



Palm Fronds

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

August/September 2011

Issue 2157

Dear Church of the Palms Member,

Here we are in the beginning of a new second half century and we want to move in good and creative directions. Let us claim the coming years as one to be **INNOVATIVE, INVOLVED AND INCLUSIVE!**

INNOVATIVE, will be our approach to ministry – long term. We will move to a Church School that will model Christian discipleship, values, commitments with a foundation built on the richness of Scripture. We will have a streamlined business model that will allow us to respond quickly and effectively as new needs arise and correct concerns before they cause any negative impact on our church. We will look at budget building and necessary restraints until we can see a clear course for our future together. We will look for new programs and groups that will be instituted to grow the numbers active in the life of our congregations. We ask all to be ready for change, flexible in their approach to church life and supportive, as we attempt to strengthen our congregation.

INVOLVED, will be our request to all of our members. Let's roll up our sleeves and get busy. In the last election when our now elected governor was a candidate, he was known for saying, "Let's get to work." Whether or not you like our new governor, the words are true in our church. So, "Let's get to work!" We have a lot to do, people to love, neighbors to care for and friends to introduce to our church family. Join in! Be a Church

School Teacher, a Choir member. Join in our Fellowship Activities and any and all small groups, to experience study or entertainment. Addis says, "Just Do It!" and that is what we ask for your mission and outreach involvement. Let's help at C.R.O.S. Ministries, put together a mission trip, or invite a neighbor to our worship service . . . or any other activity for that matter.

INCLUSIVE, who needs us?? Let us, as a congregation, live up to the United Church of Christ slogan, "Where ever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." Let us be the "roll out the red carpet church as we reach out to everyone possible." The scripture states that they should look at us and declare, "My how they love each other." We will build our church out of people, all kinds of people who God may bless us with.

I love the dream, the idea and the fact that it has already begun in this place called "Church of the Palms", which is **INNOVATIVE, INVOLVED AND INCLUSIVE, AMEN!!!**

See you in church,

Roger P. Richardson

Praise Service on Sunday Morning

We will have a Praise and Worship service on the last Sunday of the months of August and September at our 10:00am worship hour. Our Praise Singers and Musicians will lead the music and singing during these services. There will be scripture reading and a sermon at all of the services. The format will be like *The Walk* service which is held every Saturday evening in our Friendship Center at 7 pm. You will experience some of the newer contemporary choruses and songs that will lift your spirit and soul. The dates for the Sunday morning Praise and Worship services are August 28 and September 25.

Henrietta M. Smith Honored

Our own Henrietta M. Smith has been awarded an outstanding national award by the National Professional Library organization: The American Library Association. We are honored to have this amazing lady in our congregation and thank her for sharing her awesome talents with us!

The American Library Association, held its annual meeting in New Orleans during the week of June 25th. Among the major program activities was the Coretta Scott King Breakfast at which our own Henrietta M. Smith received the highest national award in Librarianship, given by that committee.

Henrietta was recognized for her service as librarian, storyteller, teacher and advocate for quality materials for children and young adults of all cultures. It was noted that her activities include service on a national and international level. Within the organization, she has served on or chaired just about every award committee in the children's service division. At her acceptance speech she graciously proclaimed that everyone in the room – over 500 in attendance, were a part of her accomplishments. Without the authors and illustrators, the editors, the publishers, the marketing people, and the users, none of her honors would have come about.

The Virginia Hamilton Life Time Achievement Award includes a handsomely engraved medal and a check to use for whatever makes her happy. Part of it went for New Orleans Pralines and the purchase of CD's from those talented Bourbon Street musicians. Other gifts included a very fancy hat to wear to church! - - and, a Kindle reader with noted author Virginia Hamilton's stories, collected especially for this event.

The festivities were made extra special because Henrietta's son Robin, daughter Cynthia and friend Maria were there to share in a two day time of celebration.

Finding a Christian Education Director

Over a month ago we started the process of looking for a new Director of Christian Education (DCE). The DCE job description has been updated and circulated, and we have received six responses from interested parties so far.

We have a small search committee in place, made up of:

1. Members with Sunday School teaching experience
 Debora Richardson,
 Henrietta M. Smith
 Fred Rosene
2. Moderator, John Sirianos
 Senior Minister, Roger Richardson

I hope we will also be able to add a couple of members from the Ambassador Ministries to the above group.

We have to make sure we have the plans for our Sunday morning program and other Youth programs well defined so that:

1. We don't mislead our candidates for DCE
2. We try to correct some of our existing problems.

The Council is in the process of finalizing a Covenant between the Ambassador Ministries and the Church of the Palms Ministries. One part of the Covenant states that we will try to have a Christian Education staff that is made up of an equal number from both ministries. We are having our first training session for Sunday School teachers on July 24 after church. We hope there will be interested parties from both ministries in the training.

I am encouraged that we are on a path of expanding and improving our Christian Education and bringing our ministries closer together.

May the Lord watch over us and help us reach our goals,
 AMEN!

