# P C C C APRIL NEWSLETTER

An Obstinate Fact By David C. Mauldin

by David Mauldin

In some ways, Easter reminds me of a good mystery story. Although, instead of life being taken, life is given. And the question is not "Who done it?" but "Did God do it?" An open-minded seeker, like a detective in a story, must shift the evidence and make an inference to the best explanation. If you like a good mystery, I recommend Lee Strobel's book *The Case for Christ*. In it, he details his own search for the truth.

I made the search myself many years ago. Among the evidence that persuaded me were:

- the witnesses to the empty tomb (even Jesus' enemies admitted as much)
- the fact that skeptics become believers (especially Jesus' brother James)
- the fact that women appear as the first witnesses (a detail unlikely to be invented)
- the shape of early Christian belief—Why did they insist that Jesus was the Messiah, even though he was crucified? Why did Jews claim he is God? Why did they change their day of worship? Why did they change their doctrine of resurrection as they did?

Easter presents us with an odd assortment of facts. How can we account for them? A lot depends on how open you are to belief in God. Many who are not open to God simply throw up their hands and say, "I cannot make sense of it, but since we know resurrection is impossible, then it cannot have happened." If, however, you are

at least open to the *possibility* of God, the evidence becomes quite compelling.

I enjoy a good mystery novel from time to time. Among Agatha Christie's many mystery novels is one called *The Blue Train*. In it, her memorable character Hercule Poirot puzzles over a crime. All the evidence seems to point to one suspect. The police make an arrest, but have they got the right person? One fact troubles Poirot considerably. Everything seems clear enough but for this one obstinate fact. His doubt causes him to keep looking until he uncovers the truth.

For me, the resurrection of Jesus has always been that one obstinate fact that kept me looking. We have questions we cannot answer: Given so much evil and suffering, how can God be loving and all-powerful? Why does God let certain things happen? Let's face it; life is full of mysteries. Sometimes a large body of evidence points away from faith—especially if you can't make sense of your own suffering. Why not give up on faith—on God? Because of that one obstinate fact: Jesus is alive.

Because I know Jesus is alive, I must keep looking for answers. And even when I am unable to get to the bottom of things, I can trust that God's truth goes much deeper than my sight can penetrate.

I hope you know the Living Savior. If not, I hope you will keep an open and inquisitive mind. If so, then you have the most important clue to the meaning and mystery of life. One obstinate fact that will not let you rest with easy answers. One true fact that will not let you give up on God. Jesus is alive. Have a blessed Easter.

# **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.



PCPC Youth

5.0 🛧 · Religious Organization

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



Palm City Presbyterian Church

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





Liked



# ANGEL OF THE MONTH

by Janet Sallman

Our angel this month has been a prominent figure in our church for many years. She has taken on many roles and in so doing has given the church much of her time and talents. Her most visible role is as liturgist. As a liturgist, she speaks so eloquently and with such expressiveness that the listener feels compelled to listen. This is most apparent when she reads the prayer for the offertory.

Another role she engages in and is extraordinarily conscientious about is her role as one of PCPC's prayer warriors. Every Thursday she enters our chapel and prays over all the prayer cards that are handed in to the church. She has a true and compassionate heart for our Lord's flock here at PCPC.

Her third role and probably her most challenging one is as a member of our Personnel and Administration team. Our P & A team is in charge of month is Dr. LaBarbara Chenault.



making administrative decisions for our staff. She is a leading and vital force for the team.

In whatever capacity she takes on here at PCPC, she always has the church's best interest at heart. And on a personal note - she has the most wonderful and contagious laugh. It makes you want to laugh too.

Our awesome angel this

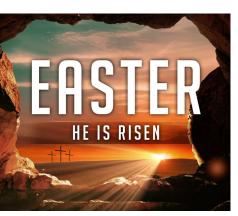
# **April Preaching Plan**



## Series: Lent with Bonhoeffer

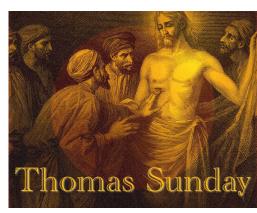
During Lent this year we are reading scripture with Dietrich Bonhoeffer. His life and writings are helping us grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. This series is based on an InterVarsity Christian Classics Bible study by Dale and Sandy Larsen.

