

# The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

SPRING, 2017

We have been blessed to have Rev. Dr. Shannon Jung as a parish associate, assisting with worship, pastoral care, and several ministry teams for the last eight months, the busiest time of the church year. Shannon's wisdom, kindness, and good humor, combined with a deep and resilient faith, have endeared him to the congregation. Shannon has been a joyful and supportive colleague, going beyond the call of duty, as well as maintaining a flexible attitude about his length of service, given our budget constraints. With John Daniel DeBevoise, summer intern for youth ministry and communications, joining the staff in mid-May, Shannon will graciously step down from his post. If Shannon and Patti were leaving Peace, we would be weeping, but thanks be to God, they are still with us, though Shannon may be serving temporary positions in other local PC(USA) churches, using his pastoral skill to carefully guide other congregations through challenging times. Thank you, Shannon!

**“... confirmation of baptism is not an ending but a beginning.”**

We will soon have our largest group of youth being confirmed at Peace Presbyterian Church. They have been examining their own personal faith, the faith of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the history of Christianity every Sunday morning since September. We have reminded them that confirmation of baptism is not an ending but a beginning. This is the moment when they commit to a responsible faith as budding young adults. This is why we save confirmation for those in 8th grade or

high school. Parents bring their children to baptism from infancy through childhood, promising to raise them with Christian faith.

The congregation joins the parents (and sometimes godparents and grandparents) in promising to see that the children are nurtured in faith until such time that they can make their own decision to put their trust in Jesus Christ. This we hope they will do by the power of Christ at work in them.

So on this year's Confirmation Sunday, May 21, we look forward to celebrating the Holy Spirit's good work in the lives of these teens. At the Italian Dinner, you will have the opportunity to be served by the confirmands and other youth at Peace. Please take time to get to know them as they serve your tables, asking them good questions. Thank you for engaging them and their growing faith. We are grateful for your generous love offerings, which help the church to send children and youth to church camps and conferences to build their Christian faith.



Prayerfully yours,

*Elizabeth*

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert

Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church



by JoAnne Klement

One of Larry Forrester's life regrets is never learning Italian. His mother's parents were Italian immigrants, and he and his mother lived with them for many years after his parents divorced.

"In my heart and the way I cook, I am Italian," he admits. His specialty is spaghetti sauce with special spices his grandmother included. And he makes pizza for his son every week and grandsons almost every week.

But if Larry, 75, doesn't speak his Italian grandmother's language, he now exhibits the strong faith of his other grandmother, Grandma Forrester, and finds his faith growing since his wife passed away in 2014.

"Grandma Forrester had the strongest faith of anyone in my family, on either side," he says. "As I grew up, and as an adult, I was always so impressed with her faith in God and what it meant to her throughout her life. She certainly had a great influence on my journey of faith; the most long-term effect on my faith." "Now, I love to tell God I love him because he is really good to me. I literally thank God for even the little things every day," Larry says. "I feel so strongly He affects every part of my life."

After Nancy's breast cancer surgery, initially considered successful, she learned her cancer had metastasized to her liver, lungs and bones, "literally everywhere," Larry says. She then assumed she would be gone in a few months. But, she lived another four years, during which time Larry spent almost all of his time as her caregiver. At this point Nancy was too ill to attend church so they became devotees of a TV evangelist and lost touch with folks where they had been attending church. Nancy's goal was to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in November 2014. She died in July, missing her goal by a few months.

On their anniversary date, November 20, Larry visited Emerson Park, a nature preserve in Palmetto with his beloved Great Pyrenees dog, Bonnie. Bonnie and Nancy were inseparable at the time of her death and Bonnie was now Larry's best friend. "There were two complete strangers from Ohio visiting there. They looked over at me and could tell something was wrong," Larry says. "We started talking about it, and they showed such wonderful compassion. They were so

sympathetic that it was just a very moving experience. It was when I was feeling my worst."

"When I look back, I can see God's hand on my life like that encounter in the park. It was kind of a divine appointment," he says. "You don't always give credit to God, but now that I have jumped back into church with both feet and reflect back, I appreciate and see God got me through so many things. I can really see what an effect God had on my life, and I thank Him now for things He did years ago."



