# POD FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

## Learning Romance from the Martyrs

David Mauldin

In February we celebrate a holiday named for a thirdcentury Christian martyr, Valentine. Various stories explain who he was and how he died, but they do not agree, so we know almost nothing about the man himself, except that he was killed for his faith in Christ.

Also unclear is why the day of his death, February 14, became a celebration of romantic love. One legend says that before he died, he slipped a love letter to his fiancée. In another version, though, he writes to his church family. Possibly the association is a holdover from the pagan festival of Lupercalia, held in Rome in mid-February. Instead of giving up the festival, Christians "baptized" it and made it their own.

This year, to honor Valentine and to assist you in your romantic endeavors, I offer the following excerpt from a wedding sermon written by another, more recent martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was a German pastor who opposed Hitler and paid the price with his life. Beginning next month, we will spend Lent with Bonhoeffer. You will get to know him better in sermons, articles, eblasts, and a Wednesday evening class. The point is not to know Bonhoeffer. The point is to learn from Bonhoeffer how to better follow Christ.

Bonhoeffer wrote numerous letters to his fiancée from prison, but his execution prevented him from ever marrying. He wrote, but did not preach, the wedding sermon from which this excerpt was drawn. It was read at the wedding of Renate Schleicher (Bonhoeffer's niece) and Eberhard Bethge (his best friend) on May 15, 1943. Bonhoeffer was already incarcerated for helping Jews escape to Switzerland. He wrote:

God is the founder of your marriage. Marriage is more than your love for each other. It has a higher dignity and power, for it is God's holy institution through which God wishes to preserve humanity until the end of time. In your love you see only each other in the world; in marrying you are a link in the chain of generations that God, for the sake of God's glory, allows to rise and fade away, and calls into God's kingdom. In your love you see only the heaven of your own happiness; in marriage, you are given responsibility within the world and the human community. Your love belongs only to you personally; marriage is something beyond the personal, an estate, an office. Just as it takes a crown to make a king and not just his will to reign, so it takes marriage and not only your love for each other to make you a married couple both in human and in God's eyes. Just as you first gave the ring to each other and then received it once again from the hand of the minister, so your love comes from you, and your marriage comes from above, from God. As God is higher than human beings, so the sacredness, the rights, and the promise of marriage are higher than human beings, so much greater is the holiness, warrant, and promise of marriage than the holiness, warrant, and promise of love. It is not your love that upholds marriage, but from now on it is the marriage that upholds your

#### BE IN THE KNOW

How can you stay up to date with the latest happenings at PCPC? There are several ways!

- Sign up for weekly e-blasts by calling our church office (772-286-9958) or emailing janet@palmcitypres.org.
- Read the newsletter. Our newsletter is posted on our

website under "Resources." Hard copies are available in the church office, Sanctuary narthex, HFLC lobby and Langill Hall lobby.



- Visit our website: palmcitypres.org.
- Like us on Facebook. On Facebook you will find previews of the upcoming sermon; photo and video coverage of church events/activities; upcoming events, classes, bible studies and VBS; and inspirational posts.





(the official Facebook page for PCPC Youth Ministry): fb.me/PCPCYouth





(the official Facebook page for PCPC): fb.me/PalmCityPresbyterianChurch



## Learning Romance from the Martyrs

#### cont'd

Did you get the last line? Your love doesn't make and/or protect your marriage. A lot of people make that mistake. "Why did you guys divorce?" "We just fell out of love." No, instead, marriage protects your love. The feelings we associate with love (and sometimes confuse with love) can overwhelm us. (And that's fun, isn't it?) But they are also fickle and vulnerable. Marriage is the opposite of fickle and vulnerable. God designed it to hold a man and a woman together when their feelings and their will no longer can.

Marriage is better than love because love makes us fools. If we only had love without marriage, we would bounce from one disappointing relationship to another until we grew too tired or jaded to go on. Marriage is not easy and can be unpleasant, but it makes us better lovers than we could be without it. Assuming, of course, we make the sacrifice to be faithful in it.

May you be blessed with the thrill of romance (at least sometime in your life) and the joy of marriage (if that is God's call for you). Perhaps it is appropriate to celebrate love on a day dedicated to a martyr. True love always means dying to self.



# GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help. January 14 - April 15, 2019; Mondays 6:30pm - 8:00pm Palm City Presbyterian Church 772-286-9958 2700 SW Martin Hwy Palm City, FL 34990

#### Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage

Renew your faith, discover the Father's love for you and His will for your life.

Pilgrimage #14 March 28-31, 2019 The Retreat at Silver Springs Ocala, Florida

Pilgrimage is three days long, yet the experience LASTS A LIFETIME.

Brochures are available in the display racks located in the church office, Langill Hall, and HFLC.

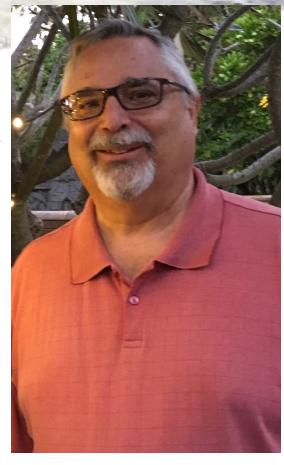
Visit the website for more details: http://floridapresbyterianpilgrimage.org

## ANGEL OF THE MONTH

by Janet Sallman

Our angel for this month is one of our elders who works behind the scenes. You will find him on Casual Wednesday in the kitchen helping to prepare and serve the food or at a memorial service reception washing the dishes. When he comes out of the kitchen, he puts much time into maintaining the buildings and grounds of PCPC by working on the committee, being a part of a Saturday "clean up" session and just going around our beautiful campus picking up fallen branches and other debris, which is always an ongoing landscaping necessity. He also gives of his time off the PCPC campus when he helps distribute food for the Treasure Coast Food Bank. He manages to do all of this with a humble and very BIG caring heart. I also must mention that he has the greatest and funniest stories to tell that will keep you chuckling inside long after you've heard them.

We are so blessed to have Mr. Bob Shubert as one of our angels here at Palm City Presbyterian Church.





Your church Membership Team, coordinated by Diane Graczyk, Linda Sanders, and Ruthann Hewson, is working with Lifetouch to produce a new pictorial directory for Palm City Presbyterian members, families and regular attendees. Lifetouch photographers will be at our location February 19–February 22 from 1:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. and February 23 from 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. A free 8x10 portrait and a free directory will be given to those who are photographed. Plus an exciting new interactive digital version of the directory will be available.

We've added more photo session dates! Sign-ups for photography appointments can be made after each worship service or through a link on the church's website. Just click on the Pictorial Directory banner on our home page. You may also sign up online using the following link: https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/ykdkvzsq/

Watch for further info in our weekly e-blasts and church bulletins.

Volunteers are still needed to help greet and sign in members as they arrive for the Pictorial Directory photography sessions on February 18-23. If you are willing and available to work a two-hour time slot, please contact Linda Sanders at lsanders@estee.com or call 772-283-9754. Your assistance is appreciated.



## A Message from the PCPC Deacons

-Renee Gould

Why Christians Do Communion

It's not about the bread and wine; it's about the body and blood of Jesus. It's not about the ritual or the method; it's about listening to Jesus and doing what He says.

For thousands of years, the Church has continued a practice called communion, or depending on different church traditions, the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist. Communion uses bread as a symbol of Jesus' body and wine or juice as the symbol for His blood. Communion is not an obligation, but a celebration. Here at PCPC, we offer communion the first Sunday of every month in all three services. If a parishioner is homebound and unable to attend on Communion Sunday, the deacons will bring the elements to the person's home and serve them.

Communion celebrates the Gospel: Jesus was broken for us so that we can be fixed by Him. Celebrating communion marks the story of Jesus, how He gave Himself completely to give us a better life, a new start, and a fresh relationship with God (I Peter 3:18). Jesus is less concerned about the method of celebrating communion and more concerned that we celebrate it. Jesus called Himself "the bread of life," which means that we're nourished by Him, we survive because of Him, and He satisfies us when everything else leaves us empty (John 6:48-51). There's a connection between our nearness to Jesus, believing in Him, and being fulfilled by Him (John 6:35).

