



The Grapevine



When the Church found its Voice

Reverend Edward Dunn

Fear and confusion and disbelief is a common thread in the weeks immediately following Jesus' resurrection. The disciples, as a group and in certain stories individually named disciples, cannot comprehend what they have witnessed. Thomas exclaims that he will not believe until he sees. Cleopas doesn't recognize Jesus until late in the evening when he is at a meal with him. Fear of the outside – the Jewish temple leaders and the Roman authorities – kept them behind locked doors and in silence.

Fifty days after Jesus' first resurrection appearance, the Church found it's voice – on

the day we call Pentecost. I'll save the telling of the story for May 23rd but suffice it to say, the fear and silence of the previous 50 days would come to an end in a very dramatic fashion.

Fear, confusion, and among some a disbelief has been a common thread in our lives for more than a year as the COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout the world. We've watched stories of families devastated by the effects of this virus. We know as a faith community how it has impacted some of our own church family. One of the virus's effects on us has been silence.

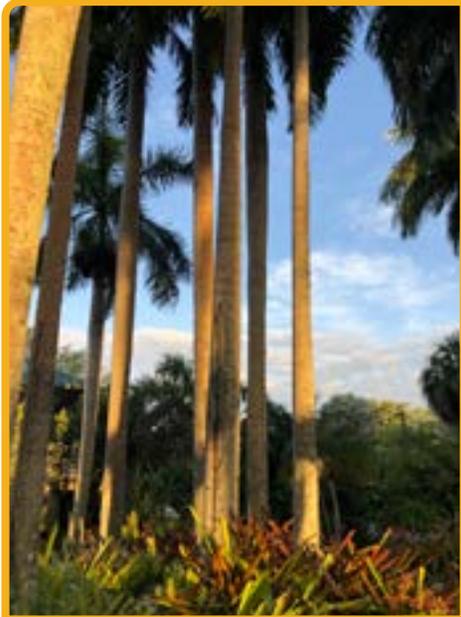
For more than a year we've been unable to use

our voices in church; the thing I've missed most about our life together. We learned that the likelihood of spreading the virus was increased as we talked to one another so we adopted a practice of wearing masks. We know that singing increases the projection of aerosols to distances far greater than I had realized, so we banned congregational singing.

At Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit – the giving of a new voice to the followers of Jesus. So too, on this Pentecost, it is my hope that we will find our voice in worship. I plan to begin with simple, short responses in our order of worship, the inclusion of the Lord's Prayer, and over time to work toward adding more and more voices to our worship.

What a joyful day and time to celebrate finding our voice once again

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE PHOTOS



Palma Sola Session Highlights

- Enthusiastically approved a church-wide picnic to be held after worship on Sunday, June 6th, with hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks to be supplied by the church. More info to follow.
- Approved a plan to provide more assistance to the Audio-Visual Team on Sunday mornings in managing the visuals in the Sanctuary, and in handling the sound and visual recording of the live-streamed service.
- Discussed ideas for hurricane preparedness and determining member plans for dealing with a severe storm. The church wants to be ready and available to provide appropriate assistance to members and neighbors in the event of a bad storm.
- Our Survey Monkey will be used to distribute a questionnaire regarding how members of both congregations are seeing the worship service and receiving information about programs and activities. We hope that recipients will 'feed the monkey' by responding with information about how they receive church communications.
- Approved going forward with converting to the up-dated ACS-Realm People and Financial Programs, to take advantage of new features for managing and storing member and financial records in the cloud.
- Approved a contract to replace the church's 23 year-old roofing ahead of the storm season, with the funds to come from reserves established from the previous sale of the property across Third Avenue.

3 Cents A Meal

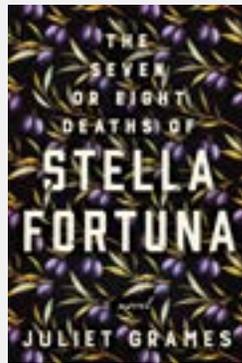
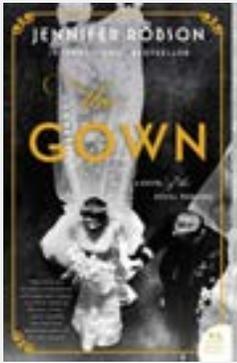
Donations will be collected on Sunday, May 30th. The suggested donation is \$10.80 per person --3 cents for each meal since January 31st, the previous 5-Sunday month. Checks or cash are accepted. The donations go to Beth-El, Mision Peniel or Our Daily Bread after each collection.

