



# The Graperiue



## Growing in Faith

**Reverend Edward Dunn**

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) publishes its annual statistics of total membership, church sizes, and leadership. According to the reports for 2021 there were 8,813 congregations in our denomination and 65% had 100 members or fewer. The combined membership of Palma Sola and Westminster places us in the 150-300 member category which is 13.4% of our total denominational membership.

There are, according to this report, 1.193 million members of Presbyterian congregations. Despite our clamor about and repeated desire to “grow our congregation” we are not adding to our numbers as a denomination.

And finally, at least from a statistical point of view, the age demographics of our denomination reveal us to be an older population: 58% of our membership is ages 56 and older.

I share these things to inspire, not deflate us for I believe we have a real possibility for growth – not entirely numerical but through activism that promotes growth within

people and our congregation, which has the potential to lead to growth in numbers.

What if we leveraged our congregation's size, and the wisdom we possess, in an effort to become and be known as an Inviting Church? That is, a congregation where people of every age are not simply welcomed but find a home with us. We know how to be friendly and extend a warm greeting. What we need to work on is how to be inviting or more inviting.

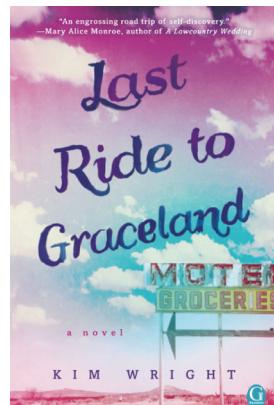
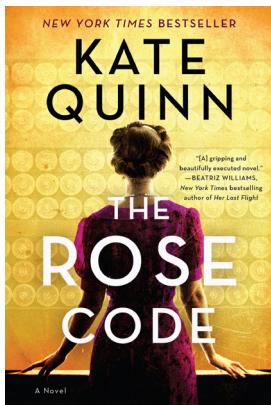
There will be two occasions for us to consider our growing in faith:

First, will you consider joining in the work of being an Inviting Church? If so, please attend an **introductory meeting on Sunday, September 11** at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall where we will form a team of folks for study, conversation, and planning, visioning and dreaming our work as an Inviting Church.

Second, we will be hosting a **Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 25** in which you will have an opportunity to discover or join in the many hands on activities of our church. Come Grow with Us is our theme for the Fall and during the Ministry Fair you can ring a handbell, or make a pb and j sandwich, or sign up to help with a specific event or to provide assistance to our teams in general.

Watch for more information about these events in our weekly Cluster emails.

## Palma Sola Book Club



**SEPT 12 | 12 - 1PM OCT 10 | 12 - 1PM**

Join in any second Monday at 12pm in the library or on Zoom for fun conversation.

### 2022-2023 READING LIST

For more information, call Vicki Schooley at (941) 518-2315.

## Men's Group



### **MEN'S GROUP**

You're invited to attend the Morning Men's Group. Get to know the men you see in church. Share your story. Enjoy fellowship.

**MEETINGS START AT 8:30A**

**SEPT 1** - Fellowship and breakfast|  
Poppi's Place restaurant

**SEPT 15** - Fellowship and Christian topic discussions | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunus  
[rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com)

# Palma Sola Session Highlights

- Approved the Report of the in-house Committee appointed to review the church's 2021 Financial Statements. The Report made several suggestions that will be incorporated into our financial procedures.
- Reviewed plans for a Ministry Fair to be held on September 25th in Fellowship Hall. This program replaces our traditional Rally Day event and will include worship and hands-on activity to inform and encourage member involvement.
- Directed the Renewal Team to determine how soon the congregation might reinstitute the "Passing of the Peace" during worship, and also return to serving Communion in the traditional manner.
- A supply of new Hymnals has been received and will be made available for use during worship for those preferring to have the music score available when singing. Words will always be projected on the screen.
- As part of our Older Adult Ministry efforts, plans for a small group presentation and discussion of Dementia on September 20th by Trilogy Home Health Care and the Alzheimer Association were approved.
- As part of our Mission work with Turning Points/Our Daily Bread, gas cards or bus passes were provided to eight employees who drive or take the bus to their work. This was a small, but important means of supporting those who serve our homeless population.
- Approved a Policy and procedures for collecting money for Special Events. Having a written Policy was recommended by the in-house Financial Statements Review Committee.
- The 2023 Financial Stewardship Committee held its first organizational meeting and has selected "Come Grow with Us" as the campaign theme.
- Agreed that Session will resume meeting in-person at the church beginning in September. Most Teams and committees are continuing to meet via Zoom, however.
- Approved temporary use of our parking lot by a Rooms-to-Go box truck during September 3-11 for a fee of \$800. The truck will store furniture and be insured by the owner.

