

PPC POST

APRIL
2010

Do you love me?



Feed my sheep.

God's Grace, My Gratitude, OUR GROWTH



THE PALMETTO PALM READER

EASTER & EVANGELISM

Lots of people come to church during the Easter season, so Easter is certainly a good time to “recruit new members.” But surely the resurrection means more to the greater faith community (church) today than just “adding members.”

In the post-modern period in which we are now living, maybe it’s time we re-think church membership. There was a time when membership meant an official act of belonging and entitled one to special “privileges” in the church, such as voting for officers and receiving pastoral care. To some, membership meant you could get married in the church “for free” and you could have your children baptized.

As I write this article on a Monday evening before Team Palmetto meets, I am calling “prospects” to talk about the church and . . . membership. I guess it’s what I’m *supposed* to do, and yet, I know good and faithful Christians today who could care less about “joining” the church.

In my experience people are as committed to the church today as they were twenty-five years ago. They pray, they study, they get involved . . . they even give. But for whatever reason—they don’t join. And maybe that’s okay. It’s not who we convince to join, but who we can “touch.” We are going to offer pastoral care to anyone who needs it, we want visitors to worship with us, and we want the gospel to have an impact on people’s lives, whether they join the church or not.

I’m *always* going to encourage folks to join the church, but I’m more interested in a long-term connection than a decide-now pressure. You all know I’m a note writer. Someone once asked me “are you going to quit writing us notes if we join?” Membership might seem self-serving, while touch implies a gift. Right now we have about 250 adult “members,” and yet we have over 700 folks worshipping with us.

What would Jesus do? Would he favor a closed system of members or would he reach out and create open circles of relationships. Easter is indeed a great evangelism tool, but it’s not about membership—it’s about transforming lives. If we constantly reach out to others . . . the membership issue will take care of itself.

May you experience the wonder, mystery, and joy of the resurrection,

Mike

F R O M T H E P A S T O R

God’s Grace, My Gratitude, OUR GROWTH

APRIL WORSHIP

APRIL 1st
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
Communion

APRIL 2nd
PRAYER STATIONS

APRIL 4th
EASTER SUNDAY
THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
"Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen . . . Indeed?"
Matthew 28:1-10,16-20

APRIL 11th
"Being Left in Charge"
John 14:23-29
Communion

APRIL 18th
"A Simple Invitation: Come and See"
John 1:25-46

APRIL 25th
GUEST MINISTER: *Rev. Lonna Lee*

MUSIC NOTES

What a joy and a blessing our Dedication Service was on March 7! Thank you, PPC Choir, and thank you, PPC congregation for your wonderful singing. One of the primary roles of the choir is to lead the congregation in singing, and it was so good to hear the congregation singing joyfully at that service. It was also fantastic to hear our choir with an additional ten voices. These were not professional voices, but simply additional church members from St. Benedict who choose to make a joyful noise in their choir, and in our choir for that one service. Like the Marines, our choir is looking for a few good men and women. Unlike the Marines, we are not nearly so rigid. You **do not** have to be musically skilled! We have voices you can follow and folks who will help you any way they can. You **do** need to enjoy singing praises to God, getting to know and rehearsing with the best group of people at PPC, and not mind looking at the back of Mike's head on Sunday mornings! We rehearse Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00. Please come and try us on a "no obligation, money refunded if not satisfied", trial basis. April 4 will be the highlight of the church year. The reason we assemble as a church each week is because of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. You certainly will not want to miss this celebration of the Resurrection! To God be the Glory, great things He has done!

With a song in my heart,
Crystal



PPC Good Friday Prayer Stations

April 2nd in the Sanctuary 7:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



The Prayer Stations will be placed within the sanctuary for a time of individual prayer and meditation. It is a place where the Spirit of God is and where you can go to God in prayer and seek His blessings, will and direction for your life. Prayer is a

gift of God for all and all are called to pray from the youngest child to the oldest adult. We are given this gift because of God's love for us and a desire to be closer to us as we share our hearts and minds.



