

# The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

WINTER, 2018

## Elizabeth's Frequently Asked Questions about the Sanctuary

When will it be finished? *Likely June.*

How many people will it seat? *350 when you include the choir.*

Will we have stained glass windows? *Possibly one day, but real storm-proof windows are required and that is what we are installing this year.*

Will we have pews? *No we affirm the value of flexibility over the beauty of pews. Our chairs will be comfortable, padded, and connecting with an arc. Our initial order includes 50 armed chairs, and 200 regular chairs.*

Will we have one service or two? *Two, because we believe that meets the needs of more worshippers. We do not anticipate a schedule change.*

Will we have a screen in the middle? *No, we will have two screens on the sides of the front wall and one on the back wall.*

Will we move our communion table, pulpit, baptismal font, and welcome desk over there? *No, we have a Presbyterian minister craftsman who is designing and building a pulpit, font, table, and cross set for the new sanctuary. He will use some wood from our Live Oak trees on the property. We will have need for welcome desks in both buildings so a new one will be purchased for there.*

Will there be other rooms in the sanctuary building? *Yes, a large narthex (lobby), bathrooms, a communion prep room, and a tiny serving kitchen. We will continue to have offices, meetings, fellowship, and classes in the current building.*

Will it be accessible? *Yes, there will be an automatic door, accessible bathrooms, and a ramp to the chancel and choir. The communion table will be floor-level.*

What will we do with our current chapel? *It will become a Fellowship Hall, where we can enjoy coffee and refreshments weekly and dinners as needed. The Fellowship Café will work for classes and medium-sized group activities.*

Will the buildings match in color?

*Yes, our Property Team is already preparing to paint the current building to match the sanctuary.*

Will we have a sidewalk between the buildings? *Yes, but it will not be covered now—due to budget constraints.*

What about young children going to the nursery? *They will need very diligent supervision moving between the buildings. Parents may also decide to keep young children in the narthex, where the service may be seen and heard.*

Is all that dirt out there going to be parking area? *Yes, some of it grass parking and some paved.*

Will we complete payments on the sanctuary before moving in? *No, and thank you for asking. We are having a capital campaign this year to encourage strong giving in 2019-2021.*

What kinds of opening events are planned? *A soft opening in June, a Sunday afternoon Dedication service in the early fall, and a community-wide Grand opening on a Saturday in later fall.*

What are the other ideas and plans of the Building Vision Team? *A memorial garden with peaceful meditation path in the woods, a fenced play area for younger children, improvements at the front entrance on State Road 64 in the near future. In the long-range plan, an institutional kitchen and fellowship hall or other rooms between the two buildings.*

Prayerfully yours,



Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert

Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church



# Beth-El News

This year marks 10 years that Peace folks have been volunteering at Beth-El. People have come and gone but there are several who have been a part of that Team since the beginning. We are always looking for volunteers: we go every Thursday to bag groceries, leaving in carpools at 8:30, returning around noon. Bi-weekly on Monday we also go to re-bag 4,000 pounds of rice and beans that arrive in 50 pound bags. We meet at the parking lot of the Goodwill on SR 70 at 8:15 and at Grant and Gail Lowe's in Greenfield Plantation at 8:30.

Going to Beth-El is rewarding. It is a morning well-spent with a good team. Anyone interested can contact me by phone 941-752-7163 or email [juniemiller1@verizon.net](mailto:juniemiller1@verizon.net)



In addition, if anyone wants to receive Executive Director Kathy Dain's monthly Beth-El newsletter, you can sign up at [info@beth-el.org](mailto:info@beth-el.org). There are many exciting things happening, including a Dental Clinic opening soon.

## New Outreach Project

Peace has joined the Adopt-A-Highway project, with a two-mile stretch from Ft Hamer bridge to SR64. We anticipate having a team of 12 (rotating so the same group doesn't feel stuck) volunteers to pick up trash. Everyone at the church has the opportunity to volunteer and this could be a fun time. The Keep Manatee Beautiful project is providing "grabbers," vests, bags, and signs. The first pickup was



Saturday, January 20. We have agreed to pick up trash at least four times a year.



