

The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

FALL, 2014

After we'd been nomads for more than seven years, God gifted us with land and a building for our ministries. One year ago on the first Sunday of Advent, we moved into this building. We have moved furniture and walls around, planted flowers and trees, and had a few healthy discussions about how to most effectively utilize this God-given space to accomplish our goals of inspiring worship, authentic relationships, nurturing discipleship, compassionate outreach, and responsive stewardship.

We have enjoyed being able to share space and time with groups like **Jazzercise, Mahjonng, Peaceful Potters, the Cedarkirk Board, and the Let's B Safe Program**. Activities like **Wonderful Wednesdays** at Peace have been unleashed with great potential for growth. I cannot keep up with all that is happening here and that's great!

Now it is time to get excited about our next phase of development—the construction of a sanctuary. We would like to break ground before the end of 2015, if possible. The general



development plan (master site plan) can be seen in this newsletter (page 6). You will have an opportunity to see elevations, sanctuary floor plan and a digital tour of plans at our Annual Congregational Meeting the last week-end of January. If you have any questions now or then, please ask Bob Donaldson, Don Simpson, Grant Lowe or me. Imagine with me the joy of saying years from now, I remember when, with God's grace and the generosity of many, we built that church—the people and the building!

Thanks for all you are doing to *make God known, by growing as disciples of Jesus Christ, building a community of peace, and caring for the needs of others.*

Peacefully yours,

Elizabeth

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert
Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church

• Mission •

Mission Team Reaches Goals, Plans More

The holidays have arrived and the Mission Team is busy promoting several meaningful projects for the gracious Peace congregation to consider.

One annual event, The Halloween Food Drive, has just passed, but it was another huge success, with its motto of “working together to trick hunger and treat the hungry.” Connie Thelen stepped up to work alongside Junie Miller, who has successfully led this task for years with an abundance of energy and enthusiasm. An evangelism/mission project, church members introduce themselves to neighbors & friends (perhaps those looking for an invitation to Church,) share Peace’s mission, and encourage food or cash donations, all to benefit The Manatee County Food Bank. This year yielded 13,616 pounds (surpassing last year’s remarkable 11,515 pounds), where each dollar collected equates to 6 pounds of food. Team members made the delivery Nov. 3 and received an impressive tour.

Christ calls us to serve the least of those among us! The annual Christmas Angel Tree benefits families in need at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma. Last year, 64 gifts were lovingly distributed to four families in need, chosen by their Pastor Walter. It is in giving of ourselves that we receive! This year, 80 Angel tags will be placed on the Peace tree, giving the congregation an opportunity to select a tag and purchase that “wish list” gift. This will ensure about 20 worthy individuals will experience a much brighter Christmas. If someone prefers to make a donation through the Mission Team rather than shop, we encourage your participation.

The Christmas Markets are open! Do you have trouble finding the “right” gift for someone who has everything? If so, Alternative Gifts International (AGI) may be right for you. Alternative gifts are unique. They are gifts of peace and justice that are sustainable and build security. These gifts grow and multiply, and offer hope and new life to people facing grave crises. Unlike capitalistic markets, AGI does not exist to make a profit, but rather, it gives away three assets: JOY to the shopper; GLOBAL AWARENESS to the recipient; and GREAT BENEFIT to people living in poverty.



Just select a gift in the catalog from among 30 worldwide mission projects, and then choose a Christmas card with the gift description to send to your loved one. Gifts range from a pregnant goat for a Haitian family (\$99) to books for Ethiopian libraries (\$12) to a share in an Indian water well, to vision care for one person in New Mexico (\$28). Stop by the AGI table any Sunday in November through Nov. 30th to place an order.

Betty Clough has so faithfully led AGI for many years, and this year she spent time training and transitioning this responsibility to Mission Team and to whomever would like to be involved just for the season. This Team is growing and making a difference in others’ lives—locally and globally. Won’t you consider being part of one of these Christmas projects, while helping our brothers and sisters in Christ?

Sally Schoeffel (Mission Team Co-Leader)

Upcoming Mission Project dates

November/December—Angel Tree Gifts (to benefit the children of Beth-el at Christmas)

February—CROP Walk, a charitable walking event to end hunger (comprised of Manatee & Sarasota County churches and coordinated by our fit and most knowledgeable Team member on this, Jim Padula).

Come, see what we’re about, and give us a try! We are 12 strong and growing. We are made up of seasonal and year-round residents. All are welcome and your ideas are valuable! We generally meet on the 3rd Monday of every month @ 7:00 PM (but check the bulletin for updates). You can contact one of the Team Leaders at any time: (Mary Schepher—mbschepher1@gmail.com or Sally Schoeffel—schoeffelk@aol.com), or speak with our Team Elder, Nancy Hogue.

We are blessed to be able to serve, and we are grateful to you, Peace Presbyterian Church!

