

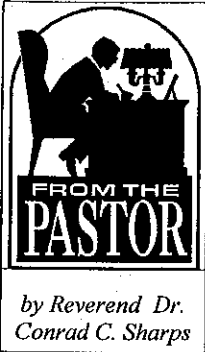


First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

August 2005

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



by Reverend Dr.
Conrad C. Sharps

Looking in the Wrong Places

Last week I searched and searched for my sunglasses. It's not that I can't see without them, it's just that I have really come to depend on them in my daily routine of walking. As I squinted in the midday glare, I thought how aggravating it is to not have my sunglasses on my face where they belong.

Of course I realize that not being able to find my sunglasses does not make a great deal of difference in the big scheme of things, but they do matter to me. Even though I can get along without them, I would be much more content if I could find them.

You know, when I think about it, the concern I feel over not being able to find my lost sunglasses is nothing compared to the way God must feel toward his lost children and world. Yes, God's word tells us that the world is lost and separated from its creator.

Just as we can measure the importance of something we have lost by the energy and effort we go to recover it - we have a sense of how much we mean to God by the lengths he has gone to seek and save the lost. As Luke writes, "For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost." (Luke 19:10) Indeed, Jesus came that we might be saved, and because of his sacrifice for our sake, we know how important we are to God.

Often when we can't find something that we have lost we say (tongue in cheek), "It must have gotten up and walked away."

Unfortunately this is true of human nature and sin as well. Having everything, we like Adam and Eve, often walk away from the abundance God desires for us. God in his great mercy, however, does not walk away from us. No, he seeks us out and offers us redemption in Christ.

Are you seeking something today that you just can't seem to find? Perhaps you're looking in all the wrong places. Today, turn to God's word; go to God in prayer and repentance; seek the fellowship of God's people and let the Spirit of God renew you.

I'm certain that someday soon I will find my misplaced sunglasses and I will be relieved. But this weekend I hope to spend some time in devotion and prayer giving thanks to God for his son Jesus Christ, the good shepherd who came to seek and save the lost. Praise be to God, he searches for us when we are lost!

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it in his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'" (Luke 15:4-6)

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

New Sexton Information

In April of this year, Tony Brewer became the very first sexton at FPC. Webster's Dictionary defines sexton as a church official in charge of maintenance of church property.

Tony has quickly assumed his duties and has become a key member of our staff. His handiwork is already apparent in the many corrective maintenance tasks and general enhancements made to the buildings and grounds throughout the FPC campus. The sexton reports to Dr. Sharps and to the Property Committee for general guidance. Tony is routinely available during normal working hours from Monday to Thursday and on Friday mornings to help resolve church property-related issues.

Are You 50 or Over?

If you are fortunate enough to be in this age range, please join the MAC group for lunch and games on Thursday, August 18th, at 11:30 a.m., in JTH. Prior to lunch there will be important information about the 2005-2006 plans, including a trip to Ft. Lauderdale to see the King Tut exhibit on January 16th-18th!

Please plan to attend and bring a friend. Your \$10 reservation fee is due in the church office before Thursday, August 11th.



Flower Calendar

- ♥ August 7th - Sara Allan, Cynthia Sapp, Linda Love, and Andy Allan in loving memory of her husband and their father, Andrew S. Allan, Jr.
- ♥ August 14th - Mike, Marsha, Pam, and Nancy Daniel in memory of their mother, Ann B. Daniel.
- ♥ August 21st - Mary Jo Griffin in loving memory of her husband, Ransom Griffin.
- ♥ August 28th - Carolyn Forman in memory of her mother, Caroline B. Henze and her brother Fredrick E. Henze.



Charity Golf Tournament

The McArthur Family YMCA is sponsoring a Golf Tournament to help support the local Really Caring Scholarship Fund.

The tournament will be held on Friday, August 6th at the Longpoint Golf Course on Amelia Island Plantation. The \$100 entry fee per person includes cart fee, greens fee, breakfast, lunch, and prizes.

The format will be four-person scramble. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. with shotgun start at 9 a.m. Please call Shirley Owens at 261-5375 or the YMCA at 261-1080 for additional information.



