

OCTOBER 2015 Newsletter

If you are receiving this newsletter and no longer wish to remain on our mailing list,
please inform us in one of the following ways:
call the Church office @ (305)294-1223 or email us @ pcpckw@bellsouth.net
Thank you for helping us keep our contacts up-to-date.



Peace Covenant Presbyterian Church
2610 Flagler Ave.
Key West, FL 33040
(305)-294-1223



Visit our **WEBSITE**

www.peacecovenantpckw.com



Peace Covenant Presbyterian Church Key West



Josh Holsey a defensive back for my Auburn Tigers tore an ACL in the game against Jacksonville State, adding injury to insult, as Auburn played quite poorly in that game and was lucky to win. When Josh's MRI revealed the torn ligament he tweeted out this message: "Prayers go up, blessings come down." I certainly hope this is true for Josh who is out for the rest of this season, and for all athletes hurt in the course of playing.

Prayer is a powerful thing. Prayer is a personal thing. Whenever we talk about prayer, beyond the rather casual and let's be honest, sometimes perfunctory "I'll be praying for you," people begin to squirm. I suppose there are various reasons for our discomfort, but perhaps chief among them is the question of whether or not we are faithful enough for our prayers to work.

Do I pray enough? Do I say the right words? Do I pray for the right things? Are my prayers selfish? Are they specific enough, sincere enough, long enough? Is my faith strong enough to believe in that for which I am praying? What do I believe about unanswered prayer? What do I believe about answered prayer? Did I really pray for someone whom I told I would be praying for them?

I'm reminded of a cartoon to this affect: Picture a guy walking toward another person coming his way. In his mind the first guy is thinking – "Uh oh, here comes Joe – I told Joe I'd be praying for him. 'Lord, take care of Joe.' As they pass the fella yells out, 'Hey, Joe, I've been praying for you.'"

Prayer is a powerful thing. Prayer is a personal thing. How we do it, what we believe about it, what we say and how we say it, and when, well, all of those things are pretty much up to us to decide. On the one hand that's a good thing, because it means we can't get it wrong. On the other hand, such a no fail policy of praying

worries us, and starts up all of that earlier questioning we already talked about.

According to Gallup research, more than 80% of Americans say they pray regularly. Prayer unites us (and if we are honest, divides us) as a nation. During times of natural disasters or national tragedy it is not unusual to see Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and others join hands in prayer. It is the one act of faith that distinguishes America from almost every other country in the world.

In the next couple of weeks (be watching for an announcement as to the specific date) our Adult Sunday School Class will begin a several part video series on **Prayer in America**. We will be talking about what prayer is and why Americans pray. We will be looking at the influence of prayer on American history; the impact of prayer on social and political movements; the role of prayer in forgiveness and redemption; how public prayer unites us in times of crisis; the controversy over public prayer and prayer in schools, and much more.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to talk about prayer, to see its impact and influence on our daily lives, on the life of our nation, and perhaps, give us the opportunity to not only pray for our nation and world, but to understand what a difference such prayers could make if practiced with greater frequency, faith and fervor.

In the words of the Jewish prayer, "Cause us to lie down in peace, O Lord our God, and to rise up again to life."

Please join us in our study of **Prayer in America**.

God Bless! Larry



The Community in Prayer

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Church Family: Margaret Waynick who is in LKMC as of 9/30, our Session, the Harris/Hubbell family in the healing of Avery's foot surgeries, Marilyn Vander Veen in the loss of her friend, Mabel Paul, Nicole Armstrong's son, Samuel (resolutions for health concerns), Virginia Cunningham (recovery from procedures), Bill and Laurita Miller and family in the care of Helen (Laurita's mother), Marie Lones, and Al Waynick.

Our Missionaries:

Rev. Dan and Elizabeth Turk

Rev. James and Jodi McGill

Our Extended Church Family:

Greg Jones' father, Bill (broken hip) and Greg and Diana's granddaughter, Jessica (diagnosed with a Hodgkin's-like disorder), Steven Riley, nephew of Jake and Elli (extensive cancer treatments), Bill Bradbury's Sister, Carol (ALS complications), Jessica Smith, cousin of Susan Shetzer (cancer treatment), Auwina Weed (Parkinson's disease), Jerry Critz and family (cancer), Patricia Smith (continued injury recovery), mother of Jeff and Marika Smith, John and Gwen Haspels in their on-going healing from their attack in Ethiopia. Also, we pray for the churches and leaders of our presbytery, synod, and our denomination.