*A new service to the community, Peace members are cleaning up a 2-mile section of Upper Manatee River Road. The first clean-up crew, Chris, Glenda, Toni, Glen—and Eirinn behind the camera.*

## Christmas Joys



*The December 18 worship services were treated to a "Christmas Cantata" by the choir and Gia.*

## Making Headway on New Sanctuary

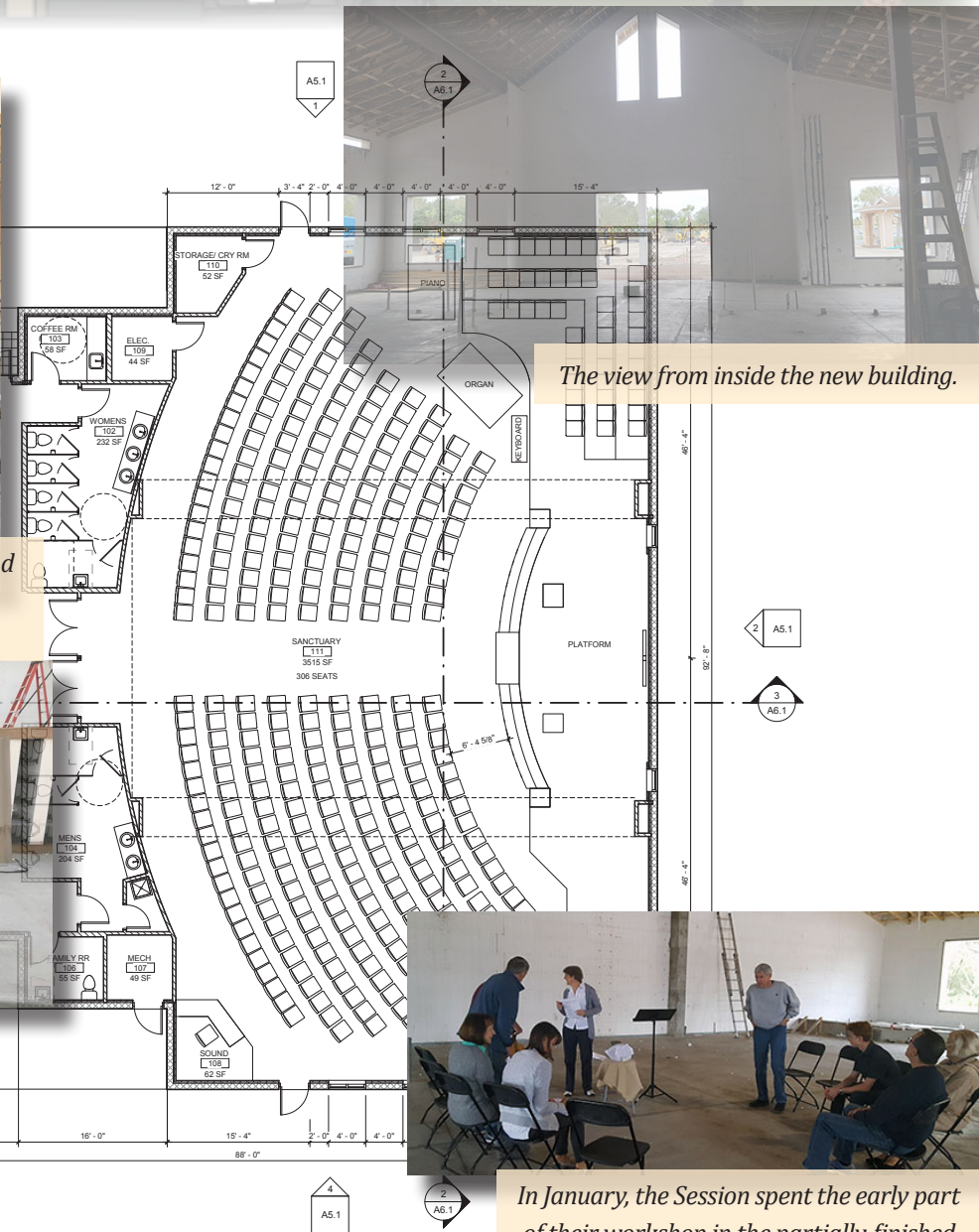
The next few weeks will see progress on the building and site. Sod will be added on the south parking aisle to stabilize the bank, and crushed concrete fill will stabilize the paved parking lanes. The building will be "Dried In" with a finished roof, windows, doors, and storefront entrances. Inside work will include temporary lights, roof deck spray

insulation, sprinkler piping, HVAC rough-in, mechanical & electrical rough-in. Interior framing and upper wall drywall installation will begin also. We are on schedule. More to follow as progress continues.

