Thanksgiving is one of my favorite celebrations of the year. It reminds us to stop, reflect and remember the good things God has done in our lives. Giving thanks opens the door to giving glory to God, the reason we were put on this earth! I also love this holiday because each year, Peace Church gathers together on Thanksgiving Eve and reflects on specific things the Lord has done for us.

I want to extend a special invitation to all of you and encourage you to invite your family and friends to be part of our service this year. We are going to be highlighting three specific reasons we have to celebrate. It will be a moving witness to God’s power and goodness.

By way of preview, I wanted to just share the three things we will be highlighting. First, we will be giving thanks for bringing Peace Church into a new church family, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Lord guarded and guided us through a big process. We've come through it more unified and focused. That is good news!

Second, we will share the story of one family in our congregation, the Peerebooms. Over the last two years, many of us have been praying, visiting and caring for Josh, Cassie, Adam and Isaiah as this young family waited for Josh to receive a new heart. They have graciously shared their story in a video testimony that will highlight God’s work in their family through the Peace family.

Finally, we will be highlighting our call as the people of God to be part of helping children find new families. In our state and around the world, children in orphanages and foster care are hoping for what so many of us take for granted—a mom and dad. Our congregation has several families who are reaching out and bringing hope to children by bringing them into their families. You’ll have a chance to meet some of these families and learn more about what Peace is doing to make a difference.

I can’t tell you how excited I am to share these stories of Thanksgiving with all of you. As we gather, hear of God’s goodness, share the Supper and sing praise, I believe every one of us will remember just why we were made! To give Him glory for the new things he has done!

-Pastor Adam
I have so much to share with you this month; I can’t wait to get started.

First of all, there is now a copy of Pastor Barr’s book, “Compassion Without Compromise,” in the library if any didn’t get a copy of their own. Come in and check out this well written and informative book! The next book is all about peace. Peace in spite of bad economic times, terrorists and emotional upheavals. But it only comes from one source - God - and it is real. This book is called “Finding Peace” by Charles Stanley. We’ve also had “The Duck Commander Family” by Willie & Korie Robertson donated to our library and it is ready for you to take out. “You’ll Get Through This,” by Max Lucado, is a book that is a pleasure to read, but contains wonderful kernels of truth and comfort for those who are facing hard and troubling times. It is a book that you won’t want to put down. With Christmas right around the corner, I will be putting out some of our books with Christmas themes to enjoy over the Christmas season. I have a new one that is filled with very short stories that are light and comforting. It is a book that you won’t want to put down. With Christmas right around the corner, I will be putting out some of our books with Christmas themes to enjoy over the Christmas season. I have a new one that is filled with very short stories that are light and touching. It is written by many authors, like Ruth Graham, Joni Eareckson Tada, Charles Swindoll and more and is called “Christmas Stories for the Heart.”

We have a new Veggie Tales DVD called “The Penniless Princess”. It helps our little ones see where our true worth comes from.

As I mentioned above, the Christmas books will be coming out in a week or so and some of them are short, easy to read and help to put our Christmas celebrations in the right perspective.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

—Katy Workman
Library Coordinator
Friends at Peace is a mentorship ministry for young adults with developmental disabilities. In three years, Friends at Peace has grown from just 6 friends to now over 30 friends attending weekly! The Lord is good! There are also currently 10 mentors serving in this ministry - and we thank each and every one of them for the time and love they give to our friends.

Friends at Peace meets every Tuesday evening from 6:30 - 7:45. The beginning of our time together is spent praying over our needs or the needs of others, as well as thanking God for the many praises in our lives. Each week, mentors take turns either teaching a lesson (we recently finished several lessons on The Lord’s Prayer) or leading an activity (such as crafts for Christmas or exercise night). We have also done special activities such as, bowling and bringing donations from the church’s food drive to a local food pantry. On December 16th, Friends at Peace will be having its annual Christmas Party. We will enjoy fellowship, entertainment, and a wonderful dinner provided by amazing people in our Peace Church family. These amazing people also make every Tuesday special by providing delicious goodies. It is a highlight of the night to enjoy a tasty snack and fellowship with one another. We are very thankful for the giving nature of those at Peace Church. From the bottom of our hearts, you are appreciated!!

As one of the mentors, I can tell you that these friends have captured my heart. I have yet to meet a more joyful, caring group of people. Every Tuesday I am rejuvenated by their upbeat nature and love for one another. I clearly see the Lord working within our friends and mentors and I am thankful He has allowed me to witness the spiritual and social growth our ministry has fostered.

I encourage you to come check out Friends of Peace any Tuesday evening, or contact Case Westerbeek for how you can help support this ministry. I promise you, the Lord will not leave your heart untouched.

As this ministry continues to grow, we are in constant search of more amazing church family members to help provide goodies. Please contact Beth Westerbeek if you would like to help!

