

The Spire...

**Plantation Presbyterian Church
Plantation, FL Nov/Dec 2018**



Holiday Gifts

The holidays can be stressful for lots of reasons. Thanksgiving, all the way through New Year's Eve can be stressful. Just getting everything done – shopping, cleaning, decorating, cooking – adds a pile of chores on top of our already busy lives. Then all the gatherings with family and friends bring little stresses even when everyone is happy, and bigger stresses when not everyone gets along. And if we've had a bad year, or suffered some great loss, the compulsory cheerfulness of the season might only deepen, by contrast, the weariness we already feel.

It's no wonder the holidays are hard for many people. Here are a few ideas for giving thanks and Christmas gift giving that we might give to one another, and ourselves, to make the season more truly and deeply a time of joy.

First, simplify. The irony of making ourselves anxious in honor of the Prince of Peace is a sign that we'd do well to worry less about the trappings of Thanksgiving and Christmas and focus more on its meaning. The angel, after all, announces "good news of great joy," and the good news is that God is with us, no matter what else is going on. Doing less and reflecting more might make the Holiday season a time of real renewal.

Second, focus on forgiveness. Throughout the holidays, focus on forgiveness. God blesses us as we recall the reasons to forgive and also to be thankful. So during Christmas we ask, "Why does Jesus come at all, but is it not to show us the depth and breadth of God's love and grace?" "God and sinners reconciled" is the whole point of Christmas. In Christ, God says, "I love you. All is forgiven. You can come home to me, where you belong." Part of what makes the holidays unhappy for many is the conflicts, the people we're still angry with. If God came to reconcile us at Christmas, who are we to hold on to grudges? They only rob us of joy and keep us from peace. Forgive even one person this Christmas – including, not least, yourself – and see whether this holiday doesn't feel "holy" after all.

I think there's a special power in the simple act of forgiveness. And where more than anywhere else is this shown than in the presence of God. If you wanted to come up with a single theme for the entirety of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, it would be that the God of the universe wants to be with us.

So here's where Christmas gets its power. It's not from the commercialism that our culture continues to allow to spin out of control. It's not from the lights and decorations and

adornments of the season. Christmas doesn't even really get its power from our own traditions and rituals, though those are certainly great.

Christmas gets its real power from the simple fact that in that barn some 2,000 years ago, God decided that it was best to be with us, as one of us, just like one of us. Jesus Christ is God putting on display God's own desire to be with us above all else.

It's a power that carries today. The resurrected Christ continues to be with us, to dwell in us, to abide with us. He meets us in our darkest moments and celebrates with us in our most joyous days.

If we squint and stare, Jesus Christ is there through all the lights and glitter and cash registers that seem to cloud the season with noise, gently reminding us that all these centuries later, he's still with us.

Finally, come to church. Not only to the special Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday November 20th and not just on Christmas Eve, though that will be good, but on other Sunday mornings too. Some of the best things in the world happen in church, things that make life rich and full and good. The holidays and the birth of Christ at Christmas are only the beginning.

David



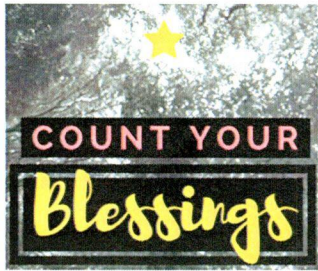
Rev. Eugene Roberts, Rev. David Massey and Rev. Ralph Dirksen serve communion on World Communion Day.



Everyone is welcome to join the clergy and congregations from synagogues and churches around Plantation for an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Rev. Dr. David Massey will be participating in the service. We will pray for healing as we worship God together. The service is at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church (7801 NW 5th Street) on Tuesday, November 20th at 7 pm. A love offering for Women In Distress will be collected. Canned goods are also welcome!



Christmas Eve Services
December 24, 2018
4:00 p.m. Children's Service
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service



2019 Stewardship

Our 2019 Stewardship campaign will begin November 18 with packets being distributed on Sunday, November 25. Commitments will be received during the service or they can be mailed to the church office. Your Commitment helps the Session with planning for 2019.

Each of us should take the time and count our many blessings and realize that God has blessed us abundantly. We should feel gratified for these blessings and want to give to God in appreciation through our commitments. Stewardship is a way of sharing God's blessing and a way that we can grow your faith through your generosity.