April 7 **Life Together** Romans 12:3-21 April 14 **The Source of Happiness** Hebrews 10:19-25

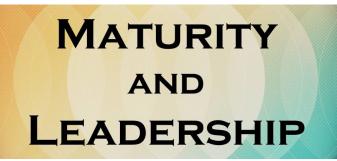


## Series: He Is Risen

April 21—Easter Sunday **He Is Risen** John 20:11-18 April 28—Thomas Sunday **Blessed to Believe** John 21:24-29



# Beginning in May



**Series: Maturity & Leadership** In this series Pastor David will preach straight through 2 Corinthians 10–13.



# Bell Choir News by Joanne Raulin

We have the most marvelous, accomplished bell choirs here at Palm City Presbyterian Church! One of our parishioners said of our performance Sunday, March 17th, "The bells performance was beautiful. You all must put in a lot of time to make the bells ring out like the sound of angels."

The Bells of Praise, which has 14 members, is planning to ring on Palm Sunday, April 14th, at both traditional services. The smaller bell choir, the Bells of Worship (6 members), also known as the "12 Bells," will be ringing in the narthex of the church on Easter Sunday morning to welcome congregants into the church for the celebration of Christ's glorious resurrection!

We also have some exciting news! Our bell choir has been invited to ring at Carnegie Hall in New York this December, for The Great Christmas Ring. The director of The Great Christmas Ring saw our bell choir on the church's website and thought we would be good candidates to be involved in this grand celebration. There will be 300+ bell ringers participating. Six of our members and I will be in those numbers. It will be an experience we will never forget!



# NAACP Award

Congratulations to Taunya & Bill Bryant! They received the prestigious Presidential Award at this year's Martin County NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet Celebration. This is the highest award given and recognizes lifetime achievement. It is "given to couples who have made it their life mission to inspire others to excel and be the best person they can be. They not only provide words of encouragement, but their life works and their commitment to serve the Martin County community serve as a guide for others to follow."



Photo (from left): Patty Terech, Taunya Bryant, John Terech, and Bill Bryant at the banquet on March 9, 2019.

## Dr. Rosalyn Soo Mauldin: Musical Postcards From Around the World

(part of the 2019 Elisabeth Lahti Concert Series)

Saturday, April 13 (2:00 p.m.) at the Peter & Julie Cummings Library

Acclaimed Canadian pianist, Rosalyn Soo Mauldin, will perform works with American, Canadian, Caribbean, Irish, and Transylvanian folk influences. Masterpieces by Czerny, Chopin, Ravel, and Billy Joel will also be featured.

Free tickets are required and available for pickup at the Cummings Library beginning Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

# YOUTH NEWS, April 2019 - Jason Pridmore

## Summer Mission Trip to Puerto Rico



Our Youth Mission team will be returning to Puerto Rico this year to continue cleanup and provide aid to those still affected by Hurricane Maria that devastated the island in 2017. We are focusing our efforts on the southern side of the island in the mountains and the coastal region of Yabucoa where the hurricane first made landfall.



Alicia, who was struck with polio at the age of 4, and as a result, has to use a wheelchair to move around, is one of the victims of Maria. We were blessed to come and know her last year. She lives alone in her family's home and has no one left around to help her fix and maintain the house, so we developed a plan and

worked on a series of repairs that we plan to continue working on this summer. We have also been in contact with a Christian camp: Camp Caribe in Ponce, Puerto Rico. This camp provides a Christian environment, fun, relaxation, and discipleship to youth from all over the region. They have requested our help as well, so we will gladly have our team of workers at their disposal.

We are hoping to make this trip not only memorable but life-changing. Each team member pays a portion of their trip, but we will be looking to raise support for the

projects that we'll be working on. In the months to come, please watch for details about our fundraising efforts and seek out opportunities where you can partner with us in prayer, in finances, or in any other way. This is a church-wide mission.

Applications, sign-ups and \$100 (non-refundable) deposits are due by April 14. Our team is filling up fast. Keep us in your prayers, and if you're considering joining us, please contact Jason for more information: 714-809-5065.

## **Unplanned**



With the prolife/pro-choice issue escalating in intensity, this past month our youth went together to watch the new movie Unplanned.

This movie, based on a true story and presented from the producers of *God's Not Dead*, chronicles the life experiences of a young Planned Parenthood director fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believes in...until the day she sees something that changes everything. A tough movie to watch and a tough topic to deal with, but one we (especially our youth) should be at the forefront of as believers.

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

remind

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 Middle School Youth Group meets Wednesdays 5:30-7:30p for games, fun, food, and conversation

High School Youth Group meets Sundays 6-8pm (all the same as Middle School youth with twice the fun).



