Alleluia Newsletter
December 2016

Pasadena Presbyterian Church

From Me to You:

"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON,
AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means,
"GOD WITH US." (Matthew 1:24 NAS)

***CHRISTMAS** is all about God being with us.*
--True: God has always been "with us." God is Spirit (John 4:24) which means
1) God is invisible--we "see" God and His hand-at-work by faith--2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 1:20; 1 Timothy 1:17; and
2) God is also omnipresent--He is everywhere, at all times (Psalm 139:7).

*BUT God made Himself knowable and known to us at one special moment in His-story: when He came as **"Immanuel"**—God present in the person of His Son, Jesus, who became One of, with and for us (Galatians 4:4; John 1:14; Colossians 1:14; 1 John 4:9).*

Being with us, and us being with God, has been God's design and desire for us from before all time. Our sin—choosing to disobey God, and not loving and honoring God in our lives (Genesis 3:1ff; 1 John 3:4)—separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2). The result is that we were "without God in this world" (Ephesians 2:12), and so subject to death--physical and eternal (Romans 3:23, 6:23).

*To bring us back, God came to us **in person**-- Jesus, God the Son, who is the Savior for the world (Luke 2:11; John 4:42). Jesus offered His perfect, sinless life for us, in our place, dying our death on a cross (Hebrews 4:15; Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18), cleansing us from all our sin—past, present, future—by His blood (1 Peter 1:19; 1 John 1:7), and* He rose again to bring us with Him into new, eternal life (Romans 6:5; Philippians 3:10-11). The *GIFT* of **Jesus**—His birth, life, death and resurrection—is what God offers to each of us, and what we as believers in Him celebrate, at and as CHRISTMAS.

Of course, just because a gift is offered to us, it isn't ours until we receive it.
To *have* forgiveness of all our sins, and a new and eternal life with God, we need to **accept** Jesus personally, as our own Savior and Lord (John 1:12; Romans 6:23; 10:9-10). When we do that—pray, confessing our sin and need for Jesus, and inviting Him into our lives (Revelation 3:20), Christmas *really* begins--*and* it never ends! ***IMMANUEL***--God is with us, and we will be with Him, now and *forever!* (1 John 5:24, Revelation 21:3).

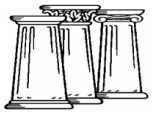
Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior and Lord—God with you, so you can be in life forever with God?

May the joy of Jesus, His presence with us, and our being His and forever with Him, be the "reason for the season" and the witness of our lives, now and always!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Carl

SESSION DIGEST



The Session met on October 25, 2016 for their regular monthly stated meeting. The following items were discussed and/or acted on.

1. The annual Corporation meeting was held, with Elder Watts leading. Officers for the new year: Pat Watts, President; Kathie Schellhaas, Vice President; Larry Oline, Secretary; and Arlene Tomin, Treasurer were elected. The Corporate name change to Pasadena Presbyterian Church, Inc. a unit of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) was approved. Office angels Christa Wyess, Alma Oline, Jan Hinkle and church secretary Threse Hammond be authorized to be signatories for the General Fund & Designate Funds Checking accounts. The meeting was opened and closed with prayer.
2. Elder Gene Hammond was approved to retain George F. Young Company for the purpose of investigating and subdividing the property along Burlington Avenue.
3. A letter called “Project Renewal” will be sent to the congregation prior to December 7, 2016.
4. A congregational meeting will be called for November 13, 2016 following the worship service in order to consider approving the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to elect Larry Oline as an active Elder to replace the term of Zinet Kalis.
5. Elders John Odom and Larry Oline were elected as commissioners to the Presbytery meeting on November 17, 2016 at FBC in Lakeland.

—*Larry Oline,* Clerk

Pastor Carl is on leave Dec 26 through January 1st If you have a pastoral need during this time, please call Pastor Bob 278-1678.

