



The Grapevine



Setting the Stage

Reverend Edward Dunn

The opening article in many company magazines is written by the CEO or another top executive of the business. The purpose of the opening article is to set the stage for and generate interest or curiosity about what will follow in that particular edition. The opening article sets the tone for that month's magazine. So this month I will attempt to prepare you for what you'll read in this edition of the Grapevine.

One of the important projects of 2023 will be the work of merging Palma Sola and Westminster into one congregation. In many regards the merging of our lives has been taking place since 2020. The creation and work of the Joint Merger Committee will make things "official." You've been asked to make suggestions about a new name. You will be invited to participate in the voting for a new name once the suggestions have been received.

I invite you to spend time reading about the Outreach work that we are doing. Check out the opportunity to participate in our DOES It project, and give to

this month. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Hope Seeds event this month. Learn more about how you can be involved.

Journey with us through Lent as we consider how to "Be Reconciled to God" through our care for the creation and our planet. There will be news about our recertification as an Earth Care Congregation. Look for a link to our Lenten devotional that focuses on environmental stewardship.

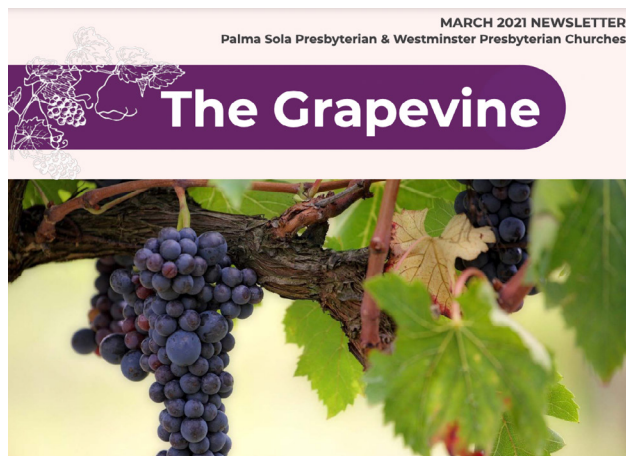
Consider being involved and a variety of activities and ministries: provide refreshments for our Fellowship Hour after worship; join our Bell and/or Chancel Choirs; spend time with others walking and talking at Robinson's Preserve or serving a meal at Our Daily Bread; or pray during our Prayer Group time.

It's a privilege to be asked to pen the lead article in the Grapevine each month for which I am grateful. I hope you are inspired to love God and others as Jesus teaches, and to serve God and others in Jesus' name, as you read each edition of our newsletter.

Blessings,
Edward

Happy Anniversary Grapevine!

This issue of the Grapevine marks the 3rd edition of this publication! Lets take a look at the first two editions of the Grapevine (2021 & 2022)



A New Name: "The Grapevine"

Reverend Edward Dunn

You will note that this month's newsletter features a new name – The Grapevine – and citing John 15:5 where Jesus declares, "I am the vine, you are the branches."

I have a vivid image of the grapevine in my grandparents yard; the many twisting and intertwined branches and shoots extending from a single trunk. I remember the seasons when as a kid, I'd grab a small cluster or pluck individual grapes as a spontaneous snack.

It was impossible to trace each branch in my grandparent's grapevine and ultimately wasn't important to be able to do so. The grapes of one branch were the same as the other

branches.

The idea of a different name for our monthly publication comes from my observations of how two congregations – Palma Sola and Westminster – are sharing and intertwining our lives and work as we acknowledge that Christ is our foundation.

My hope for our ongoing newsletter is to provide information that is important for our life together; informative about the activities of our church; and inviting to those who have belonged for many years and those who are new or looking for a place to belong.

I welcome your comments about our new name.



Marching Into a New Season

Reverend Edward Dunn

I think the name March is the right word describing this time of the year. Winter's quiet comes to an end and Spring's new growth begins. This month marks a new church season – Lent which is a season of penitence and preparation for Easter's good news. This holy season is often referred to as a journey – one we take with Jesus toward Jerusalem, and a journey of self-reflection we make; examining our relationship with God through our relationships with others.

As you read through this edition of the Grapevine you will find a number of events happening in March. Here are a few of them:

- An opportunity to participate in a new Pictorial Directory.

We will be publishing a new directory for all members of the congregation and invite you to join in it's preparation. Photographers from Universal Church Directories will be here March 23-25 to take pictures for our directory. Please schedule your appointment by calling the Church office 941-792-3141 or 941-748-2848.

