



Palms Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
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Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

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February 2012

Volume 9 / Issue 21

# Heart of Palms

Good News Letter

## Palms Welcomes Marjorie Thompson Visiting Theologian 2012

February 24 - 26

Prayer is an essential part of our faith journey, but most of us feel inadequate in our prayer life. This year our visiting theologian will be Rev. Marjorie Thompson, who is a leading voice in the church on the practice of prayer.

Marjorie is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church. She received her B.A. in religious studies from Swarthmore College, and her M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary where she became interested in church history and ecumenical studies. Following a post-graduate pastoral internship in North Carolina, she became

a Research Fellow at Yale Divinity School where she studied Christian spirituality with Henri Nouwen and did independent research in ecumenical traditions of prayer – Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox.

Over the past 25 years, Rev. Thompson has served as adjunct faculty for several

seminaries, directed the foundational program for Stillpoint (Programs in Spiritual Direction and Contemplative Prayer) in Nashville, been a leading voice at Upper Room Ministries, and a recognized author in the church ecumenical. Palms has used her books in the past, including our Lenten small group curriculum last year and the current class using *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*. *Soul Feast* has been widely

used by seminaries of various denominations, as well as by local church groups and individual readers.

Marjorie will be here February 24 – February 26. Her Friday evening conversation will be on the subject of prayer and deepening our practices of prayer which is essential for discipleship and formation. On Saturday morning she will move us into more actual practice as we engage a conversation on the practice of discernment and listening to God's presence and calling in our lives. This will be a wonderful way to begin our Lenten journey!

Marjorie will also be preaching at the two morning services on Sunday February 26th. It is a wonderful gift that she will be with us, and a great beginning to our Lenten Journey to Discipleship.



## Special Valentine's Events



### A Gourmet Valentine's Dinner and Concert Saturday, February 11 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Celebrate Valentine's Day, a tradition at Palms, with a church-wide annual Valentine Spectacular Gourmet Dinner on Saturday, February 11th at 6:00 p.m. Barry Adeeb of Beach Diner will provide his spectacular gourmet dinner for all to enjoy! Tickets for the dinner only are \$20.00 per person and can be purchased through the church office. Childcare is available.

### Followed by a Fine Arts Concert with Chanson du Soir at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Chanson du Soir is comprised of soprano Chelsea Camille and classical guitarist David Isaacs. Established in 2005, the Southern California natives have quickly garnered national recognition as a premier guitar and voice duo by being featured artists on concert series throughout the United States. This Fine Arts concert is free and open to all. Childcare is available. Join us!



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SAVE THE DATE:

June 18-22, 2012

### OPERATION OVERBOARD:

Dare to Go Deep with God

(Watch for more information... coming soon.)



Our third annual Lenten discipleship journey begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Sign-ups for Lenten small groups will run the next three weeks. In worship and small groups, we will reflect together on Palms mission statement as a vision for our lives as we ask: "How are we nurtured by the grace of Jesus Christ to serve God's mission in the world?"

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# Heart of Palms

February 2012

## Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

## Sunset at Palms

5:45 p.m.

## Shalom Sabbath

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

### Pastor

Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Walker

### Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Carol DiGiusto

### Associate Pastor for Discipleship

Rev. Andrew W. Kukla

### Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families

Rev. Katie Day

### Director of Music and Fine Arts

Dr. Ronn Cummings

### Director of Children's Ministries

Rev. Laurie Furr-Vancini

### Business Administrator

Jan Redden

### Communications Director

Elizabeth Richardson

### Parish Associate

Rev. Lloyd S. Alamsha

### Pastor Emeriti

Rev. Dr. James W. Tinsley

Rev. Dr. John H. Swann

### Elder Emeriti

John Hess

Al Bowers

## Heart of Palms

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# February Calendar

## Sunday, February 5

### Worship Preparation Class To Begin

All members and visitors in the 1st grade (and those in 2nd and 3rd grade who have not previously been a part of Palms Worship Preparation Class) are invited to the Worship Preparation Class. We begin on February 5th and meet through April 1st during the Sunday School hour. Contact Pastor Laurie laurie.furr-vancini@palmschurch.org to be added to the class.

## Sunday, February 11

### Valentine's Dinner and Fine Arts Concert

See back page for details on this special event.

