

Palm Fronds

The Latest News from Church of the Palms "Where Faith Happens and Love Abounds"

April 2011

Dear Church of the Palms Family in Christ,

Springtime signifies seedtime and new life. Florida strawberries have already been filling stores. I love to see the gardenia blossoms begin to give us their fragrance again. Spring for our friends up north is often a season that brings relief and the feeling that they made it through another winter (and this past one was bitter cold and white as white could be). But as March turns into April, they know that they have made it and warmer weather is on its way! Spring also, shows God's faithfulness. As night turns into day and year after year there comes seedtime and harvest as a part of God's wonder-filled plan for us, we know the season of new and restored life has come.

We have had the glory of a 50th year Anniversary, officially on March 6th for our beloved Church of the Palms and the celebration has been glorious so far. That sense of springtime for our church is real and felt in many ways. Now Easter is coming upon us, much later than usual, but it seems to be also a part of God's wonderful timing for us. God timed it so we could have our Anniversary celebration and give it our full attention as we recounted God's countless blessings along the way of our years together. It was timed so we could consider God's promise of our future success. Now begin to prepare for Easter at "The Palms!!"

Easter is God's gift of the promise of new life in the Spiritual realm. As springtime happens in the world all around you, won't you allow Easter to happen within? There is, for you, a Risen Lord -- offering, even to you, new life, second chances, forgiving love and God's promise of peace, faith and hope for the days ahead. Grasp it, for it is a gift, a promise and an offering of making your life one that has meaning for your days and purpose for your years.

The Easter celebration is an every day event really, for those who hold claim to the promises of God are God's Easter people and live a Kingdom possessed life for the sake of Christ's work in the world. So let us keep our celebration going -- for God is faithful and GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME! ALL THE TIME! GOD IS GOOD.

Have a joy-filled and very happy EASTER.

See you in church,

Special Thanks

Carl and Gina Lammers

We were so pleased to have the opportunity to see Rev. and Mrs. Lammers once again. Carl filled the pulpit on Sunday, March 20th while Pastor Roger was away in Nepal. He led the service with an inspiring sermon and Gina gave the children a great lesson. We also had time to speak with them during the Coffee Hour following the worship service.

Liz Hill-Sainio

Liz did a wonderful job not only as lay reader, but assisting with the worship service while Carl and Gina were here. On Thursday, March 24th Liz led the internment service for Mavis Lowdermilk which was held in the Memorial Garden. It was a beautiful service complete with family, music and guests.



Anniversary Concert Extraordinaire

There was an air of anticipation as members of the audience began to file into the sanctuary at least thirty minutes before the concert was to begin. An audience of over 100

were present to hear the amazing talents of pianist Elaine Reinhardt and organist Edward Krynicki as they presented this beautiful concert celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Church of the Palms.

Following this glorious afternoon of music plaudits awaited Elaine and Ed at a reception in the Friendship Center. Hostess Karen Callies and her supportive helpers (Charlotte Long, Dot Cooper and Russ Hardin) had prepared a superb repast in a room handsomely decorated with a musical theme.

For those who may not know, Elaine Reinhardt, a former classroom teacher in upstate New York, comes to Church of the Palms and volunteers her talent with worshippers at least six months of the year. Edward Krynicki, Director of Music is not only the amazing organist, but also directs the chancel choir and the bell choir. He accompanies the Youth Choir when they participate in the Sunday service. On Saturday evenings he provides music for the contemporary service, THE WALK. He is recognized as one of the very best, not only in Delray, but in all of Palm Beach County!

What a glorious afternoon! What an unforgettable, unselfish display of talent! What sounds of Praise to our Lord!

Delray Beach Chorale

The Delray Beach Chorale will present their spring concert *Requiem et Les Fleurs – A Musical of Rebirth* on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at 3pm. Included in the program will be Durufle's Requiem, Lauridsen's Dirait-on, and other songs of love, flowers and spring. The artistic director and conductor of the chorale is Church of the Palms member, Eric Keiper. Eric is the tenor section leader of our church choir. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church, 33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, FL. For more information call:

1-800-984-SATB (7282).

Easter Cantata – Sunday, April 17

Rehearsals for the Easter Cantata are held on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm in the choir room. If you have ever wanted to sing in the chancel choir, but could not make the commitment for every rehearsal and worship service, here is an opportunity for you. You will be given a score to take home with you and a CD of the cantata to listen on your CD player.

Come, join us, and see what a blessing you will receive by participating in the music ministry here at Church of the Palms.



Cantata – The Chancel Choir will present the Easter Cantata, *Palms, Passion and Alleluias* during the morning worship service on Palm Sunday, April 17.