Global Concerns: Pray for the military and civilian personnel in harm's way; Our World Leaders, the victims of natural and man-made disasters here and in other countries, those people affected by financial crises and the crisis in the Middle East.

Local Concerns: Our School Children, Teachers and Administrators. Our homeless people, the military personnel and their families; those who are losing their jobs; those who are seeking employment; our city and county officials and citizens in the midst of change and challenge.

Prayer List

In an effort to keep our prayer list as up-to-date as possible, please let us know when to add new names and concerns; and when it is appropriate to remove someone's name or a concern.

Sharing Your News

Meetings, services, events, announcements, even a job opportunity ~ do you have something you would like included in the monthly newsletter or Church bulletin? Please contact the Church office at (305) 294-1223 or e-mail pepckw@bellsouth.net. **Please let us know about the meaningful occasions and needs in your life so that we may share the news with your church family.**



Happy Birthday to those born in October

Please wish these fine people a Happy Birthday when you come in contact with them:

- 1 Kimberly Flight
- 3 Holly Zemlicka
- 4 Kelsey Lutz
- 4 Andy Smith
- 5 Diana Jones
- 5 Elli Riley
- 9 Lily Stockton
- 11 Diane Paglia
- 12 Alex Smith
- 14 Vinda Flight
- 14 Sam Geary
- 23 Suzanne (Sue) Walters
- 25 Taylor Gibson

If we're missing your birthday, please include it on the friendship register or contact the office.

Birthdays and Anniversaries are celebrated on the first Sunday of the month with punch (and with cake when available)



If you have not already bookmarked a charity through the Amazon Smile program, will you please choose Peace Covenant? Go to this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1627710> and bookmark it so that all your eligible shopping can benefit the Church. Thank you!



Dates you may need to know...

Friday, Oct 2

7:00pm Fellowship Hall reserved

Saturday, Oct 3

5:00pm Rainbow Tea @ Cornish AME Church

Sunday, Oct 4 COMMUNION SUNDAY

8:30am-12:30pm **BLOOD DRIVE** (final for PCPC in 2015)

10:00am Adult Sunday School; 11:00am Worship

12:00pm Member Appreciation Punch

Tuesday, Oct 6

5:30pm Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 7 *No Choir Rehearsal*

Friday, Oct 9

7:00pm Fellowship Hall reserved

Sunday, Oct 11

10:00am Adult Sunday School (TBD)

11:00am Worship

12:00 **MEMBER APPRECIATION POTLUCK** →

Monday, Oct 12 COLUMBUS DAY

5:00 Member Care Committee Meeting

5:30 Bell Choir Practice Begins

Tuesday, Oct 13

5:30pm Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 14

7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, Oct 16

7:00pm Fellowship Hall reserved

Sunday, Oct 18

10:00am Adult Sunday School; 11:00am Worship

Monday, Oct 19

5:30 Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, Oct 21

7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, Oct 23

7:00pm Fellowship Hall reserved

Sunday, Oct 25

10:00am Adult Sunday School; 11:00am Worship

2¢ a Meal and Food Collections

Monday, Oct 26

5:30 Bell Choir Practice

Tuesday, Oct 27

5:30pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 28

7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, Oct 30

5:45 Cornish AME Church's Halloween Conch Train

7:00pm Fellowship Hall reserved

Saturday, Oct 31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Financial Update

Copies of Financial Reports are available by calling our Church Office at 305.294.1233 or sending an email to pcpckw@bellsouth.net.

