

Church Chatter

December 2015

Royal Palm Christian Church

9600 Royal Palm Blvd., Coral Springs, FL 33065

Church: 954.753.2383 Preschool: 954-753-2445

RoyalPalmChristianChurch.org

VEIWS & REVIEWS

THE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Because of the way that Christmas is celebrated in America it is both wonderful and stressful. It is wonderful above all because it is the marvelous story of Jesus coming into this world. It can be stressful because of all the hectic preparation involved in decorations and cards and gifts and cooking and the list goes on. It is easy to lose the point of it all in our overly busy preparation.

Regardless, we never tire of the story pregnant Mary with Joseph coming to Bethlehem, finding no place to stay but a barn with animals where Jesus was born. We imagine the chilly star-filled night, silent except for bleating of sheep nearby. We love hearing about the shepherds in the field and the angels that came to them singing praises for the newborn King. The world was unaware that in that inauspicious shelter for animals there was a little One coming into the world would change the world.

The world outside, then as now, was filled with turmoil, injustice and suffering. The weak were trampled by the strong, the poor abused by the rich and the Empire of Rome oppressed Israel and every other nation that would put up the least bit of resistance. In such a world Jesus came. He was born to be the Prince of Peace in a world where there was far too little peace. The scriptures say that he was the light shining in the darkness and the darkness could not overcome it. The darkness of hate, fear, suspicion, selfishness, callousness, and more was -and remains- in need of the brilliance of the divine to drive out the gloom.

We tell the story and celebrate Christmas as the beginning of a larger story. That story includes us as we follow Jesus. We extend the Christmas story by the kindness we show, the joy we spread,

the love we share. We don't "keep Christ in Christmas" by policing how we are greeted in stores, insisting on "Merry Christmas!" instead of "Happy Holidays!" Rather we do so by caring for others, particularly the least advantaged, remembering the homelessness of the Holy Family on the very night Jesus was born.

This Christmas there is much uncertainty in our world, "war and the rumors of war," as scripture puts it. Still we proclaim that the frail baby born 2000 years ago is more powerful for good than anything else is powerful for evil. If we keep our eyes on Jesus we can say with the prophet Isaiah, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you!" (Isaiah 60:1).

Merry Christmas,
Craig

We joyfully invite you to our

Christmas Eve



CANDLELIGHT

SERVICES

at 6:00 pm & 8:00 pm



HAPPENINGS AT ROYAL PALM CHRISTIAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL

Our 2015-16 school year is in full swing this Fall with children 15 months to 4 years. Our eight classrooms consist of toddlers (15 mths—2 yrs), young two year olds and older two year olds, two classrooms of three year olds, and three classes of four year olds (also called VPK). We have many options for the families to choose from to meet their needs for early education and childcare. They include part time and full time for two to five days a week. We encourage parent/grandparent involvement in the classrooms and in our program to build relationships and participate in curriculum activities with their child. If you take a walk down the church hallways and peek into some classrooms, you will notice various projects that relate to our study of trees. You may even learn something new if you stop to read some of the ideas shared by the children. At the very least you will smile as you realize that young children are discovering fascinating facts in God's creation of our world.

The Fall season brought our annual Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks to all of you who purchased books. One bonus will come back to us in the form of more books to give away when we have our **Bingo for Books** in February. We also participated in the Broward Reads for the Record, a national early literacy day in which many early childhood programs across the nation read the same book. This event shares awareness of the importance of books for preschoolers to gain early reading skills. We were delighted to have Commissioner Joy Carter, who also had her children at RPCCP, come to one of our VPK classrooms to read *No Norman* to our children. (You can see the picture on our [Preschool Facebook](#) page).

PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

12/1 & 2 Sharing with Pastor Craig
 12/14 Christmas Program (9:30am)
 12/15 & 16 Christmas Program (7:00pm)
 12/21—25 Holiday—All Closed
 12/28—12/31 Holiday—Preschool Closed
 Full Time Care Open
 1/1/16 Holiday—All Closed

FALL FIESTA THANKS

Saturday, November 7th, was an exciting day here! Kids were laughing as they got their faces painted or ate cotton candy. Youth — including those who are young at heart—enjoyed dunking people in the dunk tank, and many of us walked away with delicious cakes from the Cake Walk.