CRAFTITUDE DINNER • NOVEMBER 12



AMANDA



TROY



BOB

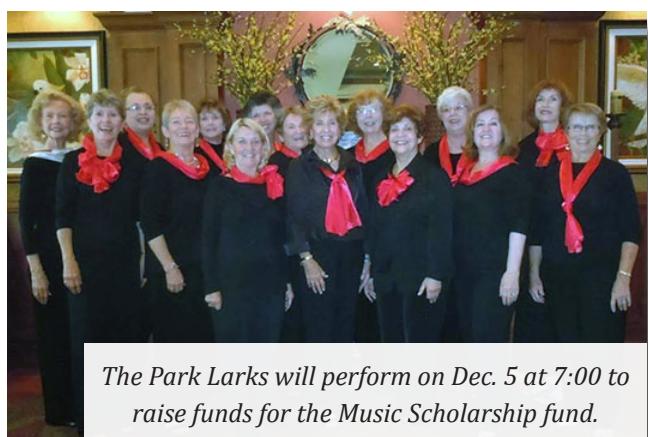


KATHY



Peace Volunteers at the Food Bank.

Peace Children along with a part of the superb Halloween Food Drive.



The Park Larks will perform on Dec. 5 at 7:00 to raise funds for the Music Scholarship fund.



Décor in the Surf Shack, and Neil along with some of the students who brought it into being.





Christmas Music

at Peace

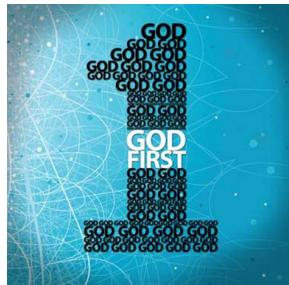
Even if you haven't started playing Christmas music on your MP3s or CDs yet, music is an important part of the celebrations at Peace Presbyterian Church.

All the music groups will participate in our Christmas

Eve services. Voices of Peace, Ringers of Peace, Peace Orchestra, Gospel Guys, and our Ladies Ensemble will all perform. We will be combining several of our music groups.

Also on Sunday, December 21 at both 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services we will be doing special Christmas Music for those who will not be with us on Christmas.

On Friday December 5th at 7:00 p.m., Peace presents "Merry Christmas for the Park Larks." This is a singing group from University Park Country Club that gives a musical program to benefit our Young Musicians Scholarship fund. We take up a good will offering for the youth.



Our big appreciation to all who have made pledges for 2015. Peace's ministry and mission depend on your generosity!



Peace Crafters

On Friday, Jan. 9, the Peace Crafters will start a new program of meeting once a month at the church. Crafting time starts at 10:00 a.m. and runs until 11:30. In January please bring a sandwich to share for lunch. Everyone is welcome to attend, no matter what kind of crafting you do.



Saturday Night Singles met at the home of Ivy Ruark on November 22 at 7:00 pm. All single WOMEN of the church were cordially invited to come and enjoy fellowship, food and fun. For more information on the group, call Ivy at 941-359-1320. This is a group for women only—single, divorced, widowed, or never married. Open to all faiths and all ages.

Peace Service of Hope



Do you find getting through the holidays hard? Do you know someone who lost a special person, is going through a difficult financial situation or who will be spending the holidays alone? These

are some of the many reasons why people find the holidays difficult. If you know someone who has experienced any of these or a myriad of other difficult situations, invite them to the Service of Hope and offer to attend the service with them.

The Service of Hope is on Sunday, December 7, 2014 at Peace Presbyterian Church Chapel at 5 p.m.

The service will include lighting candles, a time of mediation, music and prayer. Following the service, there will be light snacks. Stephen Ministers will be available during and after the service. Many folks attending the service have remarked that it's nice to be around other people who have trouble celebrating the season the way most people do. Everyone is welcome to attend the Service of Hope.

Youth Happenings—Past and Future

Younger Youth Club and Youth Group get-togethers for December are in the works. Watch your email for details.

Sunday Nov 17—a number of youth and young adults attended the local performance of Godspell.

January 2–5—College Montreat Conference

Several of our college kids are attending the college conference this weekend at Montreat NC.

Upcoming—Put these on your new calendars

Saturday, January 10th

“Presbyterian Youth—Day of Mission”

The Youth Group will be joining other Presbyterian Youth Groups from the Sarasota-Bradenton area for a “day of mission.” It will include a gathering at Pine Shores Pres, and then dispersing to various hands-on mission sites around the city.

This is in conjunction with our February Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday when youth collect money to help fight local hunger.

Saturday-Sunday, February 7 & 8

“Peace Family Retreat at Cedarkirk”

Peace families with children and teens are going on an overnight retreat at Camp Cedarkirk. Space is limited. A \$10 deposit per person is needed by December 20th. Make your check to Peace Presbyterian and earmark it “Family Retreat.” Please give your check to Kris Pino, Eirinn Camphire, or Neil MacQueen. Watch your email for more details.

Introducing our newest classroom: “The Bible Surf Shack”

Wander on down the hallway towards the youth room and you’ll find our newest renovated classroom, “The Bible Surf Shack.” Grades 3 through 6 will be the primary users of this new creative space. It will also be used by other groups at various times.

