

# The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

SUMMER, 2015

It is easy to forget that we the Church, the body of Christ, are called to be **faithful not successful**. When I read recent statistics about the numerical decline in church-goers, I react with my basketball-player competitive mind, thinking that we just have to score more points. But people are people, not points. We are called to aim high, not be ambitious. We are called to care for the needs of people, **to build relationships to be a blessing**, but not to worry about making our church grow. Churches that are vibrant and faithful do tend to grow. And if they don't grow, it is as Paul said to the Philippians, "Christ in me is to live, to die is to

gain." Sometimes a seed must fall to the earth and die.

"...Peace calls us to reach, grow strong, and send."

When I read of the terrible tragedies like terrorism in Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, I want to get out there and change the world.

But it is better if we remember

that we called to **be the part of the world God is changing**, instead of going out to try to change the world. "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with ME." It is so, so much easier to point a finger at all the evil in the world than it is to see the sin in my own life, to see how much more I need to embrace Christ's peace for myself and those around me. Yes, we want to make a difference, and let's do by joining the Spirit in making changes in us and around us right here and right now.

When I hear that young adults these days are rejecting the church as judgmental, out of touch, or unnecessary, I want to make a convincing argument

to the contrary. But what we really need to focus on this: **being devoted to "faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love."**

"They will know we are Christians by our love." Our vision is to be an intergenerational, diverse community

of fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ (JC) who reach out with the good news of Christ's love, who grow strong in the service of God and neighbor, who send one another out with the joy of the Holy Spirit. This vision of Peace calls us to reach, grow strong, and send. All of these actions are other-oriented, for that is what Christ was. He came to preach good news to the poor and release to the captives. He came to heal the sick and eat with outcasts. He came to care for children and to give his life for all of us.

**Live like Christ and leave the outcome to the sovereign will of God.** Be faithful. Be generous. Be kind. Be the church of Jesus Christ—embody Christ in his perfect humanity.



Peacefully yours,

*Elizabeth*

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert  
Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church

## Summer Music

**Family Choir!** If you wanted to try the choir but had your kids or just couldn't make Wednesday night rehearsal – Here's your answer: Family choir. We meet at 10:30 on Sundays; your children are welcome; we learn a little song and sing it during the 11:00 service. Try it. You'll like it.



### Saturday Night Singles

is a Peace-sponsored group for single women that meets on the fourth Saturday of the month for fun and fellowship. Members

represent several different faiths and churches, and it is not necessary to be a member of Peace Presbyterian to enjoy the events.

The June event is scheduled for June 27, when we will meet at Lido Beach to watch the sunset. In the event of rain, we will have an alternate back up plan in place. Our meeting place is the lifeguard stand closest to the St. Armand's Circle end of the beach. Meeting time is 7:00 pm. though some of us like to go early to walk the beach or just sit and chat.

Bring something to drink, a snack to share and a beach chair. Carpooling can be arranged. For further details, email Ivy Ruark [ivyruark@gmail.com](mailto:ivyruark@gmail.com) or call Ivy at 941-704-7978.

### What happens with your Pentecost Offerings?

People like Russ Kerr can serve as Young Adult Volunteers in Mission. Here's an update from Russ: *The YAV program at DOOR-Miami has really helped shape my sense of call and I am beginning to understand my call to urban ministry. In the fall I will be attending Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond to pursue my Masters of Divinity. I am very excited! Give my love to everyone at Peace. I searched and searched and searched for a place like Peace here in Miami and just never found that special touch that Peace has that makes you feel the Spirit.*