-Building Vision Team



Pastor Elizabeth and Music Director (and organist) Gia practice in the partially completed sanctuary in December.



The view from inside the new building.



In January, the Session spent the early part of their workshop in the partially-finished sanctuary, receiving communion.



## MOVIES SET FOR FAITH AND FILM

This group meets on the 2nd Friday of each month, Sept. to May. We gather at church at 6:30 to visit with each other. The movies begin at 7:00 p.m. SHARP, followed by discussion. The theme for this year's films is "Challenges."

There is no need to sign up or make any advance plans. Just show up on the correct Friday and enjoy the movie. This group is a great way to ease into the "+2, as in Worship +2 is what we do." **NEW THIS YEAR: BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND ANY REFRESHMENTS**

### February 9, 2018

#### **THE SHACK** (2017)

Discussion Leader: Elizabeth Deibert

Based on the New York Times best-selling novel, "The Shack" takes us on a father's uplifting spiritual journey. After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips [Sam Worthington] spirals into a deep depression causing him to question his innermost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers led by a woman named Papa [Octavia Spencer]. Through this meeting, Mack finds important truths.

### March 9, 2018

#### **QUEEN OF KATWE** (2016)

Discussion Leader: Barbara & Denny Noto

"Queen of Katwe" is the colorful true story of a young girl selling corn on the streets of rural Uganda whose world rapidly changes when she is introduced to the game of chess, and, as a result of the support she receives from her family and community, is instilled with the confidence and determination she needs to pursue her dream of becoming an international chess champion.

### April 13, 2018

#### **SECRET LIFE OF BEES** (2016)

Discussion Leader: Jim Padula

Set in South Carolina in 1964, the film is the moving tale of Lily Owens a 14 year-old girl who is haunted by the memory of her late mother. To escape her lonely life and troubled relationship with her father, Lily flees with Rosaleen, her caregiver and only friend, to a South Carolina town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by the intelligent and independent Boatwright sisters, Lily finds solace in their mesmerizing world of beekeeping, honey and the Black Madonna.

### May 9, 2018

#### **A MAN CALLED OVE** (2016)

Discussion Leader: Dirk Brinkmeyer

A Swedish comedy-drama film based on author Fredrik Backman's 2012 book of the same name. In the leading role as Ove is Rolf Lassgård. Ove is the quintessential angry old man next door. An isolated retiree with strict principles and a short fuse, he spends his days enforcing block association rules that only he cares about, and visiting his wife's grave. Ove has given up on life until a boisterous young family moves next door.

As part of the Peace family, members and non-members, all 246 of you, are prayed for by name every day. We'd like to give thanks to the incredible team who prays for you: **Martha**

**McCrea** on Monday, **Junie Miller** on Tuesday, **Larry Forrester** on Wednesday, **Ellen Walch** on Thursday, **David Mullen, Joy Kottra** on Friday, **Mary Kajang and Gertie Rineer** on Saturday, **Peter Miller** on Sunday. **Glenn Kiplinger** spreads the 246 out over the 7 days.

We are working toward getting two people per day as we are

growing in numbers. **Linda Juillerat** and **Emily Miller** fill in when folks are out of town. **Peter Miller** has prayed this list in many states and countries over the years. We figured out that between us, we've prayed the list in almost every state in the USA. We at Peace take praying seriously.

A second group of folks pray the concerns in the bulletin and the private concerns that come in during the week. Thanks to these good and faithful pray-ers: **Sally Brettle, Eirinn Camphire, Betty Clough, Peggy Donaldson, Nancy Hogue, Emily Miller, Marlene Schmidt, Sally Schoeffel, Dana Scott, Judi Steele, Debby Sunkenberg, Anne Warburton, and Carole Zoellner.** **Kathy Flora** has left Peace Church, but she still prays the daily concerns.

All prayer concerns are held **completely confidential**, except the public concerns in the bulletin. It takes courage to ask for prayers! The Prayer Team takes this very seriously.