Here is what composer Lloyd Larson says about the work.

“The Holy Week journey is foundational to the Christian faith. In the experiences of that week, we see the breadth of human emotion – from joy to bitter hatred; from desolation to jubilation. We see humanity at its worst and God at His best. Without the events of Holy Week, we have no foundation to our faith, for it is in the experiences of this week that we find the eternal message of hope and the power of a sovereign God demonstrated as never before. The impact of the long-awaited Messiah appears doomed as His followers succumb to the intense pressure of those seeking to end the life of this Prophet. But from the ashes of crucifixion emerges the light of eternal life as God overcomes death. And with that triumph comes the promise that all who believe and accept the message of Jesus will, too, overcome death! Thanks be to God!”

Lloyd Larson

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir under the direction of Edward Krynicki will be playing several pieces during worship on Sunday, April 3.

If You Could Follow A Doll . . . where would it take you?

For some who really care, a new journey began at the Church of the Palms on Monday, March 14th with the Women’s Fellowship Comfort Doll Luncheon. It was a new stop on the Comfort Doll journey. Several articles had been placed in the local newspaper, calls were made to friends and notice was placed in the Sunday bulletin highlighting the upcoming event. Folks who heard or read about our Comfort Dolls responded with open hearts and warm friendly energy. After a light lunch, over FORTY gathered around the work tables and the session began. To get started, Kathi Schwomeyer, founder of the project, gave a brief history of the purpose of our program and some easy to follow instructions. Then the fun began: some stuffed the multicultural bodies, others selected colorful clothing and dressed a doll with loving care. With special tenderness, hair was neatly attached to the head and some tacked on a colorful hat. Everyone had smiles on their faces as their project came together.

Among parting remarks: “Oh, how good it is to talk to people I have just met”, Oh, this was such a friendly time, I plan to come back again”, I have purchased a book and plan to take this idea to my church for our Appalachian Project”. What a joy this project was for all who attended.

When those who bought a book (\$5.00 each) had taken their dolls with them, there were still TWENTY-FIVE completed dolls left. Some of these dolls, we know, are now bringing smiles to children in Nepal! Pastor Roger packed them in his suitcase to distribute upon his arrival there.

Thanks to the Women’s Fellowship members who took all the necessary pre-preparation steps for this very successful project.

The Fellowship will quickly prepare for another “Comfort Doll” session scheduled for **Monday, April 11, 2011 – lunch at noon and then on to the “Comfort Doll Workshop” in our Friendship Center.**

Love Was In The Air

February 14, Valentine’s Day – the Women’s Fellowship marked the day with an elegant afternoon Tea organized by the Executive Board. The décor in the Friendship Center echoed with all that goes with Valentine’s day – red, pink and white flowers, lace tablecloths, delicacies served on shining platters, and tea and coffee served from highly polished urns.

And . . . what a beautiful program! The crystal clear voice of Traci Rane-Keiper sang love songs from new and well remembered musicals as well as favorites that brought signs of remembrance. There was a more than well-deserved standing ovation as the last notes were sung. Thank you, Traci, for so graciously sharing your amazing talents.

Henrietta M. Smith shared a brief note on the history of St. Valentine’s Day and a quick demonstration on how some simple handmade valentines were constructed – before the advent of mass card production. She ended her segment by reading poetry appropriate for the season. Among the selections were two pieces written by Peg Carnegie, the mother of Kathi Schwomeyer. The favorite of those was titled “Happiness”. Thank you Kathi for sharing those family gems with us. Henrietta closed by reading (to ripples of laughter) one of Paul Laurence Dunbar’s poems in dialect, “Encouragement”.

The program closed with a breathtaking piano duet by Ed Krynicki and Elaine Reinhardt – Mozart’s *Piano Sonata in D*. In addition to participating in special programs, Elaine and Ed bless us with their amazing talents and share their gifts with us each Sunday morning.

Elaine Reinhardt blesses us with her gift of music from November until the end of April. Elaine loves the Lord and is very fond of our Music Ministry. At the end of April Elaine will travel to her home in New York State where she will spend the summer months and then return to Florida in November. Her last Sunday here this spring will be April 24. **Everyone at Church of the Palms thanks you, Elaine, for your contribution to our Music Ministry.**

Church of the Palms Birthday Banquet

The long anticipated Birthday Banquet at Benvenuto's finally became real, and what a GALA celebration it was, thanks to the planning and organizational skills of Frank Nikischer.