Please prayerfully consider how you can extend your generosity and say thank you to God. Each of us has been very blessed by the amazing community of faith that can be found at Plantation Presbyterian Church. We are truly a family with everyone working together for the Glory of God.

Plantation Presbyterian Church has been making a difference in the community and our own congregation. We appreciate that you are a supportive member of our church family and your contributions are making a difference in the work of the church.

Please make stewardship a way of life for you and your family as our church moves into 2019. If you do not pick up your packet at church, they will be mailed the week of November 26.



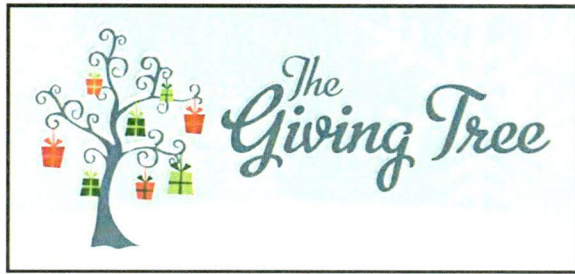
Advent Gift for the Church

During this Christmas season, Plantation Presbyterian Church can be thankful for the many blessings that we have. Everyone has also been very supportive of our mission projects at the Ann Storck Center and the Nancy J. Cotterman Center. Yet most of all we are family and we care about each other and OUR church. For this we are truly blessed and very thankful.

Please consider giving a gift to ourselves during this Christmas season to help balance the church's budget by covering our December costs (i.e. electric, phone, Christian education, postage, music expenses, etc.) Please help by choosing a gift tag at church beginning December 9 to help with our December expenses by giving a Christmas gift to ourselves.

By making a gift in any amount to the church, an ornament with your family name will be hung in the church plus you will receive a special homemade treat made especially by Becky Rountree from her grandmother's recipes. Let's fill our sanctuary by Christmas Eve with our family ornaments. Many Christmas blessings to everyone during this very special season!





2018 Christmas Giving Tree

For Christmas our church provides gifts for approximately 60 children from the Ann Storck Center and the Nancy J. Cotterman Center.

The Ann Storck Center serves more than 300 children and adults with disabilities such as epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism, Down Syndrome, and intellectual disabilities through their group homes and day programs.

The Cotterman Center's main focus is to improve and enhance the quality of life for victims of sexual assault and child abuse by providing services at no cost to victims through professionals specializing in these areas.

The Giving Tree will have tags with a child's wish in the \$25 range. Tags can be secured on Sunday, November 25 and gifts must be returned to church by December 16. If you feel you cannot shop for a gift but want to participate please make a financial donation to the Deacons. If you have any questions please contact Becky Rountree at routreelo@aol.com or 954-791-9139 or 954-240-6941.



Hanging of the Greens 2018

Everyone, young and old, please come and help decorate the church for Christmas. The greens will be hung on Sunday, December 2 at 1:00 p.m. After the church is decorated, there will be a showing of a special Christmas movie and pizza will be provided. Bring a snack to share. Join the festivities as we all get in the holiday spirit. It is a wonderful time of fellowship for everyone!



Bob and Lillian Potter's Annual Children's Christmas Party

The Bob and Lillian Potter's Annual Children's Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 15 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be food, crafts, and special visitors coming to greet the children. Please RSVP to the church or Deacon Jeff Durham at 954-815-2761 or DurhamFamilyinc@aol.com.



Carrie "B" Cruise

Come and join everyone on a relaxing cruise to see the holiday lights down the New River and Intracoastal on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. This fellowship event is an evening for all ages. The approximate cost is \$28 for adults and \$14 for children 3-12 and children under 3 are free. Please RSVP to Becky Rountree at routreelo@aol.com or call her at 954-240-6941. Car pooling can be worked out just let Becky know so she can arrange it.



Poinsettias

Order your poinsettias now. They will decorate the church for Sunday morning December 16 & 23 and Christmas Eve. Dedicate your plant in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one, or for the Glory of God. Orders must be received by December 9. Poinsettias will be \$12 per plant. To order please complete the form in the church bulletin or call the church office at 954-587-0830.