WORSHIP & COMMUNION

7:00 p.m.

Gather with us Thursday, April 1, as we commemorate The Last Supper and prepare our hearts for Easter.

God's Grace, My Gratitude, OUR GROWTH

CELEBRATING LIFE



SOUPER CHALLENGE A SUPER SUCCESS!

Thank you to the PPC Congregation and to the Seven Shepherding Teams who worked hard to promote our Souper Team Challenge! We collected **955** cans of soup! Pearl, Christina & Jeanette of New Hope United Methodist send you a big thank you from their community in Huger. *Congratulations to our First Place Team Blue - Julie Martin & John Loesch!*



ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING

Saturday, April 17, 2010

All women of PALMETTO are invited to join other women in our Presbytery for our annual Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women which will be held here at PALMETTO PRESBYTERIAN.

Come enjoy a beautiful worship service and hear our church wide PW vice-moderator of missions, Alice Wyatt, give an inspiring message—then stay for a delicious lunch in our beautiful *Great Hall*.

You will enjoy great fellowship and meet other women in our Presbytery. Hope to see you there! Registration forms are available. If you have any questions, please contact: Dottie Kelley (856-8918) or Nancye Mullaney (412-1800)

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. A business meeting begins at 9:30. Worship service follows the Business Meeting.

CALLING ALL 6th-12th GRADERS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

for THESE FUN-FILLED
UPCOMING EVENTS



April 18: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Bonfire, dinner, games, singing—
Keep your eyes peeled for the location!

May 16: 12:30-3:30 p.m.

End of the Year Beach Day
EDGE members and their families
Station 18 1/2 on Sullivans Island

For more information contact Ryan Easterling at reasterling@arcadiapublishing.com or Kim Hulseley at baha2004@comcast.net

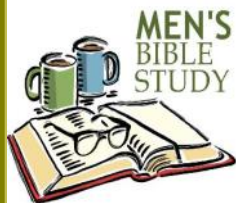
God's Grace, My Gratitude, OUR GROWTH

IN COMMUNITY

PPCPW—THIS MONTH'S MEETING



WEDNESDAY, April 21st
10:30 a.m. at THE PALMS



Weekly Each Friday
7:00 a.m.
at the Church

WINGS OF FAITH

Women's Christian Fiction
Book Club

Tuesday, April 20th—9:30 a.m.
at the Church

Book Selection: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

For more information contact:

Lori (loriruss@bellsouth.net) or
Angela (aredden@palmettopreschurch.org)



Handbell Choir

*Do you love the
sound of handbells?
Ever want to try your
hand(s!) at ringing
them? Now is your
chance!*

Bells have arrived at PALMETTO, and we are searching for adults who are interested in playing in our very first bell choir. No musical background is necessary! An INFORMATION-ONLY event will be held at the church on Wednesday, April 14, at 7 PM. Come see, touch, and ring the bells and learn a little more about what is involved in being a part of a bell choir. By attending you are NOT committing to anything.

Questions? Interested but can't attend? Contact Caroline McKinney at 881-6876 or markandcaroline@comcast.net. Come see if this exciting musical opportunity *appeals* to you!



PALMETTO TO HOST HANDS OF CHRIST— *How can you help?*

This fall Palmetto will be one of the distribution centers for HANDS OF CHRIST—a Presbyterian church project to provide clothing and school supplies for needy students in the tri-county area. This is one of our major outreach projects, and we want our entire congregation to participate. Last year over 4,000 needy children received assistance through the Presbyterian churches of Charleston Atlantic Presbytery.

On Sunday, April 18, Rev. Tammy Brown, pastor and head of staff at Westminster Presbyterian and founder of Hands of Christ in Charleston, will be at Palmetto during Sunday school to share with all our adults the mission of Hands of Christ and how WE can participate. So MARK YOUR CALENDARS for April 18 at 9:15 a.m. All adults will meet in the sanctuary while the children and youth are in Sunday school. Following Tammy's presentation, our Outreach Team will provide refreshments. ALL adults at Palmetto are invited and encouraged to attend.