Thank you for your generosity,

WPC Missions

Palma Sola Book Club

LOVE A GOOD BOOK? LOVE TO TALK ABOUT GOOD BOOKS?



MAY 10 | 12 - 1PM JUN 14 | 12 - 1PM

Book Club meets on second Monday to laugh, share, and learn. Open to both congregations and their guests. Drop in for a session!

[View Current 2021 book list here](#)

INTERESTED?

Contact Vicki Schooley:
(941)792-5672 | VLSchooley@gmail.com

Men's Group



Join us first and third Wednesdays, 8-9 am, under the oak tree at the southeast corner of the Sanctuary. Bring your lawn chair, coffee, breakfast and a mask!

'1 Corinthians' by Navigator

Genuine spiritual maturity is found not through status and recognition but through faith, hope, and love.

Week 6 – May 6 | Apostles of Christ

Week 7 – May 20 | Dealing with Immorality

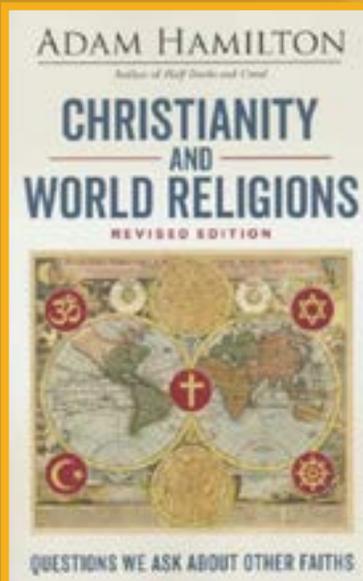
Week 8 – June 3 | More Moral Laxity

Week 9 – June 17 | Marriage

Call Ron Dickerson for more information at (941) 792-9104. In case of rain, backup location is Fellowship Hall.

Christianity & World Religions

Led by Betty Bashaw and Marilyn Gillett



Part of loving our neighbor is better understanding them. In this class, we seek to better understand our neighbors with the faiths of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, and compare those beliefs with what we believe as Christians.

2:00 – 3:00 PM on Wednesdays
April 21st thru May 26th

Resources used are the Bible and the new, fully updated Revised Edition of 'Christianity and World Religions' by Adam Hamilton. You may order your own [copy](#) of Hamilton's book online. For more information call Betty Bashaw at (863) 491-2156.

Outreach Update

May brings warm days and sunny skies. Time to get out and serve the Lord. May it be individually with your loved ones, community organizations and neighbors or in a group. It is a time for protected fellowship and family reunions. I am happy that most of us have been vaccinated and people are beginning to get together. We have a few opportunities coming up that may interest you.

What we did in April:

- We collected \$1573 for **Our Daily Bread** first quarter and \$376.50 for **FELT**. Thank you.
- We provided a pizza lunch for our first responders in the **NW Bradenton fire stations and administrative office**.
- We collected disposable diapers for the families of the **Food Pantry of Our Daily Bread**.
- **The Creative Arts Academy** students performed for us on Saturday April 24th. Folks enjoyed a cookout, provided by the academy. A lovely evening was had by all.
- **The second graders of Palma Sola Elementary** wrote their final letters to us. We are writing our last letter and will send them off with a small gift soon. Our very best to them and their teachers in this challenging school year.

Opportunities for May:

- **Outreach Offering for May** goes to **Meals On Wheels**.
- **D.O.E.S. IT** for May is collecting trial-sized toiletries for **Turning Points**. See the item in this newsletter for more information.
- **“3 Cents A Meal Program”**- Donations of 3 cents per meal since January will come to \$10.80, to be collected the last Sunday in May, May 30th. See the April newsletter for more about this program, a Westminster tradition.

More Opportunities to Volunteer on Your Own:

- **Dive Into Reading** - a summer program started by John and Amanda Horne, owners of Anna Maria Oyster Bar and partners with Manatee Public Schools and other sponsors. See the article featured in this newsletter.
- **Project Light** - is a non-profit organization that teaches English skills to speakers of other languages that are important for integration within the community, career, and home. There are opportunities for teaching English, citizenship and basic computer skills. Classes run Monday through Thursday 9-11. Register to volunteer for the 2021-22 school year (I believe that they have a summer program as well). Go to their website www.projectlightofmanatee.org or call: 941-745-1659.
- **Suncoast Campaign for Grade Level Reading** - is gearing up for their summer opportunity called “This Book Is Cool!” for children. It is a communitywide effort to help children from birth through 3rd grade, especially those from asset-limited families, succeed in life by ensuring they read on grade level. Go to www.thepattersonfoundation.org to register to help with the summer program. Or go to www.gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net and click on volunteer.