PPW Christmas Luncheon

Plantation Presbyterian Women's Association will have their Annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at 12 noon. All Presbyterian women and their spouses, significant others, and friends are invited to the potluck luncheon. There will be a holiday program to entertain the guests. A reservation form will be in the Sunday bulletin or please contact Val Minto at 954-584-9881 if you are planning to attend. Please bring a dish to share and a \$5 gift.



Holiday Concert - December 7

Come and enjoy the holiday sound of The Miamians, a premiere Men's A Cappella Performing Chorus, on Friday, December 7 (waiting for confirmation) at 7:00 p.m. at Plantation Presbyterian Church.

The Miamians have been part of South Florida music scene since 1948. They are directed by Alex Rubin, who is part of the young new breed of A Cappella music directors and has been a "Barbershopper" for more than 25 years.

Everyone is encouraged to invite family and friends to the hour concert. A good will offering will be taken to cover concert costs. Light refreshments will be served following the performance.

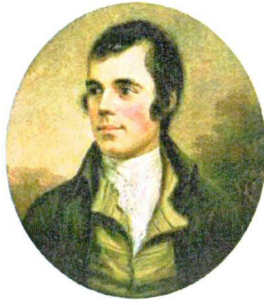


Newsletter Contacts

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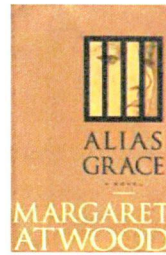
January Issue Copy Deadline: January 4, 2019



Burns Luncheon Sunday, January 20, 2019

We celebrate the Scottish origins of Presbyterianism not only to salute the national origin of the Presbyterian Church which began with John Knox in Scotland, but also to highlight the traditions of our way of life and worship. The influence of Presbyterianism in the founding of our nation, in the developing ideas and ideals of America, and in the progress of American Christianity, is quite extensive.

Plantation Presbyterian Church will have a Burns Supper potluck luncheon on Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 12:15 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend. You are encouraged to bring guests. The Burns Luncheon is celebrated to commemorate the career of Robert Burns, a Scottish poet, who died in 1796. Besides the potluck, there will be some traditional Burns Supper dishes to sample. Please bring a side dish to share. Plan to attend this special celebration.



The Proofreaders...

The book group will be meeting Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the historical novel, *Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood.

Alias Grace is based on the true story of Grace Marks, a young Irish immigrant and servant in Canada. She was accused of murdering her employer in 1843 and sentenced to life in prison but was pardoned thirty years later. The novel focuses on “did she or didn’t she?”

Come join the group for great discussion, fellowship and refreshments. For further information contact Beth Doubleday at 954-319-4005 or b5chicago@aol.com.

Year-End Contributions Recording and Reporting

In order for your charitable contributions to be tax-deductible in 2018, they must be received by the church or postmarked by December 31, 2018. The 2018 contribution statements will be available about January 24, 2019. These will be placed on a table at the back of the sanctuary. If you have any questions regarding year-end contributions, please contact Ann Robinson, church secretary, at 954-587-0830 (mornings on Thursday and Friday).



Ron and Pat Tilley celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on October 28. Thank you for celebrating with everyone during fellowship with a special cake.
Congratulations Ron and Pat!



On-line Giving Available

Online giving is possible, for giving to our Church by visiting our website at: www.plantationpresbyterianchurch.com. Select the donate button, with the Green heart and words: "Give Now." Once you click the Green Donate button, you will be taken to a secure web page set-up through the Presbyterian Foundation. This service is also known as the "The Presbyterian Mission Exchange." Once there you may make donations to any of three funds: Designated Funds, Faith Promise Giving, or Major Repair Fund. You will also have the option to set up a recurring donation. When you have completed your donation, you will receive confirmation and a statement to use when filing your future taxes. If you have any questions regarding these items, please contact David Mikelson, Church Treasurer.

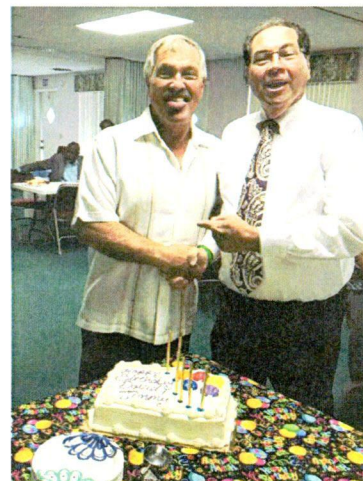


Unseen Guest Luncheon

Mark your calendar now for the Unseen Guest Luncheon hosted by the Deacons. It will be held Sunday, November 18, 2018 immediately following the Sunday service. There will be great food, raffles, and fellowship for everyone. Proceeds benefit the people in our community and our church who might need some assistance.

