

The  **Potter's**
PRESS

Monthly Newsletter of San Mateo Presbyterian Church, San Mateo, FL

December 2016

Letter from Pastor Don Mossa

SHARING THE FAITH

This is a simple gift from one of my favorite poets, the Reverend Ann Weems from her book, "Kneeling in Bethlehem." The piece is entitled, "In December Darkness."

*"The whole world waits in December darkness
For a glimpse of the Light of God.
Even those who snarl "Humbug!"
And chase away the carolers
Have been seen looking toward the skies.
The one declared he never would forgive
has forgiven,
and the ones who left home
have returned,
and even wars are halted,
if briefly,
as the whole world looks starward.
In December darkness
We peer from our windows
Watching for an angel with rainbow wings
to announce the Hope of the World."*

Advent and Christmas invite lofty ideas such as these; Of star ward glances and the halting of wars along with angels and the Hope of the World. This the sacred "stuff" of Advent and Christmas and there, at its core is something that is yet more profound, startling to the spirit, and uplifting to those whose souls are most tired. That of course, is the miracle birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Old Isaiah's prophetic words tell of the great things of God to come for us when he writes:

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them a Light has shined.
For unto us a child has been born, a Son is given,
And all authority rests upon his shoulders...
And he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”*

When we look out of our windows in this dark season...let us all see His light, and be granted the presence of angels and the Peace in our hearts that Christ alone can bring to us.

This is my prayer for you and your family this Advent and Christmas!!!

Many Blessings,
Pastor Don

November Happenings

Saturday 3 – was to be a Sew day-
canceled

Tuesday 6

Presbyterian Women will meet in the Potter's House at 10:30 a.m. Sandi Carle is the contact.

Sunday 4 Communion Sunday

9:15 a.m. Bible Study / Sunday School
10:30 a.m. worship service –

Session meeting after service. All are welcome to come and participate.

Sunday 11

9:15 a.m. Bible Study / Sunday School
Contact Candy Tilton 386-325-3553
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Fellowship lunch will be held after the church service. Bring a dish to share. Presbyterian women will bring the chicken.

GINGER BREAD house decorating to take place after lunch. Stay and play and enjoy the fellowship. Bring a house to decorate or just watch the fun.

Adopt a Soldier packing will also be after lunch. Items this month are small gifts, hot beverages and sweet things. It is okay to send chocolate at this time of year. Gifts can be fun ridiculous things like silly putty, play doh, even puzzle books.

Thursday 15

Dinner will be at the church. YEAH!!! You all come and invite a friend. Chicken this month. Help will be needed so come early or stay late.

Saturday 17 10:30 a.m. Bread of Life workday.
Contact Candy Tilton 386-325-3553

Sunday 18

9:15 a.m. Bible Study / Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Worship committee meeting after service.
Contact: Lynnwood 386-546-2186

Christmas Cantata will be at 7 p.m.

Sunday 25 Have a Blessed Christmas
9:15 a.m. Bible Study / Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Committee News

Mission, Evangelism & Fellowship

- Crosby is the contact 386-972-9021
- **Bread of Life** will be December 17. Candy Tilton is the contact.
- **Adopt a Soldier** - sweets and hot beverages and small gifts. Bring to the Potter's House, packing will be December 11th. Think coffee, hot chocolate, tea, etc.

Christian Ed

Amy 386-937-2956

Gingerbread house decorating, congregational event. Details: Adults, little kids, big kids and kids at heart are all invited. Bring a kit and come play. December 11th after fellowship lunch

Worship Committee

The next meeting will be Sunday 18th in the Potter's House after worship services. Lynwood Timberlake is the contact 386-5462186

Financial Committee

Contact is Tim Houghtaling 803-359-7362

The Finance Committee has embarked upon the task of a budget for 2017. To date we have obtained spending requests from all committees (Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism and Fellowship, and Mission), the Pastor and general overhead costs of operation. The consolidated budget requests are available by e-mail to TimHoHere@gmail.com.

That took care of the '**money we want to spend**' part of the process. I explained a desire for some educated assumptions via a 'pledge drive'. That went over like a lead balloon (Only Ms. Janie looked at the forms and destroyed them.). I was told that 'the Lord will Provide' works well in these circumstances. Our committee followed that lead.