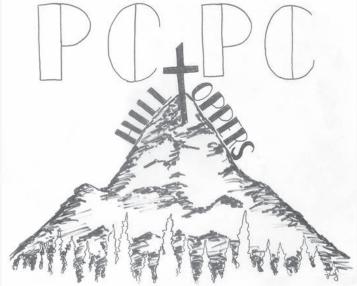
Communion is important because it's a command to remember. Jesus wants us to remember every time we taste the bread and wine/juice, and even when we sit at the table in our own homes, that He is the one who provides all we need. He gives us the physical food that we need to survive and the spiritual nourishment we need to keep taking our next steps with Him.

If you or someone you know is in need of communion provided in the home, please contact your shepherd, the church or Deacon Renee Gould.

Communion is prepared the Friday before each Communion Sunday in the church's kitchen. Volunteers are needed to help prepare on Fridays, and setup/cleanup on Communion Sundays. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Renee Gould at 954-401-8259.

Article from Newspring Church (https://newspring.cc/articles/what-is-communion-and-why-do-we-do-it)





#### PCPC Hilltoppers

Greg Welmaker

PCPC is excited to begin a new group—The PCPC Hilltoppers! Please plan to join us in Langill Hall on Monday, February 4, at 10:00 a.m. to hear more about the plans for this group at our initial meeting. We will have a social time, then are pleased to have Dr. Fernando Petry, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Cleveland Clinic Martin Health, who will speak about "The Future of Healthcare in Martin County."

Dr. Petry will review what led to the merger with Cleveland Clinic and what an affiliation with Cleveland Clinic means for residents of Martin County. By combining the capabilities of the two healthcare systems, people in our area will have expanded access to state-of-the-art cardiovascular care, stroke management, pediatric and neonatal care, and a range of other new services. New facilities near Palm City and other areas will provide improved access to key services. Dr. Petry will provide an overview of where things are headed and will answer questions of importance to the audience.

Has anyone ever told you that you are "over the hill" or have you ever felt that way? If you are retired on Florida's beautiful Treasure Coast, you are not "over the hill" but rather at the "top of the hill"—a Hilltopper!



#### **CBS Community Project**

The men, women, and children of Palm City Community Bible Study (CBS) recently adopted the road in front of the church and gathered to pick up trash. They were greeted warmly by people walking and jogging who thanked them for their service. CBS is very grateful to PCPC for opening campus each week and allowing them to "take over" every room on Thursday nights as they study the book of Acts. Have you enjoyed Pastor David's "On The Road With Paul" series? Continue your study with CBS. All are welcome –they have members from 2 years old to 80 years old! Visit class any Thursday night to learn more.



Community Bible Study working on serving the community in more ways than one. THANK YOU, PCPC, for opening your doors to the community!

#### February Prayer Theme: Healthy Hearts

Scripture has much to say about our \(\begin{aligned} \cdot \sigma \) 's.

- 1 Samuel 16:7: "The Lord does not look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
- Colossians 3:1: "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God."

Is it time for a heart check-up?



Here are some check-up points for your (spiritual) heart:

- 1. Your heart experiences emotions!Joy, pain, anger, gratitude and love—so let it happen!
- 2. Listen to your heart! Seize the moments and relish them.
  - 3. Your heart needs to have fun! Laugh, play, let go.
- 4. A healthy heart is empathetic!
  Listen to others,
  walk a mile with someone—life can be
  overwhelming and difficult.
- 5. A healthy heart listens for God's voice! Hear the sermon, read your Bible, open your spiritual ears!

Remember...God is in the business of healing hearts, transforming them! There is no waiting list for a transplant. Jesus died to make a healthy heart and relationship with Him possible. God is interested in the condition of your heart. Take a look at your heart today with God leading the way.

## YOUTH NEWS, Feb. 2019

-Iason Pridmore

#### College and Young Adults

Over the Christmas break, we had the opportunity to catch up with several of our college students and young adults. Through an evening of bowling, we were able to reconnect new and old friends, some who have gone away to school and some who are still in Martin County. We learned two things from this gathering:

- 1. We have some amazing young adults whom we should all be proud of and excited for; who they are, what they're doing and where they're going in life.
- 2. We need to hang out more and keep our young people connected beyond high school.

What started out as a simple reunion has opened our eyes to a greater need. We want to start up a college and young adult group and would love some help. Primarily, we want to know who is out there. As we have begun our outreach database, we could use your help in connecting with your young adults.

