

# Heart of Palms

Good News Letter

## Summer at Palms!

Palms summer is in full swing – adult and youth mission trips, Adult Sunday School classes, Summer Choir, Vacation Bible School, Kid's Kitchen and more!

Two summer Adult Education classes are being offered, with a new one beginning June 13th during the Discipleship Hour. Throughout the summer pastors Tom and Andrew will lead a class called *We Believe What?* formed by your questions – no matter how bizarre, random or seemingly trivial. This class runs from June 13th through the end of August. The Present Word, an ongoing Bible study, will continue to meet over the summer.

Vacation Bible School this year is June 14th-18th. Over 180 children will journey to Egypt as we follow Joseph from prison to palace! Our journey promises to be full of fun and surprises as we work our way through the week talking about hope, special abilities, wisdom, forgiveness and families. If you would like to assist with VBS, please contact the church office.

Several years ago the Outreach Ministry learned of a weekend nutrition gap among children who are fed daily, Monday through Friday, in community centers. Palms will once again partner with the Donner Center and the USO through the Kids Kitchen outreach. Kids Kitchen will provide 100 children with weekend meals for 8 weeks, June to August. Meals will be delivered each Thursday. We are also doing a Back-to-School-Drive for BEAM. We will be collecting the items (from the list on the back page of this newsletter) on Sundays July 18th and 25th.

Beginning on Sunday, June 20th, children of Palms are invited to come join us for a Summer Sunday School adventure. We will be exploring *Values to Grow By* with the help of our Veggie Tales friends. Rising pre-K

through rising 6th graders will meet in the video room on the second floor of the Education Building at 9:45 a.m. After watching a brief video, they will divide into groups for discussion and activities. Note: there will be no children's Sunday School on July 4th, August 15th, August 22nd, or August 29th.

The youth group devotes summer to mission and fellowship! From June 18th through the 28th, some of our senior high and adult leaders will travel on a pilgrimage to Taizé, France. In July, the high schoolers are traveling to Kentucky 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. Summer missions will be celebrated at Palms on August 22nd. We'll also have plenty to do around here, with lunches, mission events, outdoor activities, as well as weekly youth group meetings on Sunday nights!

You also have the opportunity to sing in the choir! Summer Choir has started. Just drop by the choir room Sundays at 10:10 a.m. and lift up your gift of song for our 11:00 a.m. summer worship service.

Journey with with your Palms family this summer!



Madison Reynolds (second from right), sits with her assigned group of children at last years Vacation Bible School.

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May 2010



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**Sunday Worship**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Sunset at Palms**  
**5:45 p.m.**



### Thank You Palms!

Over 780 packages of underwear and enough monetary donations were collected to add to a total of 1650 packages of brand new children's underwear. Our annual Undie Sunday fundraiser was a great success thanks to you!

**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**  
 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

### Heart of Palms

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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 May 31, 2010

	Budgeted Y/T/D	Actual Y/T/D	Over (Under)
Total Income.....	\$803,640.....	\$742,303.....	\$(61,337)
Total Expenses...	\$799,586.....	\$783,607.....	\$(15,979)

### 50th Anniversary Campaign

Total Pledges to date: \$3,250,272  
 Total Paid to date: \$3,011,062  
 Pledge Balance: \$239,210

# Walking With Palms...

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A message from our Pastor

Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Walker



Having two teenagers, the desire for summer has hit full force in our home. While once we are out of school we do not get those long summer breaks, summer is still a time for most of us to pull back, vacation, or intentionally seek renewal and refreshment. We may or may not be any less busy, but it seems that we are little more intentional about finding times of rest during the summer.

I have always been fascinated by the rhythm that the gospels suggest was part of Jesus' life and ministry. There were periods of full force engagement into the life of the world around him followed by times when Jesus would pull away, often to a deserted place, but always to a quiet, less hectic place.

It has been a full and wonderful year at Palms. Even though our mission and ministry do not wane in the summer, it is a time to take a deep breath, to listen, to be still and perhaps sense anew God's call on our lives. The Palms' Session has just agreed to do just that, as it begins a process of listening and strategizing for being responsive to God's call in the future. This process will begin in the summer with pausing and listening, and move throughout the year as we listen to Palms' community and the world around us about where God is calling us in the future.