We thank all the folks who give their time and talent to praying for all of you! If you would like to be part of this team let Emily Miller or Debby Sunkenberg know.



## Gratitude from the Gratitude Team

The Gratitude team wishes to thank the members of the congregation for a very successful 2018 Giving Campaign. This year's campaign was titled "Earn. Save. Give." It stressed the importance of stewardship – both within the church and outside of the church – including our time, talents, and money. Four classes were presented and were very well attended.

The generosity of our congregation is shown in the following statistics:

- The number of pledges increased by 7.2% over last year's pledges,
- 48.2% of members who pledged last year increased their pledges this year,
- We received 13 new pledges this year,
- And the total amount pledged was \$354,188 – an increase of 11.8% over 2017.

We believe that God has blessed Peace and as a result, its members give back a portion in sincere gratitude for those blessings.

## Thanks From the LWR Rotary Club

Thanks to Peace Presbyterian Church for everything that you have done for our program. I can't express enough what it's meant to us to be able to use the room, the closet, and the church. When we came here, we were helping over 500 children. We are now helping over 1500 boys and girls and we are distributing over 1500 books a month. In October, we passed the 20,000 book distribution mark. We now have over 75 people involved in the Books For Kids Program. (LWR Rotary Club's Books for Kids donated \$500 to Peace as a thank you.)

*4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it be received with thanksgiving: 5 for it is sanctified through the word of God and prayer.*

1 Timothy 4:4-5 (ASV)

Judy, Marlene, Barbara, Shirley, Gertie, Peggy, Nancy, Jo-Anne and 34 more Sisters of Peace sparkle at the Christmas party, Dec. 18.



For your generosity during our annual Angel Tree drive, which enabled us to provide seven families and some employees of Beth-El with over 70 gifts, 3 bicycles, Walmart gift cards, and 10 brand new children's bibles for Sunday school. Thanks be to God!

## Friends Make the Difference

Each year, thousands of youth and adults have life-changing and enriching experiences at Cedarkirk. This ministry is important in the life of churches and individuals in both Tampa Bay and Peace River Presbyteries. While both Presbyteries support our program and operations, work is left undone due to a lack of funds for improvement, renovations, and program enhancement.

### Lives are changed at Cedarkirk!

Have you heard the story of:

...a youth being raised by his grandparents who was struggling with the recent passing of his grandfather? This young man had been reserved and conflicted following his loss. During a worship service of the camp community, he encountered God in a way that reminded him that God had not abandoned him; that God loves him; and that God has a plan for his life.

... a young adult on summer staff who was wrestling with discerning what was next for her after graduation? Through a summer of service at camp, this young woman encountered God in a way that opened her heart to the possibility of continued service to God in the mission field.

... an adult participant who encountered the presence of God by serving those who are less wealthy in the eyes of the world? An encounter with God during her participation in the Challenge to Change program altered her view of all of God's children, her fellow brothers and sisters, and she surrendered her life to the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

The Board of Directors of Presbyterian Camp and Conference Ministries invites you to join us in ministry by becoming "Friends of Cedarkirk." Funds generated by this ongoing

program will be used at Cedarkirk to:

- Underwrite capital improvement projects
- Purchase program and operations equipment
- Assist in major renovations
- Enlarge the Memorial Scholarship Fund

Friends will be kept informed of fund expenditure and ongoing facility and program activities at Cedarkirk. In addition, Friends will be hosted at an annual Friends gathering and receive all Cedarkirk mailings. For more

information on becoming a Friend of Cedarkirk, please contact the camp office at [info@cedarkirk.org](mailto:info@cedarkirk.org) or (813) 685-4224.



### Cedarkirk Summer Registration Open

Surrounded by God's beautiful creation and the love of nurturing counselors and staff, campers grow, learn, and build character. This summer's theme, *Beyond Belief*, invites campers to ask the big questions about God and explore how we can see God in the vastness of creation, the power of community, and even in our own hearts. For more information and to register go to <http://cedarkirk.org/summer/>

Peace children, youth and adults take part in activities at Cedarkirk year-round. Three members of our congregation serve on the Cedarkirk

board. Suzi Regulski is the VP and Chip Schaaff and Aubrey Sammons are also on the board.