Session Notes

The Session met and received several letters thanking us for the use of the Missionary Apartment. One of the communications came from one of our former Associate Pastors, Sonny Griffin and his family. This residence has proved to be a very appreciated part of the ministry of our church.

A special request was made by Jane W. Lindberg, Choir Director, and several members of the choir to move the location of our new organ. The request was that the organ be placed in the corner behind the piano, and that the current organ pit be covered to provide additional choir space. After a lengthy discussion the move was approved. The organ may arrive as early as August.

Copies of a draft of a Child Protection Policy were distributed for the Elders to consider.

August Communion

Communion will be served on August 21st at both services.



The Table is Set for Groups of 8!

Everyone should have received Groups of 8 invitations for our next cycle, which will run from September through December. Please return your postcard by August 10th so the fun may begin!

Presbyterian Women's News

The Presbyterian Women's Annual Kickoff Luncheon will be held on September 8th at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar for this time of fellowship for all Presbyterian women.

The program will be "For Everything A Season," which will introduce the Bible study on the Liturgical calendar. The offering taken at the luncheon is the "Thank Offering," an annual Presbyterian Women donation given to those in need around the world. The program will be followed by a salad luncheon.

The mission outreach during the summer is personal items for Barnabas. Your donation items can be left in the Barnabas shopping cart in Jim Thomas Hall.

Circles will not meet in August.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Job and the Life of Faith

Beginning at noon on Tuesday, September 6th and running for seven weeks, the Brown Bag Bible Study will begin this exciting new Kerygma study. We will look at such questions as:

- Why do bad things happen to good people?
- Is there a correspondence between sin and suffering, obedience and blessing?
- Why should we serve God if there are no guarantees?

The Kerygma program literature states, the book of Job cuts straight to the heart of what it means to be human. It is the most profound exploration of the life and faith ever written and wrestles with some of life's most perplexing questions. Please join us for this exciting study. You will need to call the church office at 261-3837 to sign up prior to August 22nd, so that materials may be ordered. There is no charge.



As for me,
I would **seek** God,
and to **God** I would
commit my cause.

Job 5:8

Endowment Trust Fund Board Message

Memories are a source of strength when we lose a loved one. When touched by their death, many of us search for a way to make their memory last forever. The Endowment Trust Fund Board gives donors the opportunity to remember individuals with a memorial or tribute gift. A memorial gift honors a loved one's life and serves to reflect upon those memories that last forever. A gift made in honor of an individual is an elegant and meaningful way to recognize an individual who has had a special impact on your life.

To honor the passing of a friend or family member a memorial gift may be made at anytime and in any amount. The Endowment Trust Fund Board strives to ensure appropriate recognition of gifts, to continue and expand the church's work and ministry, and to enhance the beauty and function of God's House. We are all beneficiaries of the fruits of the generous memorial gifts made to this church.

You can designate which of the funds that you would like your gift to go too. The Endowment Fund, The Philips Fund, or the Education Fund. The Endowment Fund and Philips Fund have protected principles, but the Education Fund does not. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide for the financial stability of this church by providing a permanent source of income in the future to accomplish the missions of this church. The Philips Fund and Education Fund are both education funds for the benefit of church members who may be pursuing a theological education.

Rally Day 2005

Rally Day 2005 will be on Sunday, August 7th, at 9:45 a.m., in the sanctuary. Children will meet their new teachers and proceed to their classrooms while adults will hear a brief overview of each class presented by a teacher from that class. If you are not in a class now, please come and see if you find one that interests you.

To kick off the year, we will have a luncheon following the 11 a.m. service. Meat and beverages will be provided, but please bring a dish to share. So the committee will know how much meat to order, please let the church office know how many will be attending by the end of office hours on Wednesday, August 3rd.

