

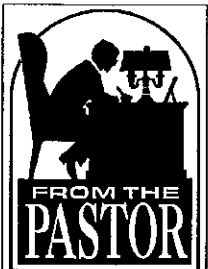


# First Press

*The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter*

January 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

## God Stands Ready to Help

The 911 emergency system is, without question, state of the art. When the numbers 911 are dialed, a person is connected almost simultaneously with a dispatcher. In front of the dispatcher is a computer panel that lists the exact location of the phone from which you are dialing, the name of the person by which that telephone is listed, and the closest police, fire department and paramedic units to your location.

All this is very important as experience has shown that a caller might not be able to communicate the exact nature of a problem. Someone might be in the midst of a heart attack, or so hysterical over the needs of a loved one that they cannot communicate effectively. The wonder of 911 technology, however, is that the dispatcher doesn't need the dialer to say anything. From the moment a 911 is dialed the dispatcher can send help to any party in distress.

In life we all occasionally face times of uncertainty and distress. Sometimes in desperation, we are unable to even put our thoughts into words. At times like this; we should rejoice for God in the person of the Holy Spirit already knows our circumstance and our need. Even though we might not be able to speak, or don't know

the right words to say, we are assured in scripture that the Spirit will intercede on our behalf.

With this in mind, what are you facing today? Do you find yourself in great need and yet unable to communicate a signal of spiritual distress? If you do, then may the words of Paul to the Romans bring the comfort to you that they have brought to me: "In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." (Romans 8:26, 27)

Even if you cannot verbalize your need today, approach God in prayer confident of the Spirit's ability and desire to intercede. God stands ready to help, we just need to call upon him in Jesus name.

### New Worship Service

Saturday Evening Worship Services begin January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. At these services, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper by Intinction. These Saturday evening services will be held through Lent (Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>). The content of these services will be similar to Sunday morning services and are designed to alleviate crowding during our busiest season. Perhaps you might enjoy this unique worship experience.

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

## Letter from Session

This letter, authorized by the Session, was recently sent to the Nassau County Board of Commissioners to address an important current issue in our community.

Dear Board Members:

The Session of First Presbyterian Church at its December stated meeting took action to express to you our opposition to any business in our community that distributes or sells pornography and related products.

We would also encourage the Nassau County Commission in the establishment of strict ordinances against such businesses in our community.

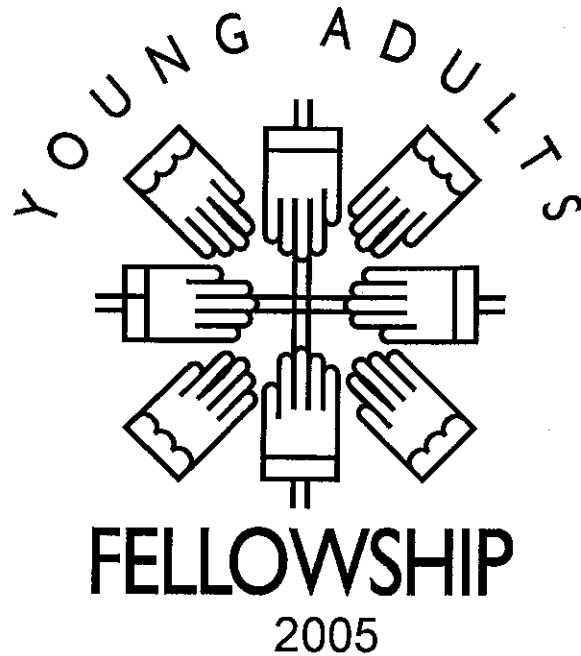
Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

**THANK YOU!**  
**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

A huge thank you goes out to Andi Flynn, Barbara Swearingen, Joyce Mathews, Steven Whitman, our wonderful children, and all parents and grandparents who helped out with the production of the fantastic Christmas Pageant.

A special thanks also to Joyce Mathews, Barbara Heymann, Kathleen Hardee, and the young people who helped set up for the dinner and, also, to Joyce and Barbara for their invaluable assistance in planning and executing the dinner.

Thanks, too, to Ed Mathews, better known as Daniel Boone, for videoing the production. The entire event was one to be remembered for a long while!



We're gearing up for a great year and want to invite every young adult to be a part of this new ministry. We meet on Tuesday nights from 7-8 p.m. in the Youth Center and then head downtown for coffee (or tea, since so far none of us actually drinks coffee).