Our lucky 50/50 Raffle Ticket winner—one of Amber's co-workers—received a check for \$1,000.00! And quite a few Kids and adults were excited as their names were called when they won one of our raffle prizes. All in all it was a wonderful day.

We give thanks for the many volunteers who helped make this possible—all led by Cheryl Zahn. Thank you! We also give thanks for the following sponsors for our raffle items:

Al Hendrickson Toyota	Last Call Band
Bed Bath & Beyond	Miami Dolphins
Benihana	Monkey Joe's
Big Bear Brewing Co.	Monster Mini-Golf
Bonefish Grill	Oma's Garden Florist
Broward Collision	Publix
Bru's Room Sports Grill	Santa's Enchanted Forest
Butterfly World	The Florida Panthers
Cookies by Design	The Melting Pot
Costco	Trimline
Fantastic Sam's	W Salon & Spa
Galaxy Skateway	Westway Towing



We are excited to bring back the poinsettia tree this year! It is an awesome decoration done in previous years where we place poinsettias on a tree-shaped stand placed in the baptistery. The completed tree is both impressive and aesthetically pleasing, and we are looking forward to having it back this Christmas season.

Be on the lookout for the poinsettia order forms. Make sure to place your order to have your poinsettia included in this year's holiday services. Your poinsettia recognizes and lifts up loved ones while adding to the holiday spirit and giving back to the church - don't miss this opportunity.

[MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH]

Make sure to "Like" the D-Unit Facebook page in order to stay up to date with their adventures.



GIVING THANKS

In September the D-Unit attended Night of Joy at Disney's Magic Kingdom. We had a group of 18 people in attendance and the trip was a great success with lots of fun being had by all. We were excited to bring along quite a few youth who had never been before and are happy to report that the group is already counting down to next year's trip.

To anyone who's ever donated to the D-Unit; this trip would NOT have been possible without you and we want to express our thanks. Your support makes trips like this possible for youth who would not be able to go otherwise; it enables youth to have these amazing experiences AND facilitates the incredible bond that grows amongst our group on adventures like this. THANK YOU!

SATURDAY IN THE PARK

The D-Unit had a blast at Saturday in the park. A group of our youth teamed up against a group of adults and played a lively game of kickball. We are happy to report that after some exciting back and forth, the score was TIED 7-7. Pastor Craig even got in on the fun and played on the adult's team. The youth would like everyone to know, there is an open invitation for a rematch in the future!



All gifts are due back at church no later than Sunday (12/13). As the instructions on the Angel mention, please bring them unwrapped, tied up in a bag, with the Angel on the outside.

We will be having our **gift wrapping party on Monday, 12/14.** It will start at 6pm and go until all the gifts are wrapped. We will supply the paper, tape, decorations, and boxes. If you can make it, please just bring your own scissors. We are usually there for a few hours because of the large number of gifts.

We will be **delivering gifts on Friday PM (12/18), Saturday AM (12/19), and Monday AM (12/21).** We need drivers and people to navigate (at least 2 per vehicle). As a result, we need at least 6 people, but it is helpful if we have more. Please email Moya your contact info (moyaannmc@att.net) if you can help with the deliveries. It is one of the best parts of the whole program.

Thanks again for all of your wonderful support. Please call Moya (954-643-2907) if you have any questions!

DISCIPLES WOMEN
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 13
6:00pm
RPCC's Fellowship Hall
Come Share in the joy!

Our Dinner is being catered this year!
A \$10.00 per person donation is encouraged but is not required.
PLEASE RSVP
via reply email or call 954-592-1290, so we can plan accordingly.

and

Bring a wrapped ornament for our
Ornament Exchange

"... love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and [love] your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

THOUGHTS FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

"God loves the person who gives happily"

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

When I give to the support of the church, I think foremost of the church's ministries. Perhaps you do, too. I want to know that the fruits of my week's labor advance the healing work of Christ in a broken world. I can give in joy to Royal Palm Christian Church, knowing that my dollars do just that. I give so that families with bare shelves may bring home bags of food. I give so that young people may meet in a supportive setting, inspired by the timeless ideals of Jesus and not the merchandising of the minute. I give so that Sunday worship music may lift our spirits or challenge us to holiness. I give so that a homeless person may sit down in safety to enjoy a nutritious, hot meal. I give so that men and women may walk out of a Bible study with new insights into the deepest of God's mysteries. I give so that a prison inmate may be cheered by a visitor who reflects the compassion of Christ. I give so that the prisoner's children may open gifts at Christmas.