## Sunday, February 12

### Blanket Sunday

Church Women United will sponsor Blanket Sunday at Palms February 12th. Blankets are shipped to places where people are suffering from such natural disasters as floods, tornadoes, or hurricanes. A gift of only \$5 can offer comfort and hope to those in need, along with the hope for a better tomorrow. Please indicate on your check, made out to Palms Presbyterian Church, that it is for "Blanket Sunday."

### Spring Splash Shopping Drive

Palms generosity will once again assist our mission partners, BEAM, elementary school partners and Dignity U Wear, all combined into one *big* shopping/collection drive, Sundays, February 12th and 19th. Look for collection barrels and use the handy shopping lists found in the church pews beginning February 5th! This ONE BIG shopping drive will combine our spring time food drive for BEAM, add much needed food to the elementary school snack closets, and bring underwear, socks and clothing both to Dignity U Wear and our elementary school partners.

## Thursday, February 16

### Retired Adult Group

The Retired Adult Group will meet again on Thursday, February 16th at 2:00 p.m. in the Media Room. Join us as we travel to Ireland with Virginia Roemhild. All retired adults are welcome. Come and enjoy!

## Tuesday, February 28

### Men's Fellowship Lunch

Do you have plans for lunch on Tuesday, February 28th? If not, come to Lulu's restaurant on the Intracoastal Waterway at noon for great food and fellowship with other men from Palms. We meet there on the 4th Tuesday of each month and have a great time sharing and laughing together. Join us if you can. Lulu's is located at 301 Roscoe Blvd. North in Palm Valley (285-0139). Questions? Call Bill Tickle at 285-2795.

# Outreach

## Palms Medical Mission 2011

The 2011 Palms Medical Mission, under the leadership of Bob and FloAnne O'Brien, was held December 3rd through 10th at the newly constructed medical clinic in the Cite Soleil Church and School compound near Port Au Prince, Haiti. The mission consisted primarily of members of the congregation and included two dentists, a dental assistant, two pharmacists, ultra-sound technicians, a nurse, four doctors, and various volunteers, interpreters and drivers.

Thanks to Palms' generous contribution of 767 over-the-counter items as well as prescription medicines, the medical team was able to consult, treat, and dispense medications to over 600 patients in five days. Access to dental care in Haiti being extremely rare, the dental group also filled an ever-present need by serving approximately 170 patients during that time. The lines were long, but the gratitude and appreciation was met with smiles of all those served. The Outreach Ministry wishes to thank the congregation and the Session of Palms for their amazing generosity in support of this important mission.

## College Mission Trip to Haiti Mission Fundraiser

Six of our college members have expressed an interest in the spring mission trip to Haiti. Because of a generous gift to them, their fundraiser offers 3 opportunities to win a foursome of golf at either the TPC Stadium Course, the King and Bear, or the Golf Club of Amelia Island. Tickets to win a golf outing are \$50 each and will be available after worship and through the church office until February 11th at the Valentine Dinner. **The drawing will be at the Valentine Dinner.** Invest in this incredible opportunity for our college students and you might be playing one of north Florida's finest golf courses with your friends!

## Staff

### Melissa Patton Joins Palms Staff

We joyfully welcome Melissa Patton to Palms' staff! Melissa is the new Program Assistant for Christian Education and Formation, and will be working with Pastors Laurie, Katie, and Andrew to resource all areas of children's ministry, youth ministry, and adult education. Melissa is an ordained elder and longtime volunteer in many areas of ministry, and she and her husband John have been members of Palms since 1989. They have two sons, Spencer and Austin. Please join in welcoming Melissa when you see her in worship or around the office!



## Youth

### Upcoming Events

[High School Broomball League](#) - February 3 & 10, 9:30-11:00 p.m. at Jacksonville Ice

[Taizé Informational Meeting](#) - February 5, 12:00 p.m.

[Family Night](#) - February 12, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

[Middle School Girls Retreat](#) - February 19-20 at Camp Montgomery

[Middle School Broomball Day](#) - February 25, 5:15-7:15 p.m. at Jacksonville Ice

On New Year's Eve, over 50 youth and adults gathered at Palms for our 5th annual lock in. We host this event each year to provide a fun and safe place for our teenagers and their friends to celebrate and play together. This year's lock in was planned by a team of middle and high schoolers. Pictured at right are Casey, Gray and Rollin dressed for an intense game of Manhunt.

