

# Heart of Palms

Good News Letter

## Summer at Palms!

Palms Summer is in full swing – visting pastors, adult and youth mission trips, new children and adult Sunday school classes, Summer Choir, Vacation Bible School and Kid's Kitchen!

Our pastors will be preaching on Sundays as well as welcoming visiting pastors, Tina Sweet, Rick Westbury, John Ragsdale and Kevin Day. Summer Adult Education classes are being formed and begin the end of June during the Discipleship Hour.

Vacation Bible School is June 22-26. Registration forms are available through the church office. Over 175 children have already signed up!

The youth group devotes summer to mission and fellowship! We'll kick off the summer with the Destination Unknown mystery trip, and then volunteer at Vacation Bible School. In July, the high schoolers are traveling to Inez, KY with Appalachia Service Project to make homes warmer, safer, and drier. The middle schoolers will return to Charlotte, NC with CROSS (Charlotte Regional Outreach Spirituality and Study) to serve the poor. Eleventh and twelfth graders will return to Montego Bay, Jamaica to partner with churches in local mission. We'll also have plenty to do around here, with lunches, mission events, kayaking, swimming with manatees, and a trip to Blizzard Beach, as well as weekly youth group meetings on Sunday nights!

Palms Women's NetWork is providing leadership to Kids Kitchen again this summer. Kids Kitchen feeds 100 children for 9 weekends, June to August. Meals are delivered each Thursday to the Donner Center and USO. Several years ago the Outreach Ministry learned of a nutrition gap over the weekend among children who are fed daily, Monday through Friday, in community centers. Healthy breakfast, lunch and dinner menus have been selected and food materials gathered with the assistance of Publix at Sawgrass.

The children of Palms (rising pre-K – rising 5th grade) will be Rock Solid Followers this summer in Sunday School. The children continue their Son Rock Kids Camp (Vacation Bible School) experience. For 10 weeks, June 21st-August 23rd, the fun and excitement of an outdoor adventure camp are combined with the discovery of who we are as children of God. Building on this solid foundation, we challenge children to be excited about helping others at home and around the world. Our Summer Sunday School will be divided into three groups:

- ▶ **Rising pre-K – Rising Kindergartners** will meet in room 304 of the pre-school building.
- ▶ **Rising 1st Graders – Rising 2nd Graders** will meet in room 213 on the second floor of the education building
- ▶ **Rising 3rd Graders – Rising 5th Graders** will meet in room 214 on the second floor of the education building.

Schools out, but Palms isn't! See you this summer.



Drew Hamilton and Mike Mantia help children cool off with Icee's at last year's Vacation Bible School.

# Heart of Palms

June 2009



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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

Liz Richardson

### Parish Associates for Visitation

Rev. Lloyd S. Alamsha

Rev. Kevin Day

### Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. James W. Tinsley

### Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. John H. Swann

### Elder Emeriti

John Hess

Al Bowers

## Summer Choir Begins June 7th!

Come sing with us!  
With no Wednesday evening rehearsal, Summer Choir is the perfect chance to share the gift of music with no weeknight commitment. Each Sunday morning from now until mid-August, we gather in room 121 at 10:00 a.m. to rehearse for the 11:00 a.m. service. Questions? Please contact Dr. Ronn Cummings at 246-6427, ext. 226 or [ronn.cummings@palmschurch.org](mailto:ronn.cummings@palmschurch.org)

## Heart of Palms

is a monthly publication of Palms Presbyterian Church located at 3410 South Third Street in Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250  
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The communications office welcomes your comments and suggestions.

Call 246-6427 or e-mail: [communications@palmschurch.org](mailto:communications@palmschurch.org)

## Financial Report - Operating Budget

as of April 30, 2009

	Budgeted Y/T/D	Actual Y/T/D	Over (Under)
Total Income.....	\$657,059.....	\$648,971.....	\$8,088
Total Expenses...	\$623,224.....	\$596,599.....	\$(26,625)
Net Income.....		\$52,372	

### 50th Anniversary Campaign

Total Pledges to date: \$3,282,011

Total Paid to date: \$2,708,642

# A Time to Listen...in the Oasis Garden

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*For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands!*

(Psalm 55)

*Those who dwell among the beauties and the mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.* Rachel Carson

Sitting in the Oasis Garden this week has been a treat! It hasn't been quiet. The garden has been active and busy - active and busy praising God in color, fragrance, sound and texture. The fragrance of the confederate jasmine swirls through the courtyard. Bright red rose petals pop out in all directions. Rosemary awaits the touch. Butterflies and small birds swoop in for nectar and water. As I sit in the shade of one of the date palms I am grateful to God for God's revelation in the garden.