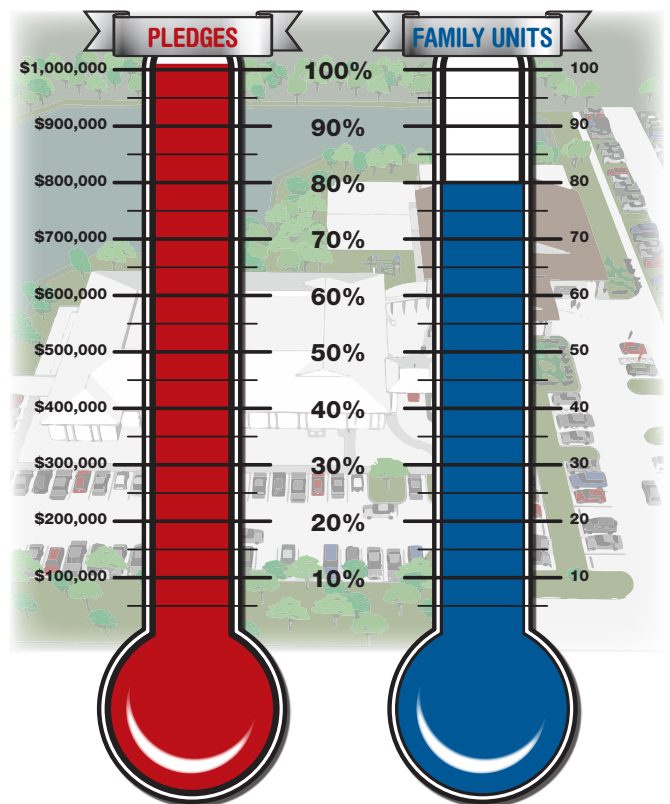


## Fundraising Goal is Met for Construction of Sanctuary

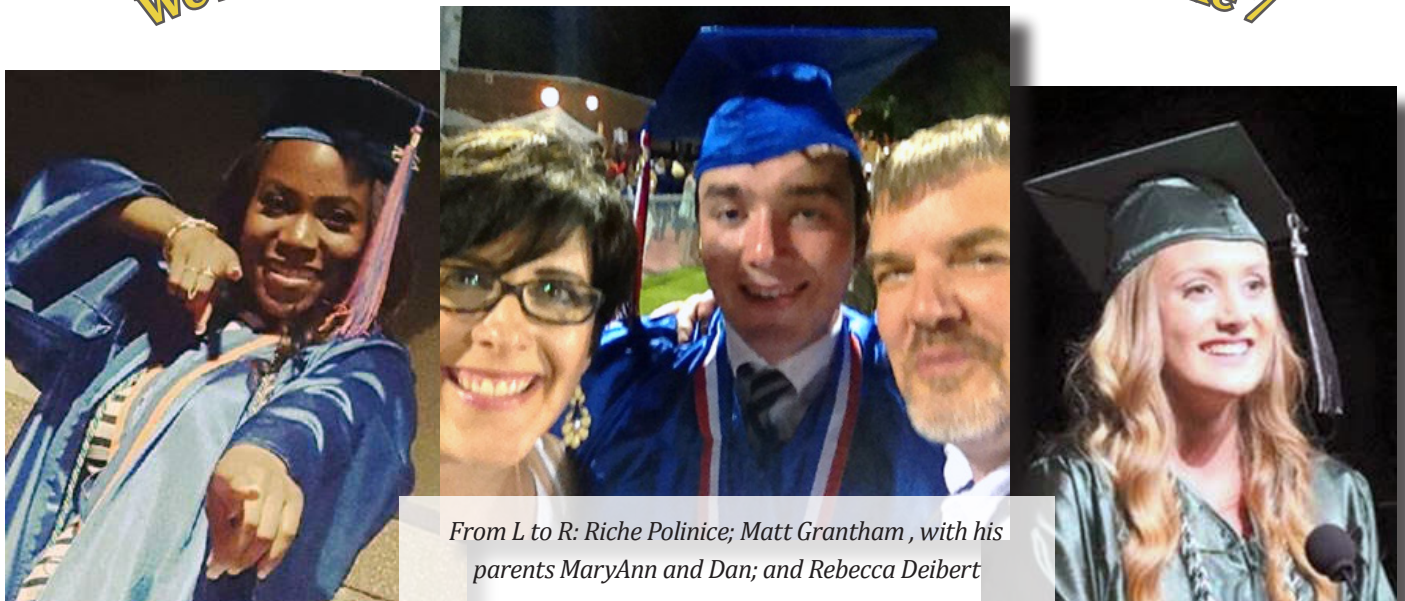
Building Fund 2 for the sanctuary has just reached the **\$1,021,450** mark. Hallelujah!

Our target was to raise \$1million dollars in a three year campaign as a precursor for going for another approximately \$1 million loan from a lending institution. Since we have achieved that target through the wonderful generosity of our congregation in just a couple of months, we have initiated conversations with the lending institutions to develop terms. Our first meeting is with the Presbytery Investment & Loan Program (PILP), who has already indicated their willingness to meet our funding requirements. Once funding terms have been developed, we will start detailed architectural and engineering design of the sanctuary. The whole design & construction cycle is estimated to be in the 14- to 18-month time frame.

Completion of the new water and sewer lines is finally in sight. After better than a year's time to secure the necessary county & fire marshal approvals, we are within another 2-3 weeks of getting directly connected to the county systems. This will provide our site with our own access to the county systems & allow us to separate ourselves from the previous site owner, Aurora, with improved services. The new systems have been designed to encompass the addition of the new 390-seat sanctuary.