In “the Shack,” kids learn Bible stories through two mediums: (1) Through the use of Bible Games (with an emphasis on memory and Bible skills) and (2) Through the use of interactive Bible Software.

Our three computers and Bible software were donated last year by two Bible enthusiast families. Painting and decor was done by the kids and the CYF team, with a special nod to Denny Noto and Jonathan Sammons for their help. A wall was removed between two existing rooms to accommodate our class sizes and activities. With the addition of a ceiling header and additional hurricane tie-downs (thanks to Don S. and Bob D.) the room is now ready for some exciting Bible lessons.

The Bible Surf Shack complements the recent addition of “The Lion’s Studio” classroom (look for Aslan the lion in the hallway). In the Lion’s Studio, kids learn their Bible lessons by watching and discussing Bible videos, art projects, and creating dramas. Our older elementary students rotate each week between The Studio and The Shack. In addition to exciting and memorable lessons, our goal is to make our Lively Learning a place kids and visitors want to come back to.

Used Items Needed for Surf Shack Decor:

—a surfboard

—a fishing net and old rod/reel

—colorful beach umbrella

Drop them off in the Shack.

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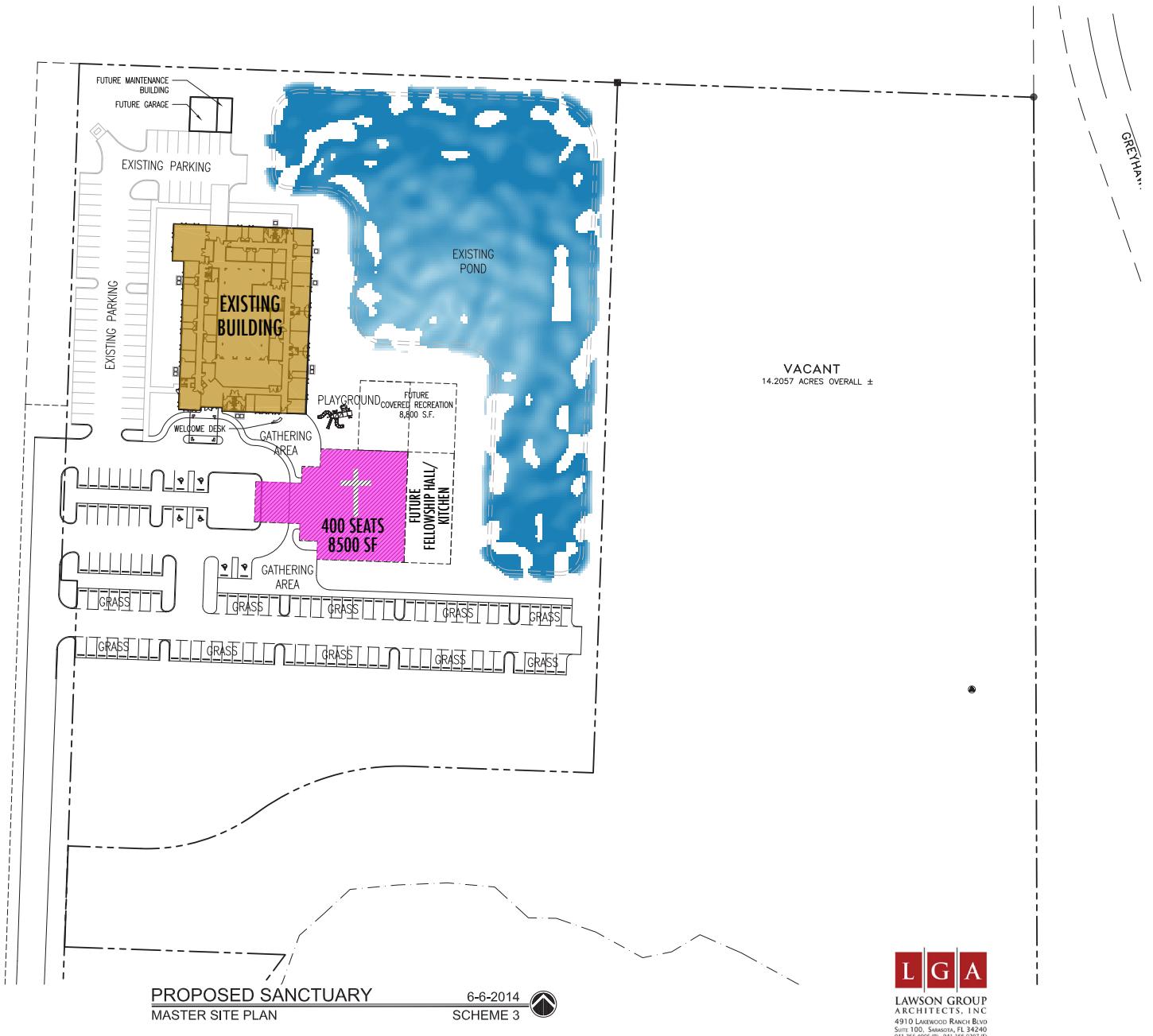
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Peace Presbyterian Church, Proposed General Development Plan