

THE ROYAL POINCIANA CHAPEL

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 22



Rev. Dr. Robert S. Norris, Senior Pastor

THANKSGIVING 2019

For those of us so privileged to live in the United States of America, Thanksgiving Day is a unique and appropriate national holiday. As the day established for this country's expression of gratitude to God, it is one holiday that our market economy has not yet learned how to exploit. There are few Thanksgiving gifts. Decorations are minimal. We find entertainment between televised parades and football games. But, for the most part, Thanksgiving is a quiet day enjoyed with family and closest friends.

The Pilgrims offered thanks not arbitrarily, but specifically to God; for health, for food, for friendships, for safety, for survival, for the protection, provision and the blessings of life together in its trials and triumphs. One hundred and two members of the English Separatist Church, a splinter group of the Church of England, left England seeking religious freedom in America. The Mayflower set sail on September 6, 1620. Sixty days later they landed in Plymouth Harbor. The voyage was long, and the subsequent cold New England winter was harsh. Every family lost someone: infants died; the elderly died; husbands lost wives; wives lost husbands; parents lost children; children lost parents to hunger, dysentery, disease, and the elements. Thanks to friendly natives, crops were planted, fertilized, and somehow grew. At the very edge of disaster, with every heart having been broken over the loss of a dear one, and following a good fall harvest, they made provision for a day that offered thanks to God. The seeds of Thanksgiving as a day of communally expressed gratitude to God began to take root.

From George Washington to Donald Trump, each United States President has issued his individual proclamation signifying a Day of National Thanksgiving in November, encouraging Americans "to assemble in their homes, places of worship, to reinforce ties of family and community, to express our profound thanks to God for the many blessings that Americans enjoy, and to reach out with expressions of gratitude and friendship to one another."

As a community, we will gather at the Chapel on Wednesday, November 27th (Thanksgiving Eve) at 6:30 p.m. The Chapel will host the Palm Beach Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Since 1972, the Island's Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish faith community has come together to express grateful praise to God for our many bestowed protections and blessed provisions. Clergy representatives of St. Edward Catholic, The Church of Bethesda By-The-Sea, The Paramount Church, and the Royal Poinciana Chapel participate. Rabbi Michael Resnick of Temple Emanu-El of Palm Beach will offer the Thanksgiving message. Music will be offered by Stewart Foster and the Chapel Chorale, along with Temple musicians. A reception will follow in Kirkman Hall.

Put the finishing touches and final preparations on your Thanksgiving Day celebration after we worship together. Come, let us first express as a community, our gratitude for the bounty and blessings, the protections and provisions of our Great God. Blessed are we as a congregation, as families and as individuals. A Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving to you and yours!

With a Heart Full of Thanks for Each of You,

Bob



Stewart W. Foster, Director of Music

Christmas will be here before you know it! And that means, among many other wondrous happenings, the annual Christmas Chorus and Chorale Cantata with full orchestra will commence preparations very soon. The actual performance date for this year's cantata is Sunday, December 15, and will consist of Benjamin Harlan's majestic "Christmas Canticles for Choir and Orchestra." Don't be shy - please join your friends in the chorus, with no requirement to read music perfectly. Instead, we ask for enthusiastic smiles and voices to join in singing the great Christmas Carols for all to enjoy.

The rehearsals will start on Sunday, November 24, after the morning Worship Service, from approximately 11:35 a.m. to noon. Because most of the music is familiar carols, we don't need hours and hours! The second rehearsal is Sunday, December 1, and the final one is December 8, again after the morning Worship Service. We ask that you plan to attend at least two of these rehearsals, and musical scores will be provided. Then, we put it all together with the full symphony orchestra on Sunday, December 15, for a Christmas Celebration Service like no other!

To start the Season of Advent, the Chapel Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will present music from Vivaldi's "Gloria" on Sunday, December 1, during the morning Worship Service. This joyful music is beloved by many around the world as perfectly expressing the song of the Angels announcing Christ's birth.

And finally, don't forget to reserve your Handel Messiah tickets (please call 561-845-9696 or find Jack Hughes on a Sunday morning) for the performance by the Palm Beach Masterworks Chorus on Sunday, December 15, at 7 p.m. These tickets sell out quickly because it has become a lovely tradition to hear this music performed by a an 80-voice Choir, professional soloists and full orchestra in the historic Chapel that we all love.

