

Church Chatter

October 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

THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING FRIENDS WHO DISAGREE WITH US

As pleasant as it is to have people around us who agree with us, it is probably best that those are not the only people we have in our lives. The ones who disagree with us are often more able to keep us honest. They force us to recognize our ideas are not beyond dispute and our reasoning is not unimpeachable. They ask us questions that might not have occurred to us and if we offer shabby, half-considered responses, they will say so.

I have a good friend Jan Linn I've known for over 25 years who was on a seminary faculty and also started a congregation. I first got to know him when I read one of his books that impressed me. OK, I admit that part of the reason it impressed me was because I had just had a lengthy journal article published on the same subject and we largely agreed. Jan and I corresponded for a while and later both ended up moving to Kentucky where we got to know one another better and we worked on some projects together.

But we don't always agree. And not just on some small stuff. We disagree about some big, important matters as well. And we don't just keep quiet about our disagreements. We argue openly, even in print a time or two where lots of people could see us disagreeing. But we love and respect each other. I value his friendship and when he disagrees with me, I welcome it as an opportunity to learn. He feels the same way.

Recently, another one of his books was published, *A Different Jesus*. But months before it was put into print he sent me a copy of the manuscript to read. He knew for sure I wasn't going to give him a simple, "Amen!" I disagreed with him plenty and sent a lengthy response to his ideas. Of course some of the things he wrote I strongly support. But he wanted me to read his writing so I would point out what I thought were the weaknesses and to offer a case against his position. Later he said, "You made it a better book."

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). I'm a better person and a better thinker for knowing Jan and others like him. I appreciate his integrity, strength and intelligence. I confess that I envy his discipline as a writer as well. Whether in agreement or disagreement, I trust his good will, and I know when he argues with me, he doesn't just try to score points. It is all part of the process of growing together toward greater truth. We are in this together. Even when we disagree about what counts as true we still need to endeavor to "speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another" (Ephesians 4:25).

Grace and Peace,
Craig

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Kelli Pruner
6th Kevin McGee
Paul Veliyathil
8th Christine Dunhill
10th Lydia Genno
11th Brandon Ehlebracht
Tami Ehlebracht
16th Sharon Jennings
Kristen Ramos
20th Marjorie Davilmar
21st Coral Wiedman
24th Mike Burke
26th Angela Edwards
31st Jonathan Watts



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

11th Ken & Coral Wiedman
25th Rick & Julia Angle

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

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

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to all of our families who attended *Meet the Whole Family Sunday*, and for sharing your children with us with their beautiful singing voices. It was wonderful to worship together and to enjoy a delicious lunch with you all. A special thanks to those who contributed their time and energy for our yummy meal!

Another really big thanks to all who have donated for links to build our prayer chain for James. It's exciting to watch the chain grow and to see all the creativity, love and prayers for James and his family.

We barely notice the season of autumn in Florida, but our children are celebrating all the wonderful pleasures that some of our northern friends and relatives enjoy. The aroma of apple crisp and apple pancakes is circling the hallways. The children enjoy cooking projects and they love to crank the apple peeler as they core, peel and slice the apples. Soon we will be reaching into pumpkins and pulling out the seeds to wash and roast. The teachers add fun math lessons with sorting, counting, measuring and graphing projects.

Our VPK fours have been building cars, boats and any vehicle they can imagine with wood and glue. They have been learning about transportation. Our littlest toddlers are forming friendships with their new classmates as they explore all the wonders of their new school days. Their personalities are developing before our very eyes!

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair will be coming at the end of October. This is a great opportunity to start some early Christmas shopping for your little ones and it helps us to build our school library as well. ☺

Thank you to those who bring food donations for our Gateway Food Pantry, which is every Thursday night serving those in need. Our shelves are very low at this time, and we are asking all to please help as the lines are getting longer and the need is becoming greater.