Again, thank you for your donations and volunteer efforts.
The best gift is the one you give away. giving of yourself to help others.

DIVE INTO READING

Outreach Team would like to share a summer volunteer opportunity with you that many of our members have been involved with in the past called Dive Into Reading. [Dive Into Reading](#) is a summer reading and mentorship program that pairs adult mentors with rising 2nd and 3rd grade students from Manatee County Schools to help improve their reading levels by combating the “summer slide” that often happens during summer break in school.

Dive Into Reading was started in 2017 by John and Amanda Horne, owners of the Anna Maria Oyster Bar restaurant group. It began by inviting rising 3rd grade students who lived near their Ellenton restaurant, to have breakfast and practice reading at that location. The results that year showed that not only did the students beat the summer slide, but they had also increased their reading proficiency when they returned to school in the Fall.

Since then, Anna Maria Oyster Bar (AMOB) has partnered with the Manatee County School system and other sponsors to include almost 400 students each year at 6 different locations, and they have had amazing results. Even last year, when the program was done via Zoom, 75% of the students had no summer reading loss, which was especially amazing since they had not attended in-person learning for 5 months.

This year, Dive Into Reading is a 6 week program that runs Monday – Thursday from 9:30-11 am. The dates are June 7th thru July 1st and July 12th thru July 22nd. Past in-person locations have been AMOB restaurants in Ellenton, on Cortez Rd., and on US41 near SRQ airport, as well as at the South Florida Museum and Geckos on SR 70. There will also be two Zoom sessions per week from 6-7:30 pm for anyone who may not be interested in doing in-person meetings.

Volunteers are asked to commit to one day a week for the entire 6 weeks, but are welcome to do more than one day per week as well. When signing up, volunteers get to pick their day and location, but spots are available on a first come first served basis. If you must miss a week, it would not be a problem, but in general they like the volunteers to commit to the whole 6 weeks. There is no cost to the volunteers.

Students are rising 2nd and 3rd graders from all 15 of Manatee County’s Title I schools, which are schools that have a student population of 60% or more who get free or reduced-price lunch, generally signifying a need for additional services for their students including summer programs.

The students are bussed to the restaurant location, where volunteers are assigned the same student each week. The students and the mentors enjoy a free breakfast together, read a book together (which the students get to keep), go over key words and then the students get back on the bus and that’s it for the day.

Reading coaches from the schools train the volunteers and give helpful hints for working with each student. At the end of the 6 weeks, the students receive a backpack full of school supplies, an AMOB T-shirt good for a free meal a week for a year, and a gift certificate to the restaurant to share with their family.

The Dive Into Reading program is not only about reading, but also about giving the children practice with meeting and talking to adults, proper table manners, and exposure to new situations. It is a wonderful way to make a difference in a young person’s life and is very meaningful for the volunteer as well.

Program organizers are in the process of finalizing plans for this summer. The Outreach Team will update you when sign-ups are available, but in the meantime, contact Patty Dawson at **941-720-3121** or pjdawson3@hotmail.com if you are interested or have any questions.

Creative Arts Academy Fundraiser



Palma Sola DOES It!

The DOES It (Done On Every Sunday) project for May is collecting travel-sized hygiene items—shampoo/conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, sunblock, lotion, razors, and deodorant—to donate to the clients of Turning Points. These items will be assembled into ditty bags to share with the clients.

Drop your toiletries in the bins in the Narthex on Sundays, or bring them to the church office Tues. or Thurs. 10-1 through May 31st.

Turning Points provides a variety of free services designed to help individuals and families on their path to financial stability and independence, and volunteers are always needed.

May Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for May will go to Meals on Wheels, which provides nutritional assistance and caring, supportive services to homebound seniors in Manatee County.

Home delivered meals—chilled dinners, and frozen weekend and holiday meals—are delivered by volunteers to over 900 seniors per day. These meals serve those who are not able to leave their homes and purchase food, or have limitations that leave them unable to prepare meals. This crucial service allows seniors to continue living independently. Last year Meals on Wheels delivered over 300,000 meals to homebound or disabled seniors in Manatee County.