*We Honored our 2015 High School Graduates on June 7*



*From L to R: Riche Polinice; Matt Grantham , with his parents MaryAnn and Dan; and Rebecca Deibert*

**• New Peace Members •**



*Several new members joined Peace on June 7. They are (from left) Gordy and Susan Hyde, Don Deibert, Joann (Lamar) McLaughlin, Krista (John) Langowski (children Hannah and Jack), Stephen Husel.*





*The church expressed their thanks to Michelle, Neil and Malinda MacQueen for their service and ministry to Peace on May 31 at an appreciation brunch.*

*Below: Gigi thanks Neil for being her friend at Peace.*



*Gia directs the Ringers of Peace, who played at the 8:30 service on June 7.*



### **BUMPER STICKERS**



For those of you who have been asking, as well as those who have not asked, the Outreach Team is working on a new supply of magnetic stickers for your cars. They will be available soon at the front desk of the church. The plan is to have one with a QR (Quick Response) Code that will allow people with a smart phone to be directed to our web site.



## • Recent Mission Projects •

### Diaper Drive

**SOLVE**, a maternity home for unwed young mothers, was the recipient of our Mother's Day diaper and wipe drive. 4,599 diapers and 1,748 wipes were delivered to SOLVE on May 21st. Members of the Mission Team and others were met by members of the executive team of SOLVE to accept the donations and give a tour of both of the SOLVE homes in Bradenton. The Executive Director was very thankful in receiving our gift. Peace was also able to get publicity as a photographer from the Herald Tribune wrote an article that appeared in a number of papers and on-line.



### Recollection of Service Experience

by Sally Schoeffel

In response to the increased need for supplemental nutrition provided to migrant farmworkers, Beth-El instituted a weekly (Thursday) evening soup kitchen in April 2015. On May 14, four Peace volunteers had the opportunity to serve 59 farmworkers brought by bus directly from the fields. After a volunteer-led prayer of thanksgiving, I witnessed these men enjoy a meal of hearty chicken rice soup and bread, along with quiet conversation and simple fellowship after another hard day's work. I found them to be very humble and gracious people.

If you are interested in this type of rewarding service, kindly contact Sally Schoeffel through CCB or at [schoeffelk@aol.com](mailto:schoeffelk@aol.com) to be part of the list of monthly rotating volunteers. Come join us to help feed the hungry, the farmworkers, who labor

### Blood Drive

Another successful blood drive was held on May 31st. We exceed our goal by collecting 13 units of blood. Thanks to all who donated. Summertime is a time when blood donations are down. Please mark your calendars and donate at our next blood drive on **August 23rd**.



*Peace members Sally Schoeffel, Peg Papsch, Toni Muirhead, and Sarah Schoeffel serving at the Beth-el Soup Kitchen.*



Yes, there is a lot of construction going on to the west of our church building. No, it is NOT our future sanctuary. The land to the west of us is part of GreyHawk Landing subdivision. They are also to the north and east of us. The current construction work is to build new houses for the development.

Peace's future sanctuary will be placed south and east of the current building—where the big cross stands now. The start of construction for this structure will be early in 2016.



## Children, Youth and Family Activities

There is a new opportunity for all ages on Sunday mornings during the Lively Learning Hour at 9:45 a.m. We are starting a group activity called "Building a Neighborhood Together." Participants will be asked to tap into their creative side in constructing a neighborhood and explore what it looks like to be in community with one another. The idea is for families, friends, and maybe even neighbors to come together and experience cooperation, problem solving, and peacemaking.

### Cedarkirk

If your child or youth is interested in attending Cedarkirk this summer, please check out [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org) for a list and explanation of camps. If there's an interest, please contact your Peace Summer Pastoral Intern for Children, Youth, and Families, Kim Adams ([kimber23267@gmail.com](mailto:kimber23267@gmail.com)) or sign-up on the sign-up sheet located in the front desk at the church.



### Meet Peace's summer intern Pastor Kim Adams

**Kim Adams is Peace's summer intern Pastor to Youth and Families.** Kim and Jason, along with their children, Emma and Andrew, were charter members of Peace before Kim accepted a call to ministry, which took the family to Chicago, where Kim could attend McCormick Seminary. Jason is still working as an engineer in Atlanta, where they have been the last two years. Jason is a Florida native, and Kim, spent her childhood in Pennsylvania and came to Florida as a teen. She is working 25 hours/week. In addition to taking the Sr. Highs to Montreat, she is working on confirmation plans for 8th graders and up, and with the CYF, starting a summer program for all ages at Lively Learning

*The Peaceful News* is published quarterly by:  
Peace Presbyterian Church  
12705 Florida 64  
Lakewood Ranch, Florida 34212  
941-753-7778  
[www.PEACEpcusa.com](http://www.PEACEpcusa.com)  
Pastor: *Elizabeth Deibert*  
Editor: *Diane Brinkmeyer*  
Graphic Design: *Peter Miller*  
Photos: *Emily Miller, Eirinn Camphire*