

Church Chatter

December 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

GIFT GIVING / GIFT RECEIVING

I hate shopping, especially if I don't know exactly what I should get. That makes it tough on me when I need to get a gift for someone. I frequently find myself pulling out my hair in frustration...and I don't need to lose any more hair than I've already lost. But as we near Christmas it is natural to be thinking about gifts, giving and givers. Above all, it is important to consider the Gift that Christmas is actually all about. The fact is that our attitude toward this gift can shape the attitude we have toward gifts in general.

One of the reasons I have such problems in selecting gifts for others is that I find it really hard to come up with presents that "fit" the persons for whom I get them. I end up buying something that doesn't entirely fit the bill.

The 19th century American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson saw the problem when he wrote, "Rings and other jewels are not gifts but apologies for gifts. The only gift is a portion of thyself. Thou must bleed for me...this is right when someone's biography is conveyed in his gift...But it is a cold and lifeless business when you go to the shops to buy me something which does not represent your life and talent, but a goldsmith's."

Clearly, the Gift of God that we have in Christ is the perfectly appropriate gift because it fully and truly represents the Giver. This is a "biography" of sacrificial love and determined graciousness. It is a gift that is completely fitting because it is only in Christ that we can truly simultaneously see who God is and who we are so that we might be brought to God in a relationship of love, peace and harmony.

Emerson was also aware of the discomfort that receiving gifts can give to us: "We wish to be self-sustained. We do not quite forgive a giver." Strange insight. But he is pointing to our pride that gets wounded if we end up feeling indebted. We want to believe we are self-sufficient and don't want to admit that we need anything another can give us.

But it is precisely against our pride that the Gift of God comes. If we attempt to deny our need and remain independent, we cut ourselves off from the fullness of life. The fact is that we are in need. We are lacking. We are dependent whether we want to admit it or not. But God has sent into the world exactly what we need so that our life and joy can be complete. Let's humbly receive the greatest Gift ever as we ready ourselves to celebrate Christmas.

Grace and Peace,
Craig



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Michelle Peña
3rd Lileth Harris
4th Barrington McFarlane II
7th Rick Angle Jr.
9th Ingrid Chung
12th Jason Rutkauskas
13th Evey Sikora
15th Scott Kroop
16th Barrington McFarlane III
17th Lavonne Bigelow
20th Sarah Zorabedian
21st Ayden Herman
23rd Mark Espiritu
Elizabeth LeFever
28th Johnny Veliyathil
30th Danny Daniel

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11th Andrew & Kathy Rutkauskas
25th Michael & Barbara Wolff

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

PRESCHOOL NEWS

At preschool this month we will be preparing for the biggest celebration of the year, the birth of Baby Jesus! We will be learning the Christmas story, decorating, singing, gift making and wrapping, baking and preparing for our Christmas programs. Our VPK four year olds prepare to tell the story of Christmas, making felt board pieces for their program. The little ones practice their songs, filling the hallways with joyous music of the season.

During this holy season we emphasize the joy of giving, kindness, and love toward others. Please remember the Gateway Food Program as you are out food shopping. The program helps local families in need, providing items such as; canned tuna or chicken, soup, beans, pasta, sauces, cereal, rice, toiletries, or gift cards for Publix, Walmart, or Target. Remember to include your children when helping others – it is a valuable lesson.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



DECEMBER PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

12/2-3	Preschool Sharing with Pastor Craig
12/15	Preschool Christmas Program for 3-Year Olds – 9:30 AM
12/16	Preschool Christmas Program – 7 PM Ms. Cathy and Ms. Cindy's Class
12/17	Preschool Christmas Program – 7 PM Ms. Stacey and Ms. Donnas' Class
12/18	Preschool Sing-a-Long – 10:00 AM
12/19	Planning Day – Preschool Closed Full-Time Care Open
12/22-26	All Closed
12/29,30,31	Full-Time Care Open
1/1-2/15	All Closed
1/5/15	Preschool Classes Resume

DO YOU HAVE FOMO?

FOMO, or the **F**ear **O**f **M**issing **O**ut, 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 up-to-date!

