

The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

FALL, 2016

This Gratitude Season we have been encouraged to consider all that we are in Christ, all that we have, and all that we can give. This led me to stop and literally count blessings at Peace. People often are curious about Peace by the numbers. I bet you will rejoice with me in all these blessings: We have close to 300 people who are active in some way with Peace. Of those, 200 are members or affiliates, or ordained Ministers active in the congregation (12 of them). We have 20 young adults (18-25), 20 youth in middle and high school, and 12 children. We have three sand hill cranes, four deer, and two hawks, who call Peace home.

We have eleven ministry teams plus a membership task force, and a Stephen Ministry group. We have five choirs and Gia is always wanting

It is fun to count our blessings...

more. We have more than ten small groups and this number is always growing; these are task groups, exercise groups, prayer/Bible groups, sharing groups, dinner groups. We have five goals: Inspiring Worship, Authentic Relationships,

Nurturing Discipleship, Compassionate Outreach, and Responsive Stewardship.

We support with money, energy, and time Beth-El Farmworker Ministries and about 16 other missions beyond Peace Church. We are giving away about 16% of our budget to these benevolences. In 2016, we have already volunteered 1600 hours at Beth-El to help feed, clothe, educate, and support local farmworkers and their families.

We've worshipped weekly in four different locations over the last decade. We have done a

preliminary design on three different sanctuaries on two sites the last five years and the third design is definitely the charm! We've raised over a million dollars twice in building campaigns—the first to buy this property and the second to build the 360-seat sanctuary, whose detailed design is coming together for ground-breaking in spring of 2017.



In our current building, we have a chapel (future fellowship hall) and a café, five offices, two music rooms, five adult classrooms, four children's rooms, four youth rooms, nine restrooms, and too many closets and storage rooms to count. We have three refrigerators and two kitchens—one kitchen for cooking and the other for cleaning. If you don't understand that last line, take a tour or wash some coffee cups with the Fellowship Team.

God has blessed us. It is fun to count our blessings, give thanks, and be satisfied with the bountiful gifts of our God. Most of all, I like to count my people-blessings and each of you is one!

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Peacefully yours,

Elizabeth

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert

Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church

Shannon Jung is new Parish Associate

Recently there was an addition to the staff at Peace Presbyterian. Shannon Jung has become the Parish Associate. This column introduces him.

Shannon and his wife, Patti retired to Bradenton in 2014 after careers in teaching. It was the first time they had selected a place to live based on geography rather than the location of their employers. They tested the waters in February, March, and April 2014 and found the Suncoast perfect for them. The friendly welcome by people at Peace was one of the attractions.

Shannon has been called as a part-time (15 hours a week), temporary pastor. His responsibilities are to serve as a resource person on ministry teams, especially Outreach, Mission, and Adult Ed, to do pastoral ministry, and to lead worship once a month or so. The committee which is seeking to find a Director or Pastor for Ministry to Children, Youth, and Families is still active and, when it finds the right person, the position of Parish Associate will evaporate and Shannon will return to the church as a congregant.

As a professor, Shannon led two small rural churches part-time and loved that work. He has had the dream upon retirement of working as an interim or pulpit supply pastor

in a smaller church. That dream has been fulfilled at Peace (except for the part about smaller membership!).

Peace is growing and, in the transition from a pastor-sized church (50-150 in worship) to a program-size church (150-350), needed to find some additional staff. Shannon's gifts, experience, and flexibility fit the nature of our need.



New Parish Associate Shannon Jung and his wife, Patti.

He is an ordained minister of the PCUSA and served churches in Tennessee and Minnesota as well as moderated Sessions in other presbyteries. A professor at Concordia College (MN), Dubuque and Wartburg seminaries in Iowa, and also at the Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, he has seen teaching as his vocation. His research areas have been the theology of eating and

leading the smaller membership, rural church. He thinks about how the country and the church can assist lower-income peoples to live a more satisfying life.

Patti and Shannon have been married for 42 years and have three sons, two daughters-in-law, one engaged daughter-in-law-to-be, six grandchildren, and a dog. They live in Bradenton and enjoy the beach, kayaking, and walking.

They love being at Peace.