As the quarterly statement attests, the church is running a deficit so far this year. The church needs stronger financial support from those who worship here. It needs stronger support from all those who expect, as they should, that ministries will continue to advance Christ's work in the world. It is no exaggeration to say that the future of these ministries hinges on our collective generosity. Please consider all of the good done by Royal Palm Christian Church when you open your wallets in its support.

Jesus said, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world You will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33



WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK:

The church is not just a building, it is a living thing made up of all of us. From time to time we have ideas about things we would like to try for YOU. However, before we can go further we need **YOUR input** about whether or not you are even interested.

Please take a few moments to prayerfully consider the ideas presented below. **THEN email or write us a note** explaining which ideas you would be interested in participating in. Your feedback, or lack thereof, will directly impact whether or not we move forward with these ideas.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

We are evaluating the level of interest in starting a group for young adults. The group would meet Wednesday nights and would be for anyone who is 18-25 years old. Would you or someone you know be interested? What times are people available to meet?

SUNDAY LUNCH & SERMON DISCUSSION

We are considering hosting a once a month lunch and sermon discussion group. Would you or someone you know be interested in and seriously consider attending this group?

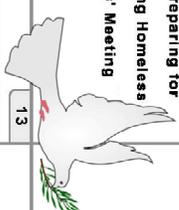
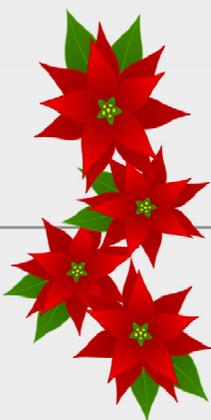
WEEKLY SMALL GROUPS

We are organizing some small groups: one for a study of the book *Disciples—Reclaiming our Identity, Reforming Our Practice* and another to follow a program called Darkwood Brew. Would you or someone you know be interested in and seriously consider attending this group?

DINNER CONCERT PROJECT

A small group is considering beginning a dinner concert series. Would you like to participate in helping to shape this project? Do you have musical contacts or ideas on what might be a good draw for this kind of event?

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <p>Advent #2 (Peace)</p> <p>8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Sunday School 10:45am - Worship 12:30pm - Preparing for 4pm - Feeding Homeless 6pm - Elders' Meeting</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30pm - AI Anon 7pm - Task Group Meeting 7:30pm - AI Anon @ FH</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study @ CR 9:30am - Preschool Sharing 5:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ S 7pm - Into Action (AA)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:45am - Preschool Sharing 7pm - D-Unit Youth 7pm - Kidz Prayz</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30pm - Food Pantry</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9am - Peace Breakfast @</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Advent #3 (Joy)</p> <p>8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Sunday School 10:45am - Worship 12:30pm - Board Meeting 6pm - Disciples Women @</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6pm - Angel Tree Wrapping 6:30pm - AI Anon 7:30pm - AI Anon @ FH</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study @ CR 9:30am - Preschool Sharing 7pm - Preschool Christmas 8pm - Choir Rehearsal @ S</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:45am - Preschool Sharing 7pm - D-Unit - Off Property 7pm - KidzPrayz - Off 7pm - Preschool Christmas</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30pm - Food Pantry</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am - Worship Workday @</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Advent #4 (Love)</p> <p>8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Sunday School 10:45am - Worship 2pm - Piano Recital</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30pm - AI Anon 7:30pm - AI Anon @ FH</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study @ CR 5:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ S 7pm - Into Action (AA)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7pm - D-Unit Youth 7pm - Kidz Prayz</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office CLOSED Christmas Eve</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10am - Worship 12:30pm - Finance Team</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30pm - AI Anon 7pm - Disciples Men @ 7:30pm - AI Anon @ FH</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study @ CR 5:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ S 7pm - Into Action (AA)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7pm - D-Unit Youth 7pm - Kidz Prayz</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Office CLOSED New Year's Eve</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p>



Joy