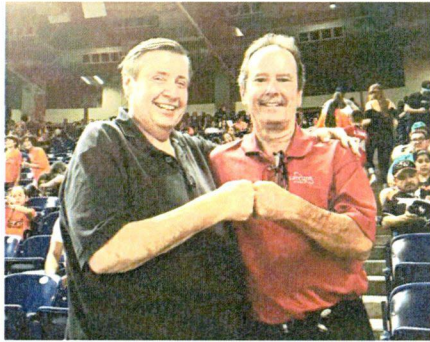
Tickets will be \$15 for adults, \$5 for children 7 and under and \$15 for the "Unseen Guest." This is a bargain price for the meal. The Deacons provide a feast for everyone. The money raised helps the Deacons to do their work within the congregation and community. They are the "Unseen Guest."

The luncheon is a wonderful time for everyone plus it is lots of fun. So don't miss out. Everyone is encouraged to bring friends to this special event. Tickets will be sold before and after church.

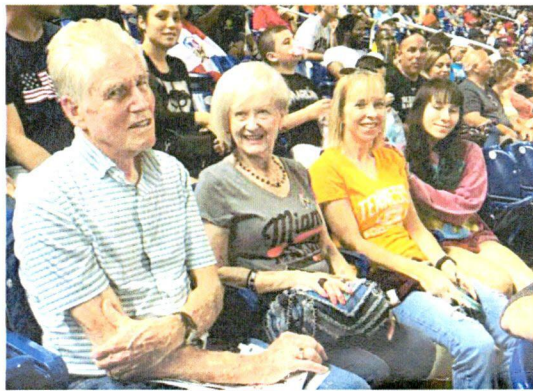


Celebrating Jimmy Snyder and Rev. David Massey's birthdays both on October 9.

Plantation Presbyterian Church at the Marlins Game...



Ron Thompson and Buddy Rountree



Jim and Margo Unruh and Michelle and Holly Hartman



Gerheem Lamm and Naida and Bill Moore, Alex Branom, Presley Branom, Nic and Daniel Larson, Greg Branom, and Ryan Raynor



Gerheem Lamm with Santa at the Marlins



Blessings to:

- Maxine Lennon for making calls to get food donations for the Unseen Guest luncheon.
- Everyone who has volunteered to usher and greet.
- Jana Voigt, Sarah Dixon, Ron Thompson and Mady France for coming in the next week after the rummage sale to help take down the boutique.
- Everyone who helps with fellowship by setting up, cleaning up, providing food and making monetary donations to help purchase paper goods, coffee, and lemonade.
- Holly Hartman, Sarah Dixon and Pat Roberson for helping to prepare communion.
- For Beth Doubleday for being the music librarian and making sure all the music is distributed to choir members each week.
- Jim Unruh and Sue Mazzoleni for counting the money every Sunday and for Jim making the bank deposit each week.
- Beth Doubleday for leading book group.
- Mike Voigt for helping David Massey to dig the holes for the gate installation.
- Mary Gauvreau for updating the church's website.
- Holly and Michelle Hartman and Margo Unruh for opening the boutique on the Sunday after the rummage sale for anyone who might want to purchase something.



Plantation Presbyterian Women's Annual Rummage Sale Report

This year's rummage sale was the best ever! We raised \$5,500. Without everyone's help, the rummage sale would not have been a success! Everyone did a great job bringing in their "stuff" plus the many volunteers who sorted and priced during the week, over 40 volunteers who assisted on the actual days of the sale and everyone who helped to clean up. Also special thanks to everyone who baked "goodies" for the bake sale.

The "stuff" that was left after the sale was donated to Miami Rescue and a Venezuelan mission group. The books, DVD's and CD's are donated to the Helen B. Hoffman Library in Plantation for their monthly book sales. Money raised from their sales helps to purchase books and other needed items for the library. Plantation Presbyterian Women will use the money raised to support their missions and help financially with church projects.



