

# The *SP* *ter's* PRESS

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

November 2015



## *A Letter from Pastor Larry*



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the name of the one that was and is and always will be.

We are coming into a time of special activity in the church. First we come to the time of Thanksgiving. A special time where we slow down to reflect upon what the Lord has given us and done for us. Thankfulness is an active practice in the bible: Colossians 3:14-16: “**Above all, clothe yourselves with love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And **let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, to which indeed you were called in the one body. **And be thankful**. Let the **word of Christ dwell in you** richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with **gratitude in your hearts** sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs **to God**.”

We can see from our scripture we are to be thankful for the peace of Christ which is in our hearts. We are to have gratitude to God and happily sing out to God in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. The Psalms are full of the idea of thankfulness to the Lord and is expressed in song and celebration. Being thankful is an important part of worship!!!

The time of Advent will be upon us starting Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup>. The focus of the entire season of Advent is the **celebration** of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his first Advent, and the **anticipation** of the return of Christ the King in His second Advent.

It is my prayer for you that during this great time in the church that we will live the words of Psalm 69:30 “I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with **thanksgiving**”.

Prayers for each day in this time of celebration and anticipation will be added as an insert in the bulletin. I pray that we will keep these words in mind during this season: “Give Thanks To The Lord For He Is Good, HIS Love Endures Forever”.

*Shalom,*  
*Pastor Larry*

# November Happenings

Kids' Care leaders for each Sunday are listed by that Sunday's Worship Service in parenthesis.

## **Sunday, November 1**

9:15 am Sunday Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship Service  
(Casey & Weezie)

## **Tuesday, November 3**

10:30 am Presbyterian Woman

## **Wednesday, November 4**

6:00 pm Choir Practice

## **Sunday, November 8**

9:15 am Sunday Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship Service  
(Lulu Gail & Leah)  
12:00 pm Fellowship Luncheon  
After lunch Pack boxes for Adopt-a-soldier  
4:30 leave for Progressive Dinner

## **Tuesday, November 10**

6:00 pm Christian Ed Meeting

## **Wednesday, November 11**

6:00 pm Choir Practice

## **Sunday, November 15**

9:15 am Sunday Bible Study  
10:30 am Service (Jody and Janie)

12:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting

## **Wednesday, November 18**

6:00 pm Choir Practice

## **Thursday, November 19**

4:00 pm-7:00 pm Fellowship Dinner

## **Saturday, November 21**

10:30 am Bread of Life

## **Sunday, November 22**

9:15 am Sunday Bible Study

10:30 am Worship Service

(Anna and Sabrina)

12:00 pm Session Meeting

## **Wednesday, November 25**

6:00 pm Choir Practice

## **Thursday, November 26**

Happy Thanksgiving

## **Sunday, November 29**

9:15 am Sunday Bible Study

10:30 am Youth Worship Service

(Jane and Peggy)

First day of Advent

*Check us out on the web @ [SanMateoPres.com](http://SanMateoPres.com)*

**Do you know the weekly sermons and bible verses are online?** That's right, they are! So, if you are out of town or want to share a particular message with a friend, visit our website @ [SanMateoPres.com](http://SanMateoPres.com). To find the sermon archives, click on "About Us" then select "Sermon Archives".

## *Newsletter Information*

Please send in any announcements, information or photos, etc., to Leah Hadrava ([leahyh123@gmail.com](mailto:leahyh123@gmail.com)) or Amy Poupore ([poupores513@gmail.com](mailto:poupores513@gmail.com)) so we can include it in the next newsletter.

# Committee News

## Session

- November's session meeting is scheduled for the 22nd after worship service.
- The session have reviewed and approved the 2016 budget for all committees. It will be presented in January's annual congregational meeting.

## Presbyterian Women

- Fundraiser tickets are being sold. See Sandi Carle, Pat Janowski, Beverly Wainwright or Leslie Mullins for more details. (See pictures on page 5)
- PW meeting is November 3rd @ 10:30 am. The first 30 minutes is a bible study and the meeting follows.

## Mission, Evangelism & Fellowship

- Adopt-A-Soldier
- Thornwell Home for Children
- Good Samaritan Fund

## Christian Ed

- The Teens plan to read the bible in 2 years and are currently studying the creation story.
- Progressive Dinner is Sun, 11/8. Please RSVP to Amy asap if you plan to attend.

## Worship Committee

- Worship Committee meetings will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month after the service.
- Youth Sunday is November 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Building & Grounds

- New tile has been laid in the Potter's House kitchen.