Kathryn Thorsen, a sophomore at Martin County High School and active High School and active member of PCPC, was honored by Pastor David at all three services on March 17th for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Gold Award is a prestigious honor earned by just 6 percent of Girl Scouts annually, and it is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. It requires high school-aged Girl Scouts to demonstrate their leadership skills by tackling a community or global issue and developing a plan for long-term sustainability. For her Gold Award project, Kathryn chose to partner with House of Hope in Stuart. She created Hopeful Health: Fitness for Families, a series of exercise classes held at the Golden Gate Community Center. She also designed an instructional exercise guide for attendees to take home so they may continue the fitness routine learned during the class sessions. Kathryn received additional support from local companies, Martin Health Systems, Publix, and Hard Exercise Works, to help make her program a success. House of Hope will continue to offer Hopeful Health classes at the Golden Gate Community Center in the future.

The Girl Scouts of the United States of America celebrated its 107th birthday on March 12th. A



traditional event held at this time is Girl Scout Sunday. The purpose of this special day was for Girl Scouts to reflect on the importance of their faith and its connection to the Girl Scout Promise, which states Girl Scouts are "to serve God." Several Girl Scouts from Troops 30362, 30678, and 30143 participated in the 9:30 service on March 17th. The Girl Scouts had a flag procession with Pledge of Allegiance, and they recited the Girl Scout Promise. Kathryn Thorsen led everyone in prayer. Girl Scout cookies were enjoyed following the service. The Girl Scouts of the United States of America remains committed to building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who help to make the world a better place.





# April Prayer Theme: Struggling with Doubt and Unbelief

John chapter 20 tells the story of Jesus appearing to several disciples after the resurrection, but Thomas was not among them. When they later told Thomas they had seen the Lord, he said: "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." (John 20:25)

Eight days later when Thomas was with them, Jesus appeared and asked Thomas to use his finger and hand to touch his wounds and urged him to believe. Then Jesus said to him [Thomas], "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (emphasis added) (John 20:29)

#### Don't Be a Doubting Thomas

Ways to counter doubt and unbelief:

- Pray, praising God for the gifts of His Son and salvation.
- Read Bible verses of assurance. (1 John 5:9, 12 & 13, Rom 8:1, Acts 13:39 & 16:31, John 5:24)
- Recall the circumstances around the moment in time you came to first acknowledge your faith.
- Recall God's faithfulness to you in the past.
- List all the ways God has blessed you.
- Recite a favorite Bible verse or poem on trust.



When school is out then ART - IS - IN!

Frick and Frack Music's performing arts ministry ART IS IN is returning to PCPC to put on another fabulous VBS Drama Camp with our children! Camp will be held daily June 17th - 21st from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00p.m. The cost is \$125.00 for the week. (All participants receive a T-shirt. Snacks are provided; please bring lunch.)

This year's production, "Journey to Tahinoahu," is a musical South Seas adventure about the amazing love of God. Camp participants will put on a free performance for the public on the evening of Friday, June 21st in the Huizenga Family Life Center.

Registration forms are available in our church office and on our website: www.palmcitypres.org. Online registration is also available. Space is limited; register as soon as possible.

Please direct questions to our interim Children's Ministry Director, Becky Nicholson. becky@palmcitypres.org (772) 286-9958



a musical by Phillip W. Lanier & Neesa Hart



# Holy Week

Our Holy Week services will be rich in variety and meaning. You will want to participate and bring friends.

#### Palm Sunday, April 14

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary; 9:30 a.m. in the Huizenga Family Life Center The Lent with Bonhoeffer series with "The Source of Happiness."

#### Maundy Thursday, April 18

7:00 p.m. in the Huizenga Family Life Center

Everyone (regardless of preferred worship style) will enjoy this service led by our praise band, Cornerstone. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper. (Our only Holy Week service featuring the Lord's Supper!) We will also have a time for personalized prayer at the end. If you need prayer for a spiritual, physical, or other issue, our Stephen Ministers and deacons will pray for you.

#### Good Friday, April 19

Noon in the Chapel

This will be a time to reflect on the cross and its meaning. We will have readings from scripture, brief reflections, and music.

7:00pm in the Sanctuary

Our Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present Rutter's Requiem. Don't miss this powerful musical presentation of the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice.