My hope for all of us is that in some way summer can be a time when we pull away a little to renew, refresh and reflect. As you do, I invite you to ponder these three questions:

- ▶ Where have you seen God at work around you these past few months?
- ▶ Where is God working on you now and you need to stop and pay attention?
- ▶ Where might God be poking and prodding us to go as we move into God's future?

As you ponder these questions over the summer, if you want to drop me a note, have a conversation with a walk on the beach or send me an e-mail, please do. I look forward to hearing where all of us feel God's call as we pause, maybe just a little, this summer.

Shalom, 

## Report from the Session

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

- ▶ Received the Palms confirmation class of Matthew Wolfsen, Hans Torgerson, Molly Smathers, Coco Jones and Austin Patton into church membership.
- ▶ Celebrated the wonderful work of class of 2010 elders rotating off Session: Tim Jenkins, Joan Kemp, Herb Wolfsen, Linda Scaz, Wendy Kennedy and Marcele Gillum.
- ▶ Welcomed the class of 2013 to the Session: Walt Colvin, Kathleen Mantia, Bernie Lyons, Michelle Branham, Del Fischer, Michelle Copenhaver, Jim Yoder.
- ▶ Approved the D3 program for a graduating senior(s) to explore vocational questions in and through the church.
- ▶ Approved a strategic planning process that will involve the congregation and community, and is scheduled to bring a report to the congregation in 2011. (See details on page 5.)

# Outreach

## An Encouraging Example in Support of Haiti

by Bob and FloAnne O'Brien

Ready for a feel good story? A couple of weeks ago we got a call from Rev. Dr. Carol DiGiusto to see if we could come to the church to receive a special gift for Haiti Outreach.

We were met at the church by a bright, cheerful 2nd grade student, Katie Stevens, and her mother. They do not go to our church but Katie just had her 8th birthday party and asked her friends not to bring her a gift, but to bring a donation for the children in Haiti! She wanted the donation to go to an organization that was doing work in Haiti and she wanted to meet people who worked with children in Haiti. Her mother, Jane, knew of Palms' Haiti connection through newspaper articles, and called the church. We shared pictures of Haiti and FloAnne presented Katie with a small metal Haitian taptap as a thank you.

Katie attends Beaches Episcopal School. Katie talked about her current teacher who was FloAnne's teaching partner when she taught at Beaches. FloAnne asked Katie if she liked to read and when she enthusiastically said yes, Flo Anne asked if she would like her donation to go to buy books for the Blanchard library. That made Katie's day! Our day was made by seeing an eight year old forgo her fun gifts so that children in Haiti would have a better day!



Katie Stevens presents a check to FloAnne O'Brien to be given in support of our partners with Haiti Outreach Ministries.

## Adult Mission Trip with Appalachian Service Project

October 14 - 17

This fall, the Palms Adult Mission Team will travel to Jonesville, Virginia, to work with Appalachia Service Project. ASP provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation -- bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families. But ASP is more than just a building program. Yes, Appalachia's poorest families urgently need your help, but they can help change your life, too. Because when you change the lives of others, they have a way of changing you. Best of all, you'll discover first-hand that regardless of geography, education, or economic class, we are all equal members of the family of God.

Our goal is to make homes "warmer, safer and drier" for needy families. Our ASP adult mission trip last September was in Brenton, West Virginia, which is very near the area of the recent coal mining disaster in Montcoal. Our team, led by Ingram and Dale Caswell, was chosen to replace siding on a home up in one of the nearby "hollers." The family was gracious, and did all they could to make us feel welcome despite our hammering, ripping, tearing, and sawing on the sides of their home. We accomplished all we could in one weekend, despite a little rain, and then handed the job over to another team to complete. The smiles on the faces of the family and their children were all we needed to warm our hearts, and convince us that this is what God's love is all about.