The bottom line – and one big reason I joined this Church – there is a strong 'No Mortgage' attitude. ALL the bills are paid. There is some disagreement concerning what pot of money will pay for which need but never a question of 'can we pay for it'. This Church is a good steward with yours and the Lord's money. As of the end of November our profit and loss shows a net positive of \$17,546; the bank statement includes \$27,576 in 'designated funds' with spending restricted (for Memorial, Scholarship, Good Samaritan, the "Kid Kamp" where the yard sale proceeds land before paying the way for youth camp; Choir; SMPC Women; and Building Improvement). Additionally, a long time ago (1993) the Session had the presence of mind to invest \$26,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds that now comprise a \$41,000 'rainy day fund'.

Bottom Line: It costs, on average, \$200 a week just to keep the lights on and water running. Insurance is six grand a year and rising. I like the Pastor doing his job, so we need to fund that as well as keeping an eye out for when the Sanctuary HVAC will finally die. Activities cost and get paid for. Your Session can provide lots of financial detail upon request. Just know whatever you can toss in the plate is expended conservatively for the grace of God and blessings upon the congregation.

Dear Church Family,

Once again please accept my humble and sincere thanks for opening your hearts with love for me. I've been blessed with so many calls; visits, cards, wonderful meals, beautiful flowers and plants, many offers of help, but most of all, your prayers for Pete and me.

As I ask God to bless each one of you my prayer is that we will continue being a Family of Faith loving each other.

With loving thanks,

Ann Gstohl

Who Do You Say He Is?

Bill Crowder Our Daily Bread

In a 1929 Saturday Evening Post interview, Albert Einstein said, "As a child I received instruction both in the Bible and in the Talmud. I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene. . . No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life."

The New Testament Scriptures give us other examples of Jesus' countrymen who sensed there was something special about Him. When Jesus asked His followers, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" they replied that some said He was John the Baptist, others said He was Elijah, and others thought He was Jeremiah or one of the prophets (Matt 16:14). To be named with the great prophets of Israel was certainly a compliment, but Jesus wasn't seeking compliments. He was searching their understanding and looking for faith. So He asked a second question: "But what about you? . . . Who do you say I am?" (16:15)

Peter's declaration fully expressed the truth of Jesus' identity: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (v. 16)

Jesus longs for us to know Him and His rescuing love. This is why each of us must eventually answer the question, "Who do you say Jesus is?"

Lord, I long to know You better. Teach me more about Your beautiful character so that I might grow more in love with You and follow You with my whole heart.

New Members to add to your Church Family list

Elizabeth Bansfield-Mossa

Richard "Ricky" McCravey Clarke

Mildred "Millie" McCravey Clarke

Mary "Kitty" Katherine Clarke

Ralph D. Ellis Jr.

Rhonda S. Fishburn

386-937-0064

Gail Drive, Satsuma

Michael Joel Fishburn

Zachary "Zach" Fishburn

Scott Jordan Reynolds

129 Troupe Rd lot #31, PO Box 1176 San Mateo

Donna Gay Reynolds

386-546-8664

CURRICULUM FOR CONFIRMATION AT SAN MATEO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Introduction: The purpose of the Confirmation course at San Mateo Church is threefold: To provide basic learning knowledge about the faith, to provide for Spiritual development and to encourage living the Christian life to those who are interested in being confirmed as a member of the church. The Confirmation course, which will last 5 to 8 months depending on the class and the schedule, will include monthly meetings led by the pastor, and one or two field trips. Successful confirmands completing the course will be confirmed as an adult member of the church. Meeting attendance, mastering the course knowledge, completing the required homework and participation are mandatory in order to be confirmed. It is expected that once the child to be confirmed agrees to the process and is given permission by their parent(s), that parental support and encouragement is required. Adults seeking confirmation obviously do not require parental permission but all who seek to be confirmed must complete all the requirements prior to confirmation. Sponsors of confirmands may be assigned to each prospective confirmand. Sponsors are adult members of the church who are not the parents of the confirmand. Special provisions for those with challenges will be provided in the course.

Meeting Schedule: Most confirmation meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday before Church.

First Meeting	Sunday November 20, 2016	Introduction
Second Meeting	Sunday December 11, 2016	God, Worship and Prayer
Third Meeting	Sunday, February 12, 2017	Bible, Patriarchs & Matriarchs
Fourth Meeting	Sunday, March 12, 2017	Living Life in Christ
Fifth Meeting	Sunday, April 2, 2017	The Church and Its Traditions
6 th Meeting	Sunday, April 9, 2017	A Commitment to the Faith

The possible date of Confirmation may be Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017. Fields trips will be scheduled at a later date.

Pictures from the Pumpkin – fest party at the church –



