

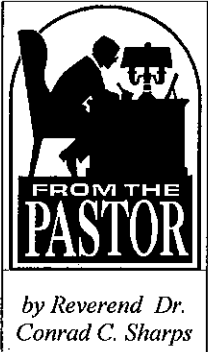


First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

April 2005

Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps - Senior Pastor
Rev. Hope Lee - Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. John R. Harland - Parish Associate



Meditation and Devotion

Normally, I'm a morning devotion person. I like to get up before anyone else, sip coffee and read scripture. But it had been a very long, hard day. The pastoral demands of the day seemed to have taken a toll and my heart ached for those I knew sat at home alone for the first time in years, or those who were facing for the first time the reality that their marriage was in grave danger, or those who had just heard that the lab reports were not good.

I had a tremendous need for solitude. After everyone had retired for the night I sat and turned to a book that I've come to love: The Prayers of Peter Marshall, edited by Catherine.

As I ran my finger down the Contents' pages I saw an entry entitled "Evening Prayer" – perhaps the words of this humble servant could provide the balm I needed. I offer just a portion of Peter Marshall's "Evening Prayer" in the hope that it might touch you in the same manner that it moved my spirit that weary evening:

"Lord Jesus, we come to thee for an evening blessing, to seal within our hearts the inspirations and memories of this day.

We ask Thee for the blessing of

quietness for every troubled heart,
rest for every weary soul,
new faith and courage for all who have
faced exhausting tasks this day.

We would rest now in Thee
and find in this evening hour
Thy stillness and Thy peace to bring us into
quiet harmony with Thy will.

We give thanks for
every challenge that
this day has brought,
every new vision of God that winged its
way across our skies,
every whisper of God that we have
sensed in the beauty of Thy world,
every thought of God
that comes in quiet moments,
every need of Thee that brought us back
again to Thee in prayer..."

What about your day? Is it a day that might require dedication to the divine for ultimate understanding and meaning? If it is, spend some time alone in quiet meditation. Read an evening prayer that seeks God's blessings and peace as well as offering the thanks that every day deserves when it is seen as a precious gift from God.

Perhaps then (no matter what you have faced) you will be granted the peace the Psalmist knew when he wrote: "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O God, make me dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:8)

Please submit articles for the newsletter as early as possible, but no later than the 20th of each month.

Session Notes - April 15th Meeting

The Session discussed the following significant items at the April 15th Stated Meeting include:

- Examination of Elders and Deacons Elect was completed. Date of Ordination/Installation will be April 3rd at both services.
- Approved Mike Daniel as new chair of Endowment Trust Fund Board. Thanked Sewell Harlin for his service.
- Received reports from all committees including the following important items:
 - ♦ Increased annual insurance premium to cover Youth Activities.
 - ♦ Organ Fund currently at \$34,600 – requested Conrad to write congregation urging donations due to warnings of current organ's condition.
 - ♦ Workday at Church April 19th.
 - ♦ Sanctuary foundation stabilization proceeding smoothly.

New Business

- Addie Underwood elected as Commissioner to Presbytery May 3rd.
- Committee Assignments to be announced next meeting April 19th.

The Congregation is invited to attend Session Meetings which are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Original Adult Sunday School Classroom of Jim Thomas Hall.

AARP Driver Safety Class

On April 25th and 26th, we will have AARP's Driver Safety Class offered here. If you have not renewed your certificate in three years, it's time to do so.



Our class will be from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday. Remember, if you complete the course, you save on car insurance. Call the church office at 261-3837 to register. The cost is \$10, and course size is limited. Come and bring a friend.

Thanks for everything

There aren't enough "manys" to thank all of the wonderful adult Logos volunteers for all of their time and ministry. The adult volunteers make the Logos experience what it is and their ministry is one of tremendous import in the lives of our children.