Happy preparations to everyone as this blessed Advent and Christmas Season starts, giving us a chance to once again go to the manger in Bethlehem to welcome and adore the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord!



AN EARLY START **TO THE SEASON OF GIVING**



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD **SAMARITAN'S PURSE**

Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' Name. What a difference this simple shoebox gift can make for a child. Instructions for filling a box and the box may be picked up in the North Entrance.

Filled boxes must be returned by Sunday, Nov 24th.

If you prefer, make a donation and we will fill the box for you.

JOIN THE RPC YOUTH

and help the local Homeless Resource Center this Christmas by providing toys for children in homeless families. Stop by the *Tree of Blessings* in the North Entrance and pick an ornament with a child's name.

All details needed are provided with the ornament.

Thanks for your generosity!

MERRY CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Tuesday, December 10th Seagull Cottage
Wine and Cheese 5:00 p.m. ** Concert 5:30 p.m.

Featuring Classical Crossover-Tenor
Ingvar Estrada With Stewart Foster on the Steinway



Ingvar takes songs to a new dimension as he combines the art of classical, Broadway and popular singing thru his experience in theatre productions, commercials, television and film. He has performed with and for Royalty and with many celebrities.

Tickets are \$20.00 and may be purchased after worship on Sundays in the North Entrance or by calling the receptionist during the week. Seating is limited.



Rev. Dr. Aaron P. Janklow, Executive Pastor

Several weeks ago, Laurel and I spent the weekend in Glen Arbor, Michigan, where I was invited to officiate at the wedding of a young woman who was in a youth group I led more than twelve years ago. It was a wonderful opportunity to see the leaves turn to vibrant shades of red and yellow, and we experienced a few days of the cooler weather

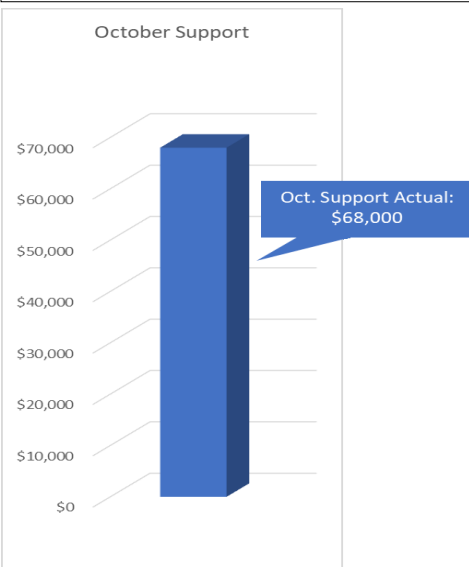
October brings to Michigan. More importantly, however, I was absolutely honored that after all these years, she and her husband to be, wanted me to officiate at their wedding. Moreover, her family is one that I always looked up to and respected. Her father taught Sunday School when I was in high school, and he had been a leader on numerous mission trips that I attended with the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, NJ. It was amazing to be there with them during that special weekend for so many reasons, but foremost among them, was to be there with this family. The thought that my life has somehow left an impact on this young woman is so meaningful and humbling, but that is exactly what her father has done for me. I'm thankful this wedding gave us an opportunity to all be together again.

After the rehearsal dinner on Friday night, Laurel and I braved the cold to walk onto the shores of Lake Michigan. As we were standing there, listening to the waves hit the shore, Laurel told me to look up. Above us, I saw more stars than I think I have ever seen before in my life. The entire sky was filled with stars! The stars directly above felt so incredibly close, closer than I had ever experienced, and there were stars brightly glimmering against the night sky in every direction, as far as I could see. It was as if I could see the dome of the sky as described in the creation account of Genesis 1. Having grown up in the New Jersey suburbs of NYC, where every night you know which direction is East by the light emanating from the city itself (I'm not complaining, I love cities!), I had never seen stars like this. It was amazing! As I was staring up at the sky in wonder, Laurel asked me to imagine what the sky was like when Jesus walked the earth. At this, I became even more amazed. This was certainly a God moment.