- ★ In January we'll be finishing up The Purpose Driven Life
- ★ In February, we'll be starting Mastering the Content of the Bible.

So, if you've ever wondered what is really in the Bible or if you don't know things like who Noah's fourth son was, come and join us this spring to find out. Who knows...maybe we'll end the spring with the First Ever FPC Young Adult Bible Bowl!

Also, are you interested in fellowshiping with other young adults in our congregation? Then come join us for a get-together at Amy Beckham and Brian Bunk's house (315 Calhoun Street) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. We'll have it catered, so come hungry!!

Do you have ideas or suggestions for young adult activities at FPC? If so, give Hope a call at 261-3837.

## Six New Year Resolutions

1. Forget the past and honor God more.
2. Live for Christ in the world.
3. Trust God with a strong faith.
4. Remain faithful to my church.
5. Witness to the lost.
6. Cultivate the talents God has given me for His glory.



**Resolutions  
for the  
New Year**

### Thank You from Your Associate Pastor

One of the greatest things about being a Presbyterian is our wonderful view of the whole congregation as ministers. Sure, there are ministers of the Word and Sacrament such as Conrad and myself. And there are elders and deacons ordained to ministries of leadership and compassion. But, biblically we are all called to be ministers to one another and to the world.

Sometimes, as a pastor, I forget that biblical truth. It's hard for me to remember that ministry does not exist in a vacuum and that God did not promise me that upon my ordination day, I would no longer need folks to pray for me, to give me a hug, or to send a note of sympathy.

And so, I thank you for the wonderful ministers that you have been to me during the tragic loss of my sister. I have received all of your notes, heard all of your kind words, and felt the strength of all of your prayers. Thank you for your vital ministry to the glory of Jesus Christ!

~Hope

### January Communion

Communion will be served on January 16<sup>th</sup> at both services.



## Youth Ministry with a Purpose!

As we begin 2005, the Youth Ministry Team is excited about all the great things happening for the young people of First Presbyterian.



We are a purpose-driven youth ministry and we are guided by the following mission statement.

The Youth Ministry of First Presbyterian Church is :

- ♥ Growing a generation of believers who are rooted in the Word of God
- ♥ Connected to youth, their parents, and the church family
- ♥ Passionate about worshipping the Living God
- ♥ Going out into the world to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ
- ♥ Fearless about sharing the Way, the Truth, and the Life to those who do not know Christ.

These purposes will unfold as we continue weekly events (such as Sunday Night LIVE for the Middle School and T-N-T for the High School youth), mission opportunities (such as the Super Bowl Service Blitz in February), and evangelism opportunities (like Pioneer Plunge in April and the Great Escape in July).

The big news for 2005 is that we will go on our first-ever international mission trip to Vancouver, British Columbia. We are sending a team of 25 youth and adults to be a witness to Jesus Christ in a part of the world desperately in search of the Truth.

Our ministry is just not possible without the help, love, and support of the entire congregation. In case we haven't told you lately, thanks for giving us a place to be (and taking care of it), thanks for giving us the means to do all that we do, thanks for the food, thanks for the prayers, and most of all, thanks for loving the young people of the church....just the way they are!

# Memorial Gifts

(July – December, 2004)

In lieu of flowers that fade, gifts presented to the First Presbyterian Church in memory of family and friends become an enduring legacy of God's good works.

*A generous man will himself be blessed for he shares his food with the poor. (Proverbs 22:9)*

## To The Endowment Trust Fund

### **In Memory of Bruce Bowers:**

Annette George  
Margaret Pinchback  
Nelson & Marilyn Showalter  
Susan Steger  
Milton J. Wood, Co.

### **In Memory of Ruth Burgess:**

Camellia Garden Club of Fernandina Beach  
Joe & Mary Tom Drew  
Celeste Kavanaugh

### **In Memory of Ella Mae Clara:** Martha Circle

### **In Memory of Ila Drew** Nelson & Marilyn Showalter

### **In Memory of Henry Green:** R. Phillip Shinall, III

### **In Memory of Audrey Shaw:**

Janet Anderson  
Allan Andreason  
Adelaide Bagley  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bell  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Bell  
Mr. & Mrs. David Bestor  
Faye Birkitt  
John & Patti Blake  
Jerold & Corrine Borg  
Bill & Judy Braucht  
R.N. & Sally Brigden  
George & Cheryl Broome  
Donald & Iona Budolfson  
Susan Byrd  
Donald & Helen Cameron  
Craig Carlson  
Keith & Mary Carlson  
F & Chinlund  
David & Jane Conlan  
Rowena Conway

