

January 2017



# *Tidings*

2515 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa 33629  
813.253.3771— [admin@bayshorepc.org](mailto:admin@bayshorepc.org)  
[www.bayshorepc.org](http://www.bayshorepc.org)

*Remember This  
Year That ...*

A photograph of a sunset over a vast forest. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright yellow and orange glow that filters through the trees. The sky is a mix of blue and orange. The text "God makes all things new." is overlaid in a white, elegant script font.

*God makes  
all things new.*

*- Acts 3:21*





# From the Pastor

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

I pray that each of you had a blessed holiday and are looking forward to a year of renewal – renewal of your prayer life, renewal of your sense of mission, renewal in your commitment to live a Christ-filled life, renewal in your efforts to love and serve your neighbor, and a renewal to join with other members of this congregation to discern the direction, the mission and the ongoing life of this grand church!

You declare in your worship bulletin that the mission of Bayshore Presbyterian Church is **(1) to “live the love of Christ, (2) grow as disciples of Christ and (3) to reach others with the good news of Christ.”** I am hopeful that before year-end you can articulate how you are fulfilling this mission and how you can further fulfill it in the future!

Your mission work this past year has included Beth-El swim party, Beth-El Christmas for families, food for needy families at Thanksgiving and other local mission funding as well as expenditure of general mission monies. Surely your mission includes the generous offering of a meeting place for numerous philanthropic and mental health organizations here at the church without rental fees for any of these organizations. Are there other areas into which you need to expand? Are there needs right here in your own neighborhood which are crying out to be filled? Are there other areas where you can give your time and talent as well as treasure? Are you using your time, talent and treasure to the glory of God? In other words, how are you fulfilling the first “leg” of your mission. How are you **“living the love of Christ”** as it applies to caring for your neighbors? Are there other areas that interest you? Are there other areas of mission that you would like to be involved in or would like to see the Bayshore congregation be involved in? **What are your thoughts in this area?**

In the second “leg” of your mission, you say your mission is to **“grow as disciples of Christ.”** I do feel a very strong sense of personal responsibility in this area. As a Certified Christian Educator and in the role of your Pastor, I feel a unique calling in the area of spiritual study and growth. How can we expand our education program? How can we expand our Sunday morning Sunday school? Is there another time during the week which would appeal to some folks? Is there interest in doing a congregation-wide study for a period of weeks – a study of a book of the Bible, or a book outside the Bible, or a series on prayer? A study where we would focus on a certain area not only in class but also in sermon? Where we could all commit to certain reading during the week and then have a sermon and/or a class based on that reading? Don't we all feel the need to “grow as disciples of Christ!” This growth might also be accomplished by taking advantage of classes and conferences sponsored by the Presbytery and/or at Montreat! This growth might occur by a day-long retreat right here at Bayshore! Or a series of quarterly retreat/learning days? **What are your thoughts in this area?**

Lastly you say your mission includes to **“reach others with the good news of Christ.”** I truly believe that each and every one of you do this individually as you go about your lives in your families and in your community. That's just the type of people you are! But what are you doing in this area of “evangelism” as a congregation? Have we even begun to study the dynamics of the environment around us? What are the demographics? We can go to the Presbytery and they will use their technological resources to ascertain the make-up of the community about our church area. We can reach out to the Presbytery for help in this area. In the near past there have been Presbytery funds available for “new initiatives” in this area. Perhaps some type of funding is still available! You might form a study group to see how best to fulfill this part of the Great Commission. **What are your thoughts in this area?**

I must stress that this church is governed by its elected Session – not by its pastor. And particularly not by a part-time Pastor! It is in no way my intention or purpose to dictate the future of Bayshore! I'm simply here to teach, to love, to preach and to care! I raise these issues simply to perhaps give you some thoughts to think on as you ponder fulfilling your mission in this new year! I will be delighted to help you in any way you would like for me to do so. The initiative and leadership, however, must come through all the members – not just the Session and certainly not the Pastor! I implore each of you to pray about what part you are willing to undertake in this regard. Even if you are somewhat “house bound” there is research, prayer and study to be done! All can contribute! **Let your Session know your thoughts in this regard.** I will be glad to discuss it with any of you at most any time!

Again, my prayer is that each of you has a fulfilling and healthy new year. I pray that you have a Christ-filled year! I pray that you have a year where you feel you have fulfilled your stated mission as best you can! My love and care to each of you! Pastor Celie





# Our Mission

*Our generous congregation gave many at Beth El Mission a joyous and Happy Christmas!*



# Our Christmas Luncheon

*◆◆◆ at Pastor Celie's and Ted's*

*Come Sunday, February 5th for our Stone Soup gathering! Bring an item of food to add to the soup pot. All of us together will make a tasty meal to share. Fellowship and fun awaits you.*



# Our Stewardship Committee

The Steward-SHIP had already sailed for this year, but we have one more Port of Call: The Isle of Per Capita! It's a wonderful little destination, where one can enjoy faith, fellowship, fun and, quite frequently, food. There's just a small excursion fee of \$21.75. Of course, it's possible to visit without paying the excursion fee, but that would limit the resources available to devote to the faith, fellowship, fun and frequent food! If you want to join us on the journey, please place your Per capita donation (identified as such) in the offering plate or in the office for Linda/Josette. Then it's Bon Voyage...(better keep an eye out for Pirates, though...they're known to inhabit these waters...)



# Birthdays

- Sofie B. 1/13*
- Bill G 1/18*
- Doris G. 1/21*
- Lona E 1/24*
- Marlene S. 2/3*
- Dick G. 2/24.*