Turning Points in Bradenton

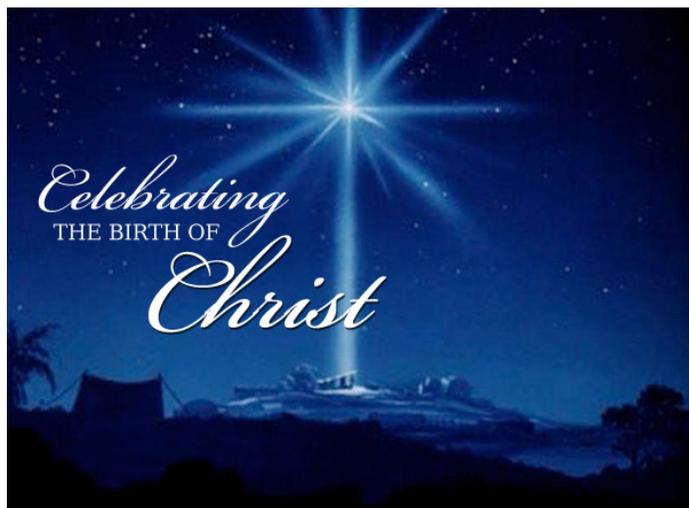
An exciting possibility for mission involvement is Turning Point in Bradenton.

This is an agency that offers any number of services -- from job counseling, haircuts, intake, filling out food stamp applications, medical and dental services, laundry, showers, and computer banks.

Turning Points now has openings for volunteers in the following areas: food stamps, intake, coordinator for volunteer recognition dinner in March, and medical personnel.

Referrals can be made to other longer-term agencies. See volunteer opportunities on www.tpmanatee.org. For more information talk to Shannon or Patti Jung or Grant Lowe.





Continue the Tradition: The Christmas Joy Gift

For more than 80 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to lift up those who've devoted their lives to the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). On December 18 or 25, churches throughout the denomination will again receive this special offering. You will be receiving more information about this offering of the heart in your bulletin.

The Christmas Joy Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides much-needed assistance to PC(USA) church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling.

Every congregation's gifts to the Offering are critical to the future of these programs, especially now. If you don't already do so, please make the Christmas Joy Offering part of your Advent and Christmas tradition.

Day of Hope Coming – December 4th

Do you feel troubled around the holidays? Do you know someone who finds the holidays difficult?

If so, think about coming and/or inviting friends and neighbors to the Service of Hope at Peace. This is a special service that will include lighting candles, a time of meditation, scripture, music and prayer. Following the service, refreshments will be served. Stephen Ministers will also be available before, during and after the service.

When: December 4, 2016

Time: 5:00 p.m.

There is comfort in knowing you are not the only person feeling blue at Christmas.





MOVIES SET FOR FAITH AND FILM

The Thomas Faith and Film series has set the theme—*Building Community*—and picked movies for the new season. The group is open to all and movies are shown in the Chapel on the second Friday of the month. Plan to arrive at 6:30pm. The movie starts promptly at 7:00. 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:

December 9, 2016

90 Minutes in Heaven (2015)

Discussion Leader: Mickey Miller
Refreshments: Open

A man involved in a horrific car crash is pronounced dead, only to come back to life an hour and a half later, claiming to have seen Heaven.

Starring: Kate Bosworth, Hayden Christensen, Hudson Meek

April 14, 2017

The Visitor (2007)

Discussion Leaders: Diane and Dirk Brinkmeyer
Refreshments: Open

A college professor travels to New York City to attend a conference and finds a young couple living in his apartment.

Starring: Richard Jenkins, Haaz Sleiman, Danai Gurira

January 13, 2017

Adjustment Bureau (2015)

Discussion Leaders: Mickey Miller
Refreshments: Peter & Robin Miller

The affair between a politician and a contemporary dancer is affected by mysterious forces keeping the lovers apart.

Starring: Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, Lisa Thoreson

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

February 10, 2017

Black or White (2014)

Discussion Leader: Peg Papsch
Refreshments: Open

A grieving widower is drawn into a custody battle over his granddaughter, whom he helped raise her entire life.

Starring: Kevin Costner, Octavia Spencer, Gillian Jacobs

March 10, 2017

The Ideal Husband (2011)

Discussion Leaders: Jim Padula
Refreshments: Open

A couple is joyously expecting their first child, but a secret from the husband's past threatens to destroy their happiness.

Starring: Darrin Dewitt Henson, Shanti Lowry, Ginuwine

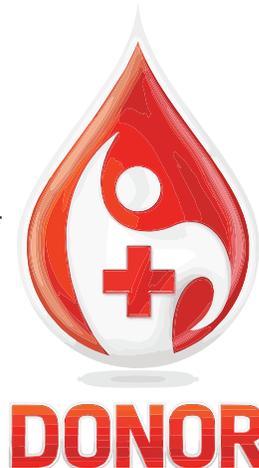
Gather at 6:30pm in Chapel.

