

Merry Christmas Newsletter

December 2016

Monthly Newsletter of
The Kirk of the Keys Presbyterian Church

Message from the Temporary Session Moderator

Celebrate the Love of God in Christ Jesus, Our LORD (Phil. 4:4f, Romans 8:18f)

The heart of the Christmas season is upon us. It is the time to set other things aside and listen for the angels to sing...and to join in singing with the angels (even if we can't make music ourselves). [Good time to get angel tunes on our play list, also.]

The Kirk is passing through a difficult season, but God is blessing us in many ways. A deeply beloved pastor has left, but God has provided many special gifts. Musicians have many gifts to offer in concerts and worship; the Session has been blessed to have gifted people agree to preach and lead worship; and many plans are unfolding for the new year. Dustin is gone, but Christ is coming nonetheless. The Path to Calling a Pastor is outlined elsewhere. More importantly, the outline of God's plan for the Kirk and for each of us is outlined in the music and scriptures of Christmas. (Take a look at Luke 2 and even Isaiah 9 and/or 11.)

"Come, let us adore Him", "Celebrate Jesus, Celebrate", "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus", "Joy to the World, the LORD is Come!"

When we remember to do these things, we will be ready for not only a new year, but for the love of God made known in Jesus Christ.

A P.S. from the temporary moderator

One Going On Two

In the midst of many changes at the Kirk, the Session is pleased to announce that Step 1 on the Path to Calling a New Pastor (See Page 2) is accomplished and Step 2 will come on January 15.

Pastor Jim McNaull, one of the finest Transitional Pastors in the Presbyterian Church, has agreed to come and serve the people at the Kirk of the Keys. More in the new year.

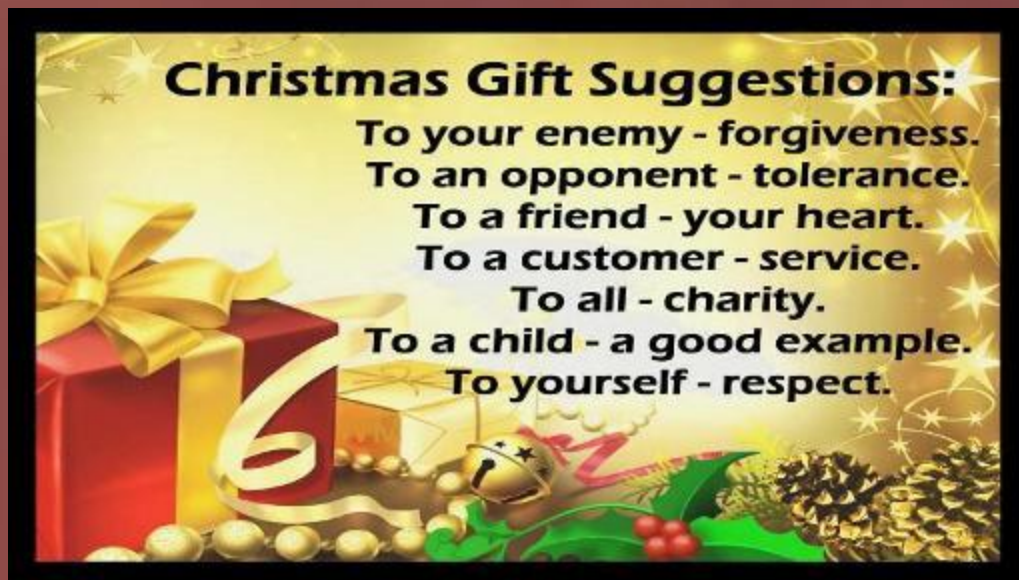
Pastor George McIlrath
Temporary Moderator

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The Path To Calling a Pastor

1. Session hires a Transitional Pastor.
2. Transitional Pastor arrives and begins work.
3. Preparations are made to get ready to search.
4. PNC elected: The members of the congregation meet to elect from their members a Pastor Nominating Committee to search for a new pastor.
5. PNC nominates a candidate to the church.