If you have a college student or young adult (age 18-24), we would like to reach out to them (especially if we haven't before). If this sounds like a group you would like your young adult to connect with, please email me their information (name, mailing address, and cell number). We want to send them information, invites, and even an occasional care package. Away at school, in the military, or still around the Palm City area, we want to connect with them. Please email any contact information to jason@palmcitypres.org

Middle School Youth Group meets Wednesdays 5:30pm-7pm for games, fun, food, and conversation. High School Youth Group meets Sundays 6-8pm, for all the same as Middle School youth with twice the fun.

In His service and yours,

Jason Pridmore Youth Ministry



#### What Our Youth are Learning



#### Like a Boss:

We're kicking off a new series this month called "Like a Boss!" In this series, we'll be talking all about how we can learn to honor and respect the authorities in our lives, even when it's hard. And we'll discover that life's better when we learn to handle authority...like a boss.

For more information regarding ongoing and upcoming youth events and activities:



text "@pcpcyo" to the number "81010"



fb.me/PCPCYouth



@pcpc\_youth

To connect with Jason or to receive parenting resources and youth updates via email, please contact him directly. Email: Jason@palmcitypres.org

Call or Text: (714) 809-5065

#### **Upcoming Youth Events:**

Rock the Universe, February 1-3, 2019

Now happening in February, this annual Christian concert held at Universal Orlando is a youth group favorite. We will be heading up to the event Feb. 1-3 with 26 students (both middle and high school) to enjoy a weekend together bonding, riding roller coasters, and listening to live Christian bands.

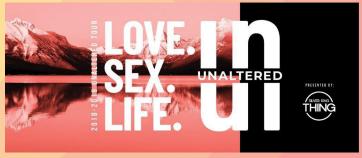
This year's event will feature performances by GRAMMY-nominated Christian rock band, Skillet; GRAMMY award-winning hip-hop artist, Lecrae; chart-topping artists of Bethel Music; Dove Award-winner, Matthew West; and more.



#### The Unaltered Tour, February 6, 2019

The Unaltered Tour defines God's original design for love, sex, and life—challenging you to live with integrity and influence. In a concert-style environment, you will be inspired by honest testimonies and live performances. Experience how God's unaltered design can bring fulfillment to every aspect of your life—from realizing your purpose, to love, relationships and sex.

Both middle school and high school students are encouraged to attend this event. Parents are welcome to come and hear what is being shared. We will be going as a group on Wednesday, February 6, but you are welcome to go on your own or with other friends if you like. The event will be held at First Baptist Church, Jensen Beach and will cost \$5 with our group or \$8 at the door. RSVP with Jason if you would like to go or get tickets. Don't miss this one!





## Join Us Wednesday

Evenings

FOOD - FRIENDS - FAITH Langill Hall

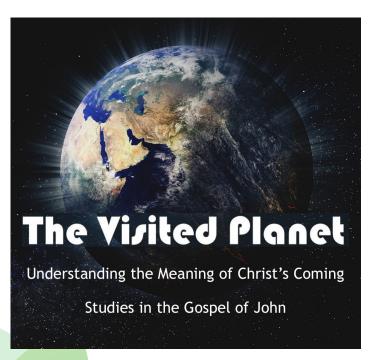
5:30 p.m. Dinner & Fellowship (\$6 per person/\$15 max per family) 6:00 p.m. Study & Training Options 6:00 p.m. Kid's Klub

#### Menus

2/06: Meat lasagna, garlic bread, salad, cookies2/13: Meatloaf with gravy, herb roasted potatoes,

glazed carrots, ice cream

2/20: Grilled chicken with fettuccine, side salad, cake



"The Visited Planet" - Understanding the Meaning of Christ's Coming

#### February 6 - Thirsty People (John 7)

Jesus once referred to himself as "Living Water." The metaphor conjures up images of people who have either had nothing to drink, or perhaps the wrong things to drink. Discover how Jesus fills us up when we seek him.



## Leadership Training

February 6 – It Ain't Always Easy Handling Conflict and Typical Problems

February 13 – Beyond the Curriculum Incorporating Prayer and Worship

February 20 – Missions and Missional Small Groups with John & Patty Terech

February 27 - Advanced Fishbowl Extravaganza!

