 2016

Salmon Fishing in Yemen

Discussion Leaders: Diane and Dirk Brinkmeyer
Refreshments:

When Britain's leading fisheries expert (Ewan McGregor) is approached by a consultant (Emily Blunt) to help realize a sheikh's (Amr Waked) vision of bringing the sport of fly-fishing to the desert, he immediately thinks the project is both absurd and unachievable. But when the Prime Minister's overzealous press secretary (Kristin Scott Thomas) latches on to it as a "goodwill" story, this unlikely team will put it all on the line and embark on an upstream journey of faith

May 13, 2016

Timbuktu

Discussion Leader: Roger Kragt
Refreshments:

Not far from the ancient Malian city of Timbuktu, now ruled by the religious fundamentalists, proud cattle herder Kidane (Ibrahim Ahmed aka Pino) lives peacefully in the dunes with his wife Satima (Toulou Kiki), his daughter Toya (Layla Walet Mohamed), and Issan (Mehdi Ag Mohamed), their twelve-year-old shepherd. In town, the people suffer, powerless, from the regime of terror imposed by the Jihadists determined to control their faith. Music, laughter, cigarettes, even soccer have been banned.

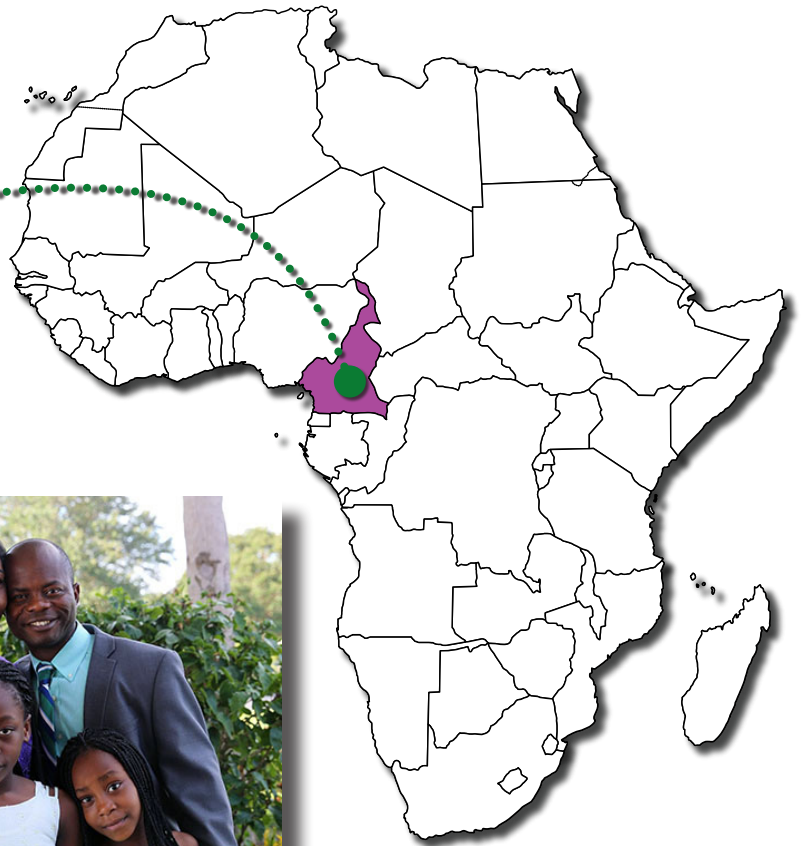
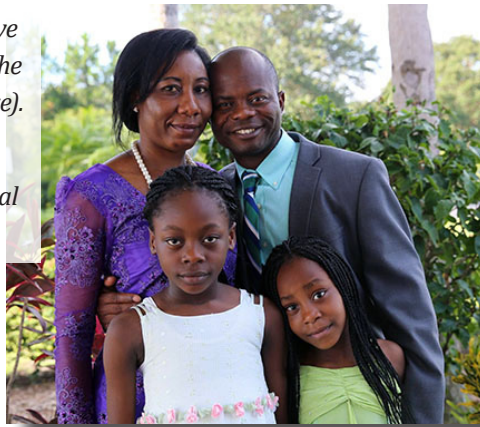
Gather at 6:30pm in Café. Movie begins at 7:00

• Refreshments provided are popcorn and drinks. If others wish to bring extras, that is fine, but not necessary. •



Peace member Anderson Kajang has waited 7 long years for his family to move from Cameroon to join him in the US—the happy family at the airport in July (above).

And the family, daughters Marilyn & Blessing, at Anderson and Mary's renewal of wedding vows at our chapel (left).



