



# Kirkwood

## *kronicle*

*From Hope's Heart:*

Last Christmas I took a pretty risky approach to gift-giving at the Lee Household. Instead of things, I decided to give experiences. Which sounds all well and good until little ones have to open an “experience” on Christmas morning instead of a toy.

For my youngest, that meant tickets to go see “Peppa Pig Live.” When the day came, long after Christmas had ended, she walked into Ruth Eckerd Hall as though it was the Roman Coliseum. When you’re only 3, the world looks like a much bigger place! We laughed. We had cotton candy. We saw the “real” Peppa Pig. And when it was over she said, “this was the best day ever.”

For my oldest, it was a trip to Orlando to see her favorite You-Tuber. If I’m honest, this is not exactly how I would’ve wanted to spend an evening. A few weeks later the news stations reported that there had been a shooting at the exact venue where we had just been. Two days later there was another mass shooting at a club somewhere else in Orlando. In a world that is filled with tragedy, for a few moments, my oldest said, “this was the best night ever.”

And for my son -- a fishing expedition. That was a community effort that involved a lengthy exchange of texts back and forth from the Bass Pro Shop to Bradenton where Carson Westfall was trying to navigate his fishing-illiterate pastor through the epicenter of the fishing universe. But, when the little guy came home from his big trip with pictures of his big fish, he smiled and said, “it was the best trip ever, mom!”

Ask me what my kids got in previous years. I might have a general idea. Ask them. They probably have even less of an idea. But, ask them about that time they saw Peppa Pig or Miranda Sings or when they went fishing and you will have more details than you would ever care to know.

This place, this church, is where so many of us have come to experience what it means to be loved by God, loved by others, and to have the opportunity to love the world in return. This year we have stories of water slides, ga-ga ball, and Cowboy Church. There are tales of trunk-or-treat, adventures in the jungles of Belize, and roller coasters on Sunday mornings.

*Continued on page 2*



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**BE THE CHURCH**

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Recently, Jonathan, our church custodian approached the staff about purchasing a spot cleaner for the rug. He estimated that to purchase a decent one it would cost \$250. That might seem like a small number to you, but in the world of small non-profit ministry, \$250 is an amount that needs to be carefully considered.

So, let's consider the spots that need cleaning. Many of them are in our Fellowship Hall. There are coffee stains that are the result of joyful gatherings for worship at The Well. There are "kid" stains -- juice, crayon, paint, etc. That means that we've got lots of little hands and feet all over our church property! There are "adult" stains that come from tracking in things when we show up for meetings like Al-Anon or the Boy Scouts or for dinners or cooking classes. There are wax stains in the main sanctuary that accumulate especially this time of year as we prepare to bring out the candles for another glorious Christmas Eve.

Purchasing a spot cleaner is not really about the cleaner at all. It's about the ministry that takes place all around it. That ministry, the lives of so many people who engage in our church, are worth far more than \$250. We don't purchase things just to purchase them. We ask ourselves what these things are going to do to enhance our ministry. And if \$250 extends the life of our carpets so that ministry can continue smoothly, then we are all for it.

The Finance Team thanks each and every one of you who has made it a priority to make the ministry of the church thrive this year with your own ministry of generosity. Without you, much of what happens here would not be possible, or at the very least, much harder to accomplish. We are grateful for your continued support. At the end of October our income was \$35,189. Our budget is \$34,000 for the month. And our expenses were \$29,444.01.

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*Continued from Page 1*

There were experiences of the Holy around food on Maundy Thursday and in the ashes of Ash Wednesday.

I want to personally invite you to experience Christmas with us this year. For the first time (at least since I've been your pastor) we're going to work together each week of Advent to bring forth an all-church Christmas Pageant on the 18<sup>th</sup>. We will have a Longest Night Service of Remembrance, as always. On Christmas Day, we'll gather together once again and following worship will share in a brunch to rejoice and take in the experience that is Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning.

We are a church that grows closer to God through shared experiences. Christmas Eve is the culmination of a whole year of experiences of "God With Us." Our staff and leaders look forward to being with you on that special night and are eagerly anticipating another wonderful year of Holy experiences to remember forever.

Merry Christmas! God be with you!

In the Grip of Grace

*Pastor Hope*

# All Church Advent Workshops

This Advent, we're all in it together! Each Sunday we'll gather at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall for a Bible study, pageant preparations/crafts, and fellowship! We hope all generations will come together to BE THE CHURCH!



## ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Join us Sunday, December 18th at 9:00 am as we welcome, Tobias, the Innkeeper who will lead us through the Christmas story. Every person (and we mean EVERY PERSON) who wants to participate will have a part—no practice or rehearsal necessary! There's going to be some special guest musicians and everyone will get to see their handiwork on display as we use the items made in our Advent Workshop to bring life to this very special story. There will be regular chapel and Traditional services on that day as well.

## Christmas Day Brunch

We know that Christmas day can be a very hectic day for many families and friends. The Session has made the decision to only have one service on the 25th of December. This will be a traditional Lessons & Carols service beginning at 10:00 am. Following the service we invite everyone to a potluck brunch in the Fellowship Hall. Several breakfast casseroles will be available and we encourage you to bring your favorite Christmas morning side dish to share!





The November **Operation Christmas Child Packing Party** presented another opportunity for us to embrace Mark 16:15 that says, "And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone." NLT As a result of your prayers, shopping and packing, Kirkwood was able to deliver 205 shoebox gifts that will reach around the globe to bring Christian love and Christ's story to children for the first time in their lives. (If you still want to contribute to our OCC effort, \$7 will help us cover the shipping costs for the unpaid boxes. Just write your check to Kirkwood, mark your payment for OCC and put it in the offering.)



We will soon know where all the boxes went and will share that with you. You have blessed the lives of so many children who would not have had a Christmas and know God's love.



**Could YOU save a life?** Our church has been asked to help in the search for a living kidney donor for the husband of one of our members. Yes, we are in search of a healthy kidney. The family is working through Tampa General Hospital's Living Kidney Donor program. If you'd be willing to be tested to see if you might be a match, please call us at the church [941-794-6229](tel:941-794-6229) for details on the next steps. Also, please share this need as we need as many folks as possible to see it because we need just one very special person to know it and make a difference. Together we can save a life!

[www.tgh.org/living-kidney-donor-program/](http://www.tgh.org/living-kidney-donor-program/)

# PRAY FOR ME PARTNERS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Following the Christmas Pageant on December 18th, we will have our annual Pray for Me Christmas Party. This special event is an opportunity for all of the adults who have been praying for their specific child or youth to connect with them over donuts and games. It's a chance to catch up, check in, and share how God's been working in the lives of our partners. We discovered last year that sometimes partners (both kids and adults alike) exchanged small gifts. This is not a requirement or necessity, but just something for consideration. Please RSVP to the church office 794-6229 or email [karen@kpcbradenton.org](mailto:karen@kpcbradenton.org) so that we can make sure all of the kids have an adult to celebrate with them!



## CHRISTMAS schedule



December 4th <i>Communion</i>	Chapel (8am) The Well (9am), Traditional (11am) All Church Advent Workshop (10am)
December 11th	Chapel (8am) The Well (9am), Traditional (11am) All Church Advent Workshop (10am)
December 18th	Chapel (8am), Traditional (11am) Christmas Pageant (9am) Pray for Me Partners Christmas Party (10am)
December 22nd	The Longest Night Service (6:30pm) <i>A Service of Remembrance</i>
December 24th <i>Christmas Eve</i>	The Well with Candlelight (5:30pm) Traditional with Candlelight (7:30 pm)
December 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>	Traditional Lessons & Carols (10am) Potluck Christmas Day Brunch (11am)





# Kirkwood Kids are Thankful!



Chloe: Family, God, Friends, Ms. Bass, School, Mrs. Diane, Mrs. Carolyn



Finn: Love, Marlin, Finn, Bose, Goody (dog), Sharkbait (cat), God



Leighton: Family, Hope, Church, School, Turkey,



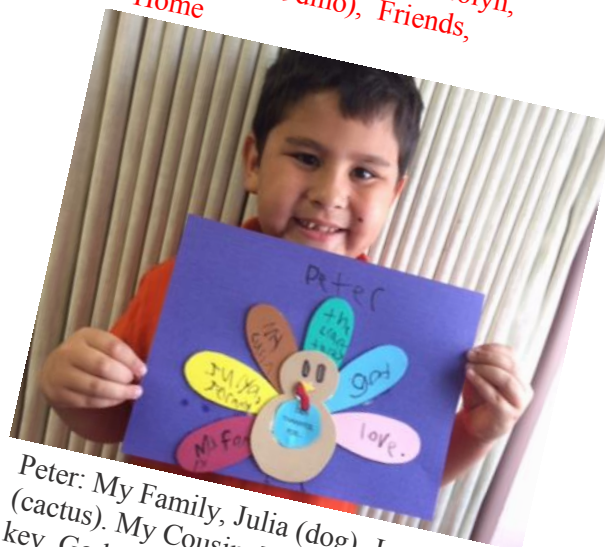
Marlin: Church, God, Goody (dog), Sharkbait (cat), Mac & Cheese, Animals, Family



Molly: Family (mom, dad, sister), God, Mrs. Diane, Mrs. Carolyn, Ally (stuffed dino), Friends, Home



Levi: Love, The Well, My Family, My Friends, My Teacher, Jesus



Peter: My Family, Julia (dog), Jeremy (cactus), My Cousin, The Great Turkey, God, Love

## MISSION CONNECTIONS

Stretch out your arms wide. Now cross them across your chest and wrap yourself in a big selfie hug! Kirkwood's big heart revealed itself again (and again) to our mission partners and that's in thanks to you!