Monthly Budget Goal	\$ 15,835
Monthly Receipts (Sep)	\$ 12,757
Annual Budget	\$ 190,020
Year to Date Receipts	\$ 131,816



***Member Appreciation Potluck
Sunday October 11th, After Worship***

Member Care is hosting an Italian-themed potluck luncheon in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month, member appreciation and to celebrate the birth of Anna Grace, daughter of Matt and Ashley Monnier. Please bring a dish to share (Italian or your specialty). There will be a table decorated and ready to receive baby gifts so please bring one if you're able. Need a suggestion? Diapers and gift cards are always a pragmatic way to go!

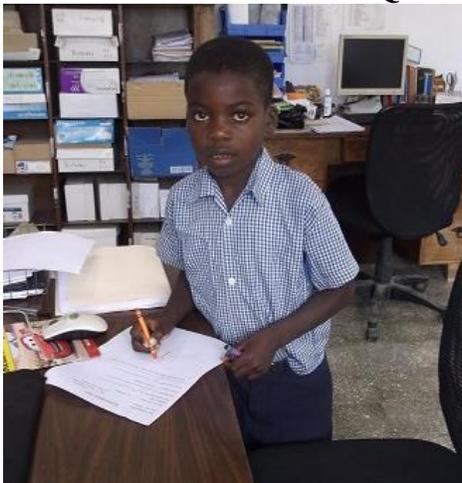


Here's a snapshot of Member Care's last event - a Pizza & Pool Party at the lovely home of Jake and Elli Riley. Highlights were all the pups (see Teddy the pug swimming like a pro) and retired USN Officer Randy McDonald and his accurate aim with the water blaster.

It's What We Do.....

Here at Peace Covenant, we offer our praise and thanks to God, we have fun in fellowship with one another as is evident in the upcoming and past events we just read about, and we work. We work in our occupations, we work to upkeep the building and grounds of our beautiful place, we work to create bonds in this great community and we work to help make this wonderful world an even better place. The remainder of this month's newsletter is dedicated to how we are helping both far and near and what more we can do. Elder Dr. Ann Reynolds has held and holds some of the most impressive positions anyone can attain in life. It's no wonder she's also a published author of multiple books as her talent for writing is both powerful and informative. **Please use 5 minutes of this day to read her Key West Citizen editorial on hunger.** May all of us who are able act upon her encouragement to become a volunteer in addition to our giving. This seems like a good time to say, "Thank you" to all who dutifully donate and deliver food from PCPC each month to Loaves and Fish and who give to 2¢ a Meal.

Who made Honor Roll this Quarter?



Maneau Louis, that's who.

This handsome fellow is one of the children in Haiti we support partly through Kids Coins with the guidance of our Missions Committee. Just like in the inspirational song and video by Nico & Vinz "Am I Wrong" these children aspire to reach for things otherwise unseen. With their drive and our help, dreams can become reality. Please be on the lookout for Kids Coins buckets this November. Please also remember that Mission's Peace & Global Witness Offering is upon us right now.



"Backpacks for Kids" Mission 2015

Thank you again to the Missions Committee and to everyone who donated over \$950 in funds and supplies to the Gerald Adams and Horace O'Bryant schools helping children fulfill their basic needs for education. Molly and Brody Catena were a huge help in delivering some of the goods to Gerald Adams School along with their child-loving grandmother, teacher emeritus Beverly Morris. And, below is a very genuine thank you letter from Elli Riley on behalf of Horace O'Bryant School. (full-size version available for anyone who wishes to have it)

HORACE O'BRYANT MIDDLE SCHOOL

1105 Leon Street
Key West, Florida 33040
Phone: 305-296-5628 / Fax: 305-293-1644

Principal
Mike Henriquez

Assistant Principals
Denise Santiago
Steve Vinson

September 17, 2015

To representatives of Peace Covenant Presbyterian Church,
and of Presbytery of Tropical Florida:

On behalf of Horace O'Bryant School, please accept our appreciation for the donation of back packs, children's books, and school supplies. Thank you, especially, for the financial contributions.

Many of our families face challenges that impact their ability to prepare their children for school, but we maintain the goal that each student can start each day, each year, on the right foot.

It is a great feeling to know that our community stands with us and supports education.