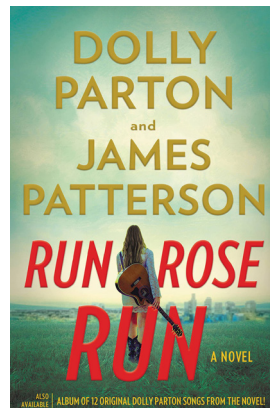
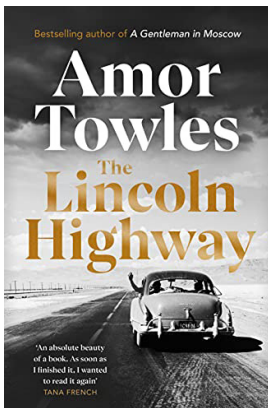
Palma Sola Session Highlights

- Approved inviting the congregation to contribute to earthquake relief efforts by the Presbyterian Disaster Agency in the Turkey-Syrian area.
- Applauded the forthcoming installation of two new handrails on either side of the Chancel steps.
- Endorsed the Finance recommendation that temporarily Restricted Funds be used where permitted to offset the significant operating deficit anticipated this year.
- Received a Report from Liz Brackmann that our congregations have been recertified as an Earth Care Congregation for 2023, and endorsed the projects that have been defined for this year. Session commends the work by Brackmann to keep us informed and engaged in efforts to be good stewards of the planet.

Westminster Session Highlights

- Presbytery will appoint an Administrative Commission at their meeting in March for the merger of Westminster to Palma Sola.
- The Westminster Mission Committee voted to send Easter monies to our six charities

Palma Sola Book Club



MAR 13 | 12 - 1PM APR 10 | 12 - 1PM

Join in any second Monday at 12pm in the library or on Zoom for fun conversation.

2023 READING LIST

For more information, call Vicki Schooley at (941) 518-2315.

Men's Group



MEN'S GROUP

You're invited to attend the Morning Men's Group. Get to know the men you see in church. Share your story. Enjoy fellowship.

MEETINGS START AT 8:30A

MAR 2 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

MAR 16 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunis
rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com

March Outreach Update

Although February is the shortest month, there was certainly no shortage of ways you reached out in service and love to others during the month. We are blessed to be a blessing!

Recap of recent events:

- You generously donated **\$405 for CROP** through our **Souper Sunday** event on 2/7.
- Volunteers played **Valentine's Day BINGO** and visited with residents of

Brookdale Palma Sola.

- Folks volunteered every Friday at **Our Daily Bread**.
- **4 large totes of classroom and clinic supplies** were donated to restock Palma Sola Elementary School. An additional \$200 of budgeted funds was spent to purchase much needed computer headphones for the students.
- **\$466.90** was received through our **3 Cents a Meal Collection** in January.
- You wrote **pen pal letters to 60 second graders** at Palma Sola Elementary School.
- As part of our **PB & J Sandwich Ministry**, you made **400 additional sandwiches** to donate to Our Daily Bread, for a total of **2400** since September.
- A well-attended **Estate Planning Seminar** was provided to assist members and the community in making important life plans.

March Outreach Opportunities:

- Our **DOES It (Done On Every Sunday)** project for March is collecting food items for **FELT (Feeding Empty Little Tummies)**. FELT provides weekend backpacks of food for over 1300 children in Manatee County each week who might otherwise go hungry over the weekend. Items needed include **single serve cups, tins, and packages that have tear off or pull tops that do not need a can opener**. Pick up a list in the Narthex or look on the website for more details. Drop your donated items in the bins in the Narthex or bring them to the church office by **March 26th** and help end childhood hunger one backpack at a time!
- Pack a seed, fill a need! You are invited to a **Hope Seeds packing event on Saturday, March 18th from 10 am – noon in Fellowship Hall**. Join with other volunteers to assemble seed packets to be distributed all over the world. Hope Seeds is a Christian, charitable organization that seeds to improve the nutrition of the poorest in the world by providing quality garden seed and agricultural education through Christian missionaries and organizations. All supplies are provided and all work is done sitting at tables. Come for an hour or stay the whole time. Friends and family are welcome!
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** is on the ground in **Turkey and Syria**, providing support and response to the recent devastating **earthquakes** in that region. If you would like to make a donation to help with these efforts, a special offering has been approved to get funds where they are needed right away. **Make a check payable to WPC or PSPC with "Earthquake Relief" in the memo line** and drop your donation in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

March Outreach Update Continued

Ongoing Opportunities:

- **Servers for Our Daily Bread on Fridays** are always needed. Contact Dorothy Simes if you would like to volunteer.
- We continue to **collect non-perishable food items in the cart in the Narthex** to donate to **Our Daily Bread**. They are always in need of canned vegetables, fruits, meats, and soups as well as boxes and bags of pasta, rice, cereal and other staples to stock the Loaves & Fishes food pantry.
- Also, please keep in mind our Blessing Box by the east parking lot. **The Blessing Box** serves as a **mini food pantry** for our local neighborhood, and you are welcome to add to it or take from it as needed.
- Contributions of **loose change, soft money, and checks for FELT (Feeding Empty Little Tummys)** are always welcome. To donate, use the envelopes in the pews or mail a check to the church office with “FELT” in the memo line.
- The **Holy Strollers** walking group meets every **Friday at 9 am** at the **north entrance of Robinson Preserve**. You are invited to gather for exercise, conversation, and a short devotional in the great outdoors.
- Join your church family in Fellowship Hall after worship each week to make **PB & J sandwiches** to share with the **clients of Our Daily Bread**. Thank you to all who have been bringing in supplies, making sandwiches, and helping SPREAD the love of Christ to your neighbors in need!