In October, twenty-nine of you pitched in and shopped to fill the Angel Sacks for the clients of My Choice Pregnancy Center. (If anyone knows where the thirtieth bag went, we can still turn it into My Choice for another meaningful Christmas gift.) The Angel Sacks reflect the giving and sharing spirit we cherish.

The November Operation Christmas Child Packing Party presented another opportunity for us to embrace Mark 16:15 that says, "And then he told them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.'" NLT As a result of your prayers, shopping and packing, Kirkwood was able to deliver 205 shoebox gifts that will reach around the globe to bring Christian love and Christ's story to children for the first time in their lives. (If you still want to contribute to our OCC effort, \$7 will help us cover the shipping costs for the unpaid boxes. Just write your check to Kirkwood, mark your payment for OCC and put it in the offering.)

So many of you were a part of the successful 21st Annual Christmas Market. Thank You! Our volunteers were great, and the atmosphere was energetic and festive! Everyone felt the positive air when they entered the Market. We had an awesome turnout of shoppers eager to explore all the options available for them to learn about altruistic giving. Thank you to everyone who shared the event flyers with friends and posted the event lawn signs around town. It helped! (Please remember to return the lawn signs to the office, so we can save money and reuse them next year.) The twenty non-profits were very happy with their experience at this year's Market. I hope you got to meet them all. Did you step into the Kiwanis Book Mobile? Seventy-five children did and were given free books! I really hope that whoever peaked your interest during your Market visited, has found a way to engage you in their mission.

On the fourth Sunday of October, eight members and friends served 203 meals at Our Daily Bread, our community kitchen that feeds the hungry daily. Through October, 83 servers from Kirkwood have worked 207.5 hours extending a Christian welcome to 1487 people coming to be fed at Our Daily Bread. Thanks to all who represent our congregation each month! (Remember that another group will serve on our Sunday in December, since it will be Christmas Day.)

Many people in Manatee County struggle to put food on their tables each night. This need extends to our migrant workers, who turn to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry weekly for food donations. Four hundred to six hundred migrant families get groceries each week from Beth-El. Just before Thanksgiving Beth-El sent out an urgent request for non perishable foods to restock their bare food pantry shelves. We set up a special collection in response and will deliver your extra mission donations as often as we are able. Contact Carolyn, if you can help make Beth-El deliveries.

Our December Mission Collection is dedicated to Project Heart, which serves homeless children within the Manatee County School system. Their students need: New socks & underwear, personal hygiene (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene), combs, and lice treatment shampoo. Prayerfully shop for them too this month.

Sometimes it's easy to take basic necessities for granted so please remember our Mission Cart strives to make life easier for our mission partners by providing what they have requested. As you continue to give generously, may you feel blessings in your soul for caring and sharing what you have.

*Carolyn Roskamp*  
Coordinator for Missions & Outreach

Our next Mission Team meeting will be in the Parlor promptly at noon on December 11.



# Christmas Market 2016





*Come and join us for our Bible Study, fellowship and refreshments at our circle meeting, December 7th at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*



*We look forward to our gathering and welcome all women including our returning winter residents.*

*The Bible Study will be lead by Helen Hartai, our new Associate for Teaching & Care. Let's give her a warm welcome at our December meeting.*

*Judy Weller*

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBER**



Chris May is from Detroit, Michigan and has been in Bradenton for 23 years. He works for Westfall Landscaping talking care of pest control and fertilizing. He loves going to church, has been attending for over two years and he joined in on the Adult Mission trip to Belize last summer. He enjoys working out and plays pool in two leagues. Praying has been, and will continue to be a large part of his life.



