



The Spire

Plantation Presbyterian Church

Plantation, FL March 2014



Pastor's Message...

Guernica is a mural painted by Spanish artist Pablo Picasso in 1937. It is grey, black and white, 3.5 meters high and 7.8 meters wide, a mural-size canvas painted in oil. Picasso's purpose in painting it was to bring the world's attention to the bombing of the Basque town of Guernica and the killing of sixteen hundred people by forces supporting General Franco and the Nationalists during the Spanish Civil War.

It is a symbol of the atrocities of war: it's devastating effect on men, women, and children; the suffering and despair; the

sense of being powerless in an unbearable reality; the hopelessness of circumstances that seem unchangeable; the attempt to degrade human dignity.

The more you look at the painting and all its elements, the more you find yourself being intellectually and emotionally pulled in. Gradually, the circumstances of the scene start to fade and you soon forget – or don't even need to know – about the town of Guernica, or the Spanish Civil War, or even Picasso. Your attention and emotion focus on the desperation of the people trying to escape, the agony of a mother holding her lifeless child, the terror of the wounded, the despair. The circumstances dim and the suffering remains. At this point, the painting is no longer about the bombing of Guernica and the suffering of its people. It now embodies every war and shows the agony and suffering of everyone trapped in a conflict.

Guernica becomes a symbol of the pain and suffering of war and moves me to an enduring

emblem for peace, and for compassion. The intellectual and emotional process of moving beyond circumstances and into a deeper understanding and a stronger emotional connection is, to me, the very same as the path of compassion.

Compassion sets its eyes beyond the circumstances, beyond the differences and distance that separate us, and into the love that unites us. Compassion does not get confused by circumstances; it sees beyond them. In *Guernica* the circumstances fade and the suffering remains. Compassion, too, blurs out what separates us – social status, education, religion, language, our place in the world – and looks straight into the suffering and the need of our neighbor.

The atrocities of war are also depicted in the Broadway Play and Movie *War Horse*. A quick synopsis; Joey is a horse, who was first depicted as a young foal. Ted Narracott, is Joey's owner. Albert Narracott, is Ted's son. Albert and Joey form a strong bond as Joey grows up. The audience is drawn in as they become part of this bond that is being depicted. As word of World War I reaches the town where the Narracott family lives, Ted sells Joey to the British cavalry. Joey and Tophorn, another army horse, are shipped to France. There, the British army are overwhelmed by the Germans who make use of machine guns, barbed wire, and gas.

Once enemies trying to outdo each other, Joey and Tophorn become friends as they help each other, first pulling an ambulance for wounded soldiers and then in pulling heavy artillery, until Tophorn dies from exhaustion.

A distraught Joey breaks free and runs through the heated battle until he gets caught up in barbed wire in no man's land. The British from their vantage point and the Germans from their vantage point both see him. One Soldier from each side go into no man's land to assist Joey. Though unable to talk to each other, they are able to work together to free him. They flip a coin to see who will take Joey, and the British win, parting on amicable terms with the Germans.

For me, the dramatic moment when the two soldiers work to free Joey, shows compassion. Moved by compassion the two



risk of themselves, look beyond their differences and straight into the needs of Joey, “*The War Horse*.” Compassion sets its eyes beyond the circumstances, beyond the differences and distance that separate us, and into the love that unites us.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29–37), the priest and the Levite passed by the traveler who was robbed, beaten, and left half dead on the side of the road. It's only the Samaritan – and in Jesus' time, Samaritans and Jews despised and shunned each other – who, was moved by compassion. The Samaritan saw beyond their differences and straight into the need of the Other. In the suffering and despair; the sense of being powerless in an unbearable reality; the hopelessness of circumstances that seem

unchangeable; the Samaritan came to the man, cleaned his wounds, took him to an inn, and paid for his care.

And there is another very important point: the Samaritan was moved by compassion. Compassion is not passive, not only sees beyond circumstances and all the way into the suffering and need of our neighbor, but it moves us to act. Compassion moves us to be agents of God's love.

Compassion sets its eyes beyond the circumstances, beyond the differences and distance that separate us, and into the love that unites us.

Compassion helps us realize the limits of our own reality, and implants in our hearts the desire and courage to discover, embrace, and widen our world. Compassion sees beyond our differences and with beautiful clarity lets us recognize ourselves in others and them in us. Compassion embraces, includes, connects, and unites us, and moves us to be agents of God's love.

