

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2013

Sunday Worship: 8am - 9:30am - 11am www.pcumc.info 941-625-4356 ph / 941-625-0144 fax

“The Advent of Movement”

My family lived in the home of my birth until I was well into my adult years. My brother, sister, and I passed through many rites of passage, endured many challenges, and celebrated many victories in that home. In one of the hallways, there was a doorway. On that doorway were a series of pencil marks with names and dates written there. This was our family’s growth chart. It marked the ages and stages of our lives as we grew in stature (not always in wisdom, though).

The marks were frequent when we were younger. It appeared that we must have been asking mom and dad to measure us daily. The older we got, and the taller we got, the marks seemed to come less frequently. There was one line etched with a single word, DAD. For each of us there was just one single entry beyond that mark. One more strong black line to mark the milestone, but then we moved on. It seems to me that we had moved beyond the desire to grow “up”, and had begun to make choices to grow “out.”

When we moved, the old marks were still there. I hope that the family that moved in after us painted over those and began to make marks of their own progress.

“He shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground.” Isaiah 53:2

The passage from Isaiah 53 deals with the simple nature of the one God sent to make all things new. It speaks about His growth and maturity in the simplest of terms. And yet, as He grew, the world was forever changed.

Advent is a season that points us towards growth and movement. It is a season that is purposeful and progressive, insisting that something special lies ahead and we are called to search and to seek until we find it. The one prayer that God will never answer is: “God, just keep things the same!”

All those who came before us in faith have felt they were on a journey toward something more. They believed that their life today was a stepping stone for the future of others. Whether we are talking about characters within scripture, or the generations before us who established Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, their growth enables our growth. They believed that their decisions could offer us our future.

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Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship at 8 & 11
Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

Dinner: 5-6:30pm
Children’s Ministry: 6-7:30pm
Youth: 6-8:15pm
Adult Studies: 6- 7:30pm
Choir: 6:30pm

Saturday, December 7

Pancake Breakfast 7-11am
Parents’ Day Out 10am-2pm

Wednesday, December 11

Choir Cantata 7pm

Wednesday, December 18

Children’s Christmas Program 6:15pm

Saturday, December 21

Christmas Caroling / Potluck 1-4pm



Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship
6pm, 8pm and 11pm

Wednesday, December 25

Community Christmas Dinner
11:30am-2:30pm
Fellowship Hall

*Loving
Memory*

Sally Baldwin
Dee Bishop
Hugh Brotherton
Carolyn Sanders
Esther Schaumleffel

continued from front...

That is true for us as members of PCUMC today. Our decisions today, whether they are about ministries, buildings, budgets, or programs, will be the advent of growth for all the tomorrows that are yet to come. "Lord, let us look forward, always remembering the love that has grown us all along the way."

Grace,

Pastor Brian



**Christmas
Dinner**

**Wednesday, December 25
11:30am - 2:30pm
Fellowship Hall**

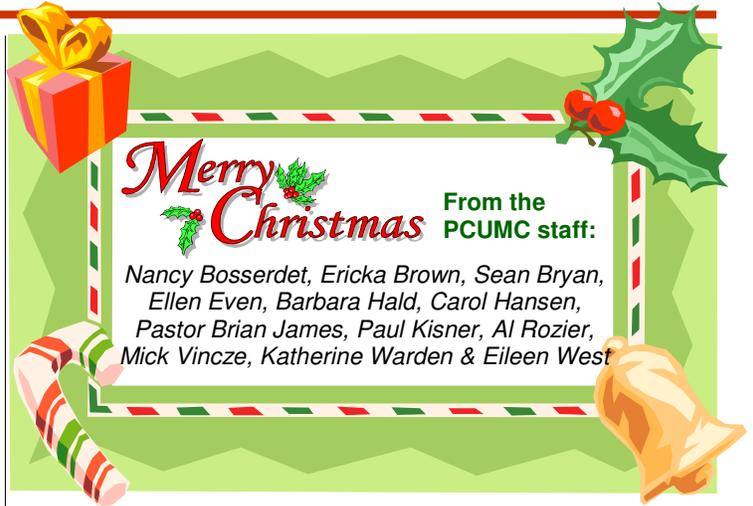
All are invited!