God's Grace, My Gratitude, OUR GROWTH

FROM FINANCE TEAM

A WORD ABOUT GIVING—

Our new building is wonderful and our attendance and activities are growing by leaps and bounds. Unfortunately, there is a cost to success. As we thrive and grow, our expenses increase—particularly those costs associated with being in the new building. If you are new to Palmetto, you have not been asked to participate in the Capital Campaign that is *ongoing* and has raised over \$500,000 toward the \$3.5M cost of our new home. We hope that everyone active in the church will prayerfully consider making additional contributions above your pledge to the Operating Budget to help pay for the building.

Sandra Powell, Finance Team Leader

FROM EVANGELISM TEAM

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS *about* PPC—

We need help in putting out the neighborhood and directional signs for the Church. There have been a few members who have religiously and faithfully given of their time and talents to make sure our neighbors and friends are aware of us and how to get to our new home. They need a rest from this task. If you are not heavily involved in other ministry team(s) and want to get plugged in, here is an excellent way to spread the Good News.

Signage is generally put out on Saturday morning and taken up on Sunday afternoon. We are asking for a six (6) month commitment (*with back up*) rotation.

As Preacher Mike prayed one Sunday, quoting St. Francis, "Go out and spread the Gospel, using words only when necessary." Please see or talk with any of the Evangelism Team Members to sign up or become a member of the Evangelism Team.

Buck Smyre (843-693-8177), Gary Mullaney, Ryan Easterling, Chuck Turner, Ralph Wetherell, Leonard Lindstrom, Preacher Mike

SESSION REPORT—Julie Martin, Clerk

SESSION Highlights *for* March 22, 2010 Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

- The Maundy Thursday service will be on 4/1 at 7pm
- The church will be open on 4/2 – Good Friday – from 7am – 1pm for prayer
- Easter Services will be held on 4/4 at 8:30am and 10:30am
- There will be a Hands of Christ presentation during Adult Sunday School on 4/18
- The last spring Sunday School classes will be on 5/23
- Teacher Appreciation Day will be on 5/30
- Starting 6/6 we will have two worship services – 8:15am and 10:30am – through August
- 7/11 – 7/14 will be Vacation Bible School
- STEPS will be held at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian on 8/28
- Teacher Training will be held on 8/29
- Rally Day will be 9/12

REMINDERS/REQUESTS

- Looking for a new EDGE leader
- Looking for a new Fellowship Chair
- Need Spanish speaking volunteers to help with the Hands of Christ distribution at Palmetto on 8/3

ACTIONS TAKEN BY SESSION

- Approved Sunday School for the Summer
- Approved having an 8:15am and a 10:30 am service beginning on the first Sunday in June through August
- Approved serving communion at the 8:15 service every Sunday by intinction
- Approved the purchase of the remaining appliances to outfit the kitchen
- Decided to table discussions for a preschool program until January 2011

PPC T-Shirts for Sale!

The Evangelism team is selling **NAVY**, **RED**, & **ORANGE** T-shirts with the PPC logo.

We have a variety of sizes
from Child M & L to Adult S-XXL.

Each shirt is \$10.

*Stop by the table in the Great Hall
or contact Ryan Easterling.*



During Easter, many Christians greet each other in a special way. One person says "Christ is risen" and the other says "He is risen indeed." Jesus' life, death and resurrection confirms the truth and importance of what Jesus did and what he taught and that He is alive today in each of us and is preparing a place for us.

HELP TEACH OUR FAMILIES TO GROW IN CHRIST

We have a variety of opportunities for Summer and Fall: EDGE, Advent workshop planning, Wednesday night gatherings, confirmation class, Sunday School, Children's Church, Time with Children, FUEL, Adult classes, Vacation Bible School, Bible Studies, Presbyterian Women, and Book clubs.