October 2016 Financial Report

General Fund Checking	$ 46,833.34
Designated Fund Checking	$ 82,416.86
PRESCHOOL Checking	$ 54,820.35
PRESCHOOL MM	$ 40,739.31
OPERATING INCOME TOTAL*	$ 17,496.34
OPERATING EXPENSE TOTAL*	$ 21,358.77
OPERATING BALANCE (+ or -)	-$ 3,862.43
OPERATING INCOME YTD *	$ 222,972.46
OPERATING EXPENSE YTD *	$ 208,319.06
OPERATING BALANCE (+ or – YTD)*	+$ **14,653.40**
Deacon’s Fund	$ 2,761.31

*Amounts are from QuickBooks reports reconciled to bank statements

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

We read in 1 John 4:19, "We love because He first loved us." God's love comes to us, as it did at the first Christmas thousands of years ago, and then comes our response. We are able to love Him because of His love for us. Our love for Him can be shown in many ways, because we should bring to Him our best, which can look as different as we do. Of course, one of the most visible ways to love God is shown in the next verse, "If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother he has seen cannot love the God he has not seen." We can show our love for God and our neighbor by serving our neighbors in His name. I'd like to thank our faithful members for showing love for God and neighbors by pledging and giving, and by serving at workdays, food distribution, or ways we don't think of, like the office, band, maintenance, and unnoticed ways. Thank you for these gifts of love you've given to God this Christmas and throughout the year, given because He gave Jesus to us forever.

Thomas Smith IV
Stewardship Ministry Chair

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

- **Breakfast With Jesus: Teacher: Larry Oline at 8:30a in Fellowship Hall**
- **College/Career Class—Moneylife: Teacher: Tom Smith IV at 11a in Fellowship Hall**
- **Elementary age children's Sunday school begins at 9:00a in classroom 3**

PRAISE KIDS CLUB AND YOUTH GROUP OFFER TIME FOR KIS AND YOUTH TO STUDY THE BIBLE

We're teaching the Bible on Sunday nights to kids 3 and up (and giving parents a little time for themselves!) We teach the truths of the Bible through stories, games and crafts to the elementary and for older kids and those who have graduated, a discussion time.

Praise Kids are currently studying and Learning the Lord's Prayer, using other Bible stories as examples.

At 6 p.m. we offer a snack and time to gather and get to know each other. Then we break into groups to learn about Jesus. Even the kids in the nursery get an age-appropriate lesson. We end between 7:30 and 8 p.m.

Sometimes we have special events so keep up with us on our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/

The Deacon's Developments

The Deacons serve Christ by serving others for His glory and purpose

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father full of grace and truth." John 1:14

We wish you a very blessed Christmas and a Christ filled New Year!!

PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN PRAY FOR YOU!!!

God loves you and so do we!!

Barbara Gonzalez (343-8008)
Julie Gull (522-2942)
Threse Hammond (480-1436)
Larry Hendry (479-6150)
Michelle Loy (480-0442)
Terry Odom (347-5754)

FOOD DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY REPORT OCTOBER 2016

469 Families 1,183 individuals 10,381 pounds of food given out

All guests who came were notified that we will distribute once in November on the 12th and once in December on the 10th. Several of our guests prayed with us that God will continue to provide this ministry which means so much to them. We are confident God will continue to provide our needs. In November, we will survey our guests to help us determine which Saturday we will distribute each month in 2017. We have been blessed with a few new additional volunteers and abundantly blessed by the Veterans Robert Feczer brings with him (4 or 5). Some of our veterans also took part in the church cleanup project on November 5th.

We are grateful for our Boy Scout Troop 301 and Liaison Don Davis for collecting 227 lbs. of food for our FDC!

