



The Spire...

**Plantation Presbyterian Church
Plantation, FL November 2014**



Message from the Pastor....

A Thanksgiving Break

When I was a little boy I looked forward each day to watching “Romper Room” on television. “I see Billy, and Sarah, and Jimmy and Sue, and David, (Hey.... that’s me)..... And I’ll see all of you tomorrow right here on Romper Room.” It was there that I first learned the importance of “the Romper Room words” please and thank you. My guess is that somewhere along the line you, too, have learned the importance of those

two words – please and thank you – whether from “Romper Room” or elsewhere. (My Parents and Grandparents taught me these words as well....) Think with me for a moment about just one of those: thank you. Why are we taught from a young age the importance of saying “thank you” for gifts and kindnesses?

We are taught that because showing gratitude to another – saying “thank you” – is a way of reminding ourselves that we are not alone in this world but, instead, depend on others to do good things for and with us. It is important, too, as a reminder that the gift or kindness that is received isn’t something that we’ve earned, that we have a right to, but instead is something that is received out of the love and compassion of the giver. All around the world there are ever so many ways that people express gratitude in words like Xie xie, gracias, shukran, domo arigato, danke, merci, dhanyabad, and thank you.

If it’s important to say “thank you” in our daily dealings with others, how much more important is it to say “thank you” – to live lives of gratitude – in relation to God.

Paul reminds the Thessalonians (and us) of the importance of this by writing: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NRSV). Do those words shock you at all? Paul doesn’t say “give thanks when you feel like it.” He didn’t say “give thanks to your friends and family.” He didn’t say “give thanks when your life is going well.” No, Paul said “give thanks in all circumstances.”

We may be tempted to raise our eyebrows and say to Paul, "You've gotta be kidding! How can I give thanks in all circumstances? How can I give thanks when I lose my job, or my spouse dies, or my brother stops speaking to me? How can I give thanks then, Paul?" It's important to hear Paul very clearly. Paul did not say to give thanks for all circumstances. He said to give thanks in all circumstances. And he said that because whether life is good or challenging, God's loving care remains constant. That constant loving care is a wonderful gift that God gives us not because we've earned it but because God loves us so much that we are embraced come what may. And that is why we are to give thanks in all circumstances. Life does not always unfold as we'd like it to. We do have trials in our relationships with others sometimes. Loved ones die.

Through it all, though, we are recipients of a gift that we may not even perceive in the midst of the challenges that we face: the constant love of God given to us out of God's desire to care for us not because we have earned it. That is cause for giving thanks in all circumstances. An important part of the foundation of spiritual growth is a life of this sort of gratitude. This is a gratitude that doesn't pretend that bad things don't happen to good people but, instead, continually thanks God for that undying love regardless of whether good or bad things are happening. Richard Foster, in his book *Celebration of Discipline*, looks to the day when we possess these lives of gratitude so that we "find ourselves taking a 'thanksgiving' break rather than a coffee break at ten and at two."

Let's experiment together for the next month. Instead of taking a break for coffee, tea, or Pepsi at 10 and 2, let's take a

"thanksgiving break." Pause for a few moments at those two times to call to mind at least one thing for which we are thankful to God.

In addition, begin your day as I suggest in my sermon of November 2nd. Every morning, after the alarm rings and your well-trained arm reaches over to touch that tiny little button to silence it before you pull back the covers and get out of bed, train yourself to utter a short prayer to God in which you Thank Him for something. Thank Him for a different blessing each day. And you'll never run out of things to thank God for because as the Scriptures tell us, God's mercies are, "***new every morning.***"

In doing these activities, we are building a solid foundation that is rooted in lives of gratitude, lives that give thanks in all circumstances.

Shalom,
David



David celebrated his birthday at the rummage sale. We also celebrated Pastor Appreciation Month after service. Thank you David for all that you do in taking care of us! You are definitely appreciated. Thank you! You are the best!



