



# Heart of Palms

Good News Letter



## Border Crossings

Advent 2011

Advent is a season of hope and expectation that brings us back to the border - the border between the wilderness and brokenness of the world in which we live and the promised land of God's Kingdom.

Standing on this threshold, we remember God's promise of healing and peace, which engenders hope in the midst of our brokenness and repentance where we have settled for life that falls short of God's kingdom. Here, we remember that God has constantly crossed the boundary especially in the coming of Jesus. In Advent, we are challenged to live into the hope of the prayer that Jesus taught us, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Join us as we cross borders in worship and education this Advent season at Palms.

## Advent at Palms

### Advent Sunday Worship

**November 27, December 4, 11, and 18**

8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

and 5:45 p.m. in the Chapel

### Chrismon Dinner and Service

**November 27**

Dinner - 6:00 p.m. in Patten Hall

Service - 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

### Advent Sunday classes

**November 13 through December 18**

9:40 a.m. in the Education Building

### Shalom Sabbath Service

**Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, 14, and 21**

6:30 p.m. in the Chapel

### Daily Advent E-Devotionals

To be added to Palms email list, email

[darlene.dennette@palmschurch.org](mailto:darlene.dennette@palmschurch.org)

### Lessons and Carols

**December 11**

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

**December 18**

5:45 p.m. in the Chapel

# Heart of Palms

November 2011



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**Sunday Worship**

**8:30 a.m.**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Sunset at Palms**

**5:45 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 Associates

Rev. Lloyd S. Alamsha

Rev. Kevin Day

### Pastor Emeriti

Rev. Dr. James W. Tinsley

Rev. Dr. John H. Swann

### Elder Emeriti

John Hess

Al Bowers

## FELLOWSHIP HALL WILL BE CLOSED NOVEMBER 28TH THROUGH MID-TO-LATE JANUARY

Due to moisture issues in the gym area, the existing floor will be removed and a moisture mitigation product applied to the concrete slab. After this application, a leveling compound will be applied, and then the floor will be reinstalled. The time-line for this project should run six to eight weeks. Please keep these dates in mind when planning events for your ministries. The LOGOS program will inform participants as plans develop on a weekly basis. The Extended Day Program will be using the Educational Building for their afternoon classes. The Youth Group participants will be notified as plans are finalized. The Preschool area and main kitchen will remain open for daily use. Thank you for your patience and understanding.  
- The Property Ministry

## Heart of Palms

is a monthly publication of  
Palms Presbyterian Church  
located at

3410 South Third Street in  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

Phone: 904-246-6427

[www.palmschurch.org](http://www.palmschurch.org)

## Financial Report

### Income/Expenses through October 26, 2011

<b>Contributions</b>	<b>Budgeted Y/T/D</b>	<b>Actual Y/T/D</b>	<b>Over (Under)</b>
Pledges.....	1,357,690	1,238,170	(119,520)
Non-Pledged.....	137,427	130,039	(7,388)
Faith Giving.....	29,167	15,693	(13,474)
Other Income.....	65,882	64,742	(1,140)
Total Income.....	1,590,166	1,448,644	(141,522)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	1,596,726	1,474,754	(121,972)

# Walking with Palms...

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A message from Rev. Dr. Tom Walker



It is hard to believe that here we are again, approaching the season of Advent. Each year, we come back to this season of the hope and expectation of God's coming kingdom. This year at Palms, we are going to reflect on how Advent intentionally brings us to the border between God's promised future and our current reality with all its brokenness. I have come to believe that the gift of Advent is that no matter whether we find ourselves broken or comfortable, Advent brings us to the border where we glance again at God's future and this vision moves us to both hope and repentance.

In a recent article that I had the privilege to write for the periodical *Journal for Preachers*, I wrote about how Advent calls us all to the border, even God.

Each year we come back to the border at Advent. In Advent, we who are lost in the wilderness are brought to the border to remember that God is not finished with the world. Thus, our yearly journey in Advent is our insistence to recall that there is always hope for newness. The difficulties, hardships, and evil of today are not permanent. The world is not static and fixed, so that what always was, will always be. We are not trapped by endless cycles of violence, poverty, depression and death. In Advent we lay claim to the truth that God is not finished with us or the world. At the Advent border we anticipate a day when every tear will be wiped away, death will be no more and we will be with God. In Advent, we who are comfortable are challenged out of our lethargy. The journey back to the border shows us that the powers that be, as well as our mistaken accommodation to them, will not last. Our hope is that we will be provoked enough to repent: that is, in encountering the promise of God's coming kingdom we will both move our allegiance back to the One whose kingdom knows no end, and join God by offering ourselves for the renewal and restoration of justice, righteousness and truth.