**An informational meeting about Palms Adult ASP Mission Trip to Jonesville, VA is scheduled for Sunday, June 13th at 3:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room.**

# Heartbeats...



Some of our youth assisted with making snow-cones at the recent Discipleship Fair. (left to right) Jenna Copenhaver, Madison Reynolds, Lauren Bevans and Casey Boland.



Bob O'Brien, Dale Caswell and our Haiti mission partner Pastor Leon Dorleans prepare the Blanchard work team for rebuilding. Sites at Cite Soleil, Blanchard and Repatriot are involved in the repairs and rebuilding from the devastating earthquake.



Youth Group Leader Murray Beard and Youth Pastor Katie Day, goof around during the Confirmation Retreat in May at Camp Montgomery.



Melissa Worth, Samantha Reichard and Emily Jacobson take a break from helping rebuild homes and lives in New Orleans. They were there as part of Palms College Mission Team.

## Palms Session Approves a Strategic Planning Process

At its May meeting, the Palms Presbyterian Church Session approved a strategic planning process for the Session and congregation to envision and plan for the next five years of our life together. Based in part on the spiritual disciplines of holy listening and holy conversations, the Session will be moving through an intentional time of discernment listening to the congregation and our surrounding community about God's call for Palms. This process will take the better part of the next year and a half, and will provide opportunities in a variety of inputs from the congregation and our neighbors. More information will follow in the months ahead, so please keep our Elders in your prayers as they seek to listen intently for God's vision for Palms as we move into God's future.

## Christianne Wolfsen - Summer Youth Intern



Christianne Wolfsen is our summer youth ministry intern! She will fill her days this summer with planning events, leading Youth Group on Sunday nights, and spending time with middle and high school youth.

Christianne just finished her freshman year at Wellesley College, and is trying to decide between majoring in biology or neuroscience. She also plays rugby and tutors at a local high school. This summer, she is most looking forward to building relationships with students and taking fun day trips with them. She can be found in her office at the church on Mondays and Tuesdays.



Confirmands Austin Patton, Matthew Wolfsen, Molly Smathers, Hans Torgerson, and Coco Jones on their spring retreat before joining Palms in May.

## June/July Youth Calendar

### June

Sun 6th	9:40-10:40AM 7:00-8:30 PM	Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast Youth Group
Sun 13th	5:45 PM 7:00-8:30 PM	Taizé Pilgrimage Commissioning in worship Youth Group Summer Celebration
Mon 14th	8:45-12:00 12:00-1:00 PM	VBS Lunch at Moe's
Tues 15th	8:45-12:00	VBS
Wed 16th	8:45-12:00	VBS
Thurs 17th	8:45-12:00	VBS
Fri 18th	7:00 AM 8:45-12:00	Taizé Pilgrimage departs VBS
Sun 20th	12:00-1:30 7:00-8:30 PM	Middle School Lunch with Christianne Youth Group
Sun 27th	11:00 AM 12:00-1:30 PM	High School Mission Trip Commissioning 9th/10th Grades Lunch with Christianne
Mon 28th	7:00-8:30 PM 10:00 PM	Youth Group Taizé Pilgrimage returns
Wed 30th	6:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Tubing at Ichetucknee Springs

### July

Sat 3rd	8:00 AM	High School Mission Trip departs
Sun 4th		<b>No Youth Group</b>
Sun 11th	5:00 PM	High School Mission Trip returns
Sat 17th	7:00-8:30 PM 6:00 PM	Youth Group Jacksonville Sharks Arena Football Game
Sun 18th	8:30 AM	Middle School Mission Trip Commissioning and departure
Fri 23rd	8:00 PM	<b>No Youth Group</b> Middle School Mission Trip returns
Sun 25th	12:00-1:30 PM 7:00-8:30 PM	11th/12th Grades Lunch with Christianne Youth Group
Wed 28th	8:00-8:00	Blizzard Beach

#### Contact Information:

**Becky MacMillan**

Administrative Assistant Church Office 246-6427  
becky.macmillan@palmschurch.org

## Thank You Notes...

Dear Palms,

Thank you, Palms, for the beautiful flowers! I was at therapy when they arrived, but oh what a nice surprise when I saw those gorgeous blooms! I enjoyed the church bulletin too. Your thoughts and prayers mean so much.