**OPEN HOUSE**  
**FEBRUARY 3 & MAY 12, 2018**  
**1:00-5:00 PM**

**ZIP LINE | CLIMBING WALL | S'MORES**  
**HAYRIDES | CAMP TOURS | PRIZES**

## Peace Presbyterian Church Lenten Adult Education Course Descriptions

### SUNDAY MORNINGS—

#### TRAITS OF A HEALTHY FAMILY

As part of our Christian Living theme, the Adult Education Team at Peace Presbyterian Church is offering a special series of classes on Sunday mornings for parents and couples: Traits of a Healthy Family. This research-based series describes 15 qualities or behaviors which have been identified as common to well-functioning families. Participants in this series will be given weekly handouts with information and ideas to help develop these “healthy” qualities in their families. Chip Schaaff will be leading the discussion. The series starts Sunday, February 18th and will run through March 25th.

#### WALKING WITH JESUS

Walking with Jesus - An Invitation to Deepen Our Lenten Journey

...spend the 40 days of Lent this year preparing your body, heart and mind for the most pivotal reality in the history of humankind

...combine the practice of meditative daily prayer walks with spiritual readings

...during Sunday School join with others “walking” this way with Jesus to learn more about praying and engaging with scripture and music.

The class facilitator will be Beth Rinsema. First handout will be distributed Ash Wednesday; Sunday classes begin Feb 18 and end March 25.

#### CONTRAST COMMUNITY: A NEW—AND VERY OLD—WAY OF EXPERIENCING JESUS’ SERMON ON THE MOUNT

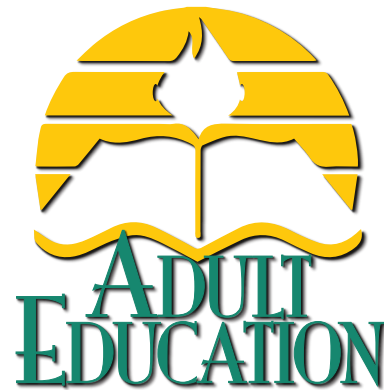
James Bailey is a 30-year student of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (he abbreviates, SM). He’s also a friend and former colleague of Peace Church’s Patti and Shannon Jung.

His book, Contrast Community, invites us to take a devotional, not just intellectual, “deep dive” into the “SM”. His objective and hope—and ours—is our not just discovering, but our experiencing, the transformative ways the Spirit has used the “SM” through the centuries. So, we’ll give our left brains some rest, and give Jim Bailey’s approach a shot. We’d love to have you join us. Mickey Miller will facilitate this class.

### WEDNESDAY LATE AFTERNOON & EARLY EVENING—

#### LENTEN LIFE GROUPS

During the five Wednesdays of Lent, (February 21 to March 21), Peace Presbyterian Church will provide small group Bible studies on Jesus’ Final Week. The groups will meet at 4:45pm or 6:30pm, either before or after a light supper served from 5:45 pm until 6:30pm. All are welcome! Please sign up in the church lobby and note which time you prefer to meet. Stephen Kersten is going to oversee the launch of these groups. Please see him for more information.



#### AND AS USUAL...

Tuesdays 6:30 AM Men’s Prayer Group—Mickey Miller & Bill Clough

Wednesdays 9:30 Women’s Bible Study—Susan Hyde

Peace Forums: Select Sunday evenings—Diane Engster and Bill Yolton

Christianity and Science Group meets every few weeks on weekday evenings

Poetry as Prayer—Monthly (fourth Monday)—Led by Barbara McIllwain with R. Deibert

# Finding Home in the Wilderness

By: Sarah Schoeffel



## The New Year ushered in adventure for the young adults who attended the Montreat

and condemning, may be uncomfortable, but it brings understanding. Everyone has experiences shaping who they are, and their experiences are no less valid than another's.

The Peace group was very active in worship. Julie helped organize the conference while Emily served communion, and John, Julie, Rebecca, and I helped with the offertory. But the most impactful part of the day for me was the back-home group comprehensive discussion we had every night. These reflected on the day's Bible passages and messages, from worship to keynote to workshop, highlighting what challenged and inspired us. With these thorough conversations, which each easily surpassed an hour, our understanding of home broadened, and the bond within the group deepened.