Thank each of you a hundred times over: Jeannie Langley, Kim Scheele, Lori Vliegen, Mary Jo Higgs, Tricia Kirkendall, Barbara Swearingen, Mindy Williams, Brandi Williams, Jim Oliver, Darren Smith, Joyce Matthews, Ed and Marlene Strobach, Chip Caddy, David Murray, Susan Rodriguez, Barbara Heymann, Elaine Burford, Susan King, Kathleen Hardee, David Plews, Alexa Bishop, Cheryl Brown, Helen Wickson, Polly Hord, Andra DeViese, and Co-Director, Andi Flynn.

Another big thank you to the Faith and Friends Sunday School Class for their generous help with clean-up, as well as the Logos parent volunteers! Get ready for year number 12 coming up in the fall!

It's Off to Camp We Go!

Mark your calendars and make your plans now for the annual Family Weekend Retreat at Camp Montgomery.

- ♥ This is for all members of the congregation, not just people with children.
- ♥ The dates are Friday, April 15th through Sunday, April 17th.
- ♥ The price is \$30 per person and must be received, in advance, by April 7th, to secure your housing.
- ♥ Please mail or bring your reservation to the church office by that date.



Presbyterian Women's News

During the month of April Presbyterian Women will have Mother's Day cards available between church services. Donations for these cards will be used to support the Networkers Malaria Prevention Program, a Presbyterian mission project that provides mosquito nets to stop the spread of malaria. In Africa malaria is the leading cause of death in children under five years of age.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

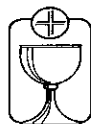
Please mark your calendar for our Annual Birthday Tea on Sunday, June 5th at 2 p.m. All women in our church family are invited to this celebration.

All women of the church are welcome to join any of our circles. Feel free to visit any circle that fits your schedule. April meeting times and places are as follows:

- ♥ Elizabeth Circle, April 14th at 10 a.m., Jim Thomas Hall.
- ♥ Esther Circle, April 14th at 12:30 p.m., Charlotte Knight's home, 120 North 6th Street.
- ♥ Hannah Circle, April 14th at 7 p.m., Ann Thomas's home, 2024 Bridal Road.
- ♥ Lydia Circle, April 11th at 6:30 p.m., at Joy Drewry's home, 5483 Florence Point Drive.
- ♥ Martha Circle, April 13th at 10 a.m., Mary William's home, 1904 Lakeside Drive South.
- ♥ Ruth Circle, April 14th at 10 a.m., at Nancy Inboden's home, 2635 Robert Oliver Avenue.

April Communion

Communion will be served on April 17th at both services.



Upcoming April MACs Event

The MAC's had a wonderful time in April! A large number traveled to Mobile, AL, to see the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit, as well as, many other sites. The group had a marvelous time under the leadership of Bert Swearingen and wants to plan more over night trips in the future.



While they were away, another group celebrated St. Patrick's Day in style with a traditional Irish luncheon catered by Chef Donna. The luncheon was followed by board games and fellowship. This event turned out to be very popular with the attendees. Many, many thanks to our "hostess with the mostest", Elizabeth Kendrick, and her faithful leprechaun, Mickey, for providing such a delightful time!

- ♥ **SAM Spring Fling at Camp Montgomery** on Thursday, April 14th from 9 a.m. to 2:30 pm. Cost is \$12.00 and reservation must be received in the church office by April 7th.
- ♥ **Catered Luncheon** with guest speaker on Thursday, April 21st at 11:30 a.m. David Bagby who will give an informative and entertaining presentation concerning Senior Exercise. Cost is \$10.00. Please have your reservations in to the church office by April 18th and please plan to stay for a business meeting following the lunch.

Flower Calendar

- ♥ April 6th - Ann Bass to the Glory of God and for a blessed Spring.
- ♥ April 10th - Courtney, Jana, and Michael Blake in memory of her father, David Corbin.
- ♥ April 17th - Ann Robas and daughters Victoria, Annie, and Toni in loving memory of her husband and their father John.
- ♥ April 24th - Annette George in memory of her husband, Joe.