~ Carolyn Rose

Dear Palms,

I just wanted you to know how much I appreciate what you did. The flowers are beautiful! Thank you so much for thinking of me. Palms, you are the greatest!!

~ Very Respectfully, Raymond Rose

Dear Friends at Palms Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the Sanctuary on 8th Street, I would like to thank you for your recent donation. Your generous gift helps our kids achieve outcomes of which we are proud.

- ▶ 100% refrain from parenthood
- ▶ 98% are promoted to the next grade level
- ▶ 55% retention rate during the past five years
- ▶ 100% refrain from violent crime
- ▶ 100% of LPSS (Lynn Philips Sanctuary School) students have near perfect attendance
- ▶ 100% of LPSS students have improved GPAs
- ▶ 100% of LPSS students have improved standardized test scores

Did you know that one dollar invested in a child now represents a savings of \$7.00 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.

~ Sincerely, Vicky Watkins, Executive Director

Dear Members of Palms,

On behalf of BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry) and our clients, I want to thank Palms Presbyterian Church for the food drive that was held for BEAM. Thanks to the generosity of your members, over 100 bags of non-perishable food was brought to BEAM. Community support for our mission is very important to us as we strive to meet the needs of our clients.

BEAM is currently receiving an overwhelming and record-setting number of requests for financial and food assistance. BEAM attributes this surge in need to the economic downturn and rising cost of living. Thank you for all you do for the vulnerable families of our beaches community.

~ Sincerely, Vivian Southwell, Executive Director



### Family Cookout

Sunday, June 27, 4:00 p.m. - Dusk

Everyone loves a cookout! Join the X-Men and Mommy & Me at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club's Woodland Park for a cookout and kickball game. Families can play on the shaded playground and participate in various sports games. Enjoy fun and fellowship with other Palms families. Please bring a side dish to share (hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided). Please RSVP to Karen@daltonagency.com or 982-0358.

### Ichetucknee River Day - Family Adventure!

Saturday, July 17, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

[www.ichetuckneeriver.com](http://www.ichetuckneeriver.com)

Who's ready for some eco-adventure?! What better way to enjoy the beauty of God's creation than spending a lazy day floating down the Ichetucknee with other families from Palms? For many Floridians, this is at the top of their to-do list over the summer. Rent your inner tubes or rafts before arrival.

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Visitors Center. Enter the south entrance at the Ichetucknee Springs State Park. Let the cool spring water and other Palms families be your "oasis" for the day.

### Kids Kitchen Prep Party

Wednesday, July 21, 10:00 a.m.

Kids helping kids! Many children who are enrolled in free lunch programs during the school year can go hungry during the summer. Palms is delivering groceries to needy families at the Donner Center and U.S.O. Meet in the new member classroom in the Education Building. We need several little hands to work in our "assembly line."



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



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# BEAM



**BEACHES EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MINISTRY**  
 850 6th Avenue South, Suite 400, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

## It's Summer and BEAM Needs Your Help!

**Here at Home and Abroad in Afghanistan**

As you clean out your children's school clothes for the summer, please consider donating clean, gently-used clothing, shoes, belts, and accessories to Back-to-School with BEAM 2010.

Afghan children also need school supplies. The military contact we have says the CRITICAL need is for notebook paper and pencils, so we ask Palms' members to add these items when they are doing their Back-to-School with BEAM shopping, and place it in the containers at the church, July 18th and 25th, marked *Afghanistan*. Please contact Carolyn Ettlinger at 249-8514 for more information.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES and other items needed for Back-to-School with BEAM:**

- Backpacks
- Pencil Boxes, Plastic
- Pencil Pouches
- Pencils: #2 and Jumbo
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pens, black, blue, red
- Red Pencils
- Highlighters
- Crayons (24 count)
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Erasers
- School scissors
- Glue sticks
- Rulers
- Composition Books
- Notebook paper
- Folders: two pocket with prongs
- Binder - 3 ring (one inch)
- Tabbed dividers
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

**ALSO NEEDED: NEW UNDIES, NEW SOCKS, GENTLY USED CLOTHING**