Questions may be directed to present elders Jeb Hale, Randy Kistner, Kenny Matlock, Bill Schneider, Pete Way, Clara Werner and Sue Williamson.



PLEASE JOIN US!

8877 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050

305.743.4256



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

5:00pm - Family / 8:00pm - Traditional

childcare will be provided at the 5pm service

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

10:00am

www.KirkoftheKeys.com

December Birthdays

Dec 1 Cory Bisson

Dec 4 Gail Creech

Dec 4 Wynn Merryman

Dec 17 Dylan Couch

Dec 19 Max Childress



Dec 20 Ben Daniels

Dec 23 Ysamar Barahona

Dec 23 Jenn Mixon-Eick

Dec 26 Carol Weldy

Dec 30 Dave Williamson

December Anniversaries

Dec 13 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ivey

Dec 28 Mr. & Mrs. Kris Culver

Celebrate!



YEAR END GIVING: The Kirk Treasury has (had) the load of paying a departing pastor through January, completing a major capital project and added expense for worship leadership as well as preaching and Session leadership. [It's a long way to the Keys!] The continuation and extension of support by regular supporters and the addition of new support is very important at this time of year.

Stewardship *by Sue Williamson*

It is with great pleasure that I can report that our spalling repair project is totally complete. All areas have been prepared and treated by the contractor. The engineer has done his final inspection and the city has closed the permit.

Please remember the Property Improvement Fund. Contributions are welcome any time. The "thermometer" is on the table in fellowship hall. We are approximately 1/6th of the way toward our goal. Stewardship is extremely important during this time of transition in our church.



FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES

FCA announces the 47th Annual Baptist Health Orange Bowl Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday, December 28th at 7:30AM at Jungle Island. We invite you to be included.

Tables are available in the following categories:

Touchdown Sponsor (\$2500) Front row table for 10, Table sign and Recognition at event.

Field Goal Sponsor (\$1500) Table for 10 (preferred seating), Table sign, and Recognition at event.

Adopt-A-School Program (\$500) Help FCA enable students and athletes to experience the power of prayer in sports by sponsoring a table for your high school alma mater or an FCA high school of choice.



Individual Tickets (\$30)

Our breakfast averages close to 1000 in attendance. Players from each football team participating in the Orange Bowl game will attend, along with their coaches. We will also have more than 300 students and athletes together with a number of high school coaches.

We have been able to share the gospel and mentor over 4000 at risk youth in South Florida and we need your help.

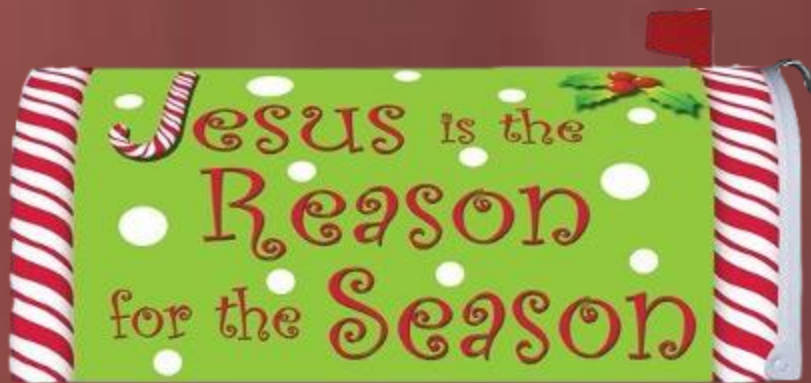
Please come support the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and join us at 47th Annual Orange Bowl Prayer Breakfast. You may register at www.miamifca.org or send your check to FCA/Orange Bowl Breakfast, PO Box 140594, Coral Gables, Florida 33114 and put Monroe County in Memo on check.