Rev. Dr. Carol DiGiusto

Gratitude is what I feel. How do you express deep gratitude to God for our lives together at Palms? I want to clap my hands with the trees of the field and join the hills in song. I am grateful for your steadfast faithfulness to God's mission...grateful for the sacred place that has been created here so that we can be nurtured for our faith journey and God's mission beyond this place.

Ten years ago this month I came to be in ministry with you. Ten years ago this was another place. We have imagined with God, trusted and walked in faith. We have stretched in mission to this community and world and have found partners whom God had prepared waiting in trust and faith for us. We have formed a circle of compassion around our members and extended family in the beaches and beyond. Adult, youth and children's ministries abound! Music fills our lives and worship. Gratitude is what I feel. How do you express deep gratitude to God for our lives together as the Body of Christ in this place? I clap my hands with the trees of the field and join the hills in song!

Know of my deep gratitude to each of you and all of you for a most amazing ten years. Rachel Carson is correct - living the mystery of my life in the community of the beautiful creation that is you constantly tells me that I will not be weary of life or alone. You are a gift to me and to my family.

In the name of the God who speaks and listens,

## Report from the Session

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At its May meeting, the Session of Palms Presbyterian Church:

- ▶ Joyfully welcomed the following confirmands into church membership: Joined April 21: Tom Blackwell, Mary Grace McCreary, Ross McSwain, Katie Plank, Vicky Russell, Emily Van Horn. Joined May 19: Abby Armbruster, Mikey Atkins, Brett Blackwell, Alex Gimbel, Alex Grune, Jack Jacobson, Seth Keene, Trevor Lughino, Jack McSwain, Joseph Paul, Christie Stoudemire, Nick Truitt, Lauren Wilson, Daniel Wise.
- ▶ The Session gave thanks for outgoing elders: Jim Baldwin, Polly Dirivin, Jim Hoener, Russ Jones, Ginny Roemhild and Pat Shea... and welcomed newly installed elders Richard Abdullah, Chris Douglas, Carolyn Ettlinger, Marc Fields, Sam Flora, Marilyn Hoener and Sally Paulson.
- ▶ Approved the Pre-School Emergency Preparedness Plan and empowered Jan Redden and Lynn Mallinson to work out details for a plan with Hodges Boulevard Presbyterian Church for emergency evacuation for Palms Preschool.
- ▶ Approved a curriculum proposal from Ann Buchholz who will write and teach a course for high school students next year. The Youth Ministry Team and the Rev. Katie Day will review and approve that curriculum's design.
- ▶ Approved the use of Jane Vennard's book *A Praying Congregation* as the study book for Fran Busby's small group.

Even during the summer there is a lot going on in anticipation of our 2009-2010 LOGOS year. This church-wide program brings all sorts of folks together and **we need YOU** to make it work. We are currently looking for church members to serve as table parents, cook team members, bible study teachers and assistants, recreation assistants, and BRIDGE helpers for 26 Wednesdays from September to March. We have the goal of over half of our LOGOS volunteers not being parents of elementary school aged children.



**Recreation Assistants** serve on a rotating basis from 5:05-5:45 p.m. Under the able leadership of our Recreation Coordinator come and play with LOGOS. Always a good time. Stay for dinner or not. Your choice. Fun, fun, fun!

**BRIDGE Helpers** are energetic, good listeners who are interested in helping with the BRIDGE program for 5th and 6th graders.

We need Bridge Helpers for "hang/homework" time, dinner time and Bridge Discussion Time each week.

**Table Parents** serve weekly (substitutes are available) during the school year from 6:15-7:15 p.m. They sit with the same group of children each week and build relationship within their table family. A teen and their parent might make excellent table parents, or grandparents who do not get to see their own grandchildren each week. Empty nesters who have found their life a bit quiet without their children around. College or graduate students who would like a free meal once a week while doing something rewarding. All of our past table parents will tell you this is a very wonderful experience.

