

Church Chatter

March 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 BEST KIND OF COMPETITION

Competition can take a variety of forms. Some of it is healthy, some not so much. It can be as simple as foot races between friends or as high profile and significant as Olympic games. Competition can be playful or cutthroat. It can inspire better performance or break the hearts of the hopeful.

Sometimes competition is seen in what we call "sibling rivalry" and it usually results in strained relations rather than positive outcomes. But scripture actually calls for a sort of "sibling rivalry" among spiritual brothers and sisters: "Love one another with warm affection; outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10). While most competition involves an effort to "get ahead" of others, the competition scripture urges is a sort that leads us to promote others, putting them ahead of ourselves.

We honor others by seeing them as valuable and letting our valuation of them be known. Speaking well of others, complimenting them, commending them, treating them with respect honors them. This is hard to do if we are insecure and afraid that giving honor to others takes something away from ourselves. If we are preoccupied with our own status, it is difficult to put ourselves aside enough to shine the spotlight on someone else.

Someone once said, "If you don't toot your own horn someone else will use it as a spittoon." Perhaps there is some truth in that statement and certainly no one should end up being anyone else's spittoon. We all deserve respect. But self-promotion can end up working against us, as Jesus warned in a parable about the hazard of taking a seat of honor only to be displaced by someone more important (Luke 14:8-11). Our Lord pointed out, "All who exalt themselves will be humbled" (Matthew 32:12).

The apostle Paul urged his readers to follow the humble and self-giving example of Jesus, saying, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your

own interests, but to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4). Imagine what the world would be like if the focus on self-interest gave way to looking to the interests of others and if pride was replaced with an eagerness to honor others!

I want to live in that kind of world. But we have to start making the change somewhere. I believe God intends the church to be the pilot project for a new world. Let's start the godly competition of giving loving honor to each other right now.

Grace and Peace,
Craig



YARD SALE
At
ROYAL PALM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 22nd
8:00am - 12:00pm

4600 Royal Palm Blvd.
Coral Springs, FL 33065

Reserve Your Spot: \$25 per space (\$15 for church members)

For more info call the church office: (954) 753 - 2383

PRESCHOOL NEWS

FROM MS. MARGIE

Spring comes early in Florida and also here at preschool. We will have visiting farm animals this month as our 2 year olds learn about life on the farm. Our 3's and 4's are enjoying lessons about the 5 senses, health and nutrition, dinosaurs, and of course there will be a visit from a leprechaun with lessons about rainbows, castles, green shamrocks, and windy March weather.

Our gardening classes have been a big hit with our VPK children. We have converted many to be vegetable lovers! They have been harvesting lettuce, carrots, peppers, tomatoes, and broccoli... and the little ones who wouldn't even taste at the beginning of the year were asking for seconds on our "Let's Make a Salad Day". At pick-up time, we are happy to hear our VPK children are telling their families, with much enthusiasm, about their time in gardening class on Thursdays.

Registration for the 2014-2015 school year begins on Wednesday, March 5th. We will also have all the information you need for children entering our VPK classes in August. Pick up your registration forms and be sure to stop by the office if you have any questions.

MARCH PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

- 3/4-5 Preschool Sharing With Pastor Craig
- 3/5 Registration for 2014-2015 School Year
- 3/9 Daylight Savings – Spring Forward
- 3/11 VPK Jungle Fun – Cooperative Program
- 3/12 Farm Animals Visit
- 3/17 Preschool Board Meeting
- 3/18-19 Preschool Sharing With Ms. Alice
- 3/19 Preschool Staff Meeting
- 3/21 Planning Day – Preschool Closed
Full-Time Care Open
- 3/24–28 Spring Break – Preschool Closed,
Full-Time Care Open



CONGRATULATIONS

- ◇ Craig & Cindi Watts have a new granddaughter. Luna Rose Watts Valdini was born on Sunday, February 16th.
- ◇ Emma Winston is also welcoming new grandchildren. Her twin grandsons, Jacob and Jonathan, were born on Monday, March 3rd.



Welcome
to
Our
Church
Family

In the past two months RPCC has been delighted to welcome Sarah DeWarf, Michelle Weddle and Dawn Hibbs into our family of faith.