Memorial Gifts

(December, 2004 – February, 2005)

To the Endowment Trust Fund

In Memory of Ruth Burgess
Barbara Burton
David and Edward Hardee
Mary Phinney
Susan Steger

In Memory of Billie Ferreira
Celeste Kavanaugh
Presbyterian Women

In Memory of Josephine Jones
Wilbur and Jean Wiedman

In Memory of Sarah Key
Ed Stewart

In Memory of Kay Pearce
Wilbur and Jean Wiedman

In Memory of Audrey Shaw
Dick and Barbara Fuller
Dorothy Nicholson

In Memory of Robert Swantz
Thomas Bullock
M.C. Crawford
John and Suzanna Harland
George and Janet Larie

In Memory of Hazel Wormhoudt
Janet Anderson



To the Philips Memorial Fund

In Memory of Ruth Burgess
Jim and Ann Thomas

In Memory of Hazel Wormhoudt
Jim and Ann Thomas

To the Education Fund

In Memory of Margaret Bennett
Charlotte Bowling

In Memory of Ruth Burgess
Jane Philips

In Memory of Katie Italiano
Annette George

In Memory of Kay Pearce
Nelson and Marilyn Showalter

In Memory of Robert Swantz
John Swantz

To the Organ Fund

In Memory of Ruth Burgess
Polly Hord
Bill and Rosanna Oliver

Disaster Relief

In Memory of Hazel Wormhoudt
John and Virginia Ver Meer



John and Kathy Stevenson moved here from Fruit Cove, Florida. John was born and reared on Amelia Island but moved away in 1963. His father, Shellman "Steve" Stevenson was an elder in our church. John and Kathy have three grown children and one precious grandson Henry. Kathy has already found a home in our Chancel Choir and also likes to read and spend time with family. John is retired from State Farm Insurance and enjoys golf, salt water fishing, flying, and reading.

Nancy Clark is a new member of our church who enjoys reading and cooking. She and her husband Peter live here on the island.

Rose and Patrick Huffman moved to Fernandina from Eastern Pennsylvania. They have three grown sons and seven grandchildren. Rose is retired from AT&T and is now employed at Amelia Island Plantation (or AIP). She enjoys ballet, opera, plays, antiques and loves babies and animals!

Allen and Beverly Smith moved "north" from Jacksonville. They have two grown sons and two grandchildren, Harlie and Scott. Allen works with BB&T Bank, and Beverly is employed by DHI Title Company. Allen enjoys all outdoor activities such as boating, fishing and golf. Beverly enjoys decorating, sewing, gardening, and spending time with the grandchildren.

The Eyes of the Poet and God

Henry David Thoreau, who slipped away to live at Walden Pond, began to observe carefully the work of God in nature. In his Journal, written in 1845, he penned these thoughtful words: "Nature doth thus kindly heal every wound. There seem to be two sides of this world, presented us at different times, as we see things in growth or dissolution, in life or death. And seen with the eye of the poet, as God sees them, all things are alive and beautiful."

Vacation Bible School 2005

The Methodist-Presbyterian Bible School will take place from June 13th through June 17th from 9 a.m. to noon. We are looking for volunteers and teachers. If you are interested, please feel out the forms below and put in the offering plate.

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP	
Fill in info below and place in offering plate or drop by office	
NAME _____	
PHONE _____	
E-MAIL _____	
ADDRESS _____	
_____ ADULT	_____ YOUTH (middle / high)

- I would like to help in: (circle all that interest you)
- ♥ Music
 - ♥ Crafts
 - ♥ Games
 - ♥ Snacks (children)
 - ♥ Snacks (staff)
 - ♥ Site leader (storyteller)
 - ♥ Nursery/preschool
 - ♥ Guide
 - ♥ Sets/costumes/decorating
 - ♥ Registration
 - ♥ Administrative/other

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Summer Sunday School teachers are needed for the following age and grade groups. If you haven't volunteered to help with one of the classes please do it now. Sign up for one of the classes and drop this insert into this morning's offering. We look forward to your response. Thank you.

	3 & 4Yr. Olds	K thru 2 nd Grade	3 rd thru 5 th Grade	6 th Grade Thru HS	Children's Church-K & 1
June 5					
June 12					
June 19					
June 26					
July 3					
July 10					
July 17					
July 24					
July 31					

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Sunday Worship Hours: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.
Thursday Morning Prayer Group: 8:00 a.m.