Welcome to the Kirk Staff



Please welcome Ryan Schraffenberger to our Kirk Staff. Ryan is our brand new Office Administrator here at the Kirk of the Keys. Ryan has been a resident of Marathon & Key Colony Beach for the last 10 years and has been involved in a variety of clubs & organizations. He is the Membership Chair for the Marathon Rotary Club, a Take Stock in Children Mentor, a Board Member of the Key Colony Beach Community Assn & the Florida Keys Scenic Corridor Alliance. He is also a member of the Marathon Fire Rescue Benevolent Association and the Kirk of the Keys Church Praise Band. Ryan is the owner of two local businesses: Promotions Guy

(Advertising & Printing) & Lights Out Entertainment (DJ, Emcee & Photo Booth Services). Most importantly Ryan has an amazing family! His wife Julie is the greatest person that he has ever met and his new daughter Georgia steals his heart a little more every day! Ryan is excited to be a part of the Church in an Administrative capacity and is excited to bring in new ideas and some creativity to the Congregation. Ryan hopes to continue the great job that Jenn has started.



Strawberry Santas

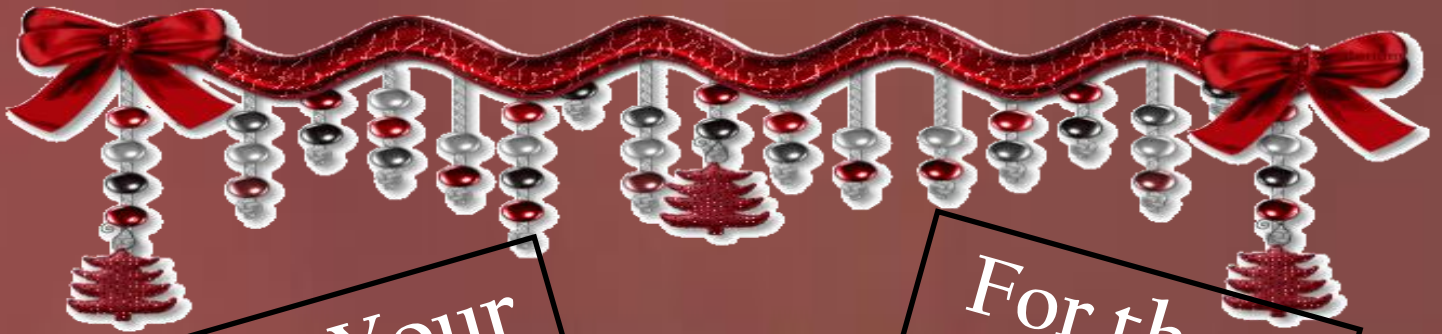


Cut stem off strawberries and turn upside down. Slice bottom off enough to make a Santa hat.

Mix 1 cup of heavy whipping cream with 1 TBSP confectioners sugar to make filling.

Pipe filling into hole in strawberry and on front for buttons and as top of hat.

Place in fridge to set & serve!



Mark Your
Calendar

For these
Upcoming
Events

12.24

Special Christmas Eve Services at:

5PM and 8PM

12.25

Combined Worship Service at 10AM

12.26

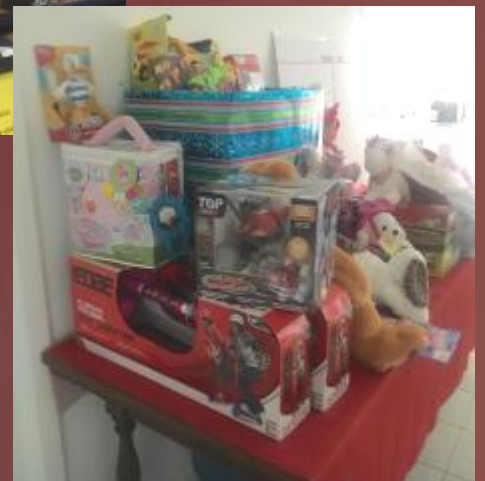
Church Office Closed

1.1

Combined Worship Service at 10AM

1.10

PWA Luncheon at 11:30AM (Bring A Lunch)



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Merry Christmas

Creating Fully Committed
Followers of Christ
in Our Community