Sponsors and family, and Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Kim with Andy Thornton at his baptism.





In August, Peace Church collected \$465 in cash and many, many bags of school supplies and 53 backpacks for Mission Beth-el. Girl Scout Daisy Troop 786 also donated \$200 worth of backpacks and supplies.

OUR FOOTPRINT ON THE MOVE



Peace Youth were good stewards of the church building this summer by cleaning, weeding, sweeping and doing general chores.



Rally Day in September introduced the congregation to children's, youth's and adult's Lively Learning classes for the rest of 2015.



Peace Children, Youth and Young Adults following the presentations on mission trips, camps and Montreat.

Children, Youth and Family Activities

Youth Plans for the Fall

The school year has begun! As you begin to settle in to your new routines, please don't forget to make time for your spiritual growth and involvement at Peace Church. This is an exciting time of year for the church, with new opportunities for learning, serving, building relationships

Please make note of these upcoming events in September:

Rally Day was the beginning of the year for our Christian Education offerings. We had our most exciting Rally Day ever on September 13, as we heard about learning opportunities for children, youth and adults. The "Lost and Found" tour around the building finding coins, sheep, and children was great!



Lively Learning begins at 9:45 a.m. and for our children/youth we offer:

- Godly Play - PreK - 2nd grade
- Workshop Rotation Model - 3rd - 5th grade
- Workshop Rotation Model - 6th - 8th grade
- We Believe/Confirmation - 9th-12th grade



Sunday, September 20th (5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.) - Youth (Grades 6-12) and their parents are invited to join us for our Kickoff. Please join us for dinner, ice-breakers, and a preview of the year ahead. We will discuss fundraisers, camps, conferences, mission trips, and other super cool events lined up for the 2015-2016 year.

Taking a look ahead:

OCTOBER

- Thursday, 10/01–Montreat College Conference registration opens
- Thursday, 10/08–Cena Comunitaria at Beth-El - Youth are invited to serve at Beth-El's Soup kitchen and earn service hours! See sign-up sheet at the front desk.
- Sunday, 10/11–Youth Group (5:30 p.m.–7:45 p.m.)
- Friday, 10/23 8:00 p.m.–Saturday, 10/24 8:00 a.m.–Middle School and High School Lock-in– Pizza, games, movies, "Blessing Bags" for the homeless, and breakfast.

NOVEMBER

- Sunday, 11/1–Youth Group (5:30 p.m.–7:45 p.m.)
- Sunday 11/15–Youth Group–(5:30 p.m.–7:45 p.m.)–Making care packages for Peace's College Students.
- Saturday 11/21–Youth Fundraiser–Peace Pies: Bake Sale, Garage Sale, and Carwash.
- Thursday 11/26–*Happy Thanksgiving!*

DECEMBER

- Sunday 12/6–Youth Group (5:30 p.m.–7:45 p.m.)
- Saturday, 12/12 Young Adult/College Student get together, stay posted
- Sunday 12/13–Youth Group–Christmas Party
- Friday, 12/25–*Merry Christmas!*



Peace River Presbytery

On Thursday, September 3, Peace hosted a meeting of the Northern section of the Peace River Presbytery. Rather than having a meeting of the entire Presbytery (all 39 congregations), the smaller gathering allowed for member churches to make acquaintances with the churches that are in a closer geographical area.

The meeting took place in the morning, and along with time for worship and fellowship, small groups were formed to briefly discuss methods of outreach for individual churches. The discussions not only looked at methods of bringing people to the front door, but what happens after they walk in and sit down.

The “welcoming process” of any church depends on all the members of the congregation. How people feel when they leave Peace is not just the role of the teams “in charge” of outreach, congregational care, fellowship, but it depends on all of us. Guests need to receive a smile, a hand, and a kind word. Peace Church is blessed with warmth and kindness, but often we find ourselves consumed on Sunday mornings by our normal church friends, service responsibilities, or even in thoughts of the past or coming week. Look around and find people you may not know or recognize and make them the focus of your morning. In their one-hour visit they should experience the feeling of love and support that we all know makes Peace such a caring congregation.



During Lively Learning this summer, families at Peace constructed a peaceful, neighborhood village (above).

One of the finished buildings (below).



ELDERS

On Wednesday, October 21 a brief congregational meeting will be held before the Gratitude Dinner to receive an update from the Building Vision Team and to elect the 2016 elders. Elder nominees are Susan Hyde, Jonathan Sammons, Marlene Schmidt, and Henry Sunkenberg.

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