Anxious to be closer to God, Larry visited several nearby churches, not finding any of them the right fit. He had been a Presbyterian as a youngster and one of his sons reminded him of this small Presbyterian Church on State Road 64 in Lakewood Ranch—Peace Presbyterian, 12705 SR 64. Larry walked in on August 31, 2014, explained to the greeter, Emily Miller, that he was anxious to find a church home and needed to get involved. Pastor Elizabeth Deibert found 15 minutes in-between services and chatted with him. "I immediately decided that was my church," he says.

Larry later learned that the pastor rarely has lengthy conversations in-between services because of all the details she needs to attend to and members she needs to greet. He has since become trained as a Stephen minister to assist other church members through difficult situations, serves communion and serves on the board of elders.



**There is always time to join a team or share your talents.  
At PEACE, membership plus two is what we do!**

## Mother's Day Diaper Collection for SOLVE

Patti Jung, Marlene Schmidt and Sue Donovan are shown with diapers collected in a previous year for delivery to the Solve House, a faith-based organization which offers shelter and services to women with crisis pregnancies.

Peace Presbyterian is now starting to collect diapers (newborn size) and checks to buy diapers in the weeks before Mothers Day, May 14.

Founded in 1976, SOLVE has been reaching out to pregnant women of all ages, whether they have chosen to parent or place for adoption. There are two homes in Bradenton and one in Sarasota. No government support is accepted. Services offered include: housing, education, counseling, health

care resources, childbirth and parenting classes, spiritual support and case management for their woman's future.

Pastor Elizabeth agrees SOLVE's mission matches Peace Church's values.

"When we commit to the goal of being compassionate and involved with

people, like Christ was, we accept them, just as they are in their current circumstances, and we hope to show the love of God, which brings hope and peace to this world in need," she said.



*... not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*  
Philippians 2:4

## Building Vision Team Report on Sanctuary Progress

- The Final Site Plan: all initial County comments have been addressed & re-submission to Manatee County, for final approval, is imminent.
- Site Landscape Plan is complete and ready for pricing.
- Organ, Audio/Visual & Theatrical Lighting Projects are in final stages of engineering.
- Live oak tree trunks will be sent to North Carolina to the Presbyterian minister/craftsman who is designing the chancel furniture: pulpit, lectern, baptismal font, communion table.
- F-B, architect, is finalizing engineering documents for submission to Willis Smith, builder, for pricing bids.
- An 8-9-month building cycle is currently envisioned, to start mid-summer 2017.
- Occupancy is envisioned in the March/April 2018 timeframe.

Building cycle is conditioned upon the following:

- Favorable Weather
- Availability of trade labor
- Materials availability
- Timely County approvals/inspections
- Pledge fulfillment and financing approvals



*Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.  
Unless the Lord watches over the city,  
the watchman stays awake in vain.*

Psalm 127:1



## FAITH AND FILM

If a movie appeals to you, just show up. There are no sign-ups and no commitment. Anyone who would like to host a film—i.e. bring drinks and popcorn—should contact Emily Miller. Here is the schedule:

**May 12, 2017**

***The Intern*** (2015)

Discussion Leader: Ivy Ruark

Refreshments: Open

70-year-old widower Ben Whittaker has discovered that retirement isn't all it's cracked up to be. Seizing an opportunity to get back in the game, he becomes a senior intern at an online fashion site, founded and run by Jules Ostin.

Starring: Robert De Niro, Anne Hathaway, Rene Russo

**Gather at 6:30pm in Chapel.**

**Movie begins at 7:00pm.**

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

The Faith and Film planning group will be meeting over the summer to determine the movies for next year, starting in September. New voices are needed and welcomed. Please contact Emily Miller. [egmiller1126@gmail.com](mailto:egmiller1126@gmail.com) to volunteer.



### Saturday Night Singles

All single women are cordially invited to join SATURDAY NIGHT SINGLES. This is a group of women who gather approximately once a month for fun and fellowship. Our most recent outing was to see Circus Sarasota, and we had a marvelous afternoon enjoying the show followed by an early dinner. We are a friendly and casual group who has supported one another through many ups and downs.

Some of us are widowed, some divorced, some never married. We would be very happy to see the group grow, and all you need to do is contact me and I'll add your name, phone and e-mail to the list. It is not necessary to be a member of Peace Presbyterian Church to join the group.