David



Confirmation Class

A Confirmation Class will be held for young adults 12 years old and older. The classes will meet weekly beginning the week of March 16- April 13 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. for a total of four sessions. The Church Session will interview the students on Sunday, April 6th. Maundy Thursday worship service will include the public recognition of these students. If you are interested please contact Rev. Dr. David Massey at 954-465-4994.



New Member Class

A New Member Class will be offered on Sunday, March 2 and 9 after our Worship Service for anyone interested in joining Plantation Presbyterian Church. Please contact Reverend Dr. Massey for more information or to sign-up for the class by calling 954-587-0830. Child care will be available, if needed. Please let us know if you will need childcare.

Per Capita

The church treasurer is still accepting per capita payments of \$35 per member. This is a set amount which is sent to the Presbytery to cover their expenses. Payment can be put in the Sunday offering or mailed to the church. Thank you for doing your part.

Newsletter Contacts

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Scottish Sunday...



Scottish Sunday – February 23



Ed West

The Tartan Carriers

Alice Carlisle	Pat Roberson
Bart Carlisle	Cathy Sheridan
Sarah Dixon	Kathryn Tyahla
Kathy Guariglio	Marilyn McIntosh
Alan Jones	Ronald Wier
John Lennon	Al and Claire Will
Maxine Lennon	Faye West



Alan Jones and Rev. Dr. Massey



Sarah Dixon and Kathy Guariglio



Rev. Dr. David Massey



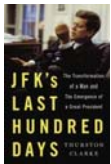
The Fort Lauderdale
Highlanders



March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Plan now to attend the Chili Cook Off and Square Dance on Saturday, March 8 at 6 p.m. The dancing begins at 7:30 p.m. This is a fun evening for all ages. Don't worry if you cannot square dance. The caller does a great job making it easy for everyone to participate. Last year there were at least 15 different chili recipes to taste. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$3 for children ages 5-12, and children under 5 are free. This fee helps to cover the cost of the caller and the extra food items that are purchased. Tickets will be on sale after church and at the door. Please let the Fellowship Committee know if you are going to bring a pot of chili. Everyone will get a chance to vote on their favorite chili with prizes being awarded.

- 3 Deborah Shulman
- 6 Bob Upshaw
- 7 Euline Warburton
- 10 Barbara Baity, Gwen Slendak
- 13 Shirley Woodward
- 15 Maureen Dookie
- 18 Carol McCoy
- 21 Tara Boodhai, Zachary Moore
- 23 Val Minto
- 24 Christina Smith, Wayne Smith
- 25 Karen Kreis
- 26 Wade Brosz, *Stefano and Sue Mazzoleni*
- 28 Grayce Upshaw
- 29 Jonah Velez
- 30 Kristal Marchong-Arshed
- 31 Michael Lodrick



Proofreaders...

The Book Club will be discussing *JFK's Last Hundred Days* by noted author and historian Thurston Clarke on Sunday, March 9 at 6 p.m. This past year marks the 50th Anniversary of Kennedy's assassination. The book looks at the last months of his private and public lives. During this time, the president made strides in the Cold War, civil rights, Vietnam, and his personal life. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the discussion, food, and fellowship.



Save the Date – May 3

The Multicultural Network Task Force of Tropical Florida Presbytery will host the Annual Multicultural Worship & Food Festival on Saturday, May 3, 2014 at 4 p.m. at Sunset Presbyterian Church, 3550 Davie Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. The theme is "Moving with Jesus into the Neighborhood."



Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 9, 2014 2:00 a.m.



Calendar of Events

- 2 Fellowship Meeting, 12:20 p.m.
- 2 New Member Class, 12:20 p.m.
- 8 Chili Cook Off and Square Dance
- 9 Book Group, 6 p.m.
- 9 New Member Class, 12:20 p.m.
- 16 Deacon's Meeting, 12:20 p.m.
- 16 Confirmation Class Begins, 4 p.m.
- 19 PPW Bible Study Make-Up, 6:30 p.m.
- 20 PPW Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Working Towards Providing Assistance

Wanted by Deacon Nancy Ramirez -- Saturday and Sunday coupon inserts from the newspapers; Please drop off in the Cry Room or give to Nancy Ramirez. Nancy plans to cut out the coupons for future purchases that will assist in our ministry as we extend compassion towards others.

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