Sarah was born and raised in New Jersey, but has spent most of her life in Florida. She recently came to live with her son, Larry, and his wife, Maria, and it is through them that she found our church family. She loves RPCC and the Tuesday Morning Bible Study! When asked to share an exciting moment in her life, she told me about meeting her husband, Gerhart, on Thanksgiving Day in 1952. She was sitting on the beach minding her own business when a gust of wind blew the newspaper she was reading out of her hands. She looked up to see a young man in a green bathing suit chasing all around to retrieve it. They would have been married 60 years on February 22nd.

Michelle (Cheryl Zahn's sister) has been worshipping with us on and off for several years, and has recently been attending our 8:30 service. She says she was "born and raised a Jew and went to Hebrew school. She always knew about Jesus, but didn't really realize who He truly is until about 4 or 5 years ago." She is married to Richard, and she has two daughters and five grandchildren. Michelle says that she is a "hardcore woman who is a hard nut to crack, but He got through. Thank God!" She works as a Process Server and Private Investigator, and she looks forward to coming to church each week. It is uplifting and feels like home.

Dawn joined our family on February 2nd. She moved from Pennsylvania in September and found a home at RPCC in less than two months. She is owner and founder of Executive Maids in PA, which employs about 25 people. Her three grown children Karl, Grace and Luke work at the office in PA, and Dawn manages the company from FL. Dawn is very outgoing and friendly and has immersed herself in church activities by working at Gateway, joining Bible Study group and the choir. She also helped out delivering angel tree gifts during Christmas. Dawn loves Craig's sermons and the embracing nature of our church.

We give you an embracing welcome Sarah, Michelle, and Dawn!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Ruby Espiritu
- 3rd William (Billy) Thurlow
- 5th Vickie Parsley
- 6th Michael Steele
Tommy Veliyathil
- 8th Rose Diamond
Shaun McIntyre
- 9th Bill Vasquez
- 10th Allen Peña II
- 13th Alyssa Sikora
- 16th Victoria Angle
- 18th Alice Wead
- 21st Samantha Lagogiannis
- 25th Eric Williams
- 27th Darlene Ramos
- 28th Gabriel Watts
- 30th June Bookal
Michelle McDonald
- 31st Ilene Beverly

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st Craig & Cindi Watts

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

"SALT AND LIGHT" MOVIE NIGHT

Another "Salt and Light" movie will take place Sunday evening, March 16th, at 5:30 in our church sanctuary. The film this month deals with "The Power of Forgiveness." Forgiveness is more than just a personal issue. It is a social necessity for societies wounded by strife. There will be a discussion and light meal following the video. Come, learn and enjoy the fellowship with others who are seeking to better follow Jesus.



YOUTH MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM CLASS

Are you a youth? Are you interested in learning more about being baptized? Do you want to know more about RPCC? Well then, this class is right where you need to be! Come share with Pastor Craig in a four week class beginning on Wednesday, March 12th, at 6:30 pm. The class will continue on the following Wednesdays: April 2nd, 9th and 16th. *Don't worry—class will be over by 7:15 each evening, so you can also go to D-Unit.

TEXTING BLESSING

Millions of texts are sent and received each day. There is nothing extraordinary about a 21-year old man sending a text to his father. But when that 21 year old is autistic, his texting borders on the miraculous.

When my son Johnny travels from his school to a YMCA program every day, I worry about his whereabouts for about 45 minutes. I had to anxiously wait for the staff to let me know that he had safely arrived. When the staff forgot about calling me, I worried some more.

It took about two months for the teachers at Atlantic Technical School to teach Johnny to text. Johnny still doesn't understand the mechanics or importance of texting. He now does it out of habit, once a day. As soon as he reaches his YMCA program, he takes out his phone and texts me and puts the phone back in the bag and does not even care if I respond. He texted his daddy and he is done.

My eyes were filled with tears of joy and gratitude when he texted me for the first time, without prompting from the staff. Now it has become part of his routine. I get a three-word text from him every day around 2 PM, which still moistens my eyes, calms my mind and warms my heart. The sender of this otherwise mundane and ubiquitous activity makes it a marvelous and holy ritual and the receiver stands in awe, reveling in a moment of grace.

Paul Veliyathil



Help the Homeless with:

MISSION HOPE

1700 Blount Rd. Pompano Beach, Florida



Filling this little bag can make a big difference in a homeless person's life.