And Thank You to Pastor Anthony and Sister Judy for sharing God's word and prayer with our guests in October.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

12/03	Hanging of the Greens, 9 AM	**12/15**	Sonrise Preschool Pageant, 6:15 PM
12/04	Second Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday Youth/Praise Kids, 6 PM	**12/18**	Fourth Sunday of Advent
		12/24	Christmas Eve Service, 7 PM
12/10	123 House Food Distribution 9:30 AM—2:30 PM	**12/25**	Celebrate our Savior's Birth… Worship Service, 10 AM Merry Christmas!
12/11	Third Sunday of Advent		

Women of the Church

Sock Tree

Collecting

November 27-December 18, 2016

To Benefit

Beth-El Mission

All New Socks

All Sizes

For Women

Men & Children

YOU ARE INVITED…

To: The Preschool Christmas Pageant
Date: Thursday, December 15
Time: 6:15pm
Where: In our sanctuary
Why: To celebrate the birth of Jesus

The preschool children, church family children, and praise band will be telling us about the birth of Jesus.

We hope you can attend!!!!

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH – DECEMBER 2016

Communion at the Springs – Monday, December 5th at 9:45 a.m.

Committee Meeting – Tuesday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m.in the Boswell Room.

Rachel Circle – Monday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Felicia Ragland.

Sarah Circle – Tuesday, December 13th at noon at the Treasure Island Yacht Club.

Kevin Odom's Mission Trip Lunch – December 11th in the Fellowship Hall following Worship. (See flyer elsewhere in Newsletter)

As you notice, we have one day circle and one evening circle. This is not like a club – all women of Pasadena Presbyterian Church are invited to come to either of the circle meetings. We have bible study, fellowship and light refreshments. We do have a budget for each calendar year and your offerings help us to contribute to the missions that we support, local and foreign. There is a copy of our budget for 2016 on our bulletin board in the hallway to the Boswell (or Patio). If you want more details regarding Women of the Church, please contact Pat Watts (727-302-0888).

The sock tree will be in the Patio hallway from Sunday, November 27th thru Sunday, December 18th. These socks will be taken to Beth-el Farmworkers Ministry in Wimauma soon after the 18th.

"Serve one another in love" (Gal. 5:13) and "Encourage one another" (I Thess. 5:11; Heb. 3:13)

Evangemissions

Christmas Is Costly

It cost Mary and Joseph the comforts of home during a long period of exile in Egypt to protect the little Babe. It cost mothers in and around Bethlehem the massacre of their babies by the cruel order of Herod. It cost the shepherds the complacency of their shepherds' life, with the call to the manger and to tell the good news. It cost the wise men a long journey and expensive gifts and changed lives. It cost the early apostles and the early church persecution and sometimes death. It cost missionaries of Christ untold suffering and privation to spread the good news. It cost Christian martyrs in all ages their lives for Christ's sake. More than all this, it cost God the Father His own Son-He sent Him to the earth to save men. It cost Jesus a life of sacrifice and service, a death cruel and unmatched in history.

The Christmas Gift Is Too Much

In ancient history we are told that Caesar had a friend to whom he once gave a munificent present. But when he offered it, the friend said: "This is too much for me to receive." To which the emperor replied: "But it is not too much for me to give."
After all our sinfulness and rebellion, God's gift of pardon through Christ does seem too much for us to receive; but the riches of divine mercy are so great that it is not too much for Him to give. When God forgives, there is not one sin left unforgiven. Christmas was indeed too great a gift for man, but it was not so for God.

Merry Christmas from our missionaries and all who heard the Good News

Your Faith Promise and mission giving helped make it possible for our missionaries to tell others about Jesus. Your prayers made you a partner in their efforts. **Luke 15:10** ESV Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Sandy Moore – Pat Mancini – Leslie Hughes – Larry Oline – Thomas Smith IV – Gene Hammond