Wherever we find ourselves, Advent invites us back to the border where we encounter hope. Yet the deep hope of Advent might not be primarily that we are brought back to the border to be transformed, but perhaps that we dare to imagine that God is invited to the border as well. It could be that Advent is also the invitation of a waiting people for God to come and settle us all in the promised land, once and for all. (*Journal for Preachers*, (XXXV/1, Advent 2011), p.14-15) I look forward to our shared journey in the weeks ahead.

Shalom, 

## Report from the Session

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At the October stated meeting of the Palms Presbyterian Church Session, the Session:

- ▶ Worshiped in our Shalom Sabbath worship service.
- ▶ Heard a report from the recent meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine.
- ▶ Approved a recommendation from Hospitality and Compassion about no longer keeping an "inactive role" per the new Form of Government approved by the PC(USA), and a process of reaching out to those who are not active in the life of the church.
- ▶ Approved up to \$500 for the purchase of healthy snacks for elementary schools.
- ▶ Approved the Advent adult education program entitled Border Crossings, which will be a time to imagine what it means to work for incarnational love and grace in the middle of divisive issues at the borders of our society.
- ▶ Heard a report on our fall stewardship campaign.
- ▶ Prayed for joys and concerns within the congregation.

# Children's Ministry

## Help Us Make a Difference for our Children!

The Children's Ministry Task Force of Palms Presbyterian Church is in the process of forming a vision for our children's programs. Your feedback is needed and we would appreciate your participation in this brief on-line survey. Your candid response to these questions are confidential and will provide the team valuable information needed to help them shape the future of the children's ministry at the Palms. Even if you do not currently participate in any of the Children's programs at the Palms, we encourage your response.

Please follow this link to the survey, and thank you for your participation.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G3XW789>

## Adopt a Grandparent

Are you a grandparent, living far away from your grandchildren? Are you a young family, missing the grandparents in your life? There's a new program that may be of interest. The Preschool Ministry of Palms Presbyterian Church announces the start of the Adopt a Grandparent program, where senior members of the Church can be matched with church families.

Pew cards will be handed out by the ministry team this month. After the cards are completed by church members, a "matching" will be done, and the matched families will be contacted. We'll host a "get to know you" event, and then let the relationships grow on their own. If you have any questions or to sign up for this program, please contact Pastor Laurie at 246-6427 or [laurie.furr-vancini@palmschurch.org](mailto:laurie.furr-vancini@palmschurch.org)



Psalm 145:4 *One generation shall praise Thy works to another, And shall declare Thy mighty acts.*



ABUNDANCE

JOHN 6:9

STEWARDSHIP 2012

**Pledge Sunday  
November 6**

## Goodbye to Julia Atkins

Palms would like to say a heartfelt goodbye and traveling mercies as Julia Atkins, long time Nursery Coordinator, moves to south Florida. Julia is moving "home" to help care for her mother and to return to her roots. Her last Sunday was October 23rd.



Julia has been a part of the life of our youngest Palms' Children both as an employee (since 1999) and as a member (since 1994). We have Julia's forwarding address at the church office or you can send her an email at [hulagirl4758@hotmail.com](mailto:hulagirl4758@hotmail.com) if you would like to send her a word of thanks and good wishes.

# Welcome New Members

- joining palms October 16th



## Brad and Kristin Price

Brad and Kristin moved to Jacksonville from Wilmington, Delaware. They live in Atlantic Beach with their 3 year-old daughter Gracie. They're very excited to share their walk with Christ and join in the Fellowship at Palms.



## Dennis Burkhart

Dennis moved here in February from Smyrna, Georgia, and has attended Palms since. He has 3 grown daughters living in Baltimore and one grandchild. He loves Palms and the congregation.



## Larry and Lou Ann Matthews

Lou Ann is a native of Jacksonville. Larry moved to Jacksonville in 1962. They have two daughters, Lane, 28, and Jordan, 25. They look forward to participating with the Palms community and becoming active members.



## Sarah and Andrew Bajorek

Andrew, Sarah and 1 year-old Ethan come to Palms by way of Erie, Pennsylvania. Andrew is a music teacher at Cunningham Creek Elementary, and Sarah is a Pediatric Resident at UF-Shands.



## Jim and Sherry Gallo

Jim and Sherry moved to Ponte Vedra in May 2011 from Houston, Texas. Jim is retired from Continental Airlines, and they've moved here to be closer to their children who live in Macon, Georgia, and West Palm Beach. They have 4 grandchildren.