Mission Hope is filling a small purple plastic bag with inexpensive, unused items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tissues and socks (even underwear) — simple, basic products that homeless people can use to clean up and feel better about themselves.

Please fill a bag with HOPE....

- Toothbrush (in a box) and toothpaste
- Soap
- Shampoo (small or large)
- Deodorant (men and women)
- Chap Stick
- Brush and/or comb
- Toilet tissues
- Body Lotion
- Disposable razors
- Socks (new in package)
- Underwear (new in package)
- Towel
- Wash Cloth
- Laundry detergent
- Diapers, baby wipes, powder...etc.

Because we know that when they feel better, they're in a better position to make other changes — like getting involved with the education, work training, recovery and spiritual guidance we offer here at the Mission.

I hope YOU will be a part of MISSION HOPE...

Contact:

The Royal Palm
Christian Church Office
954-753-2383
RoyalPalmChristianChurch@gmail.com



The Lenten Season

Before Easter certain words begin to be used that may be unfamiliar to many people, especially those not raised in church. One of these words is Lent. No, not lint, the tiny fluffy bits you brush from your clothing. Lent - the six week period prior to Easter. It is a time of preparation, reflection and prayer, and an occasion for repentance and the renewal of one's faith. In centuries past, Lent was the last stage of getting ready for baptism.

Some people "give up" things for Lent - a favorite food or activity - as an expression of devotion. This is a form of fasting. Others make special contributions to charities or volunteer their time to work in programs that serve those who are disadvantaged in some way: reading to the blind, working in a food bank, tutoring children or any number of other activities. Lent is also a time for prayerful study. All of these are intended to ready the hearts and minds of Christians for the celebration of Easter.

This forty day period recalling the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness praying and fasting before he began his ministry recorded in the Gospels - and excluding Sundays - begins with Ash Wednesday. Our annual Ash Wednesday service offers quiet and reflective time culminating with ashes being placed on foreheads - or in some cases, the back of the hand - which is symbolic of repentance and mortality. Our ashes are from the burned palms fronds used the previous Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday takes place the week before Easter and marks the beginning of Holy Week. On Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, when he was greeted by a joyful crowd. It is sometimes called Passion Sunday in view of the suffering (passion) of Jesus on the cross a few days after his arrival in Jerusalem. On Palm Sunday we give palm fronds to all worshipers, and the children process in at the beginning of the service, waving their palm fronds.

Another special day later that week is Maundy Thursday. The word "Maundy" is derived from a Latin word, "mandatum," which is translated, "commandment." This is taken from Jesus' statement spoken the evening when he was arrested, "I give you a new *commandment* that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). We remember the institution of the Lord's

Supper as we share communion during the Maundy Thursday service. Sometimes we incorporate foot washing into the service, because, according to the Gospel of John (13:1-17), Jesus washed his disciples' feet.

On Good Friday the crucifixion of Jesus is remembered during a Prayer Vigil from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. The Sanctuary will be opened for anyone who would like to come pray and meditate.

On Easter morning we have three worship services here at Royal Palm Christian Church. The first one is a 6:30 a.m. sunrise service held in the garden area on the west side of the church. We will also gather for worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. There will be a delightful Easter breakfast immediately after the sunrise service. Breakfast will also be available after the 8:30 a.m. service. May God richly bless you as we share this holy time together.



We Invite YOU To Join Us In Celebrating Holy Week

- ◊ Palm Sunday: Sunday, April 13th
8:30am & 10:45am
- ◊ Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 17th
at 7:00pm
- ◊ Good Friday Prayer Vigil: Friday, April 18th
The doors will be open from 12pm to 3pm
- ◊ D-Unit Lock-In: Friday, April 18th
from 7pm to Saturday, April 19th, at 11am
- ◊ Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 19th
from 10am to 11am
- ◊ Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 20th
6:30am in the garden
8:30am & 10:45am in the Sanctuary





2014 Summer Camps

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida



Registration forms are available by calling
the Christian Church Conference Center at 352-236-2302
or on the website: www.fldisciplesconfctr.org or
or by emailing mbharper@fldisciplesconfctr.org



