

The tter's PRESS

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

November 2016

Letter from Pastor Don Mossa

- SHARING THE FAITH

*Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
to God Our creator
Triumphantly raise!*

An old Welsh folk melody provides the tune for this Thanksgiving Hymn; the words added by Katherine Davis in more contemporary times, 1939, help us center on this season of Thanksgiving – November in the United States.

For many of us, Thanksgiving is our favorite national holiday. It has been described as “Christmas without the hassle of buying gifts.” Those of us who have had the occasion to be or live outside of the United States on Thanksgiving Day can be surprised that the rest of the world hardly notices our Great American Holiday, and that when we are outside of the USA, there is barely a mention of the day back home. When Elizabeth and I were in Scotland for Thanksgiving 1999, we wandered the markets trying hard to find a turkey to cook (there wasn’t one), and we sought out anyone who would understand how important Thanksgiving is for us Americans (we found one or two).

There is of course, a broader meaning to the Great American Thanksgiving celebration; the common idea and memories of Thanksgiving that stretch beyond childhood memories of Pilgrim plays in grade school, and even beyond the reunification of families on the day to enjoy the day’s feast and football. Thanksgiving is even more than the coming together of the clan, or the joy in some families who may celebrate a newborn’s first Thanksgiving, or to remembering those who are not present at Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving, both the American holiday and the word itself, invites us to think about a way of life, for the gift of life, this one and the next, that Christ has given us.

To awake not only on the day of Thanksgiving but on every day with a holy sense of thanksgiving for our daily lives, our daily bread, for each breath breathed, is a mark of the mature Christian. Those who understand what God has given us through His son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, have every reason to be thankful, no matter the current circumstance of our lives.

Perhaps this year, in a deeper way, Thanksgiving Day can become the kick-off for a new way, a more thankful way of living our faith. I know that I am more thankful for all of you, my new friends at San Mateo.

Have a Happy and Holy Thanksgiving – Always.
Pastor Don

November Happenings

October Saturday 29 – Pumpkinfest 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Pumpkin carving – stone soup (bring an ingredient). Everyone invited!

Tuesday 2

Presbyterian Women will meet in the Potter's House at 10:30 a.m. Sandi Carle is the contact 386-972-5177

Saturday 5

Presbyterian Women will have a sew day in the Potter's House 10 a.m. All are welcome to come and help make various items to sell.

Sunday 6 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.

Tuesday 8

Mission, Evangelism & Fellowship meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Potter's House. Sabrina Crosby is the contact 386-972-9021

Christian Ed meeting in the Potter's House at 6:00 p.m. Amy Poupore is the contact 386-937-2956

Sunday 13

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

Fellowship "lunch" will be a dinner held after the **program presented by Woods and Bridges**. Program at **4:30 p.m.** Dinner to follow. Bring a dish to share. Presbyterian women will bring the chicken.

Thursday 17

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

Saturday 19 10:30 a.m. Bread of Life workday. Contact Candy Tilton 386-325-3553

Sunday 20

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

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

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Sunday 27 start of Advent

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

SAVE THE DATE

Christmas Cantata will be December 18th at 7 p.m.

Committee News

Mission, Evangelism & Fellowship

- Next meeting will be Tuesday November 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the Potter's house. Sabrina Crosby is the contact 386-972-9021
- **Bread of Life** will be November 19. Candy Tilton is the contact.
- **Adopt a Soldier** November will be warm things. So bring a fleece blanket, or mittens, or hats, or scarves or YOU decide and be creative. Bring to the Potter's House, packing will be November 13th. December will be sweets and hot beverages. Think coffee, hot chocolate, tea, etc.

Christian Ed

Next meeting will be November 8 at 6 p.m. in the Potter's House. Amy 386-937-2956

Pumpkinfest October 29, congregational event. Details: 7-930 pm. We will make stone soup and carve pumpkins! Bring a can of veggies and a pumpkin to carve. Also, any carving tools you have will be appreciated. We will have a bonfire with s'mores, scavenger hunt and some games too. Invite a friend (or several). Adults, little kids, big kids and kids at heart are all invited. Questions: ask Amy 386-937-2956 or Casey 386-325-6276.

Worship Committee

The next meeting will be Sunday 20th in the Potter's House after worship services.

The Book of Mark is the small group bible study that started the week of September 19th (more or less). Currently, two small groups: 1) Wednesday 4:30 p.m. in the Potter's house hosted by Ginger; 2) Thursday at 6:00 p.m. hosted by Houghtaling / Mullins at their residence – call for directions – 803-422-0532. It is not too late to join either group.

Devotional – Game of Thanks

Our Daily Bread – November 24

Every autumn we throw a scrumptious Thanksgiving feast on campus at Cornerstone University. Our students love it! Last year a group of students played a game at their table. They challenged each other to name something they were thankful for – in three seconds or less – without repeating what someone else had said. Anyone who hesitated was out of the game.

There are all kinds of things that students might gripe about – tests, deadlines, rules, and a host of other college type complaints. But these students had chosen to be thankful. And my guess is that they all felt a lot better after the game than they would have if they had chosen to complain.

While there will always be things to complain about, if we look carefully there are always blessings to be thankful for. When Paul describes our newness in Christ, “thankfulness” is the only characteristic mentioned more than once. In fact, it is mentioned three times, “Be thankful,” he says in Colossians 3:15. Sing to God “with gratitude in your hearts” (v16). And whatever you do, be sure to be “giving thanks to God the Father” (v17). Paul’s instruction to be thankful is astonishing when we consider that he wrote this letter from prison!

Today, let us make the choice to have an attitude of thankfulness.

Lord, teach me the liberating joy of being thankful! Help me to find the blessings that are locked up in the things I complain about and to regularly express my gratitude to You and others.

Treasurer's Report

January 1 through October 26, 2016

Income 47,204.61

Expenses

Building & grounds 15,287.00

Christian Ed 747.08

Mission 1,673.46

Evang / Fellowship 730.05

Finance 7,006.41

Office 1,237.10

Pastor 15,411.00

Utilities 7,909.65

Worship 4,107.77

Total Expenses 54,109.52

Balance -6,904.91

If you have any questions on this accounting or what is included in each category please ask. Tim Houghtaling is the chairman of the finance committee – 803-359-7362.