

Map uest

*Finding the Way of Christ
in a Confusing World*

August 2011

Finding the Way of Christ . . .

When Jesus began his ministry up near the Sea of Galilee one of the first words out of his mouth were, "Follow me." There is not a lot explanation that precedes that invitation. In fact, there is none at all. Jesus simply says, "Follow me." Those two words say a lot about Jesus' mission in the world.

First, they tell us that learning the way of Jesus doesn't happen when we stay put. Jesus does not come to a classroom to teach us. Jesus says, "Follow me and I will show you the places and the people and the mission that are important to God." This is no class on theory. This class is a "hands on" experience. It's the difference between reading a travel book and actually boarding a plane. One pales in light of the other.

The second thing those words tell us about Jesus' mission is that the way of Jesus is the way of relationship. He asks us to follow because he wants to spend time with us. He wants to know us and he wants us to know him. And the only way to have a relationship is through time spent with each other. God knows no other way to save us than through a relationship.

The third thing those words tell us about Jesus' mission is that the choice is today. Jesus doesn't give those Galilean fishermen much time to think about it. He's not interested in them considering it for a few weeks and then getting back to him. Jesus is on the move. We can follow or stay behind.

So this fall we are going to spend the first couple months on Sunday morning reflecting on what it means to follow Jesus. We're calling it: MAPQUEST: Finding the Way of Christ in a Confusing World. It's an exciting and scary invitation we receive from our Lord, but the payoff is amazing when we see "hands on" what matters to God and how much he wants to be in relationship with us. The only thing we have to do ... is follow.

See you "on the road".



Steve McConnell

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank

The Suncoast Communities Blood Bank will be at Church of the Palms on Sunday, August 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They will have two vans - one for whole blood and the other to collect platelets. With many regular donors gone for the summer the need is greater this time of year. Walk-ins are welcome or you can contact Don Schalekamp, 923-4803 or email djcampblooms@msn.com if you wish to set up an appointment. Thanks for your support of this vital Deacon ministry.



Suncoast
Communities
Blood Bank
1-866-97(BLOOD) • www.scbb.org

Worship in August

August 7

9:00 & 10:30 a.m. - The Garden Worship
Celebration of the Eucharist
Pastor Ben Keller preaching

9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Pastor Steve McConnell preaching

August 14

9:00 & 10:30 a.m. - The Garden Worship
Pastor Bruce Hedgepeth preaching

9:15 & 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship
Pastor Steve McConnell preaching

August 21

9:00 & 10:30 a.m. - The Garden Worship
Pastor Bruce Hedgepeth preaching

9:15 & 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship
Pastor Steve McConnell preaching

August 28

9:00 & 10:30 a.m. - The Garden Worship
Pastor Bruce Hedgepeth preaching

9:15 & 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship
Pastor Steve McConnell preaching

Traditional Worship is held in the Sanctuary. Garden Worship is held in the Campus Center. Live broadcast of 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary worship service on Comcast Cable Channel 189. Live video stream of 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary worship on our website, www.churchofthepalms.org.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Would you like to learn more about becoming a member of Church of the Palms? Please join our next New Member class on Saturday, August 20 from 9:00 a.m. - noon in the Music Room. This orientation, led by Steve McConnell, will provide you with information about the vision and life at Church of the Palms, as well as some time to share in small group discussions. Please contact Laurie Haas, 924-1323, lhaas@churchofthepalms.org, by August 14 if you plan to attend, so that we will have adequate refreshments, packets of information and childcare if needed.

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This newsletter is available online. Email csilbaugh@churchofthepalms.org if you prefer to receive a digital copy.

What are we to KNOW, FEEL and DO as Disciples of Christ?

This 12 week series will explore core beliefs and practices of Christian living. Borrowing upon ancient teaching and contemporary prophets and authors, we will be asking together the important life questions -

"What is true and what shall we do about it?"

