

# Church Chatter

August 2014

"Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.  
Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14

## UNINTENTIONAL WORSHIP

David Foster Wallace, novelist who penned *Infinite Jest*, among other books, spoke to the 2005 graduating class at Kenyon College. While spirituality is largely absent from his stories, he insightfully said to the young people gathered before him,

In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship.

He went on to point out that the secular objects of adoration –wealth, beauty, the intellect, power, sexual allure- “will eat you alive” because they leave you feeling inadequate and “you will die an million deaths before they finally plant you [in the ground].” He went on to observe,

The insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they are evil or sinful; it is that they are unconscious. They are default settings. They’re the kind of worship you just gradually slip into, day after day, getting more and more selective about what you see and how you measure value without ever being fully aware that that’s what you’re doing.

People –and many of them are Christians- “gradually slip into” worship “without ever being fully aware of what they’re doing” because our affections, dispositions and values are shaped by influences that are so pervasive that we don’t even notice them. But they get under our skin and into our hearts and attitudes before we ever think about them. They get to us through the TV we watch, the news sources we select, the advertising we see, the cheering and jeering we hear, and the secular rituals we practice at ball games or bars or work places.

Scripture admonishes us, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may

discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2). We need to repeatedly put ourselves in situations where God can work on us with influences that counteract the influences that daily press upon us, often without our awareness.

We need to adopt habitual practices that can work on our hearts and minds, shaping the way we see the world and how we feel about other people who may be different from ourselves. These practices certainly include worship. Sharing in the Lord’s Supper, the practice of giving, embracing one another in fellowship and serving those in need, are all crucial. Of course we need to ponder the message of scripture, particularly the Gospels and allow our attachments, affections and ideas to be challenged and transformed.

Many things seek our love and loyalty, from grocery stores to political parties. We need to be careful about giving too much of our hearts away. Jesus taught, “No one can serve two masters for a servant will be devoted to one and despise the other” (Matthew 6:24). We can end up inadvertently despising Jesus and offering worship to values not worthy of our souls if we are not careful and attentive. Idolatry is not just an ancient and irrelevant problem. It is a matter of the heart. The things we cherish capture our hearts, as Jesus told us (Matthew 6:21). We need to do the deeds that turn our hearts to God and maintain those practices that will shape our affections in cruciform ways. And we need to encourage each other along the way.

Grace and Peace,  
Craig



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2<sup>nd</sup> Bethany Buzzell  
5<sup>th</sup> Joanna Chung  
10<sup>th</sup> Jordan Ehlebracht  
13<sup>th</sup> Tara Herman  
16<sup>th</sup> Ibi Charles  
17<sup>th</sup> Michael Balducci  
21<sup>st</sup> June Levin  
26<sup>th</sup> Katja Suelzner  
29<sup>th</sup> Allie Balducci  
31<sup>st</sup> Dennis LeFever

[We apologize if your name is not on the list. Please call the office to update your information!].



## PRESCHOOL NEWS FROM MS MARGIE

We've had a great summer enjoying the children that have been in our program, as well as our new littlest ones that stole our hearts in a flash! We've also been bidding farewell to our Kindergarten bound students. It's never easy to see them go. Some of them have been with us for 4 years! We hope they'll visit and maybe come back to volunteer someday.

Speaking of volunteers...they are truly an integral part of our summer session. We sincerely thank Myah Samuels, Sammy Kaye, and the following alumni...Logan Maloney, Alex and Gabby Torres and Morgan and Madison Kelts. All of you have brought such joy and laughter to us. You earned the children's love and trust, and we are so proud of you and do hope that you will be with us next year. We love you, and I promise to make you "some more s'mores"! ☺

We welcome Ms. Monique Sheffield to our teaching staff. She will be working with Ms. Eliane in the 3's team. After 17 years of service Ms. Ero has retired. We wish her many blessings in this next stage of life. We love you and will miss you! We still have some openings for preschool and VPK beginning August 18<sup>th</sup>. Come on in, take a tour, register, and join our family!

## AUGUST PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

8/13 VPK Staff Returns  
Staff Meeting 6:00 PM  
8/14 Teacher Planning Day  
8/15 Teacher Planning Day  
VPK Orientation 10:30 AM  
8/18 VPK Classes Begin  
Preschool Orientation – 2year olds 10 AM  
3 year olds 10:45 AM  
8/19 Preschool Classes Begin  
3 Day VPK Class Begins  
9/1 All Closed – Labor Day

## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our August CWF meeting will take place on **Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**. We'll have a light lunch right after worship, visit with each other and participate in a brief meeting. The main dish will be provided by Donna Mecalianos. If you can bring something to add (salad, dessert, or bread), please let Vickie know. After the meeting, at 2:00 pm, we'll head out to visit the nursing home and deliver the blankets and other misc. goodies we have collected.



Welcome  
to  
*Our*  
Church  
Family

## "WE LIKED WHAT WE SAW"

Daniel Forest and Amanda Porrata joined our church community on July 13, 2014. They are a young couple getting ready to be married in October. They are residents of Coral Springs and former members of Church by the Glades. They always drove by the church and, on the 13th, decided to "try it out", liked what they experienced - the love, fellowship and how happy everyone was - and instantly placed membership. We are delighted to have Daniel and Amanda as our new members and extend to them an embracing WELCOME!