George & Frances Davenport  
Joe & Mary Tom Drew  
Helen Dunn  
John Engler  
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Farmer  
John & Mary Fielder  
Dorothy Flake  
Alvan & Mary Foster  
Annette George  
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Gerst  
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Gerst  
L.F. & Patricia Gieg  
William & Gayle Gower  
Larry & Connie Gray  
Allyson Littman Greer  
Mary Jo Griffin  
William & Eileen Haerther



Marjorie & Colin Hampton  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harlan  
Sewell & Marilyn Harlin  
Kathryn Haworth  
Charles & Marian Hicklin  
W.T. & Dolores Higginbotham  
Polly Hord  
Roger Hutchins Family  
John & Glenda Johnson  
E.E. & Marilyn Jones  
James Jones  
Dennis & Barbara Kirkpatrick  
David & Margaret Koehler  
Gail LaForge  
Olin & Sally Lancaster  
William & Joan Martin  
W. James McCleary

John & Juanita McClellan  
Robert & Janet Merger  
Louis & Phyllis Milliken  
William & Helen Moffit  
Stuart Moore  
Louise & Keith Mozena  
Doug & Mary Louise Nelson  
G.R. Nicholson  
Elizabeth Ozmer  
Ines Palombo  
Laverne & Beverly Parkinson  
John & Diane Pasioka  
Presbyterian Women  
Ruth Randall  
Josephine Rash  
Jay Redman  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Reid  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Reinhardt  
Ruth Circle  
Marjorie Sharp  
James Shaw  
James & Sandra Shaw  
Nelson & Marilyn Showalter  
Robert & Dorothy Siebert  
Rhys & Leslie Stanger  
Susan Steger  
Thomas Storrs  
Ed & Marlene Strobach  
Richard & Patricia Sulentic  
Jim & Meredith Thompson  
Leslie Townsend  
Bradley & Mary Upham  
Barbara Webster  
Jack & Kay Whan  
Wilbur & Jean Wiedman  
Caroline Wyatt  
Dennis & Melinda Wyman

### **In Memory of Jay White:** Janet Anderson

**In Memory of all Presbyterian Women of our church who have passed into the loving arms of our Creator:**  
The Presbyterian Women

*In Honor of Dr. John Harland:*  
James Shaw

*In Honor of Dr. Conrad Sharps:*  
James Shaw

**To the Philips Memorial Fund:**

**In Memory of Bruce Bowers**  
Russell & Terri Korn  
Jane Philips

**In Memory of Alma Conner**  
Jim & Ann Thomas

**In Memory of Jesse Ford**  
Jane Philips

**In Memory of Bess Langford**  
Jane Philips

**In Memory of Audrey Shaw**  
Jim & Ann Thomas



**To The Education Fund**

**In Memory of Bruce Bowers:**  
John & Suzanna Harland

**In Memory of Ruth Burgess:**  
Dressler family  
Nelson & Marilyn Showalter

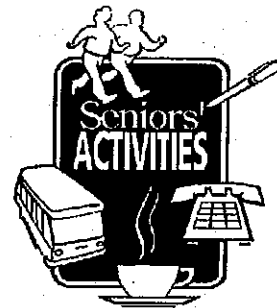
**In Memory of Ila Drew:**  
Jane Philips

**For Memory of Katie Italiano:**  
June Coddington  
John & Suzanna Harland  
Jane Philips

## Upcoming January MACs Event

The MACS have a number of exciting events planned for January!

- ★ January 6<sup>th</sup> - Princess Cruise from 12 till 2ish. Car pool from the church at 11 a.m.
- ★ January 20<sup>th</sup> - Catered Lunch and Speaker on Identity Theft at 11:30 a.m. \$10 due by January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- ★ January 27<sup>th</sup> - Balance due for Dead Sea Scrolls Trip.



- Double Occupancy \$239.00 less deposit = \$189 per person.
- Single occupancy \$335 less deposit = \$285 per person.
- Triple occupancy \$213 less deposit = \$163 per person.
- Quad occupancy \$201 less deposit = \$151 per person.

