

Church Chatter

January 2012

"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:23-24)

VIEWS AND REVIEWS

"IF JESUS WAS A PRESENT DAY PREACHER"

Jesus went about calling disciples. He came to James and John who were with their fisherman father. "Come follow me," said Jesus. The two responded, "We have a lot to do right now. The family business is a heavy responsibility. Maybe we can spare a few hours every once in a while."

And Jesus said to them, "That would be great! I understand how busy things can get. I hope to see you soon."

Jesus was walking along and he came upon Matthew's tax collection office. He called to Matthew, "Come follow me!" The tax collector said to him, "I can't just up and leave at the spur of the moment. Rome expects me to forward the quarterly tax revenues and I need to be able to pay the muscle who strong-arm those who don't want to pay what I demand of them. And I'm renovating and expanding my office. I have a growing enterprise here, you know. But, Jesus, I can probably break away and spend an hour or two with you every few weeks."

And Jesus said, "That's wonderful, Matthew. I'd love to see you when ever you can be with me."

A rich young ruler came to Jesus and said to him, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What have you done so far?" The man answered him, "I've kept all the Ten Commandments." Jesus exclaimed, "Wow! That's great! Most people can't keep even seven out of ten. Tell you what, give some spare change to the poor and come follow me." And the rich young ruler answered him, "I have to pay my country club dues this week and I'm about to close on a vacation home so things are a little tight right now. But in the future I'll shake loose a few dollars for the poor from time to time and I'll drop by to see you when I have extra time."

And Jesus said, "Fantastic! Anything you can do will really be appreciated! Thank you for your generosity!"

If you are at all familiar with the Gospels, you know that Jesus would not have responded as we find above. He called for radical commitment. Never do we find him happy with half-way measures. He was not concerned about whether he inconvenienced his disciples or made people uncomfortable with his teachings. He straightforwardly told them that following him was the most important thing in the world. Every other priority is secondary. Jesus wasn't at all tactful.

I'm just an ordinary preacher who tries to file down the sharp corners of the call to discipleship. I try to be gracious and inoffensive, like the revised Jesus above. But I have a feeling it would be a lot wiser to pay attention to the Jesus of the Gospel.

Grace and Peace,
Craig



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP & CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to the Annual Combined Christian Women's & Men's Fellowship Appetizer Open House which is taking place on Sunday, January 22nd, beginning at 4:30 pm. Once again David & Jennifer Bramley are graciously opening their home for this fun event. Come and enjoy some relaxing fellowship, and if possible bring an appetizer to share.

PRESCHOOL NEWS FROM MS. SUZANNE

Happy New Year! We are all so excited to be back, and we're ready to enjoy 2012. The cold front arrived in South Florida right on time for all of our preschool winter activities – ice skating, snowball throwing, ice sculpting, and of course, hot chocolate with marshmallows.

Bingo for Books

Our annual Bingo for Books is scheduled for Friday, January 27th at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 per family and include a pasta dinner, lots of bingo games and every child goes home with a book. It will be a great opportunity to enjoy a family evening with preschool friends and families. See Ms. Jane in the office to reserve a spot for your family. Tickets will *not* be sold at the door.

JANUARY PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

1/2/12	All Classes Resume
1/3 & 4	Children's Sharing w/ Pastor Craig
1/16	Holiday – Preschool Closed Full Time Care Open
1/18	Preschool Staff Meeting (6:00 pm)
1/20	Teacher Planning – Preschool Closed Full Time Care Open
1/27	Bingo For Books (6:00 pm)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 rd	Scott Rautbord Barbara Wolff
4 th	Lucas Ortiz
6 th	Sharon Shuster
8 th	Sybil Campbell
10 th	Yvonne Edwards
13 th	Priscilla Capece Michael O'Shea Ann Porter
14 th	John Gordy
16 th	Trace Johnson
17 th	Steve Sikora
20 th	Dan Williams
21 st	Moira Surgeoner
23 rd	Mason Pruner
24 th	James Surgeoner
25 th	Sarah Espiritu
26 th	Kevin O'Shea
27 th	Brandon Tilghman
28 th	Tony Maselli
29 th	Jaden James