Dates	Camp	for people who've Completed grades	Cost*
June 15-21	CYF Conference	9 - 12	\$390 (340)
June 15-20	Equestrian Camp I	3 - 6	\$510 (460)
June 29-July 5	Canoe Camp	9 - 12	\$315 (265)
July 3-5	Family Camp	People of all ages	\$135 (100)
July 6-11	Midway Camp	6 - 8	\$350 (300)
July 13-18	Equestrian Camp II	3 - 6	\$510 (460)
July 13-18	Power Up	7 - 11	\$350 (300)
July 20-25	Junior Camp	3 - 5	\$350 (300)
July 25-27	Uno Camp	K - 2 w/adult	\$150 (100)
July 27-Aug. 1	Water Ski Camp @ Lake Placid	10 - 12	\$475
August 1-5	Young Adult Canoe Camp	12 to age 25	\$225 (175)



*Due to the very generous gift of a Florida Disciple, we are offering a one-time \$50 discount for each camp held at the Christian Church Conference Center (except Family Camp) if registrations are turned in by **June 1st**. Family Camp discount is \$35 per person.



For complete information, including Directors and Description, please check out the Summer Camps Description booklet available at your church or by visiting www.fldisciplesconfctr.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>23</p> <p>8:30am - Worship @</p> <p>9:40am - Sunday</p> <p>10:45am - Worship</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30pm - Al Anon</p> <p>7pm - Christian</p> <p>7:30pm - Al Anon @</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am - Morning</p> <p>7pm - Choir</p> <p>7pm - Into Action</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7pm - D-Unit Youth</p> <p>7pm - Kidz Praiz @</p> <p>7pm - Spanish Bible</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8am - Trike-A-Thon</p> <p>6:30pm - Gateway</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8am - Trike-A-Thon</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9am - 5K Run for</p>
<p>2</p> <p>8:30am - Worship @</p> <p>9:40am - Sunday</p> <p>10:45am - Worship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30pm - Al Anon</p> <p>7:30pm - Al Anon @</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30am - Morning</p> <p>9:30am - Preschool</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scout</p> <p>7pm - Into Action</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>9:30am - Preschool</p> <p>7pm - Ash</p> <p>7pm - D-Unit Youth</p> <p>7pm - Kidz Praiz @</p> <p>7pm - Spanish Bible</p> <p>7:45pm - Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30pm - Gateway</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Daylight Saving</p> <p>8:30am - Worship @</p> <p>9:40am - Sunday</p> <p>10:45am - Worship</p> <p>12:30pm - Elders'</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30pm - Al Anon</p> <p>7pm - Christian</p> <p>7:30pm - Al Anon @</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am - Morning</p> <p>7pm - Choir</p> <p>7pm - Into Action</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30pm - Youth</p> <p>7pm - D-Unit Youth</p> <p>7pm - Kidz Praiz @</p> <p>7pm - Spanish Bible</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30pm - Gateway</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10am - Global</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:30am - Worship @</p> <p>9:40am - Sunday</p> <p>10:45am - Worship</p> <p>5:30pm - 'Sait &</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30pm - Al Anon</p> <p>7:30pm - Al Anon @</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am - Morning</p> <p>9:30am - Preschool</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scout</p> <p>7pm - Choir</p> <p>7pm - Into Action</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30am - Preschool</p> <p>5pm - Preschool</p> <p>7pm - D-Unit Youth</p> <p>7pm - Kidz Praiz @</p> <p>7pm - Spanish Bible</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30pm - Gateway</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8am - Community</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:30am - Worship @</p> <p>9:40am - Sunday</p> <p>10:45am - Worship</p> <p>12:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30pm - Al Anon</p> <p>7:30pm - Al Anon @</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am - Morning</p> <p>7pm - Choir</p> <p>7pm - Into Action</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7pm - D-Unit Youth</p> <p>7pm - Spanish Bible</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30pm - Gateway</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Life-Giving Leadership Retreat</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:30am - Worship @</p> <p>9:40am - Sunday</p> <p>10:45am - Worship</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30pm - Al Anon</p> <p>7pm - Christian</p> <p>7:30pm - Al Anon @</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:30am - Morning</p> <p>9:30am - Preschool</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scout</p> <p>7pm - Choir</p> <p>7pm - Into Action</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30am - Preschool</p> <p>6:30pm - Youth</p> <p>7pm - D-Unit Youth</p> <p>7pm - Kidz Praiz @</p> <p>7pm - Spanish Bible</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30pm - Gateway</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6pm - Bingo &</p>