### **New Members Class:**

New member classes will be starting soon. This is a great time to make the decision to make SMPC your church home.

Already a member but want to know more about Presbyterian beliefs and doctrines? Come and learn more. See Pastor Larry for details.

## **Opportunity for Outreach**

Did you know our church has a Good Samaritan Fund? The Good Samaritan Fund was established to help persons in need in our congregation and community. This outreach ministry is not part of the budget, but relies solely on donations. The Session has direct oversight of these funds and all gifts and records are kept in strictest confidence. If you would like to donate specifically to the Good Samaritan Fund, please indicate this on your check and/or envelope. If you are aware of an individual or family who may need our assistance, please talk with Pastor Larry.

# November Happenings



**Come join us!!  
Community Fish Fry  
Thursday November 19  
4:30-7:30pm  
Eat In or Take Out**



Bring a dish to share after the worship service on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget to give a "smile" and a "thank you" to the Presbyterian Women who provide the delicious fried chicken for our Fellowship luncheons.

## Advent begins November 29<sup>th</sup>

The Advent season lasts for four Sundays. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, or the nearest Sunday to November 30. The Advent celebration is both a commemoration of Christ's first coming and an anticipation of His second coming. As Israel longed for their Messiah to come, so Christians long for their Savior to come again, Advent ends on Christmas Eve and thus is not considered part of the Christmas season.

## Presbyterian Women & Missions

Thornwell Home for Children has offered hope and healing for children and families since 1875. The Presbyterian Women of our Church have supported Thornwell's ministry for a number of years and this month, you will receive information about their ministry and how our church is changing the lives of children.

## Sneak Preview of some December Events:

PW fundraiser on December 13<sup>th</sup>, drawing after the fellowship dinner in the Potters House.

Christmas Cantata "One Small Child", Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

Presbyterian Women – Fund Raiser Raffle  
Tickets \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00



Crocheted Afghan



Quilted Tree Skirt



Crocheted Table Runner

Happy Birthday

- 11/5 Ruby Duncan
- 11/5 Anna Stilwell
- 11/9 JoAnna Piscitello
- 11/12 Karl Whitlow
- 11/14 Phyllis Hinkle
- 11/19 Skye Stilwell
- 1/19 Colby Poupore
- 11/20 Caelyn Wells
- 11/23 Larry Hadrava
- 11/24 Barbara Pellicer
- 1/25 Mike Woznick
- 11/29 Charles Coe

Happy Anniversary

11/20 Bev and Spence Wainwright

The men's fellowship had their first meeting. Plans are being made and more information will be coming soon.

All men of the church are welcome to join in fun and fellowship.



# MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

*And Jesus said: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1:8*



Adopt A-Soldier Project is a grass roots effort to allow citizens to connect directly with our soldiers while they are in combat. Thank you to member Leslie Mullins who has now connected our church family to this program. For the next month, you will have the opportunity to be part of this program by donating care package items that will be shipped to combat units. During the week, you may drop off your donations at the church in the containers located on the front patio of the Potter's House. There will also be a basket in the Narthex of the church and in the Potter's House. Our children and youth will be writing letters and the "packing party" is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> after worship in the Potter's House.

## **HYGIENE:**

Baby wipes / Camping "Bath" Wipes  
Hand wipes / Foot Powder  
Tinactin / Lotrimin or any Antifungal items  
Small packets of Tide laundry detergent.  
Soap / Shampoo  
Body Wash / Deodorant  
Q-tips / Shaving Razors  
Shaving Gel / Dental Floss  
Tooth Brushes / Tooth Paste  
Feminine Hygiene Items  
Alcohol pads / Band Aids

## **SNACKS:**

Vitamin C / Multivitamins / Echinacea  
Elderberry / Glucosamine  
Sunflower Seeds / Ramen noodles  
Summer Sausages / Boxed Cereal  
Crackers / Chips / Peanut Butter  
Canned Cheese (Mild, Jalapeno)  
Slim Jims / Beef Jerky / Peanut Butter  
Jelly / Instant Oatmeal / Grits  
Power Bars (No Hemp Seed ingredients)  
Pouches of Tuna or chicken  
K-cup coffee cups / Any ground coffee  
Powdered Creamer and Sugar  
Lipton cup of chicken noodle soup  
Flavored Drink Mix / Non melting candy

# Pumpkin Carving & Bonfire Fun!



Mrs. Anna mixing the Stone Soup



Mrs. Peggy & Mikah carving a pumpkin



Left: Anilee Wells cleaning out her pumpkin



Right: a whole crowd working together and having fun!