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

4 th	Paul & Sharon Shuster
6 th	Douglas & Loni Skipper
27 th	Peter & Debbie Lundberg

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

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD (DECEMBER)

- The proposed budget for 2012 was approved.
- The following Nominating Slate for 2012 was approved:
 - o Moderator – David Bramley
 - o Vice Moderator – Fernando Medina
 - o Treasurer – Vickie Parsley
 - o Financial Secretary – Kathy Rutkauskas
 - o Recording Secretary – Coral Wiedman
 - o Elders – Sybil Campbell; David Bramley
 - o Preschool Board – June Derby; Rosa Lawson; Ken Herman; Emma Winston
 - o Deacons – June Bookal; Loni Skipper; Aida Arias; Dennis LeFever; Karen LeFever; Josh Loomis
 - o Jr. Deacons – David Espiritu; Katie Herman

SCRIPTURES FOR 2012

The Elders met on Sunday, December 4th, to discuss and further pray over which one or two scriptures we believe God is calling our church to use throughout this New Year. The following scriptures were selected:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your path." (Proverbs 3:6)

"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:23-24)

As we weave these verses into the ministry and worship at RPCC, we hope that you will take extra measure to learn and utilize them in your daily life.

ONE STARRY NIGHT & MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET

From Mr. Mike: "Thank you to everyone who helped and to everyone who attended!!!! It was a long, but, really great day. We had over 40 participants in One Starry Night, and over 60 in and for Miracle on Main Street.

Thank you, Richard Angle, for being brave enough to step outside the box and tackle this with the kids. Thank you for everyone who worked so hard on their stations and made our Bethlehem a great success."

To Mr. Mike: "Thank you for taking on One Starry Night and Miracle on Main Street and enlisting everyone to help. Adults and children did an amazing job. The stations the food and the play were all wonderful. Yes, it was a long day, but it was uplifting and joyful."





A PRAYER OF THANKS

Our prayer is to offer a sincere thank you to everyone and update you on the progress we have made toward eliminating our church's annual financial shortfall of nearly \$25,000.00. Happily, we can say that we have made important progress. As I write this, approximately \$10,250.00 has been received.

There are few words to express our gratitude to all who made this "special effort" contribution, or have turned in their pledge card for 2012. This special effort makes an important difference as we begin 2012, because we want to go through this new year financially well placed for continuing our ministry and moving ahead.

Clearly, we realize and understand that not everyone can contribute. These are certainly difficult times, and we sincerely pray for a better future for everyone. But, we also pray that contributions will continue to come in as time and resources permit so that 2012 will end as a year of financial surplus, or at least balance, rather than shortfall.

God has used Royal Palm Christian Church to touch the lives of many, and we have faith that God wants us to continue doing so. Once again, thank you for making this possible through your special effort donations and your wonderful ongoing service.

God be with you,
Bill Vasquez

NEW SMALL GROUP STARTING

Paul Veliyathil will be starting a new small group on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 at the church. As many of you know, Paul is a former Catholic Priest who currently works as a Hospice Chaplain. The study he will lead is entitled "Exit Strategy" and deals with preparing for the time when we will be facing death. This six week study will cover such topics as: getting comfortable with the idea of dying; practical aspects (legal, moral, spiritual and financial); and many other issues surrounding the death process.

Dying is inevitable. Being prepared can make the process less stressful for us and our loved ones. This is an excellent class for those who are dealing with caring for parents as well. The group will begin meeting on Wednesday, January 18th. Space is limited, so if you are interested, contact Paul at [954-695-9943](tel:954-695-9943), or veli06@bellsouth.net.

FOREST HILLS ADULT CO-ED SOFTBALL

A CHRISTIAN SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Fridays at Forest Hills Park

Game times are 6:45pm and 8:00 pm.

All levels are welcome.

Fun, Fellowship, Fitness

on Friday nights - under the lights.

Come and check it out, if you are interested.

\$35 for a 10 game season; \$12 for a team shirt

The new season begins February 10th.

Contact Diane 954 647-0546 for more info.

WITH GREAT APPRECIATION!