Wednesday evenings at 6:12 p.m.

in the Sanctuary beginning August 31.

Come and get challenged!

THE HEAD THE HEART & THE HANDS of christian living

Map Quest

*Finding the Way of Christ
in a Confusing World*

FALL SERMON SERIES

Over and over again, Jesus presents himself as "The Way". What does he mean and how do we follow in the 21st Century?

Join Pastor Steve in the Sanctuary each Sunday at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. and Pastor Bruce in "The Garden" at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. beginning August 28.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us at our new



WHEN: August 31

WHERE: Campus Center

TIME: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Come and enjoy our new array of dinner choices to suit any palette of any age! RSVP's are appreciated but are not required.

Walk-ins are gladly accepted. We look forward to seeing you!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNER

FALL KICK-OFF for CHILDREN- Growing & going towards the light!

As our children grow up, they have more choices and more roads to explore. Our goal is to help to help them grow and go towards the light. Just like a seed sprouts and stretches for the sun, we want to help our kids grow and reach for the Son...to grow and glow with the light of Christ!

Join us for an exciting **SUNDAY on August 28**

- Pre-K and Kindergartners will begin with Music in the Chapel at 9:00 a.m.
- 1st-5th Grade begin in worship with their parents
- After the Children's Moment, the kids will have a kick-off celebration in the Education Building
- Kids in 1st-5th grade will go to the Chapel for music at 10:15 a.m. Please pick them up in the Chapel at 10:45 a.m.
- We would like all parents to come over to register your child and to meet their small group leaders right after worship in their classroom (even if your child is in the Chapel singing.)

Room Assignments:

Pre-K –Room 105

Kindergarten-Room 114

4th & 5th Grade-Room 207

1st & 2nd Grade-Room 202

3rd Grade-Room 205

COME GROW AND GLOW WITH US!

GOD'S KIDS CHOIR

God's Kids is a choir for Pre-K and Kindergarten children. All children registered in these classes will attend as part of the Sunday school curriculum and are welcome and encouraged to be a part of God's Kids Choir. Choir rehearsals begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel each Sunday and at 9:25 a.m. the children will be taken to their Sunday school classroom. This choir is an excellent medium for children to learn about God and Jesus through music which will stay with them as they grow.

CD's of the music for the season will be available once a child is registered for choir. The CD is a valuable learning tool, and the kids love to listen to the music. God's Kids share their music with the congregation once a month. Rehearsals begin August 28, 2011.

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM

This choir is for children in first through fifth grades and is a part of their Sunday school education. The music they learn will be shared with the congregation on a monthly basis. This group meets in the Chapel from 10:15 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. each Sunday. Learning the teachings of Christ through music will provide lasting memories. A CD is provided with all the songs for the coming season and is a valuable learning tool. Rehearsals begin August 28, 2011.

For further information on the Children's Music Ministry, please contact Miss Judy, jlutes@churchofthepalms.org or by phone.



4TH AND 5TH GRADE GIRLS MAKE SCRUMPTUOUS LEMONADE



The 4th and 5th grade girls gathered on July 12 for their first book club meeting of the summer to discuss The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies. We had a lemonade-making contest, squeezing the lemons by hand, and a blind taste test by the "judges". Everyone got sticky and had great fun concocting secret homemade recipes. The girls had a lively discussion about how to and not to get along with siblings, God's plan for our relationships, and the importance of making peace. The girls are donating dog and cat food to the Humane Society this month as their service project. On August 16, we will discuss The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes. This small group (minus the books) will continue during the school year. If your daughter would like to know more, or to sign up, contact Moira Dunn, 924-1323.

STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS

STUDENT MINISTRY FALL KICKOFF

Take a peek at the upcoming year in student ministry on Sunday, August 28 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Parents and students come up to Room 208/210 for food, entertainment, fellowship, and to get plugged into this year's ministries. We will be presenting the small group ministries for both middle and high school and introducing the 2012 summer trips. We will have a notary present to facilitate paperwork. Don't miss it! Contact Derek Thompson for more information, 924-1323.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL BE-COOL PARTIES

Keep the summer fun going with a middle school pool party at the home of the Dimick family on August 9 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. High schoolers will gather for a tubing party at the home of the Jeffrey family on August 19 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Contact Derek Thompson or Moira Dunn to RSVP and for directions 924-1323.



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP MAKES AN IMPACT IN DENVER

The high school mission team returned from their trip to Denver and our students have amazing stories to share about the people they touched and how they were changed themselves. One of the places they worked was a drop-in center for the homeless. Making friends and playing games with people helped to put a face on what it is to be homeless. The team filled bags at a food pantry and got to give some specialized attention to families there. Playing games all day with children at a low-income day care facility brought smiles to everyone's faces. This trip gave the team some insights into the needs that God calls us to fill in His world.



Rehearsals for a Service of Remembrance

On Sunday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m. we will have a "Service of Remembrance" to honor those that gave their lives a decade ago. Dr. McConnell will lead the worship and John Ferreira will lead the Handbell Choir, Creative Signers and Chancel Choir.

The Jubilee Handbell Ringers will be doing a piece with a powerpoint visual display that was especially written to depict the events of that day. The Signers will sign the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 "I Will Heal Their Land" and Chancel Choir will be singing "In Memorial", another piece written for this occasion that incorporates "Dona, Nobis Pacem".

We are inviting any Church of the Palms members to be a part of this special choir for this worship of remembrance. We will have three special rehearsals: Thursday, August 25, Sept 1 and 8 at 7:15 p.m. in the choir room. Anyone that can make at least two of the three rehearsals will be welcome to participate. Please call John Ferreira, 924-1323 if you are interested in lending your voice in song on the tenth anniversary of 9/11.



FIFTH ANNUAL SAMARITAN COUNSELING GOLF TOURNAMENT AND CHURCH CHALLENGE

Please save Saturday, October 15, 2011 for our annual golf tournament. The event is held at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club and promises to be a rewarding day of fellowship and sporting fun. If you would like to learn more and register for this event please visit our website at Samaritangulfcoast.com/events.html. If you are not a golfer and want to contribute to this worthy organization, sponsorship opportunities also abound for you or your business. For additional questions please contact Donna Dudash at Dudaek@verizon.net. Samaritan Counseling Services of the Gulf Coast is an accredited ministry providing a haven to those in our midst suffering from depression, grief, and anxiety. Church of the Palms began this important ministry which now partners with a multitude of churches in this area.



Bee Attitudes

All women of the Church are invited to join us on Friday, August 19 at 11:30 a.m., in the Campus Center. Barbara Zeller will present a Bible study review on the Beatitudes. We will enjoy a picnic lunch at noon, cost \$10.00. Reservations will be taken on Sunday, August 7 and 14 between services or call Alberta Adams, 924-8464. If you don't want lunch, please arrive by 1:00 p.m. Study books will be available for \$8.00 under the Tree on August 14.

TIME TITHERS ON THE RIGHT ROAD

Time Tithers are persons who have made a private and personal covenant with God, promising Him that they will, on average, devote at least one-tenth of their discretionary time to studying his Word and doing his work. They strive to use their God-given gifts in service to others. Some of the projects they do to help and serve others in our community include installing grab bars (#1 job request), basic plumbing, Comcast box installation and minor home repairs. These acts of service are always given with a smile and a cheerful heart. If you know of anyone, who needs a helping hand or if you are interested in learning more about becoming a Time Tither, please contact the Time Tither's cell phone at 941-927-8585 or email timetithers@aol.com.