March Outreach Offering

Our **Outreach Offering for March** will go to **Our Daily Bread of Bradenton** to support free meals and a food pantry for those in need. Our Daily Bread staff and regular volunteers (that's us on Friday's!) serve hearty meals seven days a week from 10-11:30 am. At Our Daily Bread's self-serve food pantry, clients can shop free once a month for fresh produce and other food items of their choice.

You may donate to ODB:

- during the worship service, in your offering envelope,
- by mailing a check to the church office with “ODB” in the memo line, or
- Palma Sola members may also contribute through [online giving](#)



FEEDING EMPTY
LITTLE TUMMIES



WILL YOU HELP US
FEED CHILDREN?

F.E.L.T.

FOOD DRIVE MENU ITEMS:

- Tuna, Chicken, Spam Packets
- Vienna Sausages
- Individual Mac N' Cheese
- Ravioli / Spaghetti Cups
- Pudding Cups
- Fruit Cups
- Breakfast Bars / Granola Bars
- Snack Crackers
- Ramen Noodles / Cup of Noodles
- Fruit Bars



ALL CANNED FOOD ITEMS MUST HAVE PULL TOPS

Feeding Empty Little Tummies, Inc. is Manatee County's original backpack program. F.E.L.T. Inc. was founded in 2010 to feed our homeless and food-insecure students on weekends, a time when these children often go hungry. FELT, Inc. has delivered 350,000+ meals! Help us end childhood hunger...one backpack at a time!

LET'S CONNECT!

901 8TH AVE W, PALMETTO, FL 34221
941-896-7870
WWW.FELTINC.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/FELT.ORG

February Photobook



LENTEN SOUP LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP

Enjoy soup, salad, bread with cookies and fellowship

**Every Wednesday until March
29th 11:45am to 12:45pm**

Please join us for a short program following the luncheon. Please call the office at 941-792-3141 or sign up in the Narthex.



PRAYER GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday 11a | Room 14

Puzzle Program

Our Puzzle Program has undergone an overhaul!

Volunteers have sorted through the over **150 puzzles** that you so generously donated to share with others during the early days of Covid. Some of these puzzles have been given to worthy locations, and others saved to share back with you. **Beginning March 5th**, you may browse the puzzle selection in the Media Center anytime and pick out your own to take home. Puzzles will also be available in Fellowship Hall after the Worship service on Sundays. Please enjoy these treasures and pass them on to others as a gift from your church family.

Mission Matters - Hope Seeds

Hope Seeds International is a non-profit organization with the mission of sharing the love of Christ and reducing worldwide hunger by empowering people with sustainable food production skills, seeds, and resources. Since 1999, Hope Seeds has distributed over 10 million packets of quality garden seed in more than 60 countries. All seed packets include Gospel messages, and missionaries and other faith-based organizations provide discipleship and teach gardening methods, seed saving, and nutrition programs.

The Hope Seeds motto is Plant a Seed! Feed a Soul! Giving a person good seed which is suited for their climate and culture allows them to work toward their own nutrition and welfare. When a person is empowered to grow their own food, they will not depend on someone for their daily meal. They will be stronger and more self-reliant, fostering a sense of accomplishment and community development.

Haiti is the largest and most common recipient of seed and agricultural support due to its long history of poverty and developmental needs. Growth areas for Hope Seeds include several countries in east Africa – Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania. Hope Seeds also responds after natural disasters, providing seeds to help countries regain their agricultural programs.

Since Hope Seeds storage facility, office, and teaching campus is based in Bradenton, we have been blessed to participate in this amazing ministry up close. By funding and hosting seed packing events we are partnering to reduce hunger and bring hope to those in need worldwide. Please join us on Saturday, March 18th from 10 am – noon in Fellowship Hall and pack a seed to fill a need!

A photograph of several young green seedlings with two leaves each, growing out of dark brown soil. The seedlings are in the foreground, slightly out of focus, with more seedlings visible in the background. The image is framed by a thin green border.

Volunteers needed...

to pack Hope Seeds!