A dinner of turkey, ham, dressing, gravy, turkey noodle soup, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce assorted pies and cobblers will be served for everyone from 11:30AM to 2:30PM. Dinner is free -- it is our gift to the community. Home delivery will be available for shut-ins. Transportation can be provided for those in need of a ride. Call the church office to sign-up 625-4356.

Extravagant Generosity

As of 10/31/13

Y-T-D Income \$671,522.93
Y-T-D Expenses \$734,245.96
HELP
Utilities 2, Rent 2



Letters

I truly thank God for my church. So many of you have helped my family and I -- it's impossible to thank you all, but I want to say thank you and God bless you all. I really appreciate all you have done for me and my family.

Tiwane Edwards and Family

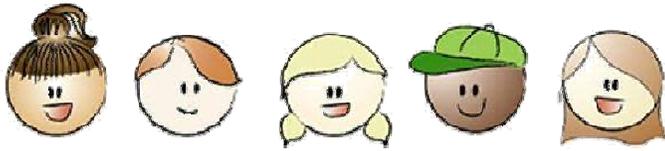
Dear Friends,

Thank you -- for all the wonderful cards, phone calls and the visits while I was in the hospital. But most of all, thank you for your prayers. Thank you, thank you.

Blessings, Fern West

My husband Bob and I want to express our deep appreciation to everyone who covered us with prayer during his recent cardiac surgery. We could feel God's peace and His presence with us. We thank you also for your thoughtful expressions of love and care - your cards, the delicious meals, and visits with Bob. He is now at home recovering and feeling better every day. God is good...all the time!

In His love,
Carol Hansen



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

The afterschool children have been hard at work getting the angels ready for the Salvation Army Angel Tree. We hope you stop by to adopt an angel and get one of these unique handmade ornaments for your tree. The due date for the angels is Sunday, December 15th. We hope you are able to help.



Ericka Brown

"You will name Him Jesus"
Luke 1:31



Youth Ministry Events

Paul Kisner, Youth Director

Youth Christmas Party

When: Wednesday, December 11

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Cost: \$5 donation to World Vision

Join us for Food, Fun, and Fellowship!



*There will also be a white elephant gift exchange. Bring a silly gift (gender neutral, \$5 max), if you want to participate.

Youth Confirmation

December 11: Registration Deadline
(Registration packets are available in the lobby on the Know, Grow, Go board)

December 15: First Confirmation Class
In the youth room @ 1pm
(next class January 12th)



Where Children and Youth are Anchored in Christ

Children's Ministry *Barbara Hald*

Mark your calendars for these December events:

Saturday, Dec. 7th G.E.M.S will host "Parents' Day Out" 10am till 2pm. Leave your children with us as you enjoy the day out. Children will play games inside and out with our experienced volunteers.

Wednesday, Dec. 18th at 6:15 in Fellowship Hall is our Children's Christmas play. Come out and support the children. They have been working very hard.

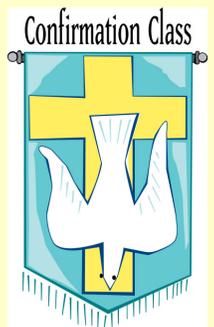
Saturday, Dec. 21st Join us for Christmas Caroling. We will be going to some of our assisted living centers, followed by a potluck in the Port. Caroling is from 1 to 4pm followed by the potluck.

Tuesday, Dec. 24th Don't forget to come to the 6pm service on Christmas Eve. This is our Family service and we always have something special for the children.