**Cook Team Members** serve on a rotating basis once a month with a group of 4-10. They prepare, have dinner with and clean up from about 5:00-7:30 p.m. depending on what you will be preparing. If you love to cook, this is for you!

**Bible Study Teachers and Assistants** serve weekly from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Prepare a lesson with provided curriculum. Teach the Bible and be a role model for our youngest brothers and sisters in Christ while planting seeds of goodness and righteousness.



Maggie Johnson with her table parent Robert Richardson, at the end of the year LOGOS celebration.

Please prayerfully consider your involvement in Palms church-wide LOGOS program. Contact Laurie Furr-Vancini or Becky MacMillan in the church office (246-6427) to volunteer or to receive more information!

## 2009-10 LOGOS CALENDAR

September 9	GOT LOGOS?
September 16	Luau
September 23	Hoe Down!
September 30	Jamaica Mutual Mission
October 7	TACKY TOURIST
October 14	Silly socks
October 21	Fire Safety
October 28	Trick or Treat!!
November 4	GO TEAM!!
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 18	"I SPY"
November 25	NO LOGOS (Thanksgiving)
December 2	"Under the Sea"
December 9	Flight Night
December 16	Happy Birthday Jesus (bring a friend night)
December 23	NO LOGOS
December 30	NO LOGOS
January 6	DISCO
January 13	Pajama Party
January 20	Under the Big Top
January 27	Winter Wonderland
February 3	Super Hero
February 10	MARDI GRAS
February 17	Ash Wednesday
February 24	Galaxy Galore
March 3	The Great Outdoors
March 10	Noah's Ark
March 17	LUCK 'O THE IRISH
March 24	End of the Year Celebration/ LOGOS Appreciation

# Heartbeats...

## X-Men Picnic



Cali Jacobs pitches in a game of kick-ball.



Some of more than 50 people who participated in the family picnic hosted by Palms X-Men.



Mother's Day hats were table decorations made by the Sunday School classes. Here are the lucky winners from each table that received one.

## Mother's Day Tea



Lily Fields and Abby Vancini hold carnations they gave to their mothers.

## The Journey Picnic



Andy, Robin, Logan and Kendall Mignerey



Jan Walker and Karen Bowden



Robert Richardson, Dr. Tom Walker, Sheri Paul, Kathleen Mantia and Joan Kemp enjoy the picnic before Tom left on sabbatical. To follow Tom's journey go to [www.palmschurch.org](http://www.palmschurch.org) and click on his blog at [watersofrest.blogspot.com](http://watersofrest.blogspot.com).

## Thank You Notes...

Dear Ones,

There is an old Chinese Proverb that says “Flowers leave their fragrance on the hand that bestows them.” May the fragrance of my beautiful bouquets remain in part with each and everyone of you.

Evelynne Galvin

My Dearest Friends at Palms,

I can't believe how long it has been since I received the beautiful Valentine cookies. The children of the second, third and fourth grade of the LOGOS classes did a lovely job of decorating them. We truly enjoyed them. (I shared them!) Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

With love, Bobi Daly

Dear Friends and Staff at Palms,

Thank you for your cards, prayers, phone calls and concern for me during and after my last two back surgeries. Also, thanks for the Valentine treats. It is a comfort to be part of such a loving and caring church. God bless all of you.

Love, Bettie Cowie

Dear Friends at Palms Presbyterian Church

On behalf of the Sanctuary on 8th street I would like to thank you for your contribution of \$250.00. You help our kids achieve outcomes of which we are proud:

- ▶ 100% refrain from parenthood.
- ▶ 98% are promoted to next grade level.
- ▶ 50% retention rate during past five years.
  - ▶ 100% refrain from violent crime.
- ▶ 100% of LPSS students have improved GPA's.
- ▶ 100% of LPSS students have improved standardized test scores by 35%.

Did you know that one dollar invested in a child now represents a savings of seven dollars in the future? Your support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of many. Thank you for investing in the children of the Sanctuary, a safe place where hope happens.