DECEMI

Sun	Mon	Tue	W
4 ***Communion Sunday*** ***8:15a Praise Band Practice*** ***8:30a, 9:00a & 11a Sunday school*** ***10a WORSHIP-Communion (traditional style)*** ***6p -7:30p Praise Kids***	***5*** ***Sonrise 9a-2p M-F*** ***9:45a WOC Communion at The Springs*** 	***6*** ***10a WOC Committee Meeting*** ***7p AA Closed Meeting***	***7*** ***5:15p Praise*** ***6:30p Praise***
11 ***8:15a Praise Band Practice*** ***8:30a, 9:00a & 11a Sun school*** ***10a WORSHIP*** ***11a Congregational Meeting*** ***11:30a Kevin Odom Mission Trip Lunch*** ***6p -7:30p Praise Kids***	***12*** ***Sonrise 9a-2p M-F*** ***6p Rachel Circle***	***13*** ***12noon Sarah Circle*** ***6:30p Deacon's Meeting*** ***7p EvangeMissions*** ***7p AA Closed Meeting***	***14*** ***5:15p Praise*** ***6:30p Praise***
18 ***8:15a Praise Band Practice*** ***8:30, 9:00 & 11a Sunday school*** ***10a WORSHIP*** ***6p -7:30p Praise Kids***	***19*** ***Sonrise Preschool*** *CLOSED* ***M - F***	***20*** ***7p AA Closed Meeting***	***21*** ***5:15p Praise*** ***6:30p Praise***
25 CHRISTMAS DAY ***8:15a Praise Band Practice*** ***8:30a, 9:00a & 11a Sunday school*** ***10a WORSHIP***	***26*** ***Church Office and Sonrise Preschool*** *CLOSED* ***M - F***	***27***	***28***

BER 2016

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 *10a Koinonia Meeting* *6:30p Cub Scouts* *7p Women's AA*	*2*	*3* *9a-12p Hanging of the Greens*
Band Practice *Chorus Practice*	*8* *6:30p Cub Scouts* *7p Women's AA*	*9* ***Church Office Closed***	*10* *9:30a-2:30p Food Distribution*
Band Practice *Chorus Practice*	*15* *6:15p Preschool Christmas Pageant—Reception following in Fellowship Hall* *6:30P Cub Scouts* *7p Women's AA*	*16* ***Church Office Closed***	*17*
Band Practice *Chorus Practice*	*22* *6:30P Cub Scouts* *7p Women's AA*	*23* ***Church Office Closed***	*24* *CHRISTMAS EVE* ***7pm Celebration and Candle Lighting Service***
	29	*30*	*31* *NEW YEAR'S EVE*

KOINONIA MINISTRY

Scripture commands us to be devoted to one another.
Romans 12:10 states, "Be devoted to one another in love.
Honor one another above yourselves". NIV

"Koinonia's" primary meaning is "fellowship, sharing in common communion." The first occurrence of koinonia is in Acts 2:42. "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Believers in Christ are to come together in love, faith and encouragement.

Koinonia Ministry met November 3rd in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.
It was reported that for our Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 29th from 5-7 pm we had approximately 75 children and their parents. We need more cars next year to decorate but a fun time was had by all. The weather was beautiful. The children enjoyed hayrides on the bales of hay in our wagon.

Sunday, November 20th we had the dedication of shoeboxes and 18 pre-school children and parents were in the service. Shirley McLeod, Preschool Director and her family were introduced to the congregation e. The children did some singing early in the service, led by Terry Odom and then went to the Fellowship Hall for bible stories, crafts and cookie decorating. Before the end of the service they came back to the Sanctuary and brought their shoeboxes to the front of the Sanctuary.

December 11th, immediately following worship, we will have a Mission Trip Fund Raiser Lunch for Kevin Odom who returned recently from his 11-month, 11-country mission trip and will be going back out on the mission field sometime in January for 5-6 months. (Look for flyer elsewhere in the Newsletter)

Preschool Christmas Pageant is December 15th at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and join us in the Sanctuary and fellowship following.

Praise Kids/Youth will meet Sunday evenings (the Fun Day Sundays they do not meet) from 6:00-7:30 pm, gathering in the Fellowship Hall for snacks and fellowship and then go to different classes. Volunteers are always needed Sunday evenings and if you are interested you can contact Laurie Smith @727/544-7237.

Members of our Koinonia Ministry are: Cookie Cottrell, Vicki Danz, Gina Driggers, Ruth Gey, Sandy Moore, Terry Odom, Alma Oline, Shirley Phillips, Laurie Smith and Pat Watts.