**Saturday, March 18, 2023
10 am–12 pm**

**Palma Sola Presbyterian Church
6510 3rd Ave West Bradenton**

Join community members to package seeds
while seated at tables. Ages 8+.

HopeSeeds.org improves nutrition of
the world's poorest by providing garden seed
and agricultural education worldwide.

Joint Merger Committee Update

The Joint Merger Committee (JMC) has been busy working on a Mission Statement and a process to develop a name for our new church and **we are asking for your suggestions.**

You should have received a message, “**What’s in a Name**”, giving you some thoughts about what goes into a name as you provide your suggestions.

Merger Message #3 will provide you with a Form and a way to send those suggestions to the committee.

- Send an email to: **mergercommitteepswm@gmail.com**
- **Put the Form in the Lock Box in the Narthex**

We need all of your suggestions no later than March 19. A short list of suggested names will be placed on a ballot for your final vote.

Roy Williams and **John Progar** have been nominated to serve on the Presbytery’s Administrative Committee that will oversee the Merger process.

If you have any questions, contact one of the committee members:

Sherri Kramer
John Progar
Dick Haynes
Vicki Schooley
Rich Wachunis
Roy Williams

An Appeal to the Congregations

We need roadside message sign changers. In the past we had 4 volunteers to rotate weekly the changing of our message board on the road front. Scott was the backup if someone had a schedule conflict. We are down a few people and we are asking for volunteers. We will train and can work around life’s surprises and planned events. Contact Ron Dickerson at 309-531-3842 for more details.

HOW TO ORDER CHURCH ENVELOPES

Offering Envelopes are available by calling Dina Breneman at 941-792-3141, Gregg Pead at 941-348-0773 or email Gregg at peedethree@gmail.com.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

MAR 3 Peter & Vicki Sokolich
MAR 7 Susan Corbett
MAR 8 Dorothy Simes
MAR 12 Libby Saile
MAR 13 Fran Hensley
Richard Riley

MAR 19 Patty Dawson
Barry Yoder
MAR 23 Wilma Hamilton
MAR 25 Rich & Phyllis Wachunis
MAR 30 Mary Ann Jones



FELLOWSHIP
& WORSHIP
COMMITTEE

Let's get together to spread God's word. Join the Fellowship & Worship Committee Today! Reach out to Gail Dickerson for more information at 941-224-1117

**HOLY STROLLERS
WALKING GROUP**



**JOIN US ON A WEEKLY STROLL
TO GET SOME FRESH AIR**

EVERY FRIDAY | 9AM

**ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)**



**CHANCEL CHOIR
REHEARSALS**

WEDNESDAYS AT 7P IN THE SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 6P IN THE SANCTUARY

Palma Sola & Westminter Presbyterian Churches
- March Newsletter 2023 -

6510 3rd Ave W.
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-792-3141
pspchurch.org

March

2023

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

*Lenten Lunch
11:45a*

**Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel | 7p**

2

**MEN'S GROUP
8:30a
APOSTLE'S
CREED | 2P**

*Renewal
6:30p*

3

**HOLY
STROLLERS | 9a
OUR DAILY
BREAD | 9:30A**

4

5

Worship Service
10a | Communion

6

7

Outreach | 3p

8

*Lenten Lunch
11:45a*

**Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel | 7p**

9

**APOSTLE'S
CREED | 2P**
Finance | 3:30p

10

**HOLY
STROLLERS | 9a
OUR DAILY
BREAD | 9:30A**

11

12

Worship Service
10a | Fellowship

**DAY LIGHT
SAVINGS
BEGINS**

13

*Palma Sola
Book Club | 12p*

14

**PRAYER
GROUP | 11A
Deacons | 6:30p**

15

*Lenten Lunch
11:45a*

**Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel | 7p**

16

**MEN'S GROUP
8:30a
APOSTLE'S
CREED | 2P**

17

St Patrick's Day
**HOLY
STROLLERS | 9a
OUR DAILY
BREAD | 9:30A
Finance/Endow. 3p**

18

**HOPE SEEDS
PACKING | 10A**

19

Worship Service
10a | Fellowship

20

**WPC SESSION | 1p
PSPC SESSION
6:30p**

21

22

*Lenten Lunch
11:45a*

**Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel | 7p**

23

24

**HOLY
STROLLERS | 9a
OUR DAILY
BREAD | 9:30A
April Grapevine
Input Deadline**

25

26

Worship Service
10a | Fellowship

27

28

**PRAYER
GROUP | 11A**

29

*Lenten Lunch
11:45a*

**Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel | 7p**

30

31

**HOLY
STROLLERS | 9a
OUR DAILY
BREAD | 9:30A**

Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday | 9am - 4pm

View the online church [Calendar](#) for latest information about Sunday worship services, Bible study, outreach and other events. Livestreamed and recorded worship services may be viewed at [Online Worship](#).