August 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30 PM Christian Ed.	2 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch 4:00 PM Gen. Soc. 7:00 PM Property	3 6:00 PM Com. & Evang.	4 8:00 AM Prayer 9:30 AM DAR 4:00 PM PW CT	5 Pastor's Day Off	6 8:30 AM -4:00 PM Quilters, JTH.
7 12:00 PM "Rally Day" Picnic on the Grounds	8 6:00 PM Pink Ribbons	9 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch 5:00 PM Mission 7:00 PM Worship	10 2:00 PM Membership Care	11 8:00 AM Prayer	12 5:30 PM Paulk/McCrannie Wedding Pastor's Day Off Youth Island-wide Event.	13 9:00 AM -2:00 PM Hope-FH 6:00 PM Paulk/McCrannie Wedding
14 8:00 PM Youth Jello Bowl, FH	15 5:30 PM Finance	16 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch -Session	17	18 8:00 AM Prayer 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Hangin' @ Hope's MAC Mtg.	19 Nickel/Nicholls Wedding Rehearsal Pastor's Day Off	20 4:00 PM Nicke/Nicholls Wedding
21 1:54 PM Youth Sunday Practice, Sanct. & FH Communion	22	23 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch	24 7:00 PM Choir	25 8:00 AM Prayer 5:30 PM -7:30 PM Youth Sunday Practice, Sanct. & FH	26 Pastor's Day Off	27
28 12:00 PM Take Stock in Youth Luncheon, FH 6:00 PM Nassau Halfway House Youth Sunday	29	30 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch	31 7:00 PM Choir			

Sep 2005

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Jul 2005

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JOIN THE LOGOS MINISTRY

Do you want to be a part of one of the church's most exciting ministries? Do you love our children and want to nurture them and help them grow in the faith of Jesus Christ? Will you give up an hour or less each Wednesday to do this? Then look below and see where your gifts may be used! ALL age adults are vital to this ministry! Logos begins September 14th.

Bible Study Teachers: 50 minutes each Wednesday

1st and 2nd grades 4:45 -5:30

3rd and 4th grades 4:00-4:45

5th and 6th grades 4:45-5:30

Recreation: 3:30-4:30

Worship Skills (children's choir): 3:30-5:30

Nursery (for children of staff): 3:30-4:30

Table Parents: 5:10-6:30

**Kitchen Crew: for a week, two weeks, a month,
your choice**

Set up: 4:30-5:30

Clean up: 5:45-6:45

Wash Table Cloths: at home



If you have questions about what is involved in any of these areas, please call Terri at 261-3837.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Area of interest: _____

***One adult from each family with a child in Logos is expected to volunteer in some area during the year.**

Please put the bottom of this sheet in the offering plate, mail or bring to the church, or call the church office and give the office volunteer your information. Thank you, The children of our church and community

Acts of Giving

The Mission Committee is requesting donations from our congregation for a local Nassau County (Callahan) ministry we are helping. The ministry For the Love of Jesus and helps those recovering from drug addiction, alcoholism, and recently released ex-felons. The ministry helps these people learn a trade to obtain gainful employment and assimilate into society while learning to be responsible Christian citizens.



Items most needed are trousers (work pants, jeans, Dockers), shirts, twin mattresses, and box springs in good condition. Also needed are children's clothing to help those who have school-age children. We will collect clothing and other items for the month of August. You can drop off clothing at the church office. Call Jerry Roberts (321-5671) or Beth Sanders (277-1215) to arrange pick up for large items (mattresses).

Logos Programs Begin

We will be starting our 11th year of Logos on Wednesday, September 14th. Logos is open to all children in grades 1 through 7. The Bible Study Time for 7th graders will be confirmation class. Logos begins at 3:30 and ends at 6:30 p.m.

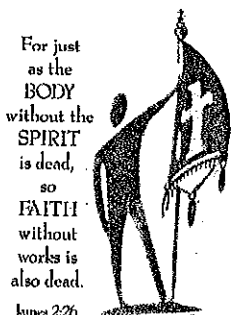
Children from outside of the church are welcome to register. The cost will be \$90.00 for the first child, and a total of \$145 for two or more children. The cost may be paid in four installments.

Registration will take place in JTH on Sunday, September 4th, following the 11 a.m. service. In order to register a child, one parent or guardian must be in attendance at the registration meeting. It will not last more than 30 minutes.

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Fernandina Beach
FL 32034



For just
as the
BODY
without the
SPIRIT
is dead,
so
FAITH
without
works is
also dead.

James 2:26

Sunday Worship Hours: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:55 a.m.
Thursday Morning Prayer Group: 8:00 a.m.