#### Easter, April 21

*8:30 & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary; 9:30 a.m. in the Huizenga Family Life Center* A joyful celebration of the Resurrection, featuring special music and messages.

# Volunteer Work Day At Church March 16

Even with threatening rain, church volunteers showed up on Saturday morning early to help with various clean-up chores which included scrubbing window sills and washing windows along both sides of the patio area; cleaning cobwebs and wasp nests from Langill Hall and the corridors; pulling weeds from the pavers in the columbarium; and cleaning the stepping stones in the front garden.

The Building and Grounds Committee members also held a short meeting after the work was done and discussed bids for much-needed paver repairs, and cleaning the front of the Huizenga Family Life Center.

A sincere thanks to those who dedicated their time to make our campus more beautiful. We are extremely grateful to Mike Dewey for bringing his pressure washer and cleaning the sidewalks around the buildings while the church's pressure washer is being replaced.

Hats off to those who gave of their time and talents: John and Linda Sanders, Kirk McLean, Tom King, Polly Forestier, Lindy Cardinale, Tim Thorsen and his daughter Kathryn.

Jody Armstrong Chairman Building and Grounds Committee











#### PCPC Book Nook by Carolyn Hermann

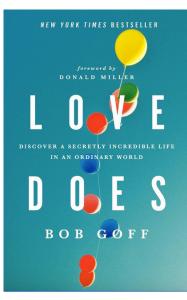
Welcome to the new and improved PCPC Book Nook, a.k.a. the Library. Yes, we do have one!!! Since we are all spring cleaning, both spiritually and literally, I thought it would be a great time to do the same for our Book Nook. Keep an eye on the newsletter for monthly book reviews and updates about the Book Nook. We will be rolling out new materials and ways you can contribute in the near future. Our first order of business is getting back to library basics. Keep your eyes peeled for our new library shelves, genre organization, and spine labels. Want to be part of this revitalization- don't hesitate to contact me at carolynherman717@gmail.com for more information.

#### LIBRARY USE TODAY

In a recent study done by the Pew Research Center, only 48% of people surveyed over the age of 16 had visited a library on a regular basis. How many times have you stepped into a library in recent years? Have you fallen victim to the growing trend of online or technology readers? The library used to be the best source for information, reading materials, periodicals, journals, etc. Lately, not so much. I think we're all missing the boat. I'd like PCPC to get back to library basics. Keeping with our new Deacon mission of caring for the church body, one of my thoughts was to offer an energy-infused spot where we could all access materials that would enhance and grow our faith, test us, answer questions, teach us something new; a kind of place I grew up loving as a child. One of my many passions are books - lots and lots of books. I've always dreamed of a library like that which the Beast offers Belle in the famed Disney tale Beauty and the Beast.

A recent article in *Christianity Today* looked at some of the reasons a church library is still relevant today. The article talked about the main purpose of the church library being the support of the local mission. That it should be a ministry where volunteers can connect with people who are dealing with a variety of difficult life experiences; perhaps the right book can help someone through a rocky road in life, or lead them to discover their need for pastoral care. Perhaps the library may encourage a new generation of volunteers, or excite a child. I'd like to see our church body come together and transcend generational divides as well as the technology age to renew and revitalize our church library. Let's create a place together where children find their favorite Bible story and adults find spiritual encouragement.

### April Book Review by Carolyn Hermann



wonderful What а compilation of short stories this book has to offer. If you are looking for a great read that's easy to pick up and put down, this is it! Love Does is a selection of stories from the life of Bob "Goffeach detailing his finding Jesus in everyday experiences. From hiking proposals, to to coffee, to love. You must take a moment to

refresh your take on what love shows us each and every day. The way we receive it, the way we give it and most importantly how we find Jesus' love in all aspects of regular life. What a light and enjoyable read!



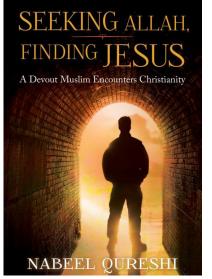
# **PCPC** Hilltoppers

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!

Each month our Hilltoppers gather for some fellowship time (coffee and treats included), then settle in to hear brief presentations on a variety of timely subjects from professionals in our surrounding communities.

It's a great opportunity to invite someone (family, friends, neighbors) to join you.

Watch future e-blasts, our website and our FB page for details about upcoming meetings.