Steward: Loving God with our Time, Talent and Treasure

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” *Matthew 6:21*

Everything we have is a Gift from God. Each of you as a part of Plantation Presbyterian Church has unique abilities and talents. When giving freely and generously of our time, talent, and treasure, we act as God acts and share in God’s work. We share our talents and time in many ways.

- ❖ By helping with fellowship
- ❖ Assisting with the rummage sale
- ❖ Singing in the choir
- ❖ Serving as a Deacon or Elder
- ❖ Teaching Sunday School
- ❖ Participating in the church clean-up
- ❖ Providing meals and helping those in need
- ❖ Supporting our missions in the community

We are truly blessed as all blessings come from God as we work together to do God’s work within our church family and community. It is amazing the joy we receive in giving to others. We are truly blessed. Our church provides a home for many and a

caring outreach to each of us and the community. We are a giving church and a place where we connect with one another and to Jesus Christ.

We should be joyfully responsible in supporting our church by giving a meaningful portion of our resources of time, talent and treasures to support the costs of doing God’s work through the church.

Commitment Sunday will take place in November. Please prayerfully consider how you can commit your gifts, talents, and financial support to God’s work and what your family can give to empower our church to do even greater things in the community and within our own church family.

Your continued financial contributions are greatly appreciated and we can make a difference in people’s lives as we can be faithful stewards giving of our time, talent and treasure.

PPW Monthly Bible Study

Don’t forget the Women’s Bible Study on the third Thursday, November 20 at 9:30 a.m. On Wednesday evening, November 20, Bible Study will be held at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.





The Deacons will again be providing at least 15 Thanksgiving Baskets to families from the Ann Storck Center. All food must be at the church by Sunday, November 23 so the Deacons can put the baskets together for delivery on November 24. If you are not able to shop, money can be donated to the Deacons to purchase needed food items.

Food items need to be non perishable. Food needed include dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, vegetables, desserts (with all needed ingredients such as the icing for the cake), drinks (ie powdered lemonade, tea, and juice), cranberry sauce, and gravy mixes.

Please sign-up on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary if you can bring food. A gift certificate will be provided to each family for a turkey. Money earned from the Unseen Guest Luncheon helps to pay for the certificates.



Hanging of the Greens

Everyone, young and old, are invited to help decorate the church for Christmas. The greens will be hung on Saturday, November 29 at 4:00 p.m. After the church is decorated, there will be a showing of a holiday movie and pizza. Join the festivities as we all get in the holiday spirit. It is a wonderful time of fellowship for everyone!



2014 Holiday 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 the fields of sexual assault and child abuse.

The Giving Tree will have tags with a child's wish in the \$25 range. Tags can be secured on Sunday, November 23 and gifts must be returned to church by December 14. 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.



Children’s Christmas Party

Mark your calendar now for the Bob and Lillian Potter’s Annual Children’s Christmas Party to be held Saturday, December 13 in the afternoon. There is food, crafts, and a special visitor comes with gifts. More details will be available later.



Art in the Park November 8 and 9

Our very own member, Jeff Durham, will be performing with his band at Art in Park. His band will be playing on Saturday, November 8 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Let’s have a great showing for Jeff!

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December Issue Copy Deadline: November 25, 2013



November Anniversaries and Birthdays

- 2 Mark and Jennifer Adams
- 5 Jim and Margo Unruh
- 5 Kevin Warburton
- 6 Lenore Shulman
- 7 Schuyler Edewaard
- 8 Paul Westcott, Mark Adams
- 9 John and Kathy Guariglio
- 10 Donald McCoy
- 11 Doug Doubleday, Peter Schulman
- 13 Renato and Stacy Froehlich- Mayrink
- 14 Carol Abel
- 17 Joy Dixon
- 19 Jimmy and Becky Snyder
- 24 Paul and Donna Westcott
- 25 Alice Todd
- 26 Nancy Ramirez, Brittany Westcott,
- 26 Buddy and Becky Rountree
- 28 Michael Berndgen
- 30 Rev. Eugene and Joyce Richardson



November Calendar

- 2 Unseen Guest Luncheon
- 15 Church Clean-Up Day, 10 a.m.
- 16 Deacon’s Meeting, 12:15 p.m.
- 18 Session Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 PPW Bible Study, 9:30 p.m.
- 24 Deacons Assemble Baskets
- 26 Inter Faith Service, Temple Kol Ami
- 29 Hanging of the Greens, 4:00 p.m.