Pat Mancini, Chairperson

Let **Christmas** come into our world and bring us warmth and cheer. Bring us **Faith** in place of doubt and strength in place of fear. Bring us **Hope** and bring us **Love** to guide our hearts forever. Let **Christmas** come into our world and bring us all together! May the joys and blessings of the season be yours!

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL.

COLLECT ALUMINUM DRINK CANS TO HELP YOUTH GROUP

Please bring in your aluminum soda cans (rinsed) and put them in the blue recycling bin, opposite the church kitchen door, as you come in to the Fellowship Hall. These cans will be sold to a salvage business and the money will go toward our church youth group. Thank you!

Sonrise ECLC

Recently my son woke me up at 4 am because he had a bad dream and couldn't go back to sleep. He crawled in bed with me and wanted to tell me the details of his nightmare. The more he talked about it the more anxious and afraid he became until he was shaking and crying. I said, "Stop telling me about it and pray." But when he started praying he said "God please help me to not be afraid of …." , and he starting talking again about his dream. I interrupted him and said, "No. Look at Jesus. Pray about Jesus. Jesus, thank you for loving me so much that you would rather die than live without me." My son started praying and speaking about who Jesus is. "Thank you, Jesus, for being a strong and mighty God. Thank you for your protection, your mercy and your grace. Jesus you are strong and brave and you love me with a powerful love that is bigger than anything that I am afraid of." The more he focused on Jesus the more he realized that he doesn't have anything to be afraid of. He fell asleep peacefully snuggled up to me. The greatest gift that God ever gave us is the gift of Himself. His presence in our lives is the difference between peace and overwhelming fear. On our own, we are just not that great. But we do not have to be because HE IS. God is great and He loved us enough to give His only son so that whoever believed in Him would have eternal life. That in itself is enough but He offers us so much more. Knowing Jesus gives us peace and hope and wisdom to live our lives for God. The greatest gift that God gave us is His presence and who He is. I pray that during this Christmas season you enjoy the presence of Jesus Christ in your life!

Please bring in your plastic grocery bags for the our Food Distributions. Bags can be put in the containers in hallway by patio. Thank you!

Please Remember *The Dollars For Deacons* Offering Envelopes in the Sanctuary.

Library News

MAY WE SUGGET THESE ITEMS FROM THE LIBRARY TO ENRICH YOUR CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS?

Don't have much time to spare but want to squeeze some time reading from one of your favorite Christian authors? Here are some ideas.

For children: What Is Christmas? (board book, Adams); The Christmas Story (Pingry, board book); and A Is for Angel A Christmas Alphabet Activity Book (paperback) and others. Among other dvds, there is Veggie Tales The Little Drummer Boy.

The Case for Christmas: A Journalist Investigates the Identity of the Child in the Manger (Lee Strobel) The cover says, " this warm yet journalistic book will help believers reaffirm their faith while guiding seekers as they pursue solid answers…" available in paperback and cd audio.

The Nativity Story is available on audio cd. It is a "the very human, very dramatic, and uniquely inspiring saga of a journey of faith," a novelization by well-known Christian author Angela Hunt.

Karen Kingsbury has a brand new book, "A Baxter Family Christmas" that continues the story from the last 23 books. However, the author says you don't have to have read all the previous books to read this one. There are 218 pages of actual novel (and the lines have a lot of "air" between them); five pages describing the Baxter family at the Christmastime; 11 ½ pages of recipes; and four of menu and prep time table. Oh, for Baxter Family fans, Karen mentions there will be more books to come.

Laurie Smith, librarian

PASADENA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EVANGELISM
AND CHURCH PLANTING
MISSION TRIP TO

Trinidad

July 1-8, 2017

FAQS

US Departure from: Tampa

Destination: San Fernando, Trinidad

Partners: *Pastor Anthony Oliver, Without Walls Outreach International*

Plan:

- ⇒ receive training in cross-cultural evangelism and follow-up discipleship
- ⇒ serve with church partners in Trinidad, going door-to-door doing direct, personal evangelism, and in ministries to help strengthen the host church
- ⇒ participate with church partners in evening studies and services
- ⇒ help our partners start new Bible studies and house churches in areas void of evangelical witness and worship of Jesus Christ
- ⇒ be a part of a beginning church planting movement with a strategic outreach to the rest of the Caribbean and northern S. America
- ⇒ become more effective disciple-maker at home (USA) in your witness of and service to Christ!
- ⇒ Get to know Jesus better, love and serve Him even more!