# *September DOES It - PB&J Ministry*

Help SPREAD the love this fall! Our DOES It (Done On Every Sunday) project for September is collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly along with sandwich sized ziplock bags for our new Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Ministry. Each week we will be making 100 PB&J sandwiches to be given to clients of Our Daily Bread. As clients leave the dining room after lunch, they can take a to-go sandwich with them to eat later in the day. It is a perfect way to spread the love of Christ and help alleviate hunger in our local community. Please drop donated items in the bin in the Narthex or bring them to the church office through September 25th . Join us during the Ministry Fair on 9/25 to find out more about how you can be involved in this ministry!

## September Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for **September** will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church USA. PDA is on the ground when a disaster or crisis begins and remains active through the entire recovery process, accompanying their partners in the area to determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for rebuilding and resilience.

You may donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

- during the worship service, in your offering envelope,
- by mailing a check to the church office with “PDA” in the memo line, or
- Palma Sola members may also contribute through [online giving](#)

## Alzheimer's and Dementia Program

Make plans to attend our Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia program in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 20 th at 10 am.

Presented by the Alzheimer's Association, you will learn the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, the stages and risk factors, along with current research and treatments available for some symptoms. After the program, there will be local resources and information available to you through the Manatee County Dementia Care & Cure Initiative. The program is free and open to the public.

Please sign up on the table outside or call the church office to reserve your space.

# UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

An education program presented by the Alzheimer's Association



**Tuesday, September 20 | 10 a.m.**

**Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging.**

Learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, the stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available for some symptoms.



After the program, meet the local resources available to you through the Manatee County Dementia Care & Cure Initiative (DCCI) Task Force. Bring your questions and join us!

*For more information, please call Dina at 941.792.3141.*

Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall  
6510 3rd Ave. West, Bradenton, FL 34209



# *September Outreach Update*

I know several folks have been away, including myself, the last couple months, but that has not slowed our service to others. We as a church have donated money and food to the food bank, served at Our Daily Bread every Friday, contributed to Feeding Empty Little Tummies, filled the Blessing Box, and provided school supplies to Beth El and Palma Sola Elementary. Below is a recap of our summer outreach activities and ways to serve in September.

## Summer Recap of Outreach Activities

- **Food Bank Donations** - you have filled the barrel in the Narthex 3 times over. **\$485** has been collected through our outreach offering and donations at the ice cream social.
- **\$164.50** was collected in July for the **3 Cents a Meal Program**.
- An **Ice Cream Social** was held Sunday July 17th after church and enjoyed by all those who attended. **\$293** was donated for the **Food Bank**.
- Back packs were purchased by both congregations to add to the very generous donations of school supplies for **Beth El** during July.
- **D.O.E.S. IT** for August has been to collect school and clinic supplies for **Palma Sola Elementary School**.
- Elena Fargus, director of **Project Light**, an adult educational program for speakers of other languages, gave a very informative presentation to the congregation as a minute for mission on Sunday July 17th.
- A **Blessing Box** has been installed by the entrance to the parking lot. Donations of non-perishable food items are being graciously received for those in need in our community. This is an on-going service. Please bring an item to share. There have been some contributions from the community as well.
- Five people from our congregation participated in **The Dive Into Reading Program in June**. This is a program for rising 3rd graders in title one school sponsored by the Anna Maria Oyster House.
- **\$229** has been collected for **F.E.L.T.** second quarter.
- **Dryer Trust** distribution is **\$15,885** as of August 1.
- **The Anna Maria Island picnic** on August 3rd was rained out, but 24 people met in fellowship hall for a Hawaiian themed gathering with music, food and fellowship.
- Members served at **Our Daily Bread** each Friday.
- The Outreach team decided to purchase bus passes and gas cards from our budget for the community workers/volunteers at Our Daily Bread.

## Outreach Opportunities in September

- Outreach Offering will be for **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**.