Nancy Ramirez

Plantation Presbyterian Women's Annual Rummage Sale Report

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 and over 40 volunteers who assisted on the day of the sale. All of our efforts resulted in approximately \$4,100 raised after expenses.

The "stuff" that is left after the sale is donated to Miami Rescue. The books, videos, 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.

Special thanks to Sarah Dixon, Ruth and Bud Magly, J.R. Ryan, Beth Doubleday, Diane Stachurski, Connie Abel, Nancy Ramirez, Kathy Guariglio, Jane Simons, and Rev. David Massey for going above and beyond.



Diane Stachurski and Beth Doubleday

Fellowship

Please sign up to help with fellowship after service. The sign-up sheet is at the bank of the sanctuary. Many people are needed to help each week. Food and monetary donations to cover paper goods and special food items are definitely welcomed every week.



American Legion Band Performance

The American Legion Band will be performing on Thursday, November 13 at Esplanade at Riverwalk at 4 p.m. and the performance is free. They will also perform on Tuesday, November 25 at D.C. Alexander Park in Fort Lauderdale at 4 p.m. Member Darryl Horton and his wife, Judy perform with the group. The concerts are wonderful and everyone enjoys the concert.



Chris is fifth from the left.

New Member Spotlight

Chris St. John was invited to Plantation Presbyterian Church by Eugene and Joyce Richardson. Even though, he had a strong Catholic background, he liked the feeling at Plantation Presbyterian Church and it felt like home.

Chris grew up in Rhode Island and he has two brothers. He moved to Florida because of the weather. He recently returned from a trip up north to visit his family. He graduated from Rhode Island College majoring in Communications and he has worked in the area of computer graphic design.

He enjoys working on the computer and photography in his spare time. Keeping him company at home is his dog Bailey, a Chihuahua, who has been with him for seven years. Welcome Chris!



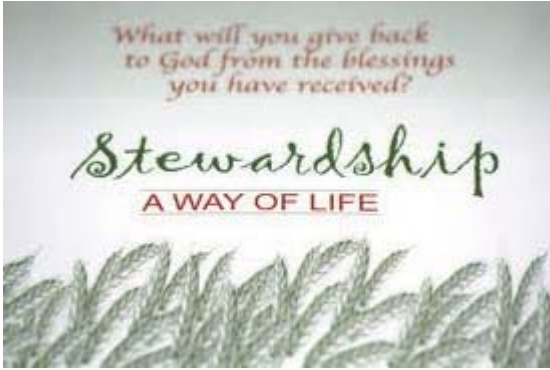
The Proofreaders...

The book group will be meeting on Sunday, November 16 at 6 p.m. to discuss the book, *House Rules*, by Jodi Picoult. Jacob Hunt is a teen with Aspergers Syndrome. He cannot express himself, but is brilliant in many ways. He has a special focus on forensic analysis. With a police scanner in his room, he provides the police with information and he is usually right. There is a terrible murder in town and the police come to him, but his behaviors make him look guilty. Now the Hunt family is in the spotlight. For the mother, it is a brutal reminder of the intolerance and misunderstanding that always threatens their family. The question is did Jacob commit the murder? Come join the discussion and fellowship!



November 15

Mark your calendar now for the church clean-up on Saturday, November 15 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Let's get our church "looking good" for the holiday season. Some of the projects include cleaning the flower beds, washing windows, and cleaning out storage areas.



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