Jana Voigt



Arlene McMillan



Connie Abel, Shanti Warburton and Euline Warburton



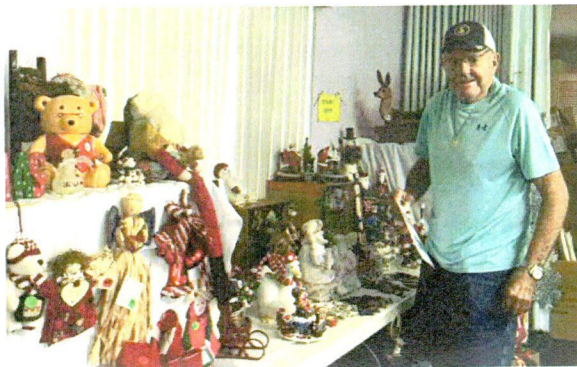
Beth Doubleday



Donna Brileya



Gene Roberts, Al Will, Paul Froehlich and Ron Thompson



Bud Magly



Val Minto, Sonia Anderson, and Joy Dixon



Ruth Magly and Linda O'Brien



Pat Tilley & Margo Unruh



Joyce Jansen and Sue Mazzoleni



Mady France and Holly Hartman



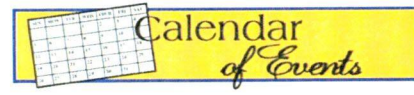
Anniversaries and Birthdays

November

- 5 Kevin Warburton, *Jim and Margo Unruh*
- 7 Schuyler Edewaard
- 8 Paul Westcott, Sydney Turner
- 9 *John and Kathy Guariglio*
- 11 Doug Doubleday
- 17 Joy Dixon
- 19 *Jimmy and Becky Snyder*
- 24 *Paul and Donna Westcott*
- 25 Alice Todd
- 26 Brittany Westcott,
Becky and Buddy Rountree
- 28 Michael Berndgen
- 30 *Rev. Eugene and Joyce Richardson*

December

- 2 Ron Thompson
- 5 Norman Anderson, Jr.
- 6 Audrey Smith
- 7 Schuyler Edewaard
- 8 Robert Minto
- 9 Natalia Sanchez
- 11 Anson Boodhai, Sandra Mitto
- 13 Sonia Anderson
- 18 *Al and Claire Will*
- 19 Christopher Smith
- 22 Sara Mazzoleni
- 23 Eugene Richardson, *Irvin and Eileen Jones*
- 24 *Benny and Tina Paulus*
- 26 Maxine Lennon
- 27 Mary Heilman
- 28 Ron Albert
- 29 Nandlal Boodhai, Greg Branom
- 30 *Robert and Lorraine Edewaard*



November

- 11 Deacon's Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
- 11 Thanksgiving Basket Donations Due
- 15 PPW Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
- 15 Session Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Unseen Guest Luncheon, 12:15 p.m.
- 26 Tenting of Church for Termites

December

- 2 Hanging of the Greens, 1:00 p.m.
- 7 Miamians Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Book Club, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Poinsettia Orders Due
- 15 Children's Christmas Party, 2:00 p.m.
- 16 Giving Tree Gifts Returned
- 16 Deacons will meet to organize gifts for delivery
- 16 Carrie "B" Cruise, 6:30 p.m.
- 20 PPW Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
- 22 PPW Christmas Luncheon, 12 noon
- 24 Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 p.m.
- 24 Candlelight Service, 11:00 p.m.

January

- 6 Taking the "Greens" Down, 12:15 p.m.
- 17 PPW Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
- 20 Burns Potluck Luncheon, 12:15 p.m.



Baptism of Daniel Allen Ronal Larson

July 15, 2018

**Proud parents are Nic Larson
and Presley Branom with
Rev. Massey and Iris Froehlich**



Highlights of Session Meeting September 27, 2018

- Approved August 2018 Treasurer's Report.
- Tenting of church will take place November 26, 2018.
- Stewardship packets will be distributed November 25.
- World Communion will take place October 7.
- Next Meeting October 25, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Highlights of Session Meeting October 25, 2018

- Approved September 2018 Treasurer's Report.
- Passed the motion to support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund.
- Passed the motion to have a Christmas Advent Tree for the church.
- Commended David Mikelson for his work as treasurer.
- PAL signs for the parking lot have been received.
- Next meeting November 15 at 7:30 p.m.

**Plantation Presbyterian Church
901 NW 70 Avenue
Plantation, FL 33317**