-Des Stauffer

THANK YOU, PEACE CHURCH VOLUNTEERS!

November was a BIG month for Outreach! On the second and fourth Sundays, 350 people attended our Sunday Night Suppers. A ton of volunteers worked together for the suppers - buying groceries, cooking, serving, circulating flyers, set-up, tear-down, clean-up, etc.

Caraway Street’s “Over the Rainbow” held three presentations in November, with the last show filling the Worship Center to capacity. Mega-hours were put in by so many with stage/Worship Center/foyer set-up, visual/sound effects, costumes, set-up, tear-down, and much more.

Following the final “Over the Rainbow” presentation, we were treated to a Hot Dog Extravaganza under the portico. The yellow brick road to the cross led the way for children to attend “Trunk or Treat”. Many volunteers dressed in costumes and decorated trunks with treats and signs highlighting Peace Church ministries.

Our Fall Community Breakfasts were outstanding and lived up to the Community Impact Team’s reputation of serving fine food! Again, a score of volunteers were involved in this outreach event to make each breakfast a success!

We’ve heard stories from many of you who have met new friends from our community at these events. Many of you have prayed that those who do not have a church home will come and learn that Peace Church is a Biblically-centered community of faith. Thank you, volunteers, for being the hands and feet of Jesus by helping and praying for our outreach events.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

This service will begin at 7PM on Wednesday, November 26. Join us with thankful hearts as we reflect and remember the good things God has done in our lives and in our church. Come with servant hearts as we hear the call of how to help children find new families, locally and around the world. Invite your friends to worship with us.

FALL FOOD DRIVE

The Peace Church Community Impact Team is collecting donations for two local organizations: Holy Family Food Pantry and Hand 2 Hand Ministries. Please pick up a grocery bag at the table in the foyer. A list of items needed are in your mail slot and also stapled to the bag. Filled bags may be placed under the coat rack by December 14.
Add two new recordings from the Peace Church Worship Team to your Christmas Playlist!

This Christmas season we are tremendously excited to share two new recordings of traditional Christmas songs with our Peace Church family. Multiple individuals from our church family have been working on these recordings for quite a while - first arranging, then rehearsing, then recording these two songs that retell the spectacular story of Christmas. We've poured hours and hours of work into this project for a few reasons. First and foremost, we hope that God will use this music to stir your affections for Him so that you might celebrate the first coming of Jesus even more enthusiastically through listening to this simple offering of art! We also, wanted create something that we can enjoy and utilize as a unique expression of our Peace Church worshipping community! Finally, we have a strong conviction that Peace Church does not exist simply for its own survival – we want to use the opportunities that God gives us to bless, equip, and influence other churches and leaders to be more effective and accurate as they spread the good news of the kingdom of God. Peace Church will do this in many ways, and one way we hope to bless and equip God’s people is by providing Christ-exulting, truth-loving, artistic pieces of music for worshipping congregations to sing. God-willing, these Christmas songs will be the first of many adventures in this area of ministry!

We are so thrilled to share this music with you and we can’t wait for you to hear it! Keep your eyes and ears open! The songs will

BARN SERVICE
Put your mittens on and join us for cookies, hot cocoa, and carols at our Barn Service, Sunday, December 14 at 6PM.

THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR

Pageant
Singing The Story
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CLEARLY CHRISTMAS is an annual women’s ministry event. You are invited to join hundreds of women to consider the deeper meaning of Christmas as we celebrate our Savior’s birth. It is a night to prepare our hearts during the hustle and bustle of getting ready for the Christmas season. This is a great place to invite our non-church friends, our neighbors and our female family members to a nice dinner out with a time of worship and praise. Our featured speaker, Marilyn Hontz has written many devotionals and books, and has appeared on various Christian radio programs. Tickets are on sale now in the church foyer on Sunday mornings, and during the week through the church office. Grab some extra invitations and ask your friends and acquaintances to join you that evening as we observe the true reason for the season!

Thursday, December 4, 2014
Doors open at 6:00 PM

WAYS YOU CAN HELP WITH JESUS’ BIRTHDAY PARTY:
(1) Invite kids 4 years old through 4th grade to the party using the postcards at the info depot and in your mail slot;
(2) Stay for a few minutes after second service to help tear down chairs in the sanctuary on Nov. 30th;
(3) Contact Lynnette Wingeier (269-948-2567) if you have an EZup tent Caraway could borrow or if you are willing to help greet/host or walk around in a panda bear costume during the party!

Hey kids! It’s Jesus’ birthday, and we’re throwing a party! Caraway Street’s big Christmas carnival, “A Birthday Party for Jesus,” is on Sunday, November 30. Visit us any time between 5 and 7PM.

Boys and girls ages four through fourth grade are invited to come help us celebrate. We have lots of fun games, activities and prizes.

Nursery is provided, and everything is totally free, so be sure not to miss it… and don’t forget to bring your family or an adult to have fun with you!

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