

The Pastor's Corner By: Pastor Ruffin Stepp



Dear Church Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

As we take off into our current sermon series *Stepping Up: Embracing Our Response Ability*, I am reminded of the many incredible Christians who I set apart as excellent examples of what embracing our God given Response Ability means.

Elder Bob Wickham: Bob was adopted as a boy into a loving Christian home and chose to work at Thornwell Home and School for Children as an adult out of gratitude for the Lord's gift to him.

Elder Kathy Tyler: Kathy loved to sing and play the guitar growing up – her family sang Christian folk and Gospel music semi-professionally. As an adult she embraced her Response Ability and became a lead guitarist, vocalist, and chancel choir member at Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Dr Walter Foreman: Walter grew up on a farm here in Florida and

came to know Christ as an adult. Walter had such an incredible personal experience that he embraced his Response Ability by leading mission teams, Bible studies for youth and young adults, and setting an example of what it means to give sacrificially to the cause of Christ through the church.



24 hour Prayer Vigil October 2014

Over the last few weeks, we've recounted how God worked through our church in the past, present and future with our Heart Cards:

- *Week 1-The things we love about our church.*
- *Week 2-The people who made a difference in our faith journey.*
- *Week 3-Our vision for the future of PWPC.*

How can we ever truly embrace our Response Ability for the goodness, grace, and mercy of God in our lives? Is it even possible?!

During the 24 hour prayer vigil last month, I was overwhelmed by a sense of God's purpose working in and through our church. As I prayed through our church directory my heart

was moved to imagine the faces that are not here yet. The folks whom we know that are walking far from God – family, friends, neighbors, coworkers... I had a renewed sense of my own Response Ability to the Lord's mission through Palms West Presbyterian Church.

Church Family, I pray that the joy, peace, and generosity of Christ fills your hearts to overflowing! May we joyfully and readily embrace our Response Ability to God's magnificent grace and make 2015 the best ever at PWPC!

In Christ,

Pastor Ruffin



Music Notes

By: Juanita Meeks, Minister of Music

"Lord, I need You, Oh, I need You. Every hour I need You. My one defense, my righteousness, Oh God, how I need You." What a pleasant surprise when that song was sung the first time at the 11:00 service and the entire congregation sounded as if **everyone** were singing with **amazing enthusiasm!** I was totally surprised for there was no 30 voice choir filling the worship center with sound and the service was not packed with people. Then it hit me! It was the children singing - filling the sanctuary to the brim with sound! We had worked on that selection in children's choir last spring and of course, this is their generation's music. As I was growing up in the church we sang *"I need Thee, Oh I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee! Oh bless me now my Savior, I come to Thee."* Same meaning just a different style of music. My version from the hymn book, their version from Way FM and the popular contemporary recording artists. But no matter the style, what matters most is that song is imprinted on their hearts and minds ready to affect the future.

In assessing why have children's choir, there are three evident reasons: 1. Children love performing in church and the church loves to hear them. 2. Children need to contribute to and be an active part of worship and what better way than through music! 3. Choir mu-

sic, where time is invested not only in singing properly but in lyrics that compel a child to know and understand the love of God better, will make a life-long difference in a child's heart!

With that in mind, the staff sat down with a busy church calendar and found it possible to include the following dates for rehearsal of Children's Choir: November 2nd and 9th rehearsal will take place quickly during Sunday School. It will not consume the entire time only a small portion. This will introduce the children to the upcoming music.

Our first total music rehearsals will be **Sunday afternoon 5:00 – 6:00 Nov. 16th, Dec. 7th, Dec. 14th.** In addition to performing for worship on Sunday morning, the choir will sing at **the 5:00 Christmas Eve service. So parents, mark your calendars today!**

Bountiful Harvest, November 23rd will feature special music from the Southern Cross Quintet, a praise chorus led by the 11:00 crew, and lots of congregational singing as the entire church worships together at 10:00 outside. So bring your lawn chair or blanket to enjoy this special day of worship, thanksgiving, and food!