Fred Rosene





Music Week at Lake Junaluska

As was done so many happily remembered times, Lois Clement, Kathi Schwomeyer, Henrietta M. Smith and Ed Krynicki, packed their suitcases in the trunk of the car along with workshop supplies, climbed into the car with books and needle work, said a prayer and headed for the beautiful hills of North Carolina. Liturgical Week was here again at Lake Junaluska.

We safely arrived just in time for the opening worship, with this years' worship theme "A Season of Creation". At each morning's service, an enormous cut paper backdrop demonstrated a change in God's world as an attendee's eye was moved from the sea to the sky with earth in-between. A stirring first morning opening included a dramatic rendition of James Weldon Johnson's tone poem, *The Creation* – the story of God's creation of the creatures of the sea, the birds in the air, the sun, moon and stars, and from the clay in the bed of the river, MAN.

There was great anticipation each morning as to what Pastor Rich Martin would preach, teach and make one laugh with a message embedded in sage wisdom, appropriate to the happenings in today's world. Graceful dancers moved in silent motion across the stage to the accompaniment of special music appropriate to the theme of the day. The innocent voices of Youth Choirs often blended into a particular morning's theme. On chosen days, quiet communion sent one out ready to face the day's activities.

Lois and Henrietta headed for the Bell Choir room, while Ed and Kathi went to raise their voices in song. All of this was preparation for the regular Thursday afternoon concerts – three bell choirs and evening concerts featuring vocal renditions from middle and high school singers and then the adult chorus. It was an afternoon and evening of concerts that one almost wished would never end.



Wednesday was a special day. We held a Church of the Palms Comfort Dolls Workshop. With Ed working as photographer, Kathi, Lois and Henrietta had a repeat of last years' workshop with some repeat attendees. Once again there were folks of all ages, interested in finding a **new mission focus** for their church or civic organization. It was a joy to watch the warmly cooperative spirit with which the youth helped each other complete a doll. Some even missed a meal in order to finish what had been started. Another successful seminar for the Church of the Palms Comfort Doll makers!

Weary but ever ready, the group then took a rain-filled journey to Waynesville for the annual concert. This time there were three organ and organ/piano renditions and then some interestingly classical music from the Chamber Music Chorale.



After a bit of shopping for items one could not live without and the acceptance of a FREE copy of the New Testament for those who registered early – we could hardly believe it was Friday morning and time to bid the mountains farewell. With a prayer for safe travel, we all headed home - refreshed and fulfilled.

Would that everyone had the chance to go to Lake Junaluska, see God's mountains, worship in the quiet of Evensong, awake to the twittering of tiny birds, sing, ring, and sew in Fellowship with folks from many other places.

OUR NEW	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <p>Have you alms</p> <p>The church website address is www.churchofthepalms.net</p> <p>In addition to the calendar of activities there are updates of current events of our church and UCC events around the country.</p>
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Imagine What's Possible **Attending the 28th UCC Synod**

Duly registered as a visitor to the 28th UCC Synod, Henrietta M. Smith found herself in the midst of many different kinds of experiences. Perhaps it did not really start with the "Cookie Shop", but that lasted and served her well through the whole week. Tables throughout the convention center were piled high with homemade cookies - free - just help yourself. She tried to eat only the thin ones - less calories - but . . .

On a more serious note, there were seminars of so many varied topics it was hard to decide. One had to do with thoughtful presentations on the prejudicial treatment of Muslims and those who even look like Muslims

- There were visuals that demonstrated the way the landscape changed as Muslims built their mosques - often to the discomfort of those who had "always lived there".

- There were reports of the harsh treatment of African American Muslims in South Carolina and white Muslims emigrating from Canada.

- There was a report on the film *Obsession* which sold over 28 million copies, the contents of which (after a nice beginning) subtly brought in a comparison of Nazis and Muslim fear mongering tactics. The resulting fear took on emotional dimensions that sought to defy any ways of change. The unwritten slogan was "NOT IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD". The session closed with a plea for Christian understanding - seeking sources of factual information about who Muslims really are. A complicated but thoughtful session.

There was fun at the Storytelling session with a demonstration of how to, and how to NOT welcome first time visitors to one's worship service.

The leader of the session gave a detailed description of her service as a storyteller to women in prison. It is indeed a most thoughtful and thoroughly thought out ministry! - planned sessions for those confined and follow-up time together when a committed person is released!

She also reminded anyone who would tell children at the Youth's Time during the service that the attention really belongs to the children. One is not to worry if the adults complain that they could not hear - It is the children's time.

Sunday's Community worship was spectacular. There was graceful, spiritual dancing, Holy Communion, a

special welcome time for the youth where Henrietta saw Jean Denis and Elie Damus (from Church of the Palms), a sermon based on the story of Hagar and Ismael, and the performance of the Mass Choir (of which Henrietta was a part) singing a very contemporary version of *Bound for the Promised Land*.