## Campus Care

Most churches have a group of volunteers whose activities deal with caring for the property. Some are called support services, Property Management, or Building & Grounds. Kirkwood's Campus Care volunteers fit into all those categories and more. Our congregation continues to step up to the plate with their dedicated service. When called upon, these are the types of "chores" Campus Care volunteers address:

- ⇒ Planting and watering shrubs and flowers
- ⇒ Painting offices and classrooms
- ⇒ Installing new irrigation
- ⇒ Raking pine needles for use as mulch
- ⇒ Trimming trees
- ⇒ Painting parking bumpers and curbs
- ⇒ Cleaning the kitchen
- ⇒ Washing and repainting doors
- ⇒ Installing new playground equipment
- ⇒ Power washing sidewalks
- ⇒ Trimming, weeding and fertilizing landscape beds
- ⇒ Cleaning and oiling wooden pews and pulpit
- ⇒ Polishing bronze plaque in Memorial garden

These are only a few specific project, but there is always an action "to do" list in place.

We will be planning a couple of work days after the holidays. There will be inside "chores" as well as outside "projects". So come join your fellow Christians as we work together to take care of God's property.

I also want to extend an enormous THANK You to Eagle Scout John Odowd. For his Eagle Project he assessed, designed and executed the repair of our drainage issues around the sanctuary building. This included writing a detailed physical plan as well as fund raising, engaging expert advice and recruiting and managing the volunteer workers. This project has made a tremendous improvement. No more Lake Kirkwood in the office parking lot!!



There are other Eagle Scout project in the works.

*Midge Goeth*





Hello Friends,

This past month has been a very exciting one for the youth group. We finished up our series on Wednesday nights that was titled “tough questions”. We had some very meaningful discussions over some great theological questions.

Our youth were also able to volunteer at the Christmas Market and had a lot of fun serving in the Children’s Shop.

Confirmation class for the 5th-8th grade students on Sunday is also going very well. The youth in this class have been learning about some of the beliefs of our church and we have been talking about the basis for those beliefs from Scripture.

We also had a bowling night at the beginning of November that was a lot of fun for our youth group. This was a great night for our group to build community with each other.

What is coming up for the youth group?

All Church Advent Sunday School Class

Starting Nov. 27 all youth are invited to join the all church Sunday School Advent class. This class will meet right after The Well service from 10-11am starting 11/27- 12/11.

On Sunday December 18 from 10am-11am all youth are invited to attend the Pray for Me breakfast where they will get to meet their adult prayer partner.

Save The Date

Believe it or not winter is almost here! I am starting to plan a winter retreat for our youth group! The plan is to spend the weekend at Cedar Kirk Camp! The date for this retreat will be January 27-29, 2017. RSVP by January 11, 2017.

Blessings,

**Brian Craig**

Associate for Youth & Community Life



# OUR YOUTH IN ACTION



Anna and Madison helping to pack a present for a child at the Operation Christmas Child packing party.



Allie Bennett packing a box for Operation Christmas Child.



The Youth Group at the Hanging of the Greens



Hanging  
of the  
Greens





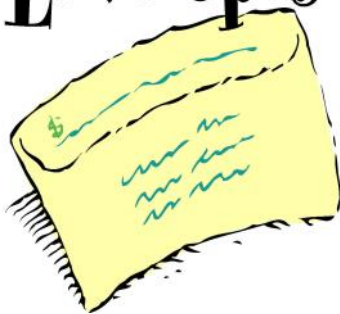
## Dream Oaks Trunk or Treat

What a wonderful time helping out at this fun Trunk or Treat in October for children with chronic illnesses and special needs.



Thank you for Being the Church!

## Offering Envelopes



## End of the Year Giving

All gifts need to be postmarked by December 31st to be counted on the 2016 Contribution Records.

New Envelopes will be available soon. If you need a set of envelopes for ease in giving, please contact [sharon@kpcbradenton.org](mailto:sharon@kpcbradenton.org)



- The deadline for articles for the January 2017 issue of the Kronicle is  
Tuesday, December 20th
- Prayer Chain requests should be submitted to the church office at 941-794-6229,  
or to email: [office@kpcbradenton.org](mailto:office@kpcbradenton.org).

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

01 Robert Kellar  
 03 Cecily Cerutti  
 04 Colette Horne  
 06 Betty Smith  
 07 Shirley Fisher  
 08 Sharon Catlin  
     *Jay & Mary Getz*  
 09 Helen Garrett  
 10 Karen Byrnes  
     Morgan Maslo  
 11 Darlene Cole  
 12 Teri Bennett  
     *Roby & Susan Hott*  
 14 Marlin Duytschaver  
 16 Pat Crytzer  
     Pamela Euerle  
     Doreen Leahan  
     Scarlett Radtka