S'mores & glow sticks for when it got dark



Lots of Yummy treats



# Who's Who of SMPC

Have you ever wondered whom to contact for what? Below is a list of the folks that help keep SMPC running smoothly week in and week out.

## **Larry Hadrava**

Pastor  
smpcpastorlarry@gmail.com  
904-476-9398

## **Tommy Smith**

Elder, Building & Grounds Chairman  
smith3@bellsouth.net  
386-972-2901  
- contact for building/grounds concerns  
and for reservations of the facilities for any  
events/meetings

## **Bill Futch**

Elder, Stewardship & Finance Chairman  
billfutch1950@gmail.com  
386-530-0054

## **Frank Crosby**

Elder, Mission, Evangelism & Fellowship  
Chairman  
orangepicker16@yahoo.com  
386-937-6374

## **Lynwood Timberlake**

Elder, Worship Committee Chairman  
ltimberl@yahoo.com  
386-546-2186  
- contact for any worship service related  
questions/comments

## **Janie Register**

Elder, Treasurer  
jgigi6\_2000@yahoo.com  
386-546-9988  
- contact with any financial inquiries

## **Amy Poupore**

Elder, Christian Ed Chairman  
poupores513@gmail.com  
386-937-2956  
- contact with any Sunday school, youth or  
children's program related inquiries

## **Sabrina Crosby**

Elder, Clerk of Session  
crosbys@flaglerschools.com  
386-972-9021

## **Marge Voorhis**

Prayer Warrior Leader  
marge.voorhis@gmail.com  
386-649-6796  
- contact for any prayer cards, prayer or  
visit requests

## **Andi Wells**

Bulletin updates  
finktoes@yahoo.com  
386-937-1184  
- contact for anything to be included in  
the bulletins (announcements, birthdays,  
anniversaries, events, etc)

## **Lulu Gail Griffis**

Choir Director  
lgparish@yahoo.com  
386-972-3250

## **Leah Hadrava**

leahyh123@gmail.com  
- contact for newsletter information

## **Helen Preston**

- for any flowers that you would like placed  
in the sanctuary



# *Thanksgiving: The Forgotten Holiday*

Sandwiched somewhere between Halloween and Christmas is a Thursday holiday that is slowly becoming more miniscule in the minds of millions of Americans – Thanksgiving. If you search hard, you might find one small section of Thanksgiving cards, autumn decorations, and a turkey platter amid the aisles and miles of Halloween costumes, Christmas decorations, and toys.

For some, Thanksgiving is a day to get a list together prior to a day of marathon Christmas shopping. Somehow our perception of Thanksgiving Day has gone askew. We've forgotten the reason for celebration that first Thanksgiving. Gratitude for survival!

Historically we think of Thanksgiving as a time of feasting for the Pilgrims and Indians. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims had been in America less than a year. During those months, over half their original population died from disease or starvation. The Pilgrims hosted the first feast not to try out their latest recipes, but to celebrate life with their Indian Friday and give thanks to God for His provision in difficult circumstances.

Perhaps you'd like to redirect your family toward gratitude this year. Just as many enlist the help of an advent wreath to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth in December, focus on thanks-giving this November by doing the following:

- **Week 1** – Write Bible verses that name the attributes of God on fruit-shaped cut-outs. Place them in a basket or cornucopia. During a time of family Devotions or at a meal, have each family member select a fruit from the basket and read the verse aloud. Then discuss ways your family has experienced each of God's qualities.
- **Week 2** – Think about reasons for ingratitude. Most of us are incredibly blessed, yet we find reasons to complain. This week, any time family members complain about something, have them place money in a jar. Your family can decide the amount. Then at the end of the week, donate the money to the soup kitchen or mobile meals to help with Thanksgiving meals.
- **Week 3** – Think of someone you love and appreciate, but rarely see. Make plans to call, send a card, or visit that person. Find out if there is a special need, pray with the person, and provide materially or with an act of service.



- **Week 4** – Focus on praising God. Let each family member select a praise chorus or hymn. Sing a different one at each meal instead of saying a blessing. Thank God for material provision, physical health, spiritual blessings, our country, our church, and family.

These are just a few ideas to help you get started. Use your creativity to come up with others and enjoy making Thanksgiving a holiday to remember.