# *September Outreach Update Cont.*

- **D.O.E.S.** It will be collecting peanut butter and jelly and zip lock sandwich bags to begin a **PB&J Ministry**. Members would make sandwiches for Our Daily Bread during fellowship time after church each week.
- A **Dementia/Alzheimer's Presentation** will be held **Tuesday, September 20th** from 10-12 in Fellowship Hall. The content will include an overview of the impact of Alzheimer's in the US and locally in Manatee County, the difference between Alzheimer's vs dementia, what is normal aging vs dementia, and how to communicate effectively with someone who has dementia. After the presentation there will be time for questions and for browsing community resources.
- On Thursday, September 22nd from 2-3PM. Joan Carlson will be leading "Chair Line Dancing" at Brookdale Retirement Center.
- A **Ministry Fair** will be held **Sunday, September 25th** during the worship hour (and perhaps a bit longer). The theme will be "Come Grow With Us". Pastor Dunn will have a short service planned around this theme, followed by a continental breakfast in fellowship hall with displays and demonstrations of the various ways the congregation can get involved in service and fellowship. A tour of the church building will also be available.
- Sometime this fall we hope to have an educational event that highlights the importance of rainforests, what's being done to save them in Costa Rica, and how folks can get involved. We also have a couple members that are also very knowledgeable about native plants and look forward to an event or tour of native plants in our area.
- As always, we have the opportunity to serve at **Our Daily Bread** on Fridays and contribute to **Feeding Empty Little Tummies**.

*Thank you for all you do!*

Let us know if there is an activity or service project that you would like to see done. If you would like to promote a social activity or share a talent, email me:

[donna.lesch@yahoo.com](mailto:donna.lesch@yahoo.com)

You can also speak to a member of the Outreach Committee:

**Elizabeth Brackmann | Joan Carlson**

**Patty Dawson | Myrna Felix**

**Andrea Harmon | Joyce James**

**Gregg Pead | Burt Tupper**

**Pastor Dunn**

# Westminster Session Highlights

- Approved the permanent employment of Dina Breneman as Administrative Assistant
- Heard a report of the Nominating Committee and decided to postpone the election of an elder to fill the remainder (4 months) of Ed Richter's term.
- Discussed further details of the Kirkin of the Tartans service on October 30
- Heard information about the fall start up, "Come Grow with Us" to be held on September 25

## *Who, Me? Yes, You!*

Once upon a time, two congregations stood together contemplating a merger of their respective visions and resources. "How will we do this and who will lead us ?" someone asked. From the back of the group a small voice replied, "We will do it together, as God's Spirit leads us. The Spirit has given us the variety of unique gifts that we need. We have but to combine our individual gifts, our voices and our resolve to do the work."

The congregations of Westminster and Palma Sola Churches are about to embark on work that neither congregation has ever attempted ... to determine if, when and how a merger of our two organizations might be undertaken. It will be an exciting work, and one in which each of us will have a role.

With this in mind, we must first ensure that the committees of our two organizations are fully staffed, since many merger questions that will likely arise will be discussed in these groups. If you have an interest in any of our current joint Teams/committees (Worship/Christian Ed/Music, Outreach, Fellowship, Finance), please volunteer and get on board. Your voice will be important in shaping the future outcome of any merger.

Likewise, the Church Nominating Committee (CNC) at Palma Sola will have Session and Deacon vacancies to fill next year as individual terms expire. (The Westminster CNC has already obtained a slate of nominees for their Session vacancies.) These are important positions which will be heavily involved in helping make any merger successful. You are invited now to submit your name, or the names of other individuals whom you feel should be considered for service next year on these Boards, to the CNC. Or, you may simply call the Church office with your suggestions.

Through the diversity of spiritual gifts within our midst comes the strength to do this work and achieve a successful outcome. We can do it together, as God's Spirit leads us !

# MINISTRY FAIR INFO

**“Come Grow With Us” on Sunday, September 25th in fellowship hall during the worship hour.**

We will join for a short worship service and a continental breakfast.

Following that time you will have an opportunity to visit displays and demonstrations of how YOU can become involved in service. Committee Members will be available for questions and hear YOUR suggestions of things YOU want to be part of.

Here are some ministries you may want to try or learn about:

Pen pals

Who are our Missionaries?

Our Daily Bread

Habitat for Humanity

Choir

Turning Points

Gardening

Who are our Mission Partners?

Knitting

Earth Care

Reducing Our Waste

Holy Strollers

Puzzle Program

Blessing Box

Ushers

Fellowship

**What does our Property and Grounds Committee do?... How can I help?**

For those who are not familiar with all of the areas of our building, tours will be available.