To begin the celebration:

- Frank Nikischer welcomed everyone.
- Pastor Roger Richardson asked God's Blessing on all that was to follow.
- Moderator John Sirianos led the gathering of almost eighty members and friends of Church of the Palms in a champagne toast to those:
 - Who fifty years ago, had a dream;
 - Who believed in and continued the dream, and;
 - Who would pick up the challenge to keep the dream alive for many more years.
- Church Clerk, Henrietta M. Smith read a Proclamation from Mayor Nelson S. McDuffie. Its conclusion declared Saturday, March 5, 2011 as CHURCH OF THE PALMS DAY throughout the city of Delray Beach.

The tables were decorated with candles and each place setting had souvenirs designed for all who came. A Church of the Palms mug held a gold-tied scroll which highlighted happenings of the year 1961 (our birth date). We also received a booklet which presented a chronological history of the Church of the Palms which was painstakingly researched by historian, Lois Clement. At times, the information in the booklet will evoke a smile, even while the reader is in awe of the dedication and unending response to the many challenges faced by the stalwart 86 Charter Members.

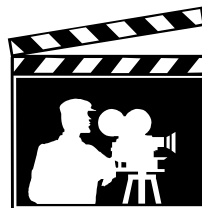
During the delicious dinner, the room was filled with convivial chatter which stopped only when Evelyn Torrey's power point presentation flashed on the screen. In addition to an unexpected greeting from Rev. Bryan Kerr, our summer guest minister from Scotland, there were memory jolting pictures of those who are no longer with us, some of the youth who are the future and those who are now working in "the vineyards of the Lord". Oohs and Aahs, laughter, sighs and sounds of surprise were heard as each scene flashed on the screen.

Perhaps a few tears were shed as the evening ended with Music Director, Ed Krynicki leading everyone in the singing of "Auld Lange Syne".

It was indeed a most memorable Birthday Party for Church of the Palms – the place "Where Faith Happens and Love Abounds"!

Men's Club Monthly Dinner/Movies

Join us in on April 8th at 5:30pm. It will be pizza and movie night at Church of the Palms. The movie which will be shown is "The Inn of the Sixth Happiness". This movie is a 1958 3-star biography of an English missionary woman to China, starring Ingrid Bergman, Curt Jurgans and Robert Donat.



Cost for this event is \$5 per person.

Reservations are required – you may call the Church office (561 276-6347) or use the sign-up sheet in the Friendship Center. Come by yourself, bring a friend, or form a group and spend an enjoyable evening out . . . and you will be supporting the Church of the Palms Men's Club.

Guess What's Going To Happen!

Something special is about to occur! We have been invited to a special after worship social hosted by the Ambassador Group of the Church of the Palms. On Sunday, April 3, we will be treated to a Haitian style feast in the Friendship Center. You could call it a brunch or a lunch or coffee and snacks, but whatever you name it, it will be a unique experience in dining and friendship. Members who attend the Walk have also been invited so this may be the first time the attendees of our three services have gotten together. It should be a great opportunity for us to get to know ALL of our members. I hope this is one of many more opportunities for us to get to know each other and work together to become a wonderful, exciting Christian Church for everyone.

Please come and join us. It's going to be a warm, exciting experience!

Fred Rosene

Women of Joy

What a great time we had at the Casa Linda last month. Good food and nice people. On April 9th at noon, we will meet at the Atlantique Café. Ladies! Please join us for a time of sharing and fun. For more information you may call Joan Thompson. 276-2736.

Easter is Fast Approaching

Delray Beach, FL 33444

Palm Sunday (April 17) Worship will begin with the children leading the processional carrying palm branches. This service will include an Easter Cantata presented by the Chancel Choir, directed by Edward Krynicki and Elaine Reinhardt, accompanist.

Maundy Thursday evening, April 21 at 7pm, we are invited to take our special seat around our Lord's Table. The invitation is extended to all our members and Christian friends to come and be filled and renewed through the Sacrament. We come not through any merit of our own making, but instead because of the free grace and mercy of God and the sacrifice and love found in the cross of Jesus Christ. To all who find themselves hungry – come and eat the bread of life. To all who find themselves thirsty – come and drink of the new wine, that you may never thirst again. Come and find hope in the midst of despair; faith in the midst of fear; love in the midst of selfishness. Come for light to guide your steps through the darkness; for truth to overcome the confusion and deception; for life that will truly last for all time in and for you.

Come and encounter the risen Lord – as together we commune in His name. To experience the full joy of Easter is for you to experience the meaning of the Maundy Thursday Last Supper and to sit with Jesus under the shadow of the Friday cross. The table is set, the hour is upon us. You are invited Thursday, April 21 at 7:00pm.



Easter Sunday (April 24) A celebration of the risen Christ begins at 10:00am. Following the worship service we will have a butterfly release along with a special Coffee Hour. Children and adults will be given a butterfly to release.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please take a few minutes to greet our new members.