## Barbara and Bill Miller

Bill and Barbara moved to Ponte Vedra in 1993 from Long Island, New York. Barb has had family in this area since 1968. They have two grown children, Christy and Mark, and love to visit their 4 grandchildren who live in North Carolina and Illinois. They are enjoying retirement.



## Sylvia and Phil Hammond

Moved back to Jacksonville after living in Park City, Utah and San Diego. Now retired, they enjoy being around their grandchildren and their daughter Jen Douglas and her husband, Chris. Both are already active at Palms.

## Not pictured:

**Claire Clark** - Claire is a ceramic sculptor, and is a retired high school art teacher in New York City. She now lives with her sister and Palms member, Maria Cox in Ponte Vedra Beach and is active with her ceramics. She attends the PVB Cultural Center and exhibits, and is a member of the St. Augustine Art Association.

**Lane Matthews** - Lane joined Palms along with her mother, Lou Ann and father, Larry.



## Meet Youth Leader...

**Karen May**

**I love youth ministry because:** of the kids!

Facilitating and watching teenagers learn and grow in their faith is an inspiration. When I first began leading the youth on Sundays, I had no idea just how this role would also grow my

own faith and love of God. I see God working through the kids every week and leave each Sunday night feeling renewed and inspired. It is truly a wonderful experience.

**My favorite food is:** anything Asian-inspired. Throw some ginger, garlic, and soy sauce on anything and I am happy!

**My favorite thing to do at Youth Group is:** small group. I lead the high school girls and they are AMAZING! But a close second is the nights that are "unplugged"! It is incredible how a simple game of Jenga or Apples to Apples with kids and adults of all ages and interests can be SO much fun!

**I live with:** my husband Damian and my incredible kids Colleen and Jacob. And this year we are ALL IN with the Youth Group, with both kids being active participants and my husband starting as a rookie youth leader for the high school boys! I am so blessed!

**When I was a teenager:** I lived in Willis, Texas, a small town outside of Houston. I spent most of my time with school activities as a member of the drill team and cheer-leading squads (Yay for Friday Night Lights!). I lived on a lake and loved to swim and water ski with my two best friends, whom I remain close with today.

## Staff Updates



### We Welcome a Familiar Face to a New Position

Please join in welcoming Becky MacMillan (formerly Christian Education and Formation Administrative Assistant) to the new Administrative Assistant for Membership. She will be the first person you see when you come to Palms, the first voice you hear when you call, and will now coordinate and manage our membership database. Welcome Becky!

## Youth Calendar

### Sundays:

Sunday School & Confirmation 9:40-10:40 a.m.  
Youth Group 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

### Wednesdays:

High School Breakfast Club 7:45 a.m. at Players Café  
LOGOS & The Bridge 5:15-7:15 p.m.

### 5th Sundays:

Service Sundays! Youth Ushers needed.  
Local mission opportunity 2:00-4:00 p.m.

## High School Retreat

**Who:** 9th-12th graders & adult leaders

**When:** November 5-6

**Where:** Camp Montgomery

**Why:** It's weekend of connecting with your church family, other Presbyterian high schoolers, and spending quality time with God!

**What:** We'll focus on being ONE – in a world that pulls us in many different directions, we need to remember that we serve ONE God who calls us to be ONE body, made up of many members.

**How:** Sign up with Rev. Katie Day or any one of the youth leaders by turning in your payment of \$75. Scholarships are available for anyone who needs one. **Adults needed!**

### Contact Information:

**Rev. Katie Day**

Associate Pastor to Youth and Their Families  
Church Office 246-6427  
katie.day@palmschurch.org

Melissa Patton

**Interim Administrative Assistant (Mon.-Wed.-Fri.)**

Church Office 246-6427  
melissa.patton@palmschurch.org

### Interim Nursery Coordinator - Margaret Heyward

It is with gratitude that Palms' announces Margaret Heyward as our Interim Nursery Coordinator. Margaret will serve in this position while the Kids' Oasis Task Force completes its' work (which includes an evaluation of the nursery). Margaret has been on the nursery staff for 3 years and is beloved by children and parents alike. Welcome Margaret!

# Thank You Notes

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**Dear Palms Congregation, Pastors and Staff,**

I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of good wishes from all of you! I have been a member of Palms for over twenty years and have gotten to know and love many of you. I am glad that I am not leaving Palms, just leaving my job. The gift of the computer was so unexpected, but greatly appreciated. Thank you!