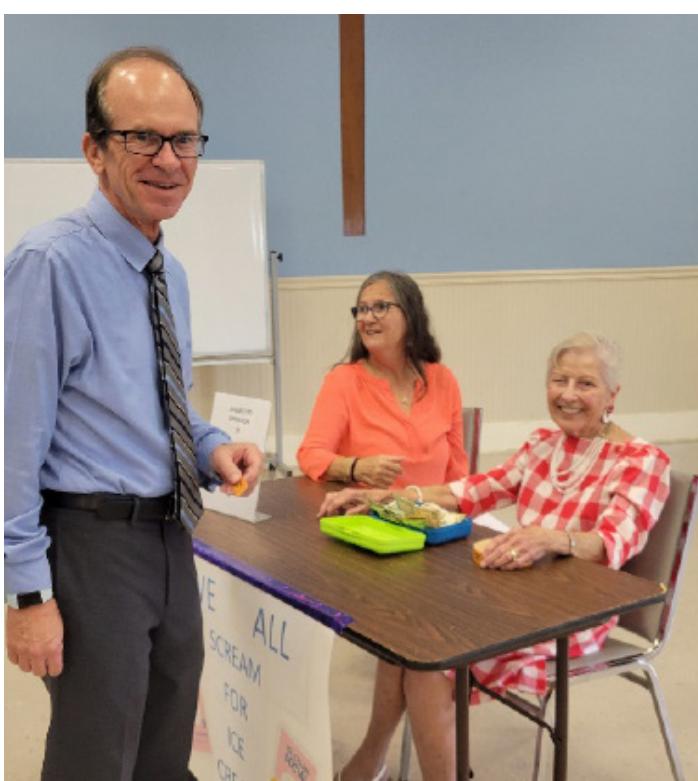
# MINISTRY FAIR

COME GROW WITH US

Sunday  
September 25

Fellowship Hall | 10A

# Ice Cream Social Photos





## Safety Meeting (Idea Session)

It's time to take safety on our campus seriously and work together to develop plans and procedures. We will hold a Safety Planning Meeting:

**Wednesday, September 14th | 2:00p**

Please look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

*School supplies  
for Beth-El*



### September Update:

The meals you packaged have been shipped.

At this moment, healthy meals are on their way to a community in urgent need of nutrition. We're excited to share that destination with you. (Drumroll, please!) partners.

### Meal Packaging Journey

The meals from your Rise Against Hunger Experience on 2/26/2022 have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Orlando warehouse. The meals will be received by our in-country partner, Children of Vietnam - Vietnam in Vietnam. If you happen to receive more than one of these announcements, your meals have gone to impact multiple partners.

# September Birthdays & Anniversaries

**SEPT 2** Sonia Wegner  
**SEPT 5** Tiffany Chinwuba  
**SEPT 6** Nicholas Haripersaud  
Dennis & Vicki Schooley  
**SEPT 8** Fred Schouw  
**SEPT 12** Mary Anne Paulsen  
**SEPT 14** Roger & Lynne Smith

**SEPT 16** Jason Onuga  
**SEPT 24** Ron & Gail Dickerson  
Rick & Penny Gullbrants  
**SEPT 25** Shirley Schexnayder  
**SEPT 26** Chris Wolf  
**SEPT 27** Al & Bev Zimmer  
**SEPT 30** Tim Pedon



**FELLOWSHIP  
& WORSHIP  
COMMITTEE**

**Let's get together to spread God's word.  
Join the Fellowship & Worship Committee  
Today! Reach out to Gail Dickerson for more  
information at 941-224-1117**

## *Fellowship After Worship*

We could use your help! Are you able to volunteer to bring in food or drink? Maybe you can assist with set up & clean up. Join in on the fun!

Dates are always available!  
Please see sign up sheet in the Narthex!

**Palma Sola Presbyterian Church  
- September Newsletter 2022 -**

6510 3rd Ave W.  
Bradenton, FL 34209  
941-792-3141  
[pspchurch.org](http://pspchurch.org)

**Westminster Presbyterian Church  
- September Newsletter 2022 -**

6510 3rd Ave W.  
Bradenton, FL 34209  
941-748-2848  
[wpcbradenton.com](http://wpcbradenton.com)

# SEPTEMBER

2022

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

				1 <b>MEN'S GROUP</b> 8:30a <i>Renewal</i> 6:30p	2	3
4 Worship Service 10a   Communion	5 <b>LABOR DAY</b> Church Office Closed	6 <i>Outreach / 3p</i>	7	8 <i>Finance / 3p</i>	9	10
11 Worship Service 10a	12 <i>Palma Sola Book Club / 12p</i>	13 Deacons Mtg   7p	14 <b>SAFETY MTG   2P</b>	15 <b>MEN'S GROUP</b> 8:30a	16	17
18 Worship Service 10a	19 <b>WPC SESSION   1p</b> <b>PSPC SESSION 6:30p</b>	20 <b>DEMENTIA CLASS   10A</b>	21	22	23 <b>OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE   5p</b>	24
25 Worship Service <b>MINISTRY FAIR</b> 10a   Fellowship Hall	26	27	28	29	30	

Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday | 9am - 4pm

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](#).