Confirmation Class

Who: Youth in 6th grade or higher
Duration: Classes will be held twice a month starting in December and ending in March (8 total sessions)

Confirmation is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to mature in their faith and to make a personal decision to commit to following Christ and to become professing members of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church.



Thank you for supporting Operation Christmas Child. We collected 188 boxes this year!





Breakfast with Santa!
Saturday, December 7th 7-11am
 For the young and young at heart - All are invited!

MENU
 Pancakes, Sausage Links,
 Sausage & Gravy, Eggs,
 Applesauce, Orange Juice

Bring your camera!

Suggested Donation
 \$4.00
 Under 7 FREE!
 Ages 7-11 \$1
 Over 90 FREE!



CHOIR CANTATA
Wednesday, December 11
7pm



Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: I love Jesus Christ, but I will not join any church. What's wrong with that?

Answer: This is a continuation from the last issue, where I gave Pastor Brian's answer from his July 24 S-O-A-P devotion. Barbara Hald gave a different answer in the September 22 worship service's Children's Moment. Holding up one stick and a bundle, she explained that Christians are stronger when we stick together. Borrowing wisdom from other saints, I would add:

Since the church is, as Paul says, the "body of Christ," it raises the question, *How can you say you love Jesus and not love His body?* Paul DeVries, a chaplain at O'Hare Airport, used to warn visitors who avoided joining a church, "If you ever find a perfect church, stay away. You'll spoil it." The dean at my dad's seminary told students, "People are Christian in spots." We all have blind spots and quirks that annoy others. We make decisions that have hurtful consequences. Jesus said His church would endure till His return, populated by both wheat (true believers) and weeds or tares (unbelievers) (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43). Some believers have tried to separate from corrupt, flawed churches, but Ray Stedman warns, "They do not seem to realize that true and false Christianity can be intermingled in the same person. In such a case, no physical separation is possible" (*Body Life*, Regal, 1972, p. 3).

In Revelation 21:9, John calls the church the "Bride of Christ." Jesus calls Himself "the Bridegroom" (Matthew 9:15, Mark 2:19-20, Luke 5:34-35). St. Augustine wrote: "He cannot have God for his father who refuses to have the church for his mother." Charles Keysor, founding editor of *Good News* magazine, said Christians are "like a coal in your charcoal barbeque stove. Take that coal out of the fire and set it on the ground. Soon the coal will be old and gray. It needs to be sustained by others close around it. Together they burn; singly they die" (*Our Methodist Heritage*, reprint ed., Good News Books, 1984, p. 104). For this reason, we read in Hebrews, "... let us consider how to provoke one another to good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25 NRSV).

Question: I was preparing an Advent presentation and quoted the prophecy in Matthew 2:6 in the *New Living Translation* (NLT): "O Bethlehem of Judah, you are not just a lowly village in Judah, for a ruler ..." Later I checked the quote in an NLT at church and the verse read differently. What's going on?

Answer: Not all NLT copies are worded alike. You've experienced what I call "the issue of the invisible revision." Your quote came from the original NLT of 1996. The church's copy was a second edition from 2004, where the verse starts: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, ..." The *Revised Standard Version* New Testament of 1946 underwent similar changes in 1952 and 1971. Ditto, the *New International Version* New Testament of 1973 (revised in 1979 and 1984). The *New American Standard Bible* and *International Children's Bible* have seen even more revisions. You have to check the copyright pages to know which edition you're using.

Do you have a question about the Bible or United Methodist belief, organization, or practice? E-mail them to me at theexhorter_fl@yahoo.com or leave them with Katherine Warden at the church office and I'll try to answer as many as I can. — JAC