The reception after each service by the Presbyterian Women was truly beautiful. Thanks to all for making it possible.

~ In Christ's Love, Fran Busby

**Friends,**

Many thank yous to my Palms extended family who sent cards, flowers and prayers for healing and happy thoughts my way. I'm mending and soon will be back to my normal energy level. God bless all of you.

~ Shalom, Betty Engle

**Dear Care Choir,**

A doorbell rings and then the lovely music provided by Palms Care Choir angels. I was so touched by your wonderful love.

~ Thank you! Dottie Olsen

**Goodbye and Many Thanks,**

As most of you know I am moving back to south Florida to be with my family. After 24 years in Jax and 17 years at Palms I definitely have serious mixed emotions! When I think of leaving Jax I am sad. I leave behind many friends, acquaintances and memories. My boys are staying here for a while, but I hope not too long! I will try to entice them with regular trips to the Keys!

As for Palms....it has been such an important part of my life, I can't say enough about the love and support that I have received over the years, with the many changes and challenges, and all those great memories of raising my sons David and Mikey in this church! We have always been so blessed to have had such great families in our presence, and all those children who came through my Sunday school class for the past 15 years... by far my favorite! We taught each other so much about God's love!

Thank you all for being such a big part of our lives! God is so good. I'm taking him with me!

~ Julia Atkins

## Care Choir

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Would you be interested in joining the Care Choir? The Care Choir is a group of caring individuals that wish to reach out to share the love of God through the healing gift of music. All are invited as we gather and travel to a designated destination to sing for a person, family or group. To learn more, or to be on the Care Choir e-mail list for notifications, call Laurene Arthur, 737-6749.

## Apostles' Build

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Please join your Palms friends to help build a Beaches Habitat house in Mayport. If you can swing a hammer, or hand a hammer to someone else, come help a deserving family build their dream home. Sally Nielsen (snielsen@fscj.edu) can give you all the details, so just e-mail her. Remaining workdays (8:00-12:00) for 2011 are: **Saturday 11/12; Saturday 12/3; Thursday 12/8; Saturday 12/17**

## Retired Adult Group

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The Retired Adult Group will meet again on Thursday, November 17th at 2:00 p.m. in the Media Room. Put on your travel shoes for Virginia Roemhild will be taking us to Italy. Come, meet other members of our church family and enjoy an afternoon of social fun. For those who need a ride and for more information, please call Betty Engle at 241-1353.

## Palms Fine Arts - Red Letter Jesus

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**Friday, November 18 7:30 p.m.** Featuring **Brad Sherrill**

What did Jesus say? Brad Sherrill's live dramatic performance of Jesus' words from Matthew, Mark and Luke accompanied by a powerful multimedia presentation brings these transformative teachings and parables to new life for our times.

Sherrill's performances of Old and New Testament texts have reached over 200,000 people worldwide.

"The Good Book gets even better" says The Washington Post.

PALMS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Fine Arts Series*



**Palms Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**  
 3410 South Third Street  
 Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250



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# Plan Ahead

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## Youth Mission Trips 2012

You may remember one Sunday in August when Palms mission trip participants shared powerful and touching stories of how God is at work in their lives and at work around the world, as experienced on their summer mission trips. They led us in worship, and we saw photos from their experiences, putting faces to the stories and helping us imagine how they have been our hands and feet this summer in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Jamaica. As we sang to God, "Give me Your eyes for just one minute," the prayer of these young women and men was that we would all see with God's eyes, and treat one another with love and respect, not just in the summer on mission trips, but all year long, everywhere we live, work, and play.



It is already time to begin thinking about our mission trips for next summer. As unbelievable as it sounds, we had great difficulty finding enough adults to attend the 2011 trips, and almost had to cancel two of them. God is working mightily in the lives of our teenagers, inspiring them to give up a week of their summer in selfless service; please support them not only with prayer and finances, but with your presence.

As you begin to think about the holiday gift-giving season, consider passing up material possessions and committing to attend a mission trip. Parents and grandparents of 5th-12th graders, consider giving your student a mission trip for Christmas, rather than clothing or gadgets that will be outgrown and discarded in 6 months.

But be careful: mission trips are life-changing. Remember the stories our young people and leaders shared on Youth Mission Sunday. We begin by seeking to transform the world, but in the end, it is we who are transformed. Thanks be to God!

### 2012 Trips

- Middle School Mission Trip to Charlotte, NC: June 10-15**
- High School Mission Trip A to Appalachia: June 23-July 1**
- High School Mission Trip B to Appalachia: July 22-29**