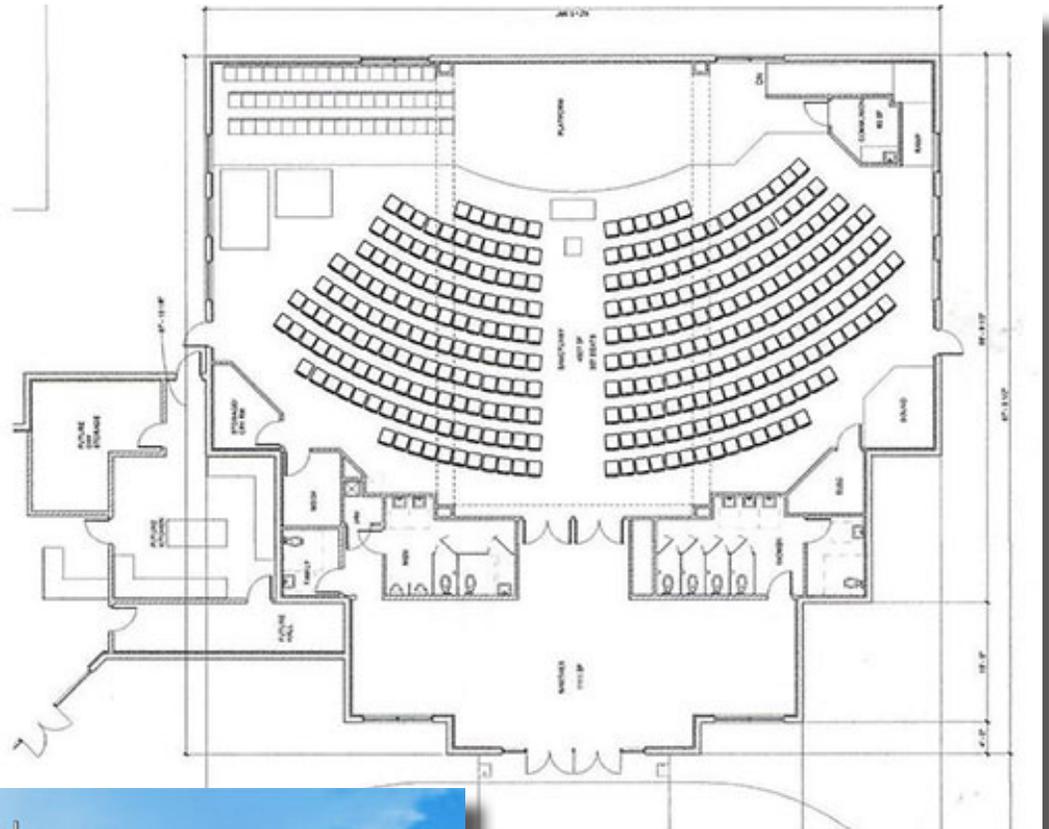
Movie begins at 7:00pm.

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

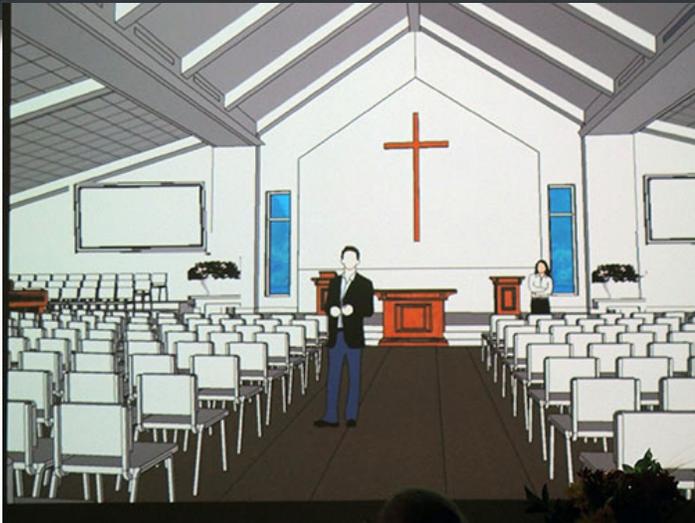
Blood Drive a Success!