You can find our Facebook here:

www.facebook.com/RoyalPalmChristianChurch

You can find our website here:

www.royalpalmcchristianchurch.org



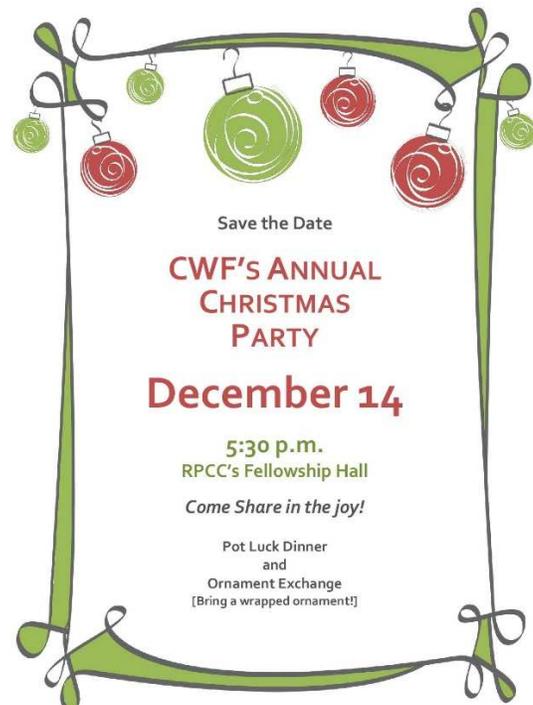
All gifts are due back at church on Sunday (12/14). As the instructions on the Angel mention, please bring them unwrapped, tied up in a bag, with the Angel on the outside.

If you bring in the gift and can't find Josh, Miss Sybil, or Dawn Hibbs, please just leave the gift in the Youth Room near the front door. If you forget it, you can drop it off at the church on Monday morning.

We will be having our **gift wrapping party on Monday, 12/15.** 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 (12/19), Saturday AM (12/20), and Monday AM (12/22).** 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 Josh your contact info (jloomis@nova.edu) 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 Josh (954-449-3150) if you have any questions!



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 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.



Welcome
to
Our
Church
Family

For Sandy Phillips, who moved from Ohio to Florida, joining RPCC was a "no brainer" because she has been a Disciple all her life. She grew up in a Christian church in Ohio and was a deacon at one time. She loves the warm, friendly, intimate, and international mix of the church. She moved to Coral Springs to be near her two daughters.

Horace Derrick relocated from New Jersey to Coral Springs two years ago, as his daughter was accepted to a private school here. He soon started attending Royal Palm Christian Church and has never left. He actively participates in CMF meetings. He appreciates the Church's approach to ministry – Gospel focused, non-political, open and inclusive. Horace also loves the warm and friendly fellowship.

We extend an embracing welcome to Sandy and Horace. We are delighted to have you as members of the Church family.



Love. Grow. Serve.

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

Christmas Eve



CANDLELIGHT
SERVICES

at 6:00 pm & 8:00 pm

Royal Palm Christian Church

Dec 2014 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
6:30pm - AI Anon 7:30pm - AI Anon @ FH	9:30am - Bible Study @ 9:30am - Sharing w/ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Into Action (AA)	9:30am - Sharing w/ 7pm - D-Unit Youth 7pm - Kidz Praiz 7pm - Transforming	6:30pm - Food Pantry			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2nd Sunday of Advent 6:30am - Worship @ S 9:40am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship @ S 12:30pm - Baptism 5pm - Elders' Meeting	6:30pm - AI Anon 7:30pm - AI Anon @ FH	9:30am - Bible Study @ 7pm - Into Action (AA) 7pm - Nominating	7pm - Transforming	6:30pm - Food Pantry 7pm - Choir Rehearsal		Disciples' Men -
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30am - Worship @ S 9:40am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship @ S 12:30pm - Board 2:30pm - Plane Recital 5:30pm - CWF	9:30am - Preschool 6pm - Angel Tree	9:30am - Bible Study @ 7pm - Preschool 8pm - Choir Rehearsal	7pm - D-Unit Youth 7pm - Kidz Praiz 7pm - Preschool	10am - Preschool Sing- 6:30pm - Food Pantry		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
4th Sunday of Advent 8:30am - Worship @ S 9:40am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship @ S	6:30pm - AI Anon 7:30pm - AI Anon @ FH	9:30am - Bible Study @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Into Action (AA)	OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Eve 6:30pm - Candlelight 8pm - Candlelight	Christmas Day 		
28	29	30	31	1		
10 am - Worship @ S	6:30pm - AI Anon 7:30pm - AI Anon @ FH	9:30am - Bible Study @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Into Action (AA)	OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Eve			