OCTOBER PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

10/7-8	Sharing with Pastor Craig
10/21-22	Sharing with Ms. Alyssa
10/22	Preschool Staff Meeting
10/24	Planning Day – Preschool Closed/Full-Time Care Open
10/26	Book Fair Kick-Off Following Sunday Services
10/27-29	Scholastic Book Fair at Preschool Entrance
TBA	Individual Student Photos
11/2	Save this Saturday for Fall Fiesta

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!

So 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

You can find our website here:

www.royalpalmchristianchurch.org



A JAMAICAN THANK YOU

We received the following letter from Bryce United Church: "Warm Christian greetings to you and members of the Royal Palm Christian Church. I write on behalf of the Bryce United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in expressing our profound thanks for the invaluable contribution you have made to our Vacation Bible School this year. We regret that the team was unable to come; however, your contribution has left a significant impact on the children and young people, their leaders and the wider congregation and community.

Stewardship of the environment, God's Creation, is a most significant mandate for us as the people of God today. All our United Churches carried that focus for VBS this year, and we were pleased in how your contribution gave life and energy the focus.

May God continue to bless you and your ministry, and we look forward to deepening the relationship and partnership between your congregation and us here at Bryce. Our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BryceUnited will give you a sense of some of what we are doing. Again, thank you very much. Yours in His service, Rev. Gary Harriott, Interim Minister"

BLESSINGS

Kimberly Williams Wallace and her husband, Darrin, have a new little blessing, one that brings special joy to Sharon Williams (who is now a Grandma). Kailyn Elizabeth Wallace was born on September 1st. Congratulations!



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

At the food pantry that we host each week for those in need in our community, we try to provide certain necessities. Many of these items, such as toilet paper, can't be acquired with food stamps. Donations of these items help 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.

Speaking of volunteers' time...we need some! Time from volunteers that is. Even if you think you can only be here one Thursday evening a month for an hour or two, you would be a big help! We need some people strong enough to set up tables and chairs between 5:30 and 6:00, and we need some people strong enough to put those tables and chairs away between 7:45 and 8:15. We need people to help bag bread and pastry donations from Panera, oatmeal, rice and misc. other items between 4:00 and 6:00. We need people to help bag the groceries during the pantry hours of 6:30 to 8:00pm. We're creating a schedule, so if you'd like to volunteer, please call the church office.

Thank you for your continuing support! This ministry makes a difference in our community.



Love. Grow. Serve.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Every two years Disciples of Christ from around the state of Florida gather for Regional Assembly, and we are pleased to announce the 2014 Regional Assembly will be held in Davie at Parkway Christian Church, on October 17-19.

This is a time for us to gather, engage in fellowship, and build a regional identity. This year, Regional Assembly is happening in our own backyard so it's a great opportunity to get involved at the Regional level.

The theme is "Exceedingly More" and Reverend Hamm, former General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will be the keynote speaker. We hope to see you there. Please call the office for more info!

NIGHT OF JOY



As you may know, last month the D-Unit traveled to Night of Joy - a popular Christian music festival. It is one of the D-Unit's favorite events in a long list of various activities they participate in each year.

Needless to say, the event was a HUGE success. Our tie-dye-wearing group of youth and adults totaled **twenty-eight** people! The performances by the bands were all spectacular and there were musical artists for all ages. Our youth (and adults) spent the weekend bonding, laughing, and jamming out to Christian rock.

Activities like these would not be possible without the support of the church. The D-Unit would like to say THANK YOU so much for all of your continued support, encouragement, and prayers.

PRESCHOOL PRAYER CHAIN FOR JAMES

"Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." ~ Galatians 6:2

Many of you know, James Edwards and his family need our prayers, love and support. James was registered to come to our preschool on August 18th. His cousins are here, and his mom, aunts and uncle all came here when they were young. Unfortunately on May 30th, James experienced a near drowning accident. He spent most of the summer at Chris Evert Children's Hospital and is currently undergoing intense therapy. He has received an amazing amount of support throughout the community. We'd also like to show our support.