Come and watch the sunset at Jiggs Landing, or catch a new movie, or attend a concert downtown, or gather at one of our homes for wine and fellowship. We always have a lot of good laughs together. Ivy Ruark, [ivyruark@gmail.com](mailto:ivyruark@gmail.com)



### CROP Walk—Mission Team

We at Peace Presbyterian Church regularly put our faith into action to help meet the needs of our world and our local community. CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide interfaith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored by Church World Service. Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world!

On February 26, several Manatee County churches, comprising 228 walkers, participated in this annual event by



*Representatives of Peace at the CROP Walk*

securing pledges and walking 3 miles over The Green Bridge from Palmetto to The Bradenton Riverwalk and back. Pastor Elizabeth Deibert led the

interdenominational group in prayer.

Peace Church once again prevailed in the number of walkers: 35 multigenerational participants plus one 4-legged congregation member, ("Jax" Sliwowski,) enjoyed the magnificent weather and scenery along with genuine fellowship. A total of \$20,963 was raised, with a very generous \$2,262 donated by Peace Presbyterian. Twenty-five percent of the total raised stays right here in our county, where the need is critical. We are extremely grateful to Jim & Adriana Padula for spearheading this successful effort with much enthusiasm and grace.



# Peace Youth

The Peace Youth Group has been busy this spring! They started a relationship with Westminster Manor ALF, they joined Ms. Gia Havener for winter sports at the Ellenton Ice Rink, they built oyster beds in Tampa Bay and had a wonderful weekend on a family retreat at Cedarkirk!



The Peace Youth Group ice skating at the Ellenton Ice Rink in March.

Confirmation is right around the corner for many of the teens in the group. This summer will bring a wonderful intern, John Daniel DeBevoise, who we are excited to welcome into the Peace family! When the youth aren't busy brightening someone's day, or saving the earth, they are planning new adventures.



The Peace Youth Group building oyster reefs in April.

Also coming up this summer is the annual conference



in Montreat, NC for High School students. We hope to have a great turnout of Peace youth at this inspiring event. It is a truly blessing to see them grow stronger in faith and in their relationships with each other. The generosity of Peace folks



The youth help glean oranges in January.

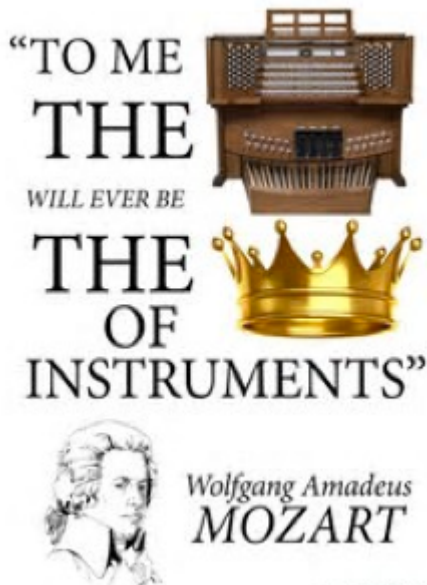
make this all possible, so THANK YOU to each and every one of you for your support of our youth programs!



Blessing enjoying just being a youth at Beth-El Cena



The Peace Youth enjoy activities with the Beth-El youth.



## Organ For New Sanctuary

The Music Committee has been looking forward to the time when we will be worshipping in the new sanctuary. One of the major concerns of the committee is the future music.

Our present organ is dying and will not be sufficient in our new worship space. We had to scrap the speakers that came with the organ because they all had to be in one space next to the organ. Gia Havener, Music Director and Organist is using only the box of the organ and has added a computer, software, and speakers surrounding the sanctuary to have it useable for our current worship services.

Our pastor, music director and committee investigated what was available for a new digital and pipe organ. The pipe organ was way out of our price range and would take up too much room in the sanctuary.

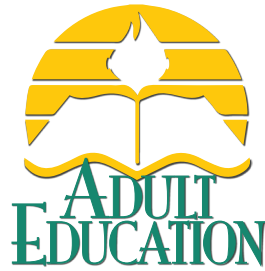
There were several digital organs that had the sound of a pipe organ but were engineered to take us into the future. After several trips to various churches in the area, the committee voted to purchase an Allen Bravura Organ with recording capabilities, software updates and speakers designed for our building. The organ will be made to our specifications and is manufactured here in the USA.