Advent follows immediately for the next four Sundays as the choir pre-

sents four new anthems at the 9:30 service. The Christmas Eve service features two new anthems and both feature soloists as well as the choir. How-



ever, this year plans are to include the entire congregation in one of the new selections as well as many familiar Christmas Carols accompanied by a string ensemble. So be ready to learn a new worship song that addresses the Christmas story with a closer look at the shepherds. A creative drama cleverly written by Guy Vautin will also shed some more insight into the lowly shepherds' humble but significant role in the Christmas story. So be prepared for an exciting evening of worship as we celebrate Christ's birth with children, solos, choir, drama & strings. The goal is to have you be involved in worship and be open to some of the new styles of music as well as the traditional carols! Like the children, maybe you too will leave the service with a new song imprinted on your heart ready to impact your future as well! -Juanita

Dear Fellow Members,

It is an exciting time to be part of the Palms West Presbyterian Family. There are many wonderful things happening within this church and we look forward to carrying that momentum into 2015.

Sunday November 30th, is Stewardship Sunday, when we ask during each service, all those who are part of our community of faith to renew your commitment to the congregation, including your financial support. This is an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of our common faith, and the ways in which we feel called to participate in the coming year. During the service, we will together as a congregation, give thanks to God for his many gifts and pledge with our Commitment Cards our anticipated giving for 2015. Stewardship is an act of gratitude, one way in which we give thanks for God's many gifts. Provide to missions locally, nationally, and internationally by our mission giving.

Should you not be able to attend worship on November 30th or Dec 7th we ask for you to return your Commitment Card, found attached in this newsletter or obtained at Church, at your earliest convenience. You can mail in to the Church office or simply drop into the offering plate **any Sunday before December 7**. Our pledges commitments are very important as we put together a budget for next year. We ask you to prayerfully and carefully consider your commitment this year. If you had a pledge last year we ask you to consider increasing if able. While there is no minimum pledge, if you have not made a commitment

before we ask you to be a cheerful giver and pledge to the glory of God. Thank you for your continued support and in helping to make all our ministries grow in 2015. I leave you with this thought:

"Generosity describes the Christian's unselfish willingness to give in order to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ. Extravagant Generosity describes practices of sharing and giving that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures. Fruitful congregations thrive because of extraordinary sharing, willing sacrifice, and joyous giving out of love for God and neighbor. Such churches focus on the abundance of God's grace and emphasize the Christian's need to give rather than the church's need for money. In the spirit and manner of Christ, congregations that practice Extravagant Generosity explicitly talk about money in the Christian's walk of faith. They are driven to be generous by a high sense of mission and a keen desire to please God by making a positive difference in the world. What Christians earn belongs to God, and they should earn it honestly and in ways that serve purposes consistent with being followers of Christ. What Christians spend belongs to God; and they should use it wisely, not foolishly, on things that enhance life and do not diminish it. What they save belongs to God, and they should invest in ways that strengthen society. What Christians give belongs to God; and they need to give generously, extravagantly, and conscientiously in ways that strengthen the body of Christ."

-Extravagant Generosity, Rev Robert Schnase, pg 17.

In Christ's Love, Your Stewardship Committee

GENEROSITY 2015 Commitment Card

Name: _____

Email Address : _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Yes! I/We want to be part of the ministry at Palms West by giving! I/we will fulfill my/our gift by giving the following amount (select one):

\$ _____ Per Week

\$ _____ Per Month

\$ _____ Per Quarter

\$ _____ One Time Gift



My Total Annual Commitment for

2015: \$ _____

Would you Like Offering Envelopes? YES or NO

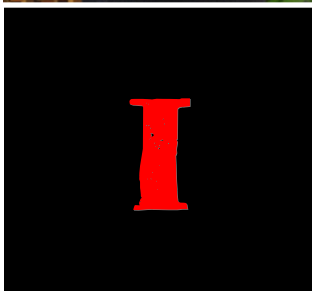
For Office Use Only-Envelope Number: _____



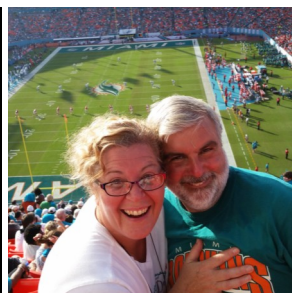
As part of the **2015 Generosity and Stewardship Program**, we asked you to share some of the reasons you love your church. We have had a great response. Here are some of the reasons you love Palms West Presbyterian Church:



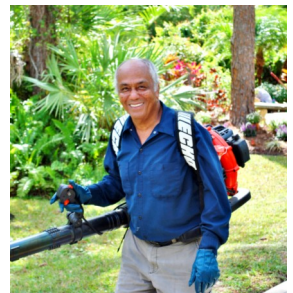
...because of the men's breakfast group, relevant preaching of the minister and the friendly greeters.
-Anonymous



...because I feel the presence of God here and life-long friends that I consider as family!
- Cindy Kepler



...because of the spiritual and inspiring messages of Pastor Ruffin, the worship services especially the music ministry and the vibrant children and youth ministry.
-Rannie & Yvonne Hewett



...because my bible study group is the best! Sweet people with a wonderful leader. I feel blessed to be a part of it!
-Anonymous



...because our family has been blessed by the many strong relationships built at church, especially with the Lord. It shows in our children and their children.
- The Giles Family

...because my church family is prayerful, loving, always there and Pastor Ruffin's leadership into deeper faith and beautiful delivery of sermons.
-Hazel Gray



All the responses from **2015 Generosity and Stewardship Program**, heart cards will be posted in the sanctuary. Be sure to also check out week 2 and week 3 responses! We love hearing from you!

PWPC Christmas Gala

Join us for another great night of fellowship, dancing and delicious food.

Friday, December 19th 2014

6:00pm to 12:00 midnight

Cultural Center Royal Palm Beach

Catered Dinner: *Baked Children, Tilapia with garlic sauce, rice, potatoes, salad and dessert.*

Tickets \$25 per person

Tickets available on the patio or call the church office (795-6292)

Christmas Gift Workshop

Saturday November 22nd 1:00-3:30pm

On Saturday November 22nd we will be having a Christmas Gift Workshop where kids of all ages can make and wrap gifts for the family and loved ones. These gifts will be true keepsakes that you and your family will enjoy for years. Parents are encouraged to stay and participate with their children.

The cost is \$10.00 per child, cash or check made out to PWPC. Bring money on the day of the event. Each child will make 4 gifts. Please RSVP by Friday November 14th, so we have supplies for all who attend.

Melanie Stepp (561) 601-7425 or melstepper@gmail.com .

Birthday Blessings November

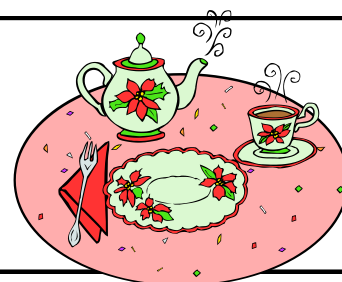
Bill Hammond	11/3
Jim Briggs	11/4
Thomas Thompson	11/4
Drew Flynn Sr.	11/8
Kendal Park	11/9
Dahlia Wint Comerie	11/10
Melissa Vautin	11/10
Nicholas Lang	11/11
Robert Randall	11/12
Philip Douglas	11/14
Adrianne Bowers	11/16
Olivia Squire	11/19
Joe Brusca	11/20
Dodie Flynn	11/20
Eric Widness	11/21
Alta Peekstock	11/22
Rose Marie Greene	11/23
Earl Parker	11/25
Roger Wilson	11/26
Alice Lilly	11/27
Brad Stockwell	11/28

December

Bryan Vautin	12/1
Andrew Eiseman	12/4
Dorothy Jeroloman	12/5
Deb Harris	12/8
Kyle Rathbun	12/9
Riley Sullivan	12/12
Holly Casto	12/13
Branden Squire	12/14
Jeff Everest	12/15
Mellisa Sangster	12/16
David Earley	12/18
Dahlia Wint	12/26
Carol Perrine	12/27
Sue Rathgeb	12/31

PWPC Women's Ministry

The annual Christmas luncheon for the ladies of the church will be held in the Fellowship Hall on December 6th at 12:30 pm following our monthly meeting 10am-12pm. Sign-up on the patio. The Women's Group member's annual tradition of Christmas ornament exchange will also take place.





Give Thanks to the Lord

Bountiful Harvest November 23rd 10:00am

Please join us as we share a special outdoor service celebrating our thanks for our many God given blessings. Special message and music that also underscores our gratitude to God.

Please bring a Pot Luck dish to share during our lunch following the service. Dress casually and bring a blanket or lawn chair. Sign-up on Sundays or call the church office (561) 795-6292.