## WE'D ALSO LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

After eight months of meetings, discussions about our needs and qualification requirements, searching, reviewing over twenty applicants, arranging to interview four qualified applicants (two of whom failed to show up), the Selection Committee and Preschool Board brought a recommendation to the General Board on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. After discussion, the recommendation was approved.

And so we welcome Cindi Watts as our new Preschool Director. Ms. Cindi has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with our Preschool staff. Prior to moving to Florida, she established and was the director for a preschool for thirteen years. During her time in Coral Springs she has trained both teachers and directors thru her work at Family Central and her teaching at Nova University. She is excited to begin a new school year here, and will be working together with us to further our ministry in this community.



**High School and Middle School Youth** will meet on the following Wednesdays in July:  
**8/13 and 8/27**  
 7 to 8:30 pm  
 (Also: a **KRASH** on **8/17** after church;  
**Jigsaw Youth Retreat – 8/22-24;**  
 and **Night of Joy – 9/6**)



Life Line Screening will be here for Stroke Screenings on Saturday, September 27th. Pre-registration is required. If you are interested in registering or getting more information, Candee, their representative, will be here on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Or call 1-888-653-6450 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners)

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

"REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS, FOR HE HIMSELF SAID, 'IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.'" – ACTS 20:35B

Each week on Thursday evenings we host a food pantry for those in need in our community. We try to provide certain necessities to the people who come every week. Many of these items, such as toilet paper, can't be acquired with food stamps. Donations of these items are very helpful and enable us to better aid our clients. Our list includes: toilet paper, feminine pads, peanut butter, tuna, oatmeal, eggs, potatoes, bananas, apples, oranges, and carrots. Because we value our pantry volunteer's time as well as your donations, please be mindful of expiration dates and shelf life.

Thank you for your continuing support! Your ministry helps make a difference in our community.



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." *Psalm 51:10*

**BLESSINGS**

Our kids are making a difference in small ways! Josh Loomis shared that a recent lesson in Children's Church was focused on caring and showing love for the elderly. As part of this lesson, the kids decorated "anonymous" birthday cards for seniors, and the cards were then mailed to a nonprofit organization in NYC which delivers these handmade cards to lonely seniors on their birthdays.

They received the following response: "Thank you so much for the birthday cards your group made for our DOROT seniors. We truly appreciate the time and the effort that went into each card and know that receiving one will bring a smile to a senior's face. We are grateful you have chosen DOROT to be the beneficiary of your volunteer service. Thank you again."

**Do You Have FOMO?**

FOMO, or the **Fear Of Missing Out**, is the common and understandable concern that you may miss out on something awesome. Especially at RPCC, where we have a constant stream of news, important updates, reminders, and amazing events!

Take care of your FOMO and don't miss out! Follow us on Facebook and make sure you visit our website so you're always up-to-date!

You can find our Facebook here:  
[www.facebook.com/RoyalPalmChristianChurch](http://www.facebook.com/RoyalPalmChristianChurch)  
 You can find our website here:  
[www.royalpalmchristianchurch.org](http://www.royalpalmchristianchurch.org)

**START PREPARING NOW FOR...**

- Night of Joy
  - Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – D-Unit
- Back to School Celebration
  - Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, during coffee fellowship at noon
- "Welcome Sunday"
  - September 21<sup>st</sup> (we invite our Preschool Families and others in the neighborhood to come and meet the Church Family)
- Community Yard Sale
  - Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>
- Regional Assembly
  - October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> (at Parkway Christian Church in Davie)
- Fall Fiesta
  - Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>

Interested in helping our preschoolers with their garden project?

Call or email Ms. Cindi  
 954-753-2445  
 director.rpccp@gmail.com

CSMOMS

KIDS

CONSIGNMENT SALE



Coral Springs Mothers of Multiples

## KIDS CONSIGNMENT SALE

Sept. 12th & 13th @ Royal Palm Christian Church

**CSMOMS** is hosting our annual consignment sale at your church, and we're inviting all **Royal Palm Christian Church** families and staff to participate.



**SELL YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS!**  
**SHOP FOR ITEMS AT A BARGAIN!**



### Consigning Opportunities Available

Consignor registrations are now OPEN! Clear out your closets and make some money. Earn 50-75% of your sales.

To register go to [www.csmoms.org](http://www.csmoms.org)

### Sponsor/Vendor Opportunities Available

Know someone with their own business? Got a business of your own? If your target audience is families with kids, then you don't want to miss our big event! Web Ad & Vendor Spaces are available. Spots are limited and are on a first come/first served basis.

To sign up go to [www.csmoms.org](http://www.csmoms.org)

For details visit: [www.csmoms.org](http://www.csmoms.org)

## Florida Disciples 2014 Regional Assembly

### "Exceedingly More"

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..."

~ Ephesians 3:20

### Join Us October 17-18, 2014

Parkway Christian Church in Davie, Florida

(West of Ft. Lauderdale)

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm

Former General Minister and President of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ,  
Motivational Speaker & Author