Once again, Peace came through for another successful blood drive. We met our goal! Our next blood drive is January 15th. If you have never donated, please think about doing it. The entire process takes less than an hour. For every unit of whole blood up to three lives may be saved.





The floorplan (top), front (left) and inside view (below left) of the proposed sanctuary.



Building Peace Church

The Building Vision Team presented drawings of the proposed sanctuary to the congregation at the Gratitude Dinner. There are copies available at the church if you were not able to attend. The new floor plan has seating for 360 people and is 7,216 square feet. A drawing of the proposed front of the sanctuary and a depiction of what the inside will look like are shown above. The loan and pledges for the sanctuary itself are secured, but an additional \$130,000 will be needed to finish a portico and walkway from the current building to the sanctuary. The plan is to break ground east of the current building in March, 2017.



Mark Your Calendar! Peace Presbyterian Church Annual Yard Sale and Car Wash is Saturday, November 19th from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at 12705 State Rd 64. in Lakewood Ranch.

We will have plenty of good quality yard sale items for your home as well as a Bake Sale that includes homemade goodies for the holidays and a Craft Sale with homemade unique gifts. And if you need your vehicle washed we will do that as well.

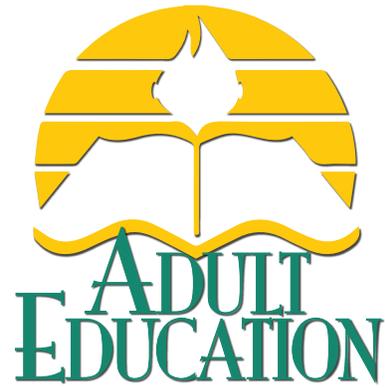


Satisfied

Discovering Contentment
in a World of Consumption

This year's stewardship campaign was based on the book by Jeff Manion – "Satisfied." Six weekly classes were held between services in October and November. The Gratitude team thanks all who participated in these classes. Also a big thank you to the congregation of PEACE for their generosity during the campaign.

If you still have not read "Satisfied," it is available in church foyer.



Adult Education Advent class—Micky Miller will be teaching a Lively Learning class starting on Nov. 27 about Advent.

New Lively Learning Class for Adults with Chip Schaff—starting after Jan. 1, 2017

Priorities: Helping you take the resources that the Bible gives and applying those resources to your life. No matter how hard we try to avoid them, life presents us with decisions we have to make daily. This 5-week course will challenge us to evaluate our priorities and God's priorities, and help us see why the church should be a priority in our lives.



SPECIAL CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT! Peace Presbyterian Church's Adult Education and Gratitude teams will be presenting a 9-week course starting on January 15, 2017.

Dave Ramsey's #1 class – "Financial Peace University" will be presented on Sunday evenings in response to numerous requests from our members. This presentation promises to teach you how to "live like no one else" now so that later you can "Live Like No One Else!" Please contact Bill Clough or Dirk Brinkmeyer for more information.