Brandon Hepding Sadrac Blanc
Josh D'Amico 2500 NW 23rd Street
263 NE 10th Street Boynton Beach, FL 33436

Recipe for Easter Kindness

Fold two hands together
and express a dash of sorrow,
Marinate it overnight
and work on it tomorrow.

Chop one grudge in tiny pieces
add several cups of love,
Dredge with a large sized smile
mix with the ingredients above.

Dissolve the hate within you,
by doing a good deed.
Cut in and help your friend
if he should be in need.

Stir in laughter, love and kindness
from the heart it has to come,
Toss with genuine forgiveness
and give your neighbor some.

The amount of people served
will depend on you,
It can serve the whole wide world,
if you really want it to.

Please mark your calendars for these special upcoming events!

More information about these events are in this newsletter

Men's Club Dinner/Movie	Friday, April 8
Women of Joy Luncheon	Saturday, April 9
W/F Luncheon and Comfort Doll© Workshop	Monday, April 11
Easter Cantata	Sunday, April 17
EarthSave Dinner	Sunday, April 17
Maundy Thursday Service	Thursday, April 21
Easter Celebration	Sunday, April 24

If you are interested in joining Church of the Palms as a Regular or Associate member, please let Pastor Roger know and he will make arrangements for you to be received.

WHY KENYA & NEPAL?

An answer: As best as I am able!"

I have been asked "Why have you traveled to Kenya and now Nepal? It is dangerous – the most dangerous place, except for combat zones. There is plenty of work to be done here in South Florida"

That is so true! I will and do respond to needs in S. Florida. Now, I am responding to a place where the Church of Jesus Christ is hurting and at times in peril. I will be traveling with an ecumenical group (Knox Fellowship) at the request of the people of Nepal, to preach and teach as God directs.

For 38 years, I have been called by God to preach and I have a responsibility to use that gift as God directs.

There is another way of saying it:

Spring-cleaning is also a time for spring repair. There is value in broken things if we take time to think about them and what they represent.

It is crushed grain that feeds us, bruised plants that we are restored to health. It was by broken pitchers Gideon triumphed, a waste barrel and empty cruse sustained the prophet.

It was on boards and broken pieces of the ship that Paul and his companions were saved. It was amid the fragments of broken humanity that the promise of higher life was given.

It was by the broken life of Christ that his people shall live eternally; by the scattering of Jews that the Gentiles were brought in; by the bruised and torn bodies of the Saints that the truth was made to triumph.

The church is to be placed in the broken places of this earth – where there is war, hunger, hate, despair, nakedness, homelessness, captives, sin and there to be God's agents of love, life, healing and reconciling.

I go because the Church has asked me to come I will help as I am able and I will witness the "Mighty Acts of God" to share with you upon my return. I covet your prayers and your support during this time of ministry.

Roger P. Richardson

Some Notes of Appreciation

From the Pedersen Children:

The service in the Garth for our mother, Clara Pedersen, was lovely. She wanted a simple, short service with her children present. Dr. Richardson did a wonderful job of doing that. We thank you for all the preparation and scheduling involved.

From the Delray Beach Chief of Police – A.W. Strianese to the Women's Fellowship:

On behalf of the Delray Beach Police Department, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Women's Fellowship for their time and effort in making the dolls for the children in our community. These handmade dolls will serve us two-fold; they will provide several children with a memorable heartfelt gift as well as a gift that will comfort them during difficult times. I am positive that the children receiving these dolls will have smiles of joy on their faces when receiving this gift. I can assure you that these dolls will be utilized by the Police Department specifically as intended. Your thoughtfulness and willingness to get involved in your community is greatly appreciated. Please extend our sincere appreciation to the Women's Fellowship for their compassion, support and kindness.

(Excerpts) from Evang. Webenton S. Pierre, President, Runhardh, Inc. (Union for National Reconciliation and Defense of Human Rights in Haiti, Inc.)

On behalf of RUNHARDH, Inc we would like to place on record our sincere thanks and appreciation for your donation. It is with much gratitude we accept your donation.

The money you have given used for providing relief to the victims of the earthquake and the cholera outbreak in Haiti.

*Also, something 'phenomenon' happened during this mission. Two souls have been converted to Christ
We sincerely thank you once again for your thoughtfulness and generosity.*

*(Excerpts) from the Florida Conference, UCC
On behalf of all in the Florida Conference, we thank everyone in your church for supporting Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) this past year. Changing Lives, That's Our Church's Wider Mission" is more than a slogan or phrase; it is the lifeblood of ministry and mission in the U.C.C.*