You will not be alone: During this time we often hear, "I can't teach Sunday School, I wouldn't be good at it, I just don't have the time, or I did that stuff when I was younger." Unfortunately, so many people are under the impression that they have to have some sort of experience, degree, or a child in Sunday School to "do a good job" or to participate. It is just simply not the case. All you need is a love for God, and a willingness to learn. You will be supported by other volunteers and the CE team. There is also a teacher training on August 29th prior to the start of Sunday School where you can pick up the church provided materials, meet seasoned volunteers and receive instructions.

How we can work together: Please take a moment to thank the Sunday School teachers, leaders and Gracie in the Ark for all of their hard work this year. Pray for the Christian Education team and teachers. Current teachers please let us know if you would like to teach after May and offer recommendations of others who might be interested in teaching next year. Those not yet involved please let us know that you are interested in helping.

Now what: Contact Angela Redden at 884-1504 or aredden@palmettopreschurch.org



GET READY TO SET SAIL WITH PPC'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! JULY 11-16, 2010

This summer, set sail for VBS fun! Feel the sea spray on your face as sails snap overhead, and you and your crew experience the deep, rolling waters of God's love. This is easily the best time you'll have all summer!
This ship's for YOU!



VBS is also giving back this year with Operation Kid-to-Kid. Join us in July to find out what great FUN we have planned for VBS 2010!

PALMETTO PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (USA)



Rev. Dr. Michael Lee Fitze, *Minister*
drfitze@palmettopreschurch.org

Crystal Cassels, *Director of Music*
pianistsc@aol.com

Angela Redden, *Christian Educator*
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Phone: (843) 884-1504

Fax: (843) 884-1511

PPC CARES (843) 991-3534

www.palmettopreschurch.org

SUNDAY MORNING

9:15-10:00 a.m. — Sunday School

10:00-10:30 a.m. — Fellowship

10:30-11:30 a.m. — Worship

Children's Church with a planned lesson for K4-2nd grade is offered weekly following "Time with Children" (during the worship service). FUEL for 3rd-5th grade is offered on the 2nd & 4th Sundays.

PALMETTO SESSION

Sallie Aldrich
Fred Anderson
Rob Davis
Elaine Kloos
Leonard Lindstrom
John Loesch
Julie Martin
Nancye Mullaney
Melissa Peyton
Dick Redden
Lori Russ
Anne Smyre
Bill Sullivan
Beth Taylor
Ralph Wetherell

Clerk of Session—*Julie Martin*
388-1369 juliemartin727@gmail.com

NEW MEMBER CLASS

The Session meets in Mike's office each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. to receive new members. Please speak to Mike or one of the Elders (wearing the gold name tags) about joining PALMETTO.

OTHER PALMETTO LEADERS

WORSHIP— *David Steele*
881-6662 david.steele@comcast.net
& *Susan Lindstrom*

971-1202 funsuzl@aol.com
FELLOWSHIP— *Shelly van Overeem*
881-4963 svanovereem@yahoo.com
& *Robin Mann*

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OUTREACH— *Lynn Cobb*
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& *Dottie Kelley*

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NURTURE— *Ellen Auten*
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& *Amy Gravino*

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION— *Natalie Doss*
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& *Melinda Turner*

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FINANCE— *Sandra Powell*

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EVANGELISM — *Buck Smyre*
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FACILITIES/BUILDING— *Chris Hulsey*
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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP— *Derrick Russ*
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& *James Martin*

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TREASURER— *Frank Amburn*

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PHOTOGRAPHER— *Dennis Kelley*
856-8918 dekelley@comcast.net

PALMETTO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
1720 CAROLINA PARK BLVD.
MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29466-7521



There will be *two* services
EASTER SUNDAY
April 4th
8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

NO Sunday School or Children's Church
Nursery for Birth-3K will be available.

God's Grace, My Gratitude, OUR GROWTH