The price of the instrument is \$95,000 and will provide beautiful music for the next 50 years. We were very fortunate to have a special donor start our fund-raiser off. We have over \$30,000 in hand and need to raise the remaining within the next 3 months.

We have made it easy for contributors to buy a Key, a complete Octave of Keys, Pedals, Pistons, Volume Pedals or Toe Pistons.

## Lively Learning for Adults this Spring

Adult Education is offering a rich series of courses for Spring '17 at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays. They include Richard Deibert



and Mickey Miller running a Bible study on the pithy sayings of St. Paul in the Cafe and a discussion of Parker Palmer's book *Healing the Heart of Democracy* led by Craig Hardesty and Chuck McClurg in the Gathering Room. A six-week course entitled Men & Women: Building

Communication will start May 14 in Room 9 with Chip Schaaff and Zoe Christianson.

We have another wonderful Peace Forum scheduled for Sunday evening, May 7th at 7:00 p.m. Our focus this time will be on *Bullying, Solidarity and Allies*.



## Peace Blessed Hands (Crafters)

We are continuing to make 7" x 9" pieces, knit or crochet to make afghans. We will collect them through the end of August. We will be giving them to Turning Point, a local group.

We also continue our Prayer Shawl ministry. If anyone needs a prayer shawl, please let us know.

On the first and third Friday of each month, you can find us in the kitchen from 10:00-12:00. Stop in and see us. We are always looking for new items to work on.

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering,  
persevere in prayer.*

**Romans 12:12**

## Peace Members Host Beth-El Community Meal (Cena)

The Beth-El Farmworker Ministry Community Meal, or Cena, is held the 2nd Tuesday of the month, and Peace Church stepped up to spearhead the effort on Feb 14. Approximately



15 Peace folks got involved with the preliminary planning, shopping, and cooking tasks, while five of us served the meal and cleaned up.

We partnered with First Presbyterian, Brandon, who distributed red roses and Javier's festive chocolate covered strawberries in honor of Valentine's Day! Our own Pastor Elizabeth led the prayer before the meal while Ofelia Uribe translated. I noticed how silent and observant the 160 farmworkers and their families were during this moment, and just how grateful they were for the meal and fellowship we provided. I found them to be humble, gracious people. Please consider becoming involved, in some small way, with the next Cena. I believe the experience will leave a positive impact.



A huge thank-you to all church members who have signed-up to bring in fruit and sweets for the Coffee and Conversation time between services. Many hands make light work and the Fellowship Team appreciates your help with this weekly opportunity to serve. If you haven't had a chance to sign-up, more openings are available.

NOTE: Please help keep the church and chapel clean by returning all dirty dishes and cups to the kitchen and place in the sink. Thank you.

The Women's Fellowship Tea was a big success. We had 28 ladies who enjoyed conversation, finger foods, and getting the opportunity to build stronger friendships with others in our congregation and some visitors as well.

## Summer Camp Changes Lives!

Are you looking for a summer program for your child that will provide him or her with opportunities for spiritual, physical, and social growth? Cedarkirk offers small-group, residential camp programs that allow children and youth to explore, learn, and just be themselves.

They learn to cook over a campfire, read Bible stories, experiment with arts and crafts, swim in the pool, canoe, do archery and zip-lining and lots more. Besides being fun, summer camps help kids: improve confidence and self-esteem; learn a new skill; improve critical thinking and decision-making abilities; experience the wonder of the natural world; learn to live and work as part of a community; and connect with God in a place where earnest discussions and honest dialogue allow them to make their faith their own.

Send your camper to Cedarkirk this summer to discover how a single summer can last a lifetime! Visit [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org) for program dates, details, and registration.



**Cedarkirk Open House—May 13**  
**1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Plan on joining us Saturday, May 13th, for a free afternoon of fun at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center. This event offers fun for all ages and a taste of what a day of summer camp is like. You are welcome to try your hand at archery, zip-line through the tree tops, explore our new disc golf course, hike the property, take a walking or hayride tour, toast a s'more over a campfire, express your creative side at arts and crafts, or simply relax in a rocking chair on the porch of Cedar Lodge. Snacks are provided throughout the day and other food items will be available for purchase. Come hungry for fun and food!**

For more information about the Open House, please contact the camp office at [info@cedarkirk.org](mailto:info@cedarkirk.org) or (813) 685-4224, ext. 2



## Upcoming Blood Drive

Because of our blood donations, up to 33 people's lives were saved. Thank You! Our next blood drive is on June 4. Please mark your calendar and donate.

# HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES AT PEACE

*The Living Last Supper – Peace Presbyterian Church – Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2017*



*Easter floral cross*



*Palm Sunday Groundbreaking for our new Sanctuary and picnic celebration*



*Palm Sunday services*

*Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."*

*John 20:1-2 EVS*



# Your Offering as an Act of Worship

The Bible tells us we are called to worship our God. The Bible also instructs us to give of our treasures—joyful, generous giving. Consider your financial offering as an act of worship. When the offering plate comes by, putting in a check, or cash or coin is not just ticking off the box that says “I gave” but rather a purposeful part of your worship of our omnipotent God!

***For where there is your treasure, there your heart will be also.*** Mt 6:21

Wayne Jackson, prolific author on books of the New Testament, in his article Giving as an Expression of Worship, speaks to the concept of Stewardship...

The key to acceptable giving is to acknowledge the role that we sustain with God. A prime concept in our relationship to the Creator is that of “stewardship.”

Many Jews who lived outside the borders of Palestine owned land within the country. It was common, therefore, to utilize a “steward”—a hired employee or a slave—in the management of one’s property. The Greek term for “steward” is the compound word, oikonomos, literally a “house ruler.” It denotes one who oversees or manages the property of a superior.

If viewing your financial giving as an act of worship is new for you—consider a paradigm shift. Instead of the view of giving as an important, necessary act—we should view giving as a sacred privilege of worshiping your God. View the offering plate from the steward’s point of view and not the owner’s point of view.

...God, as creator of the universe, is owner of this earth and all its contents. We are but managers of his resources. We do not have the right to boast: “What I make is mine. I will do with it as I please.”

***“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.”*** (Psalms 24:1-2)

If God made it, He owns it.

God has clear instructions for stewards.

***“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust (literally, stewards) must prove faithful”*** (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Just as each of us come to the communion table as an act of worship each week, and recite the Lord’s Prayer as an act of faith and recognition of love of Christ—why pass on the offering plate? So, as the offering plate comes to you each week—don’t let the opportunity to show your love of Christ pass by. Show your faith by giving. Regardless of how you fulfill your financial pledge—consider sharing an offering as an act of worship each and every time the offering plate is passed down the row, hand by hand. So, for us, when Peter puts the check in the offering plate, I will put something in too as I continue my Sunday morning worship. I am working on this, learning more about this act of giving as an important part of sacred worship and hoping to encourage you along the way.

Robin Miller



## Wednesday Bible Study

A group of women are meeting at Peace weekly from 9:30–10:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning to study the Book of Matthew and to share joys and concerns. This is an ongoing study. Come when you can. All women welcome and anyone can join at any time. For more information, contact Susan Hyde at [hyde.susank@gmail.com](mailto:hyde.susank@gmail.com) or 828-962-5712.

**Peace Day Camp**  
Faith-based fun by [Cedarkirk.org](http://Cedarkirk.org)

**JUNE 5th-9th**

- for campers having completed k-5
- 8am – 5pm
- \$85 per camper
- 12705 S.R. 64 E. Lakewood Ranch 941-753-7778
- Register online @ [peaceocusa.com](http://peaceocusa.com)

**Don't forget to sign up your children, grandchildren, friends, neighbors, ...**



*The topic of the Second Peace Forum was Depression: Giving Support and Hope.*

*Sisters of Peace appreciated the Fellowship Spring Tea in March.*



*The Harmonizing Women glorified God with their voices in February.*

## Lost, But Not Found

Dear Peace Friends,

I am in need of some assistance. Some time ago I lost my Peace name tag and have been unable to find it. I am attaching a picture of it in case you find it and are uncertain as to whom it belongs. I thought it might be in my house, but that was silly because I never misplace things at home.

Each week I have been forced to write out a name tag and then have an uncertainty as to what to do with it after the Sunday Service. If you see my name tag worn by someone other than me, please let me know so they can be properly dealt with before something unspeakable happens.

Thank you for your help.



*The Peaceful News* is published quarterly by:

Peace Presbyterian Church  
12705 State Road 64 East  
Lakewood Ranch, Florida 34212  
941-753-7778

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