While preparing for the Community Service, a lady I had met in the story telling session, came to me and said, "I want to share something with you and your daughter." Here is her story:

Aichatou - 3 years old was born in Niger, Africa. She was born with her bladder on the outside of her body! She was brought to Baltimore for surgery at John Hopkins Hospital. Successful surgery performed by the teller's daughter, a skilled physician. What then to do about Aichatou? If sent back to Niger she would be an outcast with no hope for real life! The physicians's brother adopted the little girl who turned out to be very bright and is enjoying good health. Is that the end of the story? No! The brother and his wife adopted another little girl from Niger and not they have a beautiful family. Aichatou, now 6 years old, plays the piano and read and speaks English fluently.

Imagine What's Possible!

There was a quick hello to Mary Davis, Evie Torrie and the Guillaume family during a visit to the Exhibit Hall.

Oh, the Exhibit Hall! - Time to participate in the Obama Health initiative, receive a pedometer and count and record the many steps taken in the several trips from the Hotel to the Center and all around inside. How many?? Thousands!

Henrietta treated herself to a piece of original art which may be shared at church at some time. She also found an outlet for some of the many books in her home - to be sent to a church in New Jersey where there is a representative who will personally transport them to a school in Africa.

Henrietta was able to witness the true love poured out for Rev. Cynthia Smith Jackson with invitations for her to preach at several different churches in the New York area - and even to think about pastoring at one particular church!

LETTERS OF THANKS

From Bill Mason:

*Thank you -
A note of appreciation for all you prayers, phone calls,
cards and visits during my recent bout with heart failure
again.
Glad to be back at Church of the Palms!
Sincerely, Bill Mason*

From Angie Gifford:

*Thank you for the beautiful green prayer shawl. Your
thoughtfulness and prayers helped me through some
very dark times.
Angie*

From Karissa Hammer

*Dear Church of the Palms,
Thank you for awarding me a scholarship. I truly
appreciate your help with funding my medical education.
I wish you all the best and thank you again for your
generosity.
Sincerely, Karissa Hammer*

From Community Food Pantry and Caring Kitchen:

*Dear Sandwich Volunteers,
THANK YOU so very much for making 32,000
sandwiches for the children at the Milagro Center, St.
Paul Episcopal, Village Academy and A to Z after school
programs. We constantly hear how grateful the
directors are for your generosity in providing
sandwiches. So, thank you from the children and the
staff.
You do a wonderful job. It may not seem like much, but
the sandwiches are critical for the children's growth and
development. As we continue to work together, we are
making a difference in the lives of the children.
Blessings, Sister Mary Ann Caulfield
Guillermo Carrasco*

Birthdays

August

- 13 Charlie Gray
Ray Meenen
- 16 Al Zilenziger
- 22 Natalie Whiting
- 24 Barbara Ochs
- 28 Solange Sousa
- 29 Miriam Mabrey
- 30 Dyanna Lopez

September

- 5 Rich Rurey
- 6 Peter Gardner
- 7 Jenny Vargas
- 9 Jim Schwomeyer
- 11 Olga Gilberg
- 12 Tom Hoak
Charlotte Long
- 13 Jen Philogene
- 14 Sheila Guillaume
- 15 John Nemire
I.C. Smith
- 16 Roger P. Richardson
- 17 Cathy Smith
- 20 Naomie Eloisin
- 24 Edward Krynicki
Evie Torrey
- 25 Dorothy Cooper
- 26 Frank Nikischer, Sr.
Joe Robinson
- 28 John McGovern
- 30 Ken Ettinger

Happy
Birthday



ONA (Open and Affirming) Meeting – August 7

There will be an ONA (Open and Affirming) meeting on Sunday, August 7 following the 10am Worship Service. Several of our members attended the General Synod in Tampa and have literature and information to share with the group. Save the date and plan to attend this meeting.

Facility Use by Outside Groups

There are a number of groups who are using our facility for their meetings. Most of these groups meet in the Fellowship Hall - some daily, some weekly, some monthly. Each group is responsible for leaving the room in good condition after their meetings. We are pleased to be able to supply them with a facility that is comfortable and fulfills their meeting needs.

We Are Church of the Palms

“Where Faith Happens and Love Abounds”

Invite your family and friends to worship with us.

THE WALK - On Saturday evenings we have a praise service at 7:00pm
This is a casual service with a wonderful message and praise music designed for young families as well as adults. This service is held in the Friendship Center.

TRADITIONAL SERVICE – At 10:00am, on Sunday mornings we have a more traditional service which is held in the Sanctuary. This service is a little more formal and the message is always timely and encouraging. The music is a beautiful combination of traditional and contemporary styles.

We are people of God’s extravagant welcome!

Jesus didn’t turn people away, even those often rejected by others. We don’t intend to either. We are like a “company of strangers,” made family by the grace of God. God welcomes, claims, and loves all people.*

INVITE OTHERS TO COME AND SHARE THEIR JOURNEY WITH US!

Church of the Palms

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STAFF: *Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Roger P. Richardson*
Director of Music Ministries Edward M. Krynicki
Parish Administrator Kathleen Schwomeyer
Moderator John Sirianos
Sexton Roscoe Campbell

.. and many amazing volunteers!

Visit our website: www.churchofthepalms.net