March 6 – The Art of Leading Table Discussions Preparing for Lent with Bonhoeffer

#### February 13 - A Shepherd People (John 10)

Shepherds were not considered a high class occupation in the first century. Yet Jesus frequently invoked this image to describe the relationship between Himself and his people.

#### February 20 - Incident at Bethlehem (John 11)

The resurrection of Lazarus is an amazing miracle. Yet it's not recorded in the first three gospels. What was Jesus demonstrating by waiting several days before showing up to help Lazarus?

#### February 27 - A Long Talk (John 15)

Much of John's gospel is dedicated to one week: Holy Week. And in the midst of that segment, most of the attention is devoted to one night: Maundy Thursday. During that night Jesus gave what's called the Upper Room Discourse, where he gives his final instructions before his death.

#### March 6 - Darkness (John 19)

In the Apostle's Creed we recite the words "descended into hell." We don't mean that Jesus visited the location of hell, but that the punishment and curse of hell was thrust upon him while he was on the cross. That's the "descent" we refer to in the Creed.

# Ezeliel We journey with Paul in the book of Acts and learn from the great missionary how to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

#### Series: Ezekiel

We hear highlights from the book of Ezekiel about the man and his message. We learn how God deals with his people.



Women's Bible Study Thursdays 9:15 a.m.

This group of women meets Thursday mornings at 9:15 a.m. for a time of fellowship before focusing on the current bible study. Following the teaching, time is set aside for both small group discussion and prayer. This season, Pastor Brad is walking us verse by verse through the book of Romans.



#### Feb 10 Ezekiel 2:1-3:4

"There Once Was a Priest Who Wasn't" Ezekiel was supposed to be a priest, but the Babylonians destroyed the Temple. God made him a prophet instead. God uses the broken pieces of our lives for his purpose.

#### Feb 17 Ezekiel 6:1-10

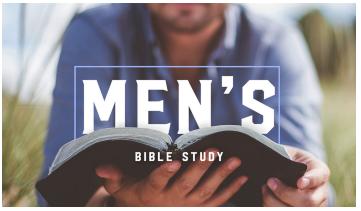
#### "The Jealous God"

God sent his people a harsh message: God tolerates no rivals. Yet even God's judgement has a redemptive purpose.

#### Feb 24 Ezekiel 37:1-14

#### "The Dry Bones"

God can give life where there is no life. Therefore, we are never without hope.



Men's Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 a.m.

Led by various leaders, this group of men meets Thursday mornings at 6:30 a.m. to study, share, and learn from the bible. Our current study is a detailed look at Paul's letter to the Romans.

Adult Sunday School Sundays 9:45 a.m.

The Sermon on the Mount is perhaps the best-known and most-beloved sermon ever preached. In this sermon, Jesus shows Himself to be the promised King as He announces the kingdom of God and demonstrates its power. In this twelve-lecture series, Dr. Klostreich explains how this sermon equips us to live a kingdom life in a fallen world. Join us as we look at the sermon's teachings on such topics as living counter-culturally, the deeper implications of the law of God, and how the foundational knowledge of God as Father is the cure for all our anxieties.