Kindest regards, Vicky Watkins

Executive Director, The Sanctuary on 8th Street

## Palms Welcomes Rev. Kevin Day as Parish Associate



The Reverend Kevin Day was ordained on Sunday, April 26th at Palms. Rev. Day comes to Palms as a parish associate. A parish associate is a minister who serves in some validated ministry other than the local parish but wishes to maintain a relationship with a particular congregation. Kevin is a teacher at Episcopal High School and coaches the track team. At Palms during the summer, Kevin will be actively involved in the daily life of the congregation and will be in worship as he is able. Kevin is serving as spiritual leader for the Clean Water Mission Trip to Haiti. He will also accompany our youth to Charlotte for their mission trip. We welcome Kevin to his ministry among us!

The Reverends Katie Day, Kevin Day, Katie Rob and John Ragsdale gather for the ordination of Kevin Day.



### Father's Day Craft - Make a tie for Dad!

Saturday, June 13, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Make a special necktie for Dad using fabric markers and a lovely silver-colored tie. Dads will be encouraged to wear the tie to church on Father's Day, June 21st. Meet in the craft room on the second floor of the Education Building. \$2.00 per tie donation please. Please RSVP to Karen Case at 982-0358 or Michelle at Michellebranham@yahoo.com.



## Mike Mantia

### Palms First Youth Intern

Mike Mantia is Palms first Youth Ministry Intern, and will spend his summer working with Katie and the Youth Ministry Team. He is planning events, leading youth group on Sunday nights, and building relationships with all of our middle and high school students. He will go on Destination Unknown, the middle school mission trip, and the Jamaica trip. Mike is always up for a game of frisbee golf, and can be found in his office at church on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

## June Youth Events

Sun 7th	12:00-1:30	<b>Mission Trip Meeting #6</b>
	7:00-8:30	Youth Group Summer Celebration!
Fri 12th	8:30-2:00	Kayaking
Sun 14th	12:00-1:30	9th & 10th Grades Lunch with Mike
	7:00-8:30	Youth Group
Tues 16th	8:00 a.m.	Destination Unknown departs
Fri 19th	9:00 p.m.	Destination Unknown returns
Sun 21st	12:00-1:30	11th & 12th Grades Lunch with Mike
	7:00-8:30	Youth Group
Mon 22nd	9:00-12:00	Vacation Bible School
	12:00-1:30	Lunch at Moe's
Tues 23rd	9:00-12:00	VBS
Wed 24th	9:00-12:00	VBS
Thurs 25th	9:00-12:00	VBS
Friday 26th	9:00-12:00	VBS
Sun 28th	12:00-1:30	Jamaica Mission Meeting
Mon 29th		Mission Event TBA

### Upcoming Dates:

July 2	Swim with the Manatees!
July 4-12	High School Mission Trip: Kentucky
July 5	Middle Schoolers Lunch with Mike
July 8	Middle School Challenge Course Event
July 15	Blizzard Beach
Jul 19-24	Middle School Mission Trip: Charlotte, NC
Jul 26-Aug 2	Jamaica Mission Trip
August 23	Youth Mission Sunday



Confrimands 2009 with their Elder partners: (back row) Tim Jenkins, Rod Challey, Joseph Paul, Dan Cavey, Bob Nellson, Alex Gimbel, Jack Jacobson, Brett Blackwell, Jim Hoener, Jim Baldwin. (middle row) Anne Flora, Daniel Wise, Richard Abdullah, Mikey Atkins, Trevor Lunghino, Melissa Patton, Linda Trotter, Lauren Wilson. (front row) Seth Keene, Dale Caswell, Fran Busby, Christie Stoudemire, Abby Armbruster, Alex Grune, Jack McSwain, Ingram Caswell, Nick Truitt, Barbara Nellson.

# A Benefit Concert

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## Be One Who Cares Concert

**An Evening of Music - Celebrating  
Community, Connection and Caring**

**Friday, June 5 7:30 p.m.  
Palms Chapel**

### Featuring:

Rachel Kamps Huffman, singer/songwriter

Al Monter, songwriter, guitar

Janine Newfield, violin

Ron Spensor, bass

Palms hosts a celebration in music of community, connection and care, Friday, June 5th at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Singer/ Songwriter Rachel Kamps Huffman and fellow musicians will feature original music to soothe the soul and celebrate life. The concert will benefit Palms Compassion Fund. In these difficult economic times the Compassion Fund is a source for security and stability for members and others in crisis. This concert is sponsored by the Deacon Ministry.



**Palms Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

3410 South Third Street  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250



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