17 Craig Kaplan  
     Bud Maslo  
 18 Merrill Keen  
     Ted Meekma  
 19 Lyn Vincent  
 21 Abby Bennett  
     *Jim & Claudia Bishop*  
 22 *Jerry & Paula Horcha*  
 23 Jim Wedel  
 25 Gerda Jungbauer  
 27 Dean Hohnstein  
     *Ron & Judy Berry*  
 28 *Bob & Mary Ann Jones*  
 29 Susan Hott  
     Jeanne Miller  
     Marge Schurr  
 30 Robin West

## New Year's Day Celebration

**It only happens every so often that Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Sunday. So, we've decided to go all out to welcome 2017 in a big way! We are going to have a joint service of joy and celebration at 10:00 am. It will be high energy, hope-filled and a great way to start off a strong faith in the new year.**

# December Prayer Calendar 2016

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  For perspective on what really matters	2  That the project to create a sensory room at The Well pro-	3  Project Heart, our mission partner
4  Coming of Christmas	5  Reconciliation Of all of God's people	6  Health & well Being during a Busy time of year	7  Families Suffering with Drug abuse	8  Opportunities To show grace	9  For those Serving in Active duty	10  Mindfulness About our Words and actions
11  Joy!	12  For time to Be still and Know God	13  Homelessness	14  Those working In call Centers for Emergency assistance	15  Thanksgiving For unexpected blessings	16  Heroin epidemic	17  For Pastor Brian
18  Kids of the Church	19  Those who are hurting	20  For Enough.	21  For peace of heart and mind	22  Remember families experiencing loss	23  For Pastor Sung	24  For moments of awe and wonder
25 The Blessings Of Christ with us! 	26  For the church staff to rest and renew	27  Relationship struggles	28  For preparations of the Introduction to the New Testament class	29  For Pastor Helen	30  For all the volunteers who serve all year long	31  For the promise and hope of a new year
January 1 10 AM Celebration Service						

# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30 Crafty Cut-ups 5 The Well Prac. 7 Choir Practice	2 <b>Office Closed</b>	3
4 8 Chapel 9 The Well 10 Education 11 Traditional	5 7 Boy Scouts	6 9:45 Staff Mtg. 7 Al-Anon	7 1 Presbyterian Women Mtg 6 Middle School Youth Group 6:45 High School Youth Group	8 9:30 Crafty Cut-ups 5 The Well Prac. 7 Choir Practice	9 <b>Office Closed</b>	10
11 8 Chapel 9 The Well 10 Education 11 Traditional 12 Mission Comm. Mtg.	12 7 Boy Scouts 7 Session	13 9:45 Staff Mtg. 7 Al-Anon	14 6 Middle School Youth Group 6:45 High School Youth Group	15 9:30 Crafty Cut-ups 5 The Well Prac. 7 Choir Practice	16 <b>Office Closed</b>	17
18 8 Chapel 9 The Well— Children's Pageant 10 Pray for Me Partner Christmas Breakfast 11 Traditional	19 7 Boy Scouts	20 9:45 Staff Mtg. 7 Al-Anon	21 5:30 Finance Mtg. 6 Middle School Youth Group 6:45 High School Youth Group	22 9:30 Crafty Cut-ups 5 The Well Prac. 6:30 Longest Night Service 7 Choir Practice	23 <b>Office Closed</b>	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 5:30 The Well Service 7:30 Traditional Service
25  10 Combined Service 11 Christmas Brunch	26 <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Christmas Day Observed</b> 7 Boy Scouts	27 9:45 Staff Mtg. 7 Al-Anon	28 No Youth Groups	29 9:30 Crafty Cut-ups 5 The Well Reh. 7 Choir Practice	30 <b>Office Closed</b>	31







A Biblically-Centered Church in the Presbyterian Fellowship  
6101 Cortez Road West  
Bradenton, Florida 34210-2711



*To begin receiving our newsletter via email, please contact the church office at 941-794-6229, or by email to [office@kpcbradenton.org](mailto:office@kpcbradenton.org).*

### KIRKWOOD KRONICLE

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### OUR STAFF

Rev. Dr. Hope Italiano Lee, Lead Pastor

Rev. Sung Lee, Associate for Worship and Technology

Brian Craig, Associate for Youth & Community Life

Rev. Helen Hartai, Associate for Teaching & Care

Paul Champagne, Director of Music Ministry

Carolyn Roskamp, Coordinator for Mission & Outreach

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Sharon Blackrick, Finance & Membership

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Jonathan Shelley, Custodian/Handyman

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### Sunday Worship:

Chapel at 8:00 a.m., The Well at 9:00 a.m. and Traditional Worship at 11:00 a.m.

Adult and Children's Ministry 10:00 a.m.

Office hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 a.m.