For \$1.00 you can donate a link to the chain (a paper strip). Prior to adding it to the chain, put your name on the paper, or write a prayer, or take it home and decorate it. The chain started at the preschool entrance and is winding its way through the hallways. We hope to encircle the entire building. All proceeds will go to James and his family. Stop by the school office to pick up your link(s) and join us in continuing to pray for James.

Royal Palm Christian Church Proudly Presents

Fall

F I E S T A

Saturday, November 8th 2014

3pm ~ 7pm

Free Entry

Live Music / Bounce House / Raffle / Games / Silent Auction /
Food / Dunk Tank / Cake Walk / Face Painting / Crafts / FUN

9600 Royal Palm Blvd, Coral Springs 33065 ~ (954)753-2383

COMPANIONS IN CHRIST

"THE WAY OF TRANSFORMING DISCIPLESHIP"

Have you ever wondered what it means to be an authentic Christ-follower? Come participate in a six week study (November 5th to December 17th) that challenges Christians to live the whole gospel by connecting spirituality and discipleship.

Because we need to order some participant's books, we ask that you sign up for this study. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

SCRIPTURES FOR 2015

Would you like to participate with the Elders in selecting the scripture(s) to be used by our congregation in 2015? If so, submit a favorite scripture - including the translation / version of the Bible you are using - to the church office via email to royalpalmchristianchurch@gmail.com. The Elders will prayerfully consider all suggestions.

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Thinking about becoming a member of Royal Palm Christian Church? Want to learn more about RPCC? Are there questions you'd like answered? Here's your opportunity. On **November 2nd**, at 12:30 pm, we're having an "Inquirer's Class" in the Conference Room. We'll gather for no more than two hours and share a light lunch together. Plan to attend. All are welcome. Call the office for more info.

ANOTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Alzheimer's Family Center is a non-profit agency funded by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. They provide respite to families dealing with Alzheimer's Disease. Once a week, volunteers provide three to four hours companionship to the client while the caregiver tends to responsibilities outside the home. Training is provided - no experience is necessary. Call Lisa Liin @ 954.971.7155.

Royal Palm Christian Church

Oct 2014 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8:30am - Worship @ 9:40am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12:30pm - Finance	29 6:30pm - Al Anon 7pm - Elders' 7:30pm - Al Anon @	30 9:30am - Bible 9:30am - Sharing w/ 7pm - Choir 7pm - Into Action	1 7pm - Choir 7pm - D-Unit Youth 7pm - Kidz Praiz	2 6:30pm - Food	3	4 8am - Community
5 World Communion 8:30am - Worship @ 9:40am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship	6 6:30pm - Al Anon 7pm - Elders' 7:30pm - Al Anon @	7 9:30am - Bible 9:30am - Sharing w/ 7pm - Choir 7pm - Into Action	8 9:30am - Sharing w/ 7pm - D-Unit Youth 7pm - Kidz Praiz	9 6:30pm - Food	10	11
12 8:30am - Community 8:30am - Worship @ 9:40am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12:30pm - Board	13 6:30pm - Al Anon 7pm - CWF 7:30pm - Al Anon @	14 9:30am - Bible 7pm - Choir 7pm - Into Action	15 7pm - D-Unit Youth 7pm - Kidz Praiz	16 6:30pm - Food	17 Regional Assembly ~ "Exceedingly more..."	18
19 Bread for the World 8:30am - Worship @ 9:40am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship	20 6:30pm - Al Anon 7pm - Preschool 7:30pm - Al Anon @	21 9:30am - Bible 9:30am - Sharing w/ 7pm - Choir 7pm - Into Action	22 9:30am - Sharing w/ 6pm - Preschool 7pm - D-Unit Youth 7pm - Kidz Praiz	23 6:30pm - Food	24	25
26 8:30am - Worship @ 9:40am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12:30pm - Finance	27 6:30pm - Al Anon 7pm - CWF 7:30pm - Al Anon @	28 9:30am - Bible 7pm - Choir 7pm - Into Action	29 7pm - D-Unit Youth 7pm - Kidz Praiz	30 6:30pm - Food	31 Halloween	1 