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

PEACE MISSION NEWS

Presbyterian Alternative Gift Giving

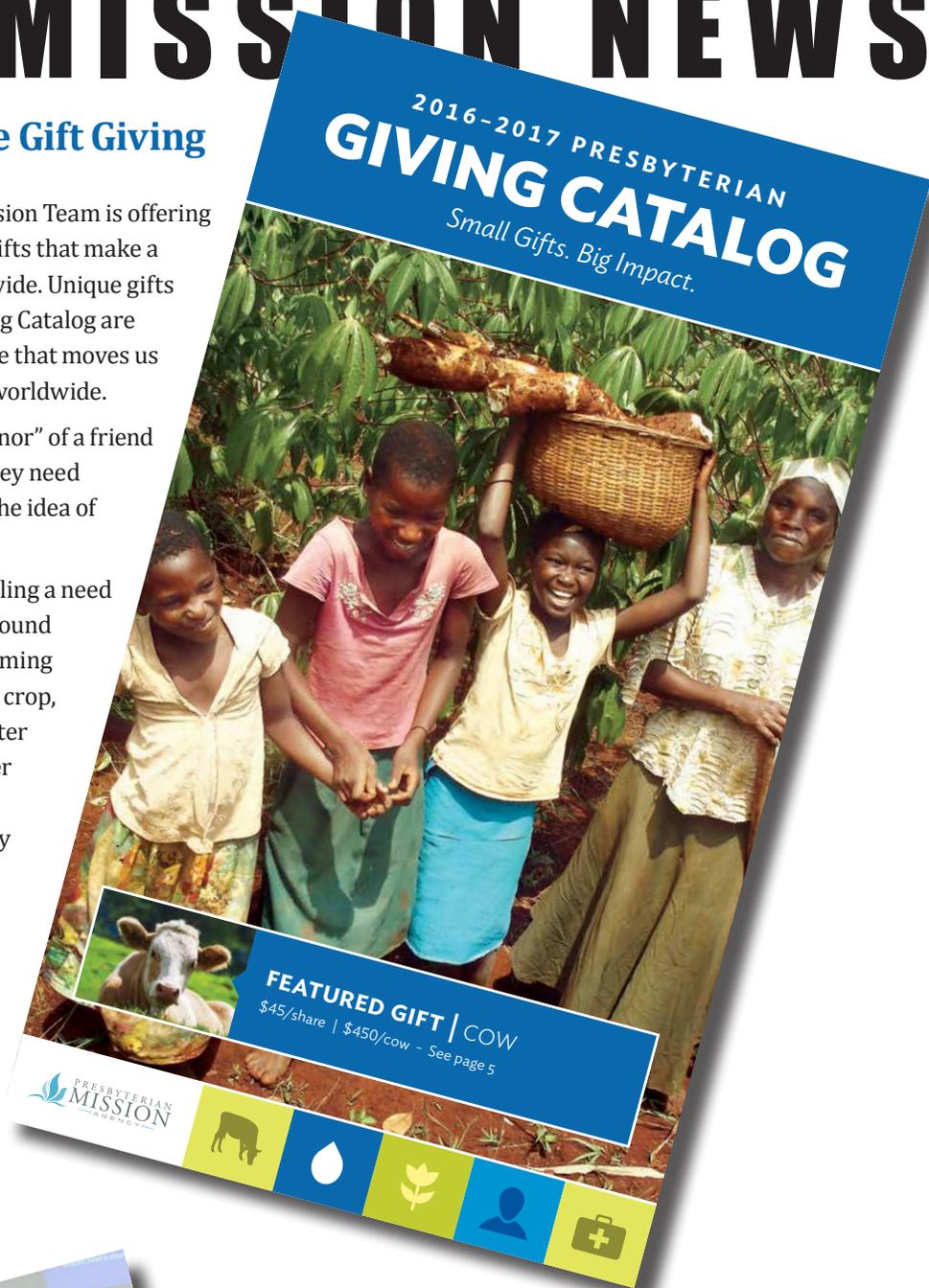
Once again this Christmas season, the Mission Team is offering the opportunity to purchase meaningful gifts that make a significant impact for many people worldwide. Unique gifts purchased through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude for God and His grace that moves us to join in His mission and abundant work worldwide.

Often these gifts are purchased in “honor” of a friend or family member (who already have all they need or want) at Christmas time to help dispel the idea of consumerism.

Here are just a few ways your gift is filling a need and providing hope, here in the U.S. and around the globe. For as little as \$10—provide farming tools for growing and harvesting a fruitful crop, for just \$75—help communities collect water for irrigation and washing with a rainwater catching system, for \$178—a pair of goats will keep providing enhanced food security through milk, cheese, butter, and yogurt.

The Mission Team will have a display of catalogs and offer assistance with gift orders during the four Sundays of Advent, starting Nov. 27.

Your gifts, however large, small, or shared, bring relief, sustenance, healing, and hope to communities served by these Presbyterian ministries.



As a first step in getting to know each other, folks at Peace shared a joyous meal and discussion with our neighbors from the Islamic Society of Sarasota and Bradenton.

PEACE PHOTO ALBUM



On Sept. 18 we welcomed several new members: Stephen & Zoe Christiansen with children Connor, Liam, & Eva, Connie Ricci, Martha McCrae, Anne & John Warburton and Craig & Kathleen Hardesty with twins John & Cora.

There will be a new member luncheon on December 11, 2016. For anyone who thinks PEACE is for you, please contact Pastor Elizabeth.



There were many youth activities during October including a lock-in where the students played BINGO, a youth/parent dinner at Halloween, and work days where the youth did outdoor work at the church and for church members.



A large crowd dined on exceptional Mexican food made by Gia and her helpers at the Gratitude Dinner Nov. 4.



Music Director Gia Havener spent some time teaching the children how to play the chimes in October.

The Peaceful News is published quarterly by:
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