## Feb. Calendar

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					L	9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	4:30p MCHS OPUS Spaghetti Dinner
3		4 5	5	Meeting	7	8	9
	9:30a Pre-K - Elem Sunday School 9:45a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Linger Longer	6:00p GriefShare 6:00p Walk Aerobics 6:45p Walk Aerobics	10:00a Staff Meeting 4:00p Deacons Meeting	5:30p Dinner 5:30p M.S. Youth 6:00p Small Group Leader Training 6:00p The Visited Planet 6:00p Kids Club 6:00p Walk Aerobics 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	6:30a Men's Bible Study 9:15a Women's Bible Study 5:00p Bell Choir 6:30p CBS 7:00p Chancel Choir	9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	8:00a BSA Troop 822 Pancake Breakfast
10	9:30a Pre-K - Elem Sunday School 9:45a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Linger Longer 6:00p H.S. Youth Group	9:00a MOPS 6:00p GriefShare 6:00p Walk Aerobics 6:45p Walk Aerobics	10:00a Staff Meeting 3:30p Membership Meeting	5:30p Dinner 5:30p M.S. Youth 6:00p Small Group Leader Training 6:00p The Visited Planet 6:00p Kids Club 6:00p Walk Aerobics 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	14 6:30a Men's Bible Study 9:15a Women's Bible Study 9:30a Grandmother's & Others 4:00p P&A Meeting 5:00p Bell Choir 6:30p CBS 7:00p Chancel Choir	9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	16
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	9:30a Pre-K - Elem Sunday School 9:45a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Linger Longer 6:00p H.S. Youth Group	6:00p GriefShare	Directory Photos 10:00a Staff Meeting	Meeting 3:15p Stephen Ministry 5:30p Dinner 5:30p M.S. Youth 6:00p Small Group Leader Training 6:00p The Visited Planet 6:00p Kids Club 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	Directory Photos 6:30a Men's Bible Study 9:15a Women's Bible Study 5:00p Bell Choir 6:00p CBS 7:00p Chancel Choir	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Directory Photos 9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	Directory Photos 8:00a Journey of Generosity
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	9:30a Pre-K - Elem Sunday School 9:45a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Linger Longer 6:00p H.S. Youth Group	9:00a MOPS 6:00p GriefShare 6:00p Walk Aerobics 6:45p Walk Aerobics	10:00a Staff Meeting	6:00p Small Group Leader Training 6:00p The Visited Planet 6:00p Kids Club 6:00p Walk Aerobics 7:00p Session Meeting 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	6:30a Men's Bible Study 9:15a Women's Bible Study 5:00p Bell Choir 6:00p CBS 7:00p Chancel Choir		
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## Birthdays

02/01	John Lillich
02/02	Kathleen Flannery, George Rea
02/03	John Carsello, Nicholas Mans,
	Thomas Savarese, Barbara Spicer, Trent Steckler
02/05	Marcia Jakeway
02/07	Thomas DeLoffi, Victor Simonsen,
	Abbie Winterhalter
02/08	Marie Acker, Lee England
02/10	Bill Nicholson
02/12	Nina Crotts, Nancy McMahon,
	John Terech, LaVaughn Tilton
02/13	Tina Boswell, Sarah Livings
02/14	Robert Susdorf
02/15	Justin Gould, Riley McLean
02/16	Steve Gable, Bill Gilmour,
	Jacob Winterhalter
02/17	Marilyn Nordine, Rosalie Woodard
02/18	Carolyn Scocca
02/19	Louise Johnson, Lori Shimko,
	Caitlin Steinberg, Alex Thorsen
02/20	Lynnell Gandy, Judy Shore
02/21	Landon Lankow
02/22	John Terech III

02/23	Caroline Belding
02/24	Georgia Fowler
02/25	Anna Gandy, Julian Gonzales
	Adriel Gonzalez
02/26	Dot Blake

## Anniversaries

	02/02	Charles & Susan Rosseau
	02/07	Allen & Judy Scott
	02/08	Shad & Kristie Thomas
	02/10	Jay & Barbara Spicer
ì	02/14	Bill & Taunya Bryant, Robert & Nancy Jones,
		Frank & Sherrie Swygert
	02/18	George & Barbara Rea
	02/27	Thomas & Juliann Savarese

Have something for the next newsletter? Email it to our editors, Amy Kitchell and Andrea Wood: newsletter@palmcitypres.org by the deadline indicated on this newsletter's calendar.



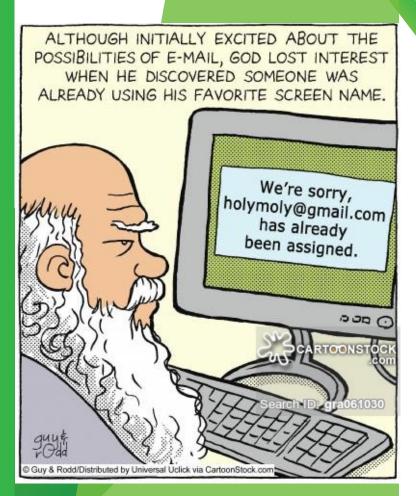
Traditional 8:30 Sanctuary 11:00 Sanctuary

Contemporary 9:30 HFLC

2700 SW Martin Highway Palm City Florida, 34990

> Phone: 772-286-9958 Fax: 772-286-9960

Email: worship@palmcitypres.org





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