Documents needed:

US Passport (*also other notarized permits if under 18*)

Disease Prevention:

Current Tetanus, Hepatitis A & B (recommended)

Cost: $2,900

which <u>includes</u>: transportation from Tampa and in Trinidad, lodging & food in Trinidad, materials for evangelism and discipleship, follow-up funds for new and host churches

Deadlines:

Applications due **<u>December 31, 2016</u>** with $200 *non*-refundable deposit*
50% of outstanding balance due **<u>March 1, 2017</u>**
100% of cost **<u>due May 1, 2017</u>**

For More Information or to sign-up:

Contact Pastor Carl

Join us for Kevin Odom's Mission Trip Lunch!

Sunday, Dec. 11th after church

PPC's Kevin Odom grew in his faith on his 11-month, 11-country mission trip this year with a group called The World Race and felt the Lord calling him to return to the mission field. This time he'll be an alumni squad leader and spiritual guide. Come hear more about God's work and how you can help! His trip will include Mozambique, Swaziland, Madagascar, Mongolia and China.

Rotisserie chicken, tater tots,
veggies, fruit salad
cookies, cupcakes
served by the Women of the Church

Please call for reservations by 12/6

Pasadena Presbyterian Church
100 Pasadena Ave. N
St. Petersburg
(727) 345-0148

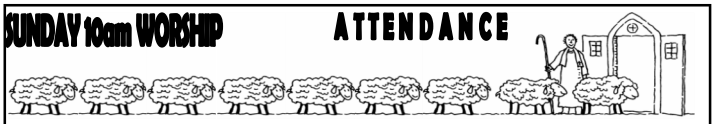
Bring your friends

PRAYER REQUESTS

We try to stay on top of prayer requests and concerns. If you know of someone who is ill in our church family, please let the office know. Even if the office is closed you can still leave a voice mail. If you have a pastoral emergency, you can always leave a voice mail at the Manse at 727-368-5588.
In the event that Pastor Carl is on vacation, we always record the

Emails to the Church
If you are attempting to contact us at PPC, please make sure you are using the correct email address for us as listed in the weekly Flyer.
If you send an email to us, but do not receive a reply, pleas call the OFFICE.
If you are not receiving emails from us, please make sure we have YOUR current email address.

SUNDAY 10am WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



October 30	57
November 6	65
November 13	78
November 20	124
November 27	65

Format for Submitting Information To Be Printed

- **Submit information 2 weeks prior to date needed print ready.**
- **Send information as an Electronic File MS Word Format.**
- **Newsletter articles are always due by the 15th of the month.**
- **Newsletter articles should be in Arial and font no larger than 10.**
- **Newsletter articles should be titled with ministry, month and year**

i.e., "Library December 2016".

Pasadena Presbyterian Church
100 Pasadena Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710

One First Class

ALLELUIA NEWS

LABEL HERE

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

PPC'S MISSION STATEMENT ***"GLORIFY GOD, BEAR MUCH FRUIT, SHOW OURSELVES TO BE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST" (John 15:8)***

Church Office: 727/345-0148 Preschool: 727/344-1584 Fax: 727/347-6836
Web Site: www.pasadenapc.com E-mail: Threse.Hammond@pasadenapc.com

Please remember Pasadena Presbyterian Church in your prayers, your will and your estate planning.

Happy Birthday December

04	Kathie Schellhaas
08	Gail Stahley
13	Barb Hendry
14	Paul Galloway
18	Walter Sowa
18	Patti B. Strong
22	Linda Woolsey-Adams
25	Michele Aristizabal
27	Julie Gull
31	Dalton Hughes
31	Leslie Hughes