Sincerely,

Ellen Riley
HOB School Library Media Specialist

and Felicia Booth
Guidance Counselor

Help Feed Those in Need

Day by day, we are kept abreast of the famine in South Sudan where an enduring civil war along with drought have eroded the food supply. The conflict initiated by Yemen's Houthi rebels followed by Saudi Arabia bombing has caused a situation in which likely half of Yemen's population of 24 million is in urgent need of food.

President Obama is focused on the Sudanese crisis as he visits adjacent Kenya and Ethiopia. The World Food Program of the United Nations has sent in ships filled with food to Yemen which are now getting through.

Less dramatic and not on the world's stage is continuing hunger and limited food availability in our very own Key West and Monroe County. We are truly a city of contrasts; our housing market is hot with the average home price in Old Town now above a million dollars. We have numerous superb restaurants with outstanding wine lists and esteemed chefs to care for our tourists. Our tourist area is thriving with many fine art galleries, boutiques and souvenir shops. One can buy a half dozen varieties of Key lime pie in a four block radius.

And yet we have a lot of people in Key West who are marginal with respect to being able to purchase enough food for their families on a daily basis. Thankfully, we have the Star of the Sea Outreach mission with its modest building on Maloney Ave. on Stock Island, Loaves and Fish on Patterson Ave and St. Mary's soup kitchen on Flagler. These ventures depend heavily on volunteers, a few dedicated staff members and donated food to feed our neediest individuals.

Star of the Sea (SOS) disseminates well over a million pounds of food a year. This summer, it was supplying 34 feeding sites in Key West and on up the Keys. It manages a pet food pantry as well and cycles donated furniture and clothing at its Stock Island site, set up as an efficient grocery store so that clients can walk through and choose what they need.

Director Tom Callahan calculates they are caring for about 4,000 families per year that are food dependent. Key West has around 25,000 inhabitants; thus approximately 16 percent of our residents have trouble affording enough food for themselves. It should be noted that 46 percent of the students in our public schools qualify for the free lunch program, which means their family income is at an insufficient level to

provide both adequate food and shelter. Since these students could be food challenged in the summer months, Star of the Sea operates a summer feeding program at numerous sites, including Key Largo.

The USDA reimburses food costs for this program; it is serving 1,000 meals to children under 18 in Key West each week. Trucks roll in constantly with donated food from Publix and Winn-Dixie grocery stores; rice and beans in bulk are trucked in from the mainland. There is an emphasis on providing fresh fruits and vegetables and healthy eating for their clients.

The Florida Keys Outreach Coalition maintains the Loaves and Fish Food Pantry on Patterson Ave. where food-needy people can pick up prepared bags of non-perishable foodstuffs. Loaves and Fish is supported by St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Episcopal Charities of South Florida. Fausto's, the Coast Guard and an annual drive by letter carriers are pivotal in their donations to this fine cause. The USDA provides many of the basic foodstuffs for this effort as well. Their director, Stephanie Kaple, reports they are feeding over 60 families per week, more at the end of the month and that the needs are increasing each year, especially for elderly and disabled clients, families doubled up and often people undergoing cancer treatment who can no longer work.

It is ironic that the medical establishment unhesitatingly points out that the major health challenge in the United States is obesity. Recent data are slightly encouraging, suggesting that the steady increases in the number of overweight individuals has leveled off slightly for children and in some adult categories. Even so, over one-third of American adults are obese and over 20 percent of our children are. At the same time, so many of our children are food needy. As we are only too aware, we have truly become a nation of "haves" and "have-nots" and this certainly extends to nutrition.

People in Key West generously support the visual and performing arts, scholarship programs and many other worthwhile charities. But there can be no need more fundamental than that for food and especially that of feeding children. Star of the Sea Outreach Mission, Loaves and Fish and St. Mary's Soup Kitchen should be at the very top of any donor's and volunteer's list in our hometown. They provide life-sustaining sustenance with minimal overhead costs as well as dispensing food thoughtfully and with dignity to those who need their help. (written by Ann Reynolds)

Hoping to garner a smile

(and a few recruits)...

Handbell Choir for snakes – bad idea;

Handbell Choir for you – good idea.



Won't you please join us on Monday, October 12th at 5:30pm for Bell Choir practice?