It is amazing to think that these stars are always above us, but so often we are unable to see them. Whether it is because we don't take the time to look up, or because our world is literally flooded with earthly light, so often we fail or are unable to see the stars and the beauty of the world around us. To take this a bit further, so often we simply become so busy with our daily lives, so consumed with our routines, and even worry and fears, that we fail to see the gifts and love of God surrounding and sustaining us. We either don't take the time to look up or we are so consumed with life that our perspective is clouded. As the busyness of Thanksgiving and Christmas quickly approaches, I think it is important that we strive to be mindful of God's blessings and sustaining power in our lives. This can take place in big ways, through trips to Michigan, or in the places where you may be traveling to in the coming weeks, but it can also happen right now, in this very place. Perhaps worship, an educational offering, an Advent Prayer Gathering, a concert, or some quiet time in our Sanctuary or gardens can give you the space you need to reconnect with God. Or, maybe a walk on the beach or taking A1A instead of 95 on one of your errands would do some good. In any event, I hope that amid all the busyness of the coming weeks, we remember all we have to be thankful for and let that fill our hearts with gratitude to God.

Peace and blessings this Thanksgiving and coming Advent season, *Aaron*

Financial Snapshot as of October 31, 2019



Thank you for your ongoing support of the Chapel! Contributions to the Chapel this past October of approximately \$68,000 are almost the same amount included in the budget currently under review.

Your contributions are vital to the inspiring worship, music, and spiritual development programs offered by the Chapel each week. We are thankful that you are here and that you feel called to support us as you do. Without your presence, prayer, and support, we could not do all we do as we strive to be a light for Christ in this community and beyond. As we move into this new fiscal year, please know how much we appreciate your support.

Thank you for all you do to make the Chapel the special place that it is.

For questions, please call the Chapel 561-655-4212 or email:

Dr. Norris, drsrnorris@royalpoincianachapel.org

Dr. Janklow, dr.apjanklow@royalpoincianachapel.org

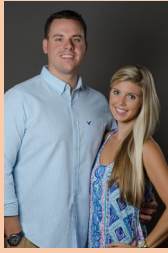
Mike Cook, Treasurer, jmichaelcook@comcast.net

Catherine D'Agostino, Finance Administrator, accounting@royalpoincianachapel.org



Making a Contribution to the Chapel

Or text RPC60 to 73256, or visit royalpoincianachapel.org and go to "Giving" on the top bar and select "Give".



Christian and Ashley Crandall, Directors of Youth and Children's Ministries

Welcome! As we enter November we are excited for Christmas and what is to come within the Chapel's children and youth department. This month we begin our partnership with the homeless resource center as we help spread Christmas joy for homeless families in Palm Beach County. Our children and youth will be purchasing gifts for 50 individual children. What a blessing it will be for us to participate in this!

October 29th brought about an abundance of fun and celebrations, as Kids Club put on the annual Trunk or Treat event. We had a great turnout - about 75 parents and children came for candy, Kona Ice, crafts, pizza, and more! Thank you to all who participated and made this event possible.

We will begin rehearsal for our annual Christmas Eve family service. If your child would like to participate in this pageant, please email admin@rpckids.com. Any and all are welcome!

We would love to see you and your family soon!

Blessings!

Christian & Ashley Crandall



Sunday School: Sundays at 10:30am (open to newborn through 12th grades)

Kids Club: Tuesdays from 4pm-5:15pm (open to newborn through 4th grades)

FNL & The Gathering: Fridays from 6pm-8pm (open to middle & high school students)

Volunteers are needed for weekly children and youth programs. Please contact Ashley Crandall for more information: admin@rpckids.com

To be added to our email list to receive weekly children and youth happenings, please email: admin@rpckids.com

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE 2019 AT THE ROYAL POINCIANA CHAPEL

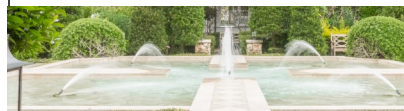


Wednesday, November 27th 6:30 p.m.
Reception Following Worship

FOR CHAPEL WOMEN AND THEIR FRIENDS



A Christmas Dessert Gathering
Sunday, December 1st at 7:00 p.m.
We'll discuss kicking off a Book Club in the New Year.



The Royal Poinciana Chapel
60 Coconut Row
Palm Beach, FL 33480
561-655-4212
www.royalpoincianachapel.org

Advent Prayer Gatherings led by Dr. Norris and Dr. Janklow

7:30pm on December 4, 11, 18

A time of prayerful reflection on the reason we celebrate
and a time to turn to God amid all the demands of life.



Robert F. Fuller