December Birthdays

01 Brenda Ryan
 01 Stacey Kern
 02 Carol Fisher
 04 Gary Mason
 05 Sharon Bencivengo
 06 Chantel Young
 07 Jessica Wilcek
 10 Laura Donham
 10 Carson McNamara
 11 Merle McDonald
 11 Fern West
 11 Julie Scott
 11 Angelica MacKenzie
 11 Seanna Marie Bailey
 13 Lucy Leavitt
 13 Gina Brancheau
 14 Judy Western
 15 Sam Force
 15 Wade Warden
 15 Nathan Foster
 16 Elfreda Bryan
 16 Angelo Wilkins
 17 Paul Campbell
 17 Judy Brown
 18 Gertrude Lynch
 18 Richard Mallard



21 Rita Hockett
 22 Virginia McConocha
 22 Marsha Mikus
 22 Samantha Fisher
 23 Jacob Bowers
 24 Janice Brown
 25 Sophia Bonsky
 26 Gay Kemp
 27 Dorothy DeSilva
 29 Joyce Gooden
 29 Nick Bonsky
 29 Kordell Slater
 30 Maxine Bolitho
 30 Arthur Miller
 30 Bob Cates
 31 Jean Nordstrom

December Anniversaries

01 Warren and Alice Heidenis
 06 Gail and Jerry Swanson
 10 J. C. and Margaret Spann
 12 Jessica and Kristian Dunda
 18 Ron and Patty Royer
 19 G.Walford and Marlene Young
 23 Steve and Phyllis Cox
 26 Paul and Norma Campbell
 26 Don and Esther Keirnan
 27 Lisa & Gary Friend
 27 John and Josephine Keating
 29 Fred Wagner & Linda Layman



Welcome
Our New
Members

Please welcome these new members to our congregation

June Albert
 Jerry Albert
 Sonjia Back
 Linda Bailey
 Doris Barney
 Gayle Behnke
 Don Behnke
 Tom Brancheau
 Regina Brancheau
 Sylvia Brooks
 Dorothy Brooks
 Linda Brown
 Maxine Butler
 Diana Bybel
 Joann Carter
 Federica Caruso
 Kimberly Crews
 Joanne Criscuolo
 Tiwane Daniels
 Hollis Donisi
 Pat Douglas
 Jim Eugenius
 Tammy Eugenius
 Jane Flanders
 Gail Gonzales
 Evangeline Grim Vantries
 Miisha Idom
 James Kavanaugh
 Sharon Kavanaugh
 Edna Lather
 Joan Mackey
 Wendy McCarthy
 Peg Parto
 Faye Perkins
 Charles Polk
 Paige Polk
 Sue Ross
 Marie Sejour
 Jean Sejour
 Pam Shaner
 Jeanne Spica
 Cherie Thomas
 Tom Volkmann
 Marianne Volkmann
 Fred Wagner





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 facebook.com/portcharlotteumc

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Kairos Prison Ministry Report *John Robertson*

On Saturday, October 26th, 26 inmates met one-on-one with either clergy or laymen. During the Friday - Saturday Kairos weekend, 26 of the 36 inmates attending the event had



counseling. There were more counseling sessions on Sunday, but the total number is unknown. PCUMC's contribution of \$1,200 consisted of \$500 from Salty Service and the remainder from the membership of PCUMC. Thank you! Revival and restoration took place.

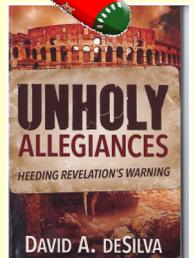
"God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished on that day when

Have a reader on your Christmas list?

You may consider David deSilva's new book, "Unholy Allegiances." David is the son of Art & Dorothy deSilva.



It is available online through Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com, HendricksonPublishers.com or by calling Art deSilva at 941-423-7696.



Saturday, January 25, 2014
 1:00-6:00 PM
 at Faith United Methodist Church,
 15690 McGregor Blfvd
 Fort Myers, FL 33908
 (239)482-2030

Dynamic Speaker
 and popular
 Author

Brian McLaren

Transforming
 Pastor and
 Church Leader

Michael Slaughter

Internment
 camp survivor
 turned influential
 Christian leader

Rini Hernandez

Music
 from
**Top local
 Praise Bands**