Becca Stevens, another keynote speaker, relayed an important message: God never inflicts negativity on us, but his love and presence never abandon us as we face our wildernesses. The theme of "Home" was highly applicable as most of us begin to ponder or are already facing the questions of where and what home will look like after graduation. But a cure to this uncertainty is faith. Faith and good friendships, both strengthened at Montreat.



## College Conference from January 2-5.

### Arriving the day

prior to registration allowed us to both nestle into our new accommodations and strengthen our bond through a late morning hike of Graybeard Mountain. Though we didn't summit the mountain in its entirety, we found a simple yet



*Andrew, Sarah, Nathan, Rebecca and Emily, bundled up against an unusually cold North Carolina.*

breathtaking opening where we joined in silent reflection. Absolute silence, save for the wind blowing through the trees and the water flowing beneath the ice. The awe of God's creation presented before us made me feel minute in the entire equation. This experience offered the perfect segue into what the conference centered around: the theme of "Home."

... "safety is not a Christian value."

The wilderness of the unknown can be overwhelming and consuming. It can make us lose our bearing of home since home is a transitory idea. This unpredictability can conjure nervousness, doubt, and fear. Rick Ufford-Chase, a keynote speaker, said that this can lead to tribalism and "othering" of anyone we do not identify with, but we are tasked as Christians to challenge this exclusion with diverse discourse and inclusion, even if it's not always easy to do so because "safety is not a Christian value." Moving closer and engaging others in discussion, rather than generalizing



*A group of our college students attending a conference at Montreat in January.*





## PEACE YOUTH GROUP

You might have observed that the Youth Group has been growing into fine young ladies and gentlemen! Part of this is thanks to Emily Deibert Cisneros and Nicolas Cisneros, who led a Formal Etiquette Dinner for the youth in December. They enjoyed four courses of food while learning the proper way of fine dining.



*Peace Youth learned dining etiquette from Nico and Emily at a formal dinner Dec. 17.*



*Jamie, cleaning at Nate's Honor Rescue, one of the youth group's recurring service projects.*

We have also continued to support Nate's Honor Animal Rescue with our monthly visits: weeding, washing vehicles and deep cleaning their storage facility.

This spring we are looking forward to the Cedarkirk Family Retreat April 13-15. All ages of children and youth are welcome—last year we had 28 people attend!

The Kids Club and younger kids will have a fun time at Peace on February 10 while their parents enjoy a much deserved night out together.

Finally, we are developing new relationships with mission groups—both local and in Haiti. Stay tuned for more information!



*The youth also did a clean-up at Rye Preserve in January.*

*Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6(ASV)



*In November, the youth held a fundraising "brinner" (breakfast for dinner.) The winners of the "Best PJs" award were Eva and Nancy.*

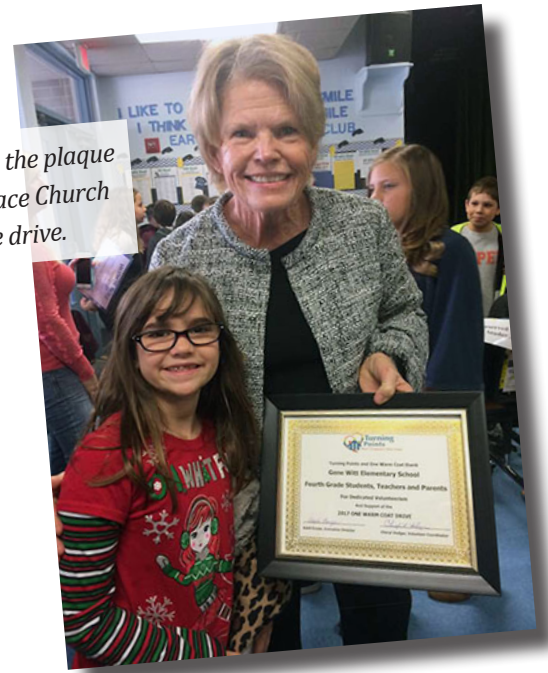


*The children of Peace, practicing for the Nativity program on Christmas Eve.*



*Peace Forum on Southeast Guide Dogs Sunday, Jan 21.*

*Gigi and Jamie in January with the plaque for the Warm Coat Drive. Peace Church donated 70 coats for the drive.*



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