Job Resources... a ministry to help job seekers

Seeking employment alone is intimidating, lonely, exhausting and often depressing. Knowing this, the Job Resources ministry provides practical, emotional and spiritual assistance as we "walk along side" the job seeker on their journey to gainful employment. In addition to Church resources, the ministry has access to community agencies and services such as Goodwill, CareerEdge and the Suncoast Workforce Board that provide employment assistance and other life services. Job Resources is available to our Food Pantry patrons, our Church congregation and their friends and family. Each job seeker will be assigned a trained Guide/Coach who will be an encourager, listener, empathetic friend and resource guide. To learn more, call the Church Office, 924-1323 or office@churchofthepalms.org.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

We are seeking a part-time (20 hours/week) staff person in the front office who will be responsible for recruitment, training & scheduling of front office & bulk mailing volunteers as well as some administrative work utilizing MS Excel, Word & Publisher, etc. This position may expand over time to include additional volunteer coordination so if you have a heart for connecting people with opportunities to serve the Lord and are interested in joining the church staff, please contact Carolyn Wilson at 924-1323 or cwilson@churchofthepalms.org.

Thank You

On our journeys unexpected situations, challenges and decisions present themselves as God's way of teaching us how to follow his plan for us. It's difficult to understand sometimes but I'm convinced that he wouldn't direct us to something that isn't in our best interests. That being said I had a difficult decision to make recently and the only way I could make that decision was to close my eyes and surrender my heart to whatever God had in mind for me. As a result I made the decision to resign from the church, join my husband, as his parents retire, and take over the family Air Conditioning business. My original plan was to retire from the church at age 65 and after twelve years of being here I felt blessed to have such a solid plan. I'm also convinced that God has a great sense of humor! Just when you think you have it all figured out . . .

I want to take this time to thank the pastors, staff, volunteers and especially the congregation for the great honor of serving in this beautiful place. It has truly been a pleasure to come to church each day and be greeted by smiling happy faces. I am grateful that I was trusted with the day to day challenges of the Communications Ministry and for all the growth opportunities, not only in my field but more importantly in my faith. I will miss my morning drive by Marina Jack, the squirrels that run to me when I arrive on campus and each of the "Work Warriors" (custodians) that have been so helpful through the years.

Thank you and bless you all.
Cathie Silbaugh,
Director of Communications



ReHabitat Update

The Franklin and Zayas families have moved into the homes that our volunteers and others completed in early July. Dates for the dedication of these homes are not yet set and may be scheduled on the same day. Watch this space for news. Those of us still working this summer will be at two homes in Jordan's Crossing. Four homes have come back to Habitat for Humanity and will be repaired, re-painted, and updated with new fixtures for new families. Only three of the 79 homes built in Jordan's Crossing resulted in foreclosure - an excellent record compared to Florida and the nation. Our next project will be in September/October on a new home west of Tamiami Trail. Church of the Palms has committed one-half of the funds needed by Habitat for Humanity to construct the home.



Connecting our Families with a new Family Album

We are creating a new directory!
Volunteers are needed for appointment sign-ups on Sundays between services and also to greet our families during photography. Would you be willing to learn more about this exciting project? Join us on Tuesday, August 16 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel Reception Room. Contact Alberta Adams for more information, 924-8464.

Family Ministry Update

We have had a wonderful team of dedicated people leading the search for a new Family Ministry Director. They have been working hard behind the scenes since early May. In this time, they have reviewed 100 plus resumes, conducted a number of Skype interviews, checked references on several promising candidates and have also had face-to-face interviews. Please keep this team in your prayers and feel free to contact one of the members if you have questions: Allison Dietz-Ross, Jennifer Edwards, Paul Gardner, Gerry Hailey, Bruce Hedgepeth, Ann Jones, Bill Mallett, Anne McFall, Laura Rees and Nancy Vafeas.

Church of the Palms

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White-water rafting on the Denver Mission Trip. Kelsey Williamson, Alisia Thompson, Derek Thompson, Mackenzie Whalen, Kelsey Whalen, Sarah Lumley