You may donate to Meals on Wheels:

- during the worship service, in your offering envelope,
- by mailing a check to the church office with “MOW” in the memo line, or
- through [online giving](#)

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

MAY 1	Lee Schouwl (WPC)	MAY 19	Phyllis Wachunis
MAY 4	Mary Ann Pickering (WPC)	MAY 22	Robert Anderson
	Robert & Nancy Ball	MAY 23	Ron Dennis
MAY 6	Gilbert & Anita Smith		Joan Dowling
	Ron Dickerson	MAY 24	David Saylor
MAY 7	Joyce James (WPC)	MAY 25	Ruth Voorhes (WPC)
MAY 8	Roger Tyrrell		Louise Rifenburgh
MAY 12	Don Azbell		Elenita & Marty Musgrove
	Charlie Hullfish	MAY 27	Donna Lesch
MAY 14	Diane Hayward	MAY 28	Jeanne Schrader
MAY 16	Aline Goodrich	MAY 30	Joyce Knouse
MAY 18	Doris McNeely		

Fellowship

Palma Sola & Westminster - Cookout | June 6th | After Worship

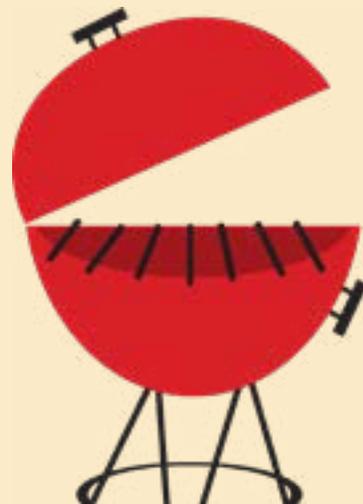
It's been a long time since our congregations have assembled for fellowship.

Let's EAT!!

We are having a June cookout, with PSPC providing hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet so we know who's coming, and what you'd like to eat.

Come share in some fellowship!

Tables and chairs will be set up outdoors, and our safety protocols will be followed.





PENTECOST SUNDAY IS MAY 24

Please wear red to celebrate this day.

The festival of Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks 50 days after Passover. In the Christian tradition, this event represents the birth of the early church.

Pentecost Sunday reminds us how Jesus' promise that God would send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled.

Remember Your Pledges

Members, please remember to make contributions to your church's general fund. You may contribute during worship in an offering envelope, or mail checks to your church office:
Palma Sola: 6510 67th Ave W, Bradenton FL 34209
Westminster: 3011 19th Ave W, Bradenton FL 34209
Palma Sola members may also contribute through [online giving](#)

Thank You West Manatee Fire Rescue!



Our long-standing campus partner, West Manatee Fire Rescue, leaves us June 1 after more than two years in residence on the second floor of the PSPC office building. We are grateful for their presence and contributions and we wish them well!

For the space that will be available soon, we are seeking folks with an interest in one, two or more rooms for office or studio space. If you know someone with an interest, please ask them to contact the church office (941) 792-3141. Utilities are included, and opportunities for walk-throughs may be scheduled.

April DOES It: Collection for MOJS



Palma Sola Presbyterian Church

-May Newsletter 2021-

6510 3rd Ave. W.
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-792-3141
pspchurch.org

Westminster Presbyterian Church

-May Newsletter 2021-

3011 19th Ave. W.
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-748-2848
wpcbradenton.com

may

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 <i>Worship Service - 10am</i> Fellowship on Zoom - 11:30a	3	4 Outreach Team 3pm	5 <i>Christianity & World Religion</i> 2pm	6  MEN'S GROUP 8am on Zoom Comms Team 1pm Renewal Team 6:30P	7	8
9 <i>Worship Service - 10am</i> Fellowship on Zoom - 11:30a <i>Mother's Day</i>	10  Palma Sola Book Club 12p	11 DEACONS MTC 6:30pm	12 <i>Christianity & World Religion</i> 2pm	13 Resources Team - 11:30a FINANCE TEAM 3:30P	14	15
16 <i>Worship Service - 10am</i> Fellowship on Zoom - 11:30a	17 WPC SESSION 1pm	18 PSPC SESSION 6:30pm	19 <i>Christianity & World Religion</i> 2pm	20  MEN'S GROUP 8am on Zoom	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22
23 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> <i>Worship Service - 10am</i> Fellowship on Zoom - 11:30a	24	25	26 <i>Christianity & World Religion</i> 2pm	27	28	29
30 <i>Worship Service - 10am</i> Fellowship on Zoom - 11:30a	31 MEMORIAL DAY	The Church Office is Open Monday - Thursday 10am-1pm To contact the church office, please email palmasolachurch@verizon.net or call 941-792-3141				

View the online church [Calendar](#) for latest information about Sunday worship services, Bible study, outreach and other events. Livestreamed and recorded worship services may be viewed at [Online Worship](#).