We have so much for which to be thankful...but this section is especially dedicated to those who have worked on researching, funding, purchasing, installing and implementing the new screens in our sanctuary!

Many worshipers have been pleasantly surprised by the near-seamless transition that has taken place in our worship services this joyous Christmas Season. That transition is due to the hard work of many people...most especially: Ron Simpson, Ken Wiedman, Jim Ambrose, Scott Johnson and Jamie Chung. Thank you for your dedication to this project and your willingness to work in and around other events.

As we move forward, we give thanks for those who will step up to continue this work. Tommy Veliyathil (and others) will be helping to implement the screens into our 10:45 Worship Service. The screens do not have to be limited to that service. If you'd like to help with the 8:30 service, please let us know.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." These words were spoken by a Presbyterian minister in 1990 and became the basis for what is now Souper Bowl Sunday. This is a special offering taken up in churches all over the country to help local food banks fight hunger.

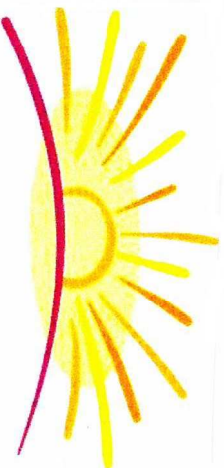
This year on February 5th, Super Bowl Sunday, our church will have a meal of home made soups and breads right after the 10:45 service. We will have an offering basket set out for anyone who would like to make a contribution to our food pantry. The funds we raise will be reported to the national organization. If you would like to contribute soup or bread for the meal, please contact Ingrid Chung.

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>January 1, 2012</p> <p>New Year's Day 10:00am Combined Worship (S)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30pm AI Anon Beginner's Meeting (FH) 7:30pm AI Anon (FH)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30am Morning Bible Study (CR) 9:45am Preschool Sharing w/ Craig (S) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00pm Intro Action (AA) Group (FH)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:45am Preschool Sharing w/ Craig (S) 7:00pm D-Unit Youth Meeting (S) 7:00pm Kidz Praz (#7)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30pm Gateway Food Pantry (FH)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30am Worship (S) 9:40am Sunday School 10:45am Worship (S) 12:30pm Board Meeting (S)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm AI Anon Beginner's Meeting (FH) 7:00pm Elders' Meeting (CR) 7:30pm AI Anon (FH)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30am Morning Bible Study (CR) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00pm Intro Action (AA) Group (FH)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:45pm Girl Scout Troop 10935 (FH) 7:00pm D-Unit Youth Meeting (S) 7:00pm Kidz Praz (#7)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30pm Gateway Food Pantry (FH)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00pm D-Unit Lock-In</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30am D-Unit Wash & Worship 8:30am Worship (S) 9:40am Sunday School 10:45am Worship (S)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Holiday - Martin Luther King Jr. D 6:30pm AI Anon Beginner's Meeting (FH) 7:30pm AI Anon (FH)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30am Morning Bible Study (CR) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00pm Intro Action (AA) Group (FH)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00pm Preschool Staff Meeting (FH) 7:00pm D-Unit Youth Meeting (S) 7:00pm Kidz Praz (#7)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30pm Gateway Food Pantry (FH)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30am Worship (S) 9:40am Sunday School 10:45am Worship (S) 4:30pm CM & WF Appetizer Celebration (Bramley's Home)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm AI Anon Beginner's Meeting (FH) 7:30pm AI Anon (FH)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30am Morning Bible Study (CR) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00pm Intro Action (AA) Group (FH)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:45pm Girl Scout Troop 10935 (FH) 7:00pm D-Unit Youth Meeting (S) 7:00pm Kidz Praz (#7)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30pm Gateway Food Pantry (FH)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>CVF Assembly (Conference Center) 6:00pm Bingo for Books (FH)</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>CVF Assembly (Conference Center) 8:30am Worship (S) 9:40am Sunday School 10:45am Worship (S)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30pm AI Anon Beginner's Meeting (FH) 7:00pm Christian Men's Fellowship (Narthex) 7:30pm AI Anon (FH)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30am Morning Bible Study (CR) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00pm Intro Action (AA) Group (FH)</p>				



Blessings for the New Year!