# Casual Wednesday Study Coming Soon:

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus

Beginning April 24, Pastor David will be leading a video-based study, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus.* The course will run 8 weeks until June 12. Each week we will watch the video then discuss. Here is how the press release describes it:

"Building on the powerful story and arguments he shared in *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus,* author Nabeel Qureshi takes viewers deeper into apologetics and evangelism among Muslims with this complete video lecture course. In eight sessions of about 30 minutes each he explores Muslim culture, the most common Muslim objections to Christianity, and the core doctrines upon which Islam stands or falls. Compassionate and clear, Nabeel's lectures will be a useful

training tool for pastors, outreach leaders, and any believers wanting to winsomely engage Muslims in spiritual conversations.

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus Video Study develops in further detail the objections to Islam and case for Christianity that Qureshi introduced in Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus. When used with the accompanying Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus Study Guide, this accessible course is perfect for adult classes, small groups, segments in college or seminary courses, and motivated independent learners alike."



Paul said, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). Take the Bonhoeffer challenge and imitate Dietrich Bonhoeffer as he tried to follow Christ faithfully! Complete the following tasks by Easter:

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer found strength in the Psalms. He said that when we pray the Psalms, we pray them with Jesus Christ. He began each day with a psalm.
   Begin each day with a psalm.
- 2. Dietrich Bonhoeffer gave his students a verse to meditate on each week. Meditate on a verse throughout the week. At some point during the week, spend 10 minutes in silence reflecting on the verse, write down as many insights as you can.

Week of March 31 – 2 Corinthians 5:17 Week of April 7 – Philippians 3:13-14 Week of April 14 – Psalm 118:4 Week of April 21 – John 20:29

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote letters to encourage friends and family.
  Write a letter of encouragement to someone this week.
- 4. Dietrich Bonhoeffer loved people and the church. **Bring a friend with you to a Holy Week service.**
- 5. Dietrich Bonhoeffer gave his life for his faith and calling. Give a sacrificial gift. That is, take the money you would have spent on a new pair of shoes, dinner out, or a trip, and donate it to the church or a worthwhile ministry. (The youth mission trip comes to mind.) The point is to give up something for the sake of giving.

# April Calendar



# **Birthdays**

- 04/01 John Prema, David Knight, April Pridmore, Tammy Steckler
- 04/02 Robert Kane, Stephanie Neff
- 04/03 Jody Armstrong, Pat Johnson
- 04/04 Gary Damen, Mike England, Claudia Vurnakes
- 04/05 Ron Bartnick
- 04/06 Robert Drisner, Mary Rosseau, Donna Server
- 04/07 Charles Rosseau, Ryan Schueler
- 04/08 Bill Bryant, Michael Mowry
- 04/09 Audrey DeLoffi
- 04/10 Jan Coton, Bob Hart, Patricia Lichtenberger, Marilyn Wood, Benjamin Zsoka
- 04/11 Dorothy Ohlbach
- 04/13 Richard Giuffreda, Mike Jasinski, Valette Porter
- 04/14 John Coblentz
- 04/15 Ted Cedarstrand, Derek Duke, Jane Karraker, Michelle Mullen
- 04/16 Amy Kitchell, Wyatt Legg, Jean McClure
- 04/18 John Adams, Connor Benton, Bill Betes
- 04/20 Elsie Martineau
- 04/21 Janine Wiegold
- 04/22 Nancy Korpady, Starr Lorenzi

- 04/23 Dick Cooper, Jerry Peterson, Russell Rykse, Lana Stewart
- 04/24 Ervin Betts, Susan Hastings, Harold King, Joan Sheldon
- 04/25 Claire Austhof, Michael Marino
- 04/25 Susan Rosseau
- 04/26 Jane Ferguson
- 04/27 Michele Bouche, Dale Spicer, Barbara Susdorf
- 04/30 Nancy Klein



- 04/02 Victor & Polly Forestier
- 04/03 Brandon & Diane LaBar
- 04/05 Erik & Dawn Muller
- 04/08 David & Diane Bates
- 04/11 Don & Lilly Ann Bailey
- 04/16 Bob & Barbara Klein
- 04/18 Jason & Kristen McWilliams
- 04/23 Frank & Bonnie Meyo
- 04/25 Thomas & Pat Doyle
- 04/26 Bill & Tina Boswell
- 04/28 Craig & Amy Kitchell, John & Jennifer Legg

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.

# Worship Times

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







# CHRISTIAN BIRKETT DESIGNER/ILLUSTRATOR

772.233.0188
 birkettchristian@gmail.com
 christianbirkett.com