Anyone who is interested in the trip and has not signed up may do so by January 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Presbyterian Women's News

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

- ♥ Elizabeth Circle, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., Jim Thomas Hall.
- ♥ Esther Circle, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m., Lyn Davis' home, 1934 Lakeside Drive South.
- ♥ Hannah Circle, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., at Addie Underwood's home, 403 Tarpon Avenue, Unit 401.
- ♥ Lydia Circle, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., at Joy Drewry's home, 5483 Florence Pont Drive.
- ♥ Martha Circle, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., at Jan Turner's home, 503 Starboard Landing.
- ♥ Ruth Circle, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., at Karen McFadyen's home, 316 Lighthouse Lane. The November and December mission outreach projects will be determined individually by each circle.

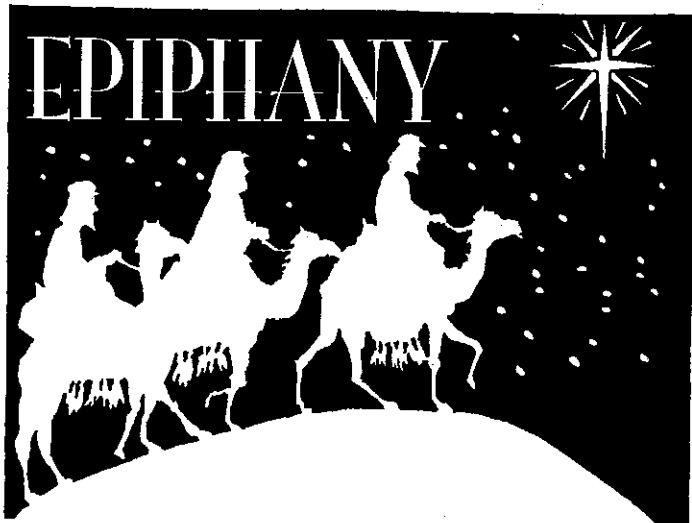


The mission outreach for January is the collection of cancelled stamps for Duvall Home.



## Name Tag Ministry

The name tag ministry is in need of volunteers. If you can help at the 8:30 set up, please call Sewell Harlin at 277-4848. If you are able to help with the noon take down or alphabetizing of the name tags, please call John Drew at 261-0427.



Epiphany is celebrated annually in Christian churches on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The word "epiphany" comes from a Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "showing forth." Its focus is on the legendary arrival of the Magi (three wise men) after the birth of Christ. They followed the light of a star to find the Light of the World.

The significance of Epiphany for Christians is that it symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. The season of Epiphany emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus - a truth that justifies his perfection as the model of real life.

The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity, which are all characteristics of the Epiphany emphasis.

The wise men were not Jews but Gentiles, which shows that Christ came not only for Jews but for all other people on Earth. Thus, all of us who are Gentile Christians are in the lineage of the Magi, the first Gentiles who came to Christ.



**Kay and Jerry Crandall** moved to Amelia Island from Milford, Pennsylvania, but have traveled and lived in Europe and Asia. They have two children and three grandsons, who are all football and baseball players. Kay enjoys quilting, genealogy, history, cooking, gardening, and hiking. Jerry, a workaholic changing course, enjoys golf.

**Debbie and Woody Jenkins** have two children and a two-year old grandson. Debbie calls herself a professional volunteer and enjoys sewing, cooking, and reading.

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will have its first meeting in early January. If you would like to suggest the name of a church member for the office of Elder or Deacon, please submit the person's name to the church office at 261-3837. We ask, however, that you spend significant time in prayer in the making of any potential nomination. The office of Elder and Deacon are ministries that deserve people of mature faith, good repute, and insightful spiritual leadership. We look forward to your suggestions.



We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of [people] willing to be coworkers with God ....

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



## January Logos Events

- ♥ January 12<sup>th</sup> - Epiphany
- ♥ January 19<sup>th</sup> - Circus Night
- ♥ January 26<sup>th</sup> - Sports Night—Dress up night.

## Flower Calendar

- ♥ January 2<sup>nd</sup> - Teri Korn
- ♥ January 9<sup>th</sup> - Marilyn and Nelson Showalter
- ♥ January 16<sup>th</sup> - Sandi and Jerry Neal
- ♥ January 23<sup>rd</sup> - In loving memory of Alma Conner by her children and family
- ♥ January 30<sup>th</sup> - Alma and John Pruitt



If anyone would like to furnish flowers for the Sunday services, please contact Mary Tom Drew at 261-5949. We have several dates that need to be filled.

First Press is published monthly as part of the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

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 FL 32034

"AS FOR ME,

**I would seek God,  
 & to God I would  
 commit my cause."**  
**JOB 5:8**

**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.**