



First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

June 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

Hidden in Christ

Once as a small child, my family attended a get-together at my Aunt Dorothy's home. Many of the adults there that day decided to go to a home exhibition that was being held downtown at the Civic Arena.

The collective decision was made that the children would stay with my aunt and the other adults who weren't interested in going to the home show. But needless to say I wanted to go!

I looked in the driveway and fortunately my parents' station wagon was the last vehicle in line. This was good since my father was one of the adults going. Naturally, they'd be taking his station wagon, the one with the folding seats in the well, in the back.

I climbed into the very back seat, covered myself with an old army blanket and didn't breathe a word all the way to the Civic Arena. And as the adults began to emerge from the station wagon, I jumped out and yelled, "Surprise!"

Now, I can't tell you that I didn't surprise my father because I'm not sure. This I do know: he scolded me, then hugged me, and then allowed me to spend the best part of one wonderful day holding the hand of the man I loved - who also loved me.

The apostle Paul in writing to the Colossian Christians talks about the believer's hope in the resurrection of Christ. He writes, "For you have died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:3)

Paul assures his readers that a believer is wholly identified with Christ. Just as our lives are bound with Christ in his death, so are we bound to him in his resurrection! We are therefore never out of his presence, or protection! Like an innocent child hidden in his father's car, so are we hidden in Christ wherever we may go, safe in his living presence. Our hope, our eternal life, is in him alone.

What good news for people of faith! We can live with the kingdom of God as our primary concern, rather than the things of this world. It is the values, the humble service, the selfless sacrifice that Christ demonstrated that has become our glory; we are bound not to the things of this world, but to the risen Christ in whom we are hidden safe and secure for all eternity.

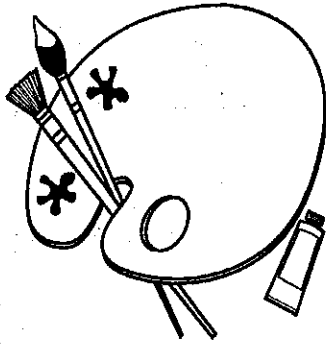
"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things above, not on earthly things. For you have died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:1-4)

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

Thanks to Our Artists

Due to the generosity of several artists in our church, and the wider community, the interior environment of the Mission Apartment in Angel Davis Hall has been greatly enhanced in recent months.



Marlene Deutcher, Karen McFadyen, Beverly Monahan & Marlene Strobach have contributed original paintings, and Gail Neidernhofer provided three handmade quilts to grace the walls of the apartment.

These contributions have increased the warm and welcoming effect for our guests. Please thank these artists for their artistic gifts which contribute so much to our mission outreach. The Mission Apartment Sub-Committee of the Property Committee greatly appreciates their generosity.

The Mission Apartment Sub-Committee



We are in need of volunteers over the age of 21 to assist Sarah Jane in our nursery during the 11 a.m. service. We are looking for volunteers who love children and would be available to rock babies and play with our toddlers.

Please call Shirley Owens @ 261-5375 if you would like to help out (even one or two times over the summer would be greatly appreciated).

Remember the Endowment Fund

A will is the cornerstone of a well organized estate plan. It can proclaim your Christian faith and demonstrate your commitment as a faithful servant to future generations.

Your gift to the First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund will be used for special projects of mission and property preservation. Consider making a lasting legacy of faith, by remembering the Endowment Fund in your will.

Thailand Ministry

On Sunday, June 26th, at 5:30 p.m., our church family will have the opportunity for fellowship and to learn about Kim Brown's mission work in Thailand. Kim will be home and will be happy to share with us about her ministry among women and children with AIDS.

Meat and beverages will be provided. Each family is asked to bring a dish to share. Call the church office before 5 p.m. on June 23rd so Membership Care can be prepared.



Family
Night
Supper

From the Saltshakers

When Hope leads us in the Affirmation of Faith, she asks us to say what we believe as "Presbyterians and members of the Reformed Faith". So what is the "Reformed Faith"?

Join the Saltshakers Adult Sunday School class beginning June 12th for a video series by R.C. Sproul that is designed to help Christians understand the basic tenets of the Reformed tradition. We meet in Jim Thomas Hall at 10 a.m. every Sunday and all are welcome. For more information, call Sally Ericksen at 261-2329.



You are cordially invited
To
The Annual Birthday Tea
Of the
Presbyterian Women
On
Sunday, June 5th, 2005
At 2:30 p.m.
Jim Thomas Hall
First Presbyterian Church

Program

Linda Laine will present the final lesson: "Lydia, The Sound of Silence" from the Horizons Bible Study.

Wear you hat and gloves, if you wish.

Please advise the church office at 261-3837 if you plan to attend.

John and Marilyn Flynn moved here two years ago from Atlanta. John retired from UPS and Marilyn is a retired teacher's assistant. They have two children: one son lives in Jacksonville Beach attending UNF, and another one in Franklin, Tennessee, who was married last month. The couple enjoys golf and fishing.

Paul and Sherri Braeger and their three-year old son Jonah moved to the island 18 months ago from Dalton, Georgia where they were on a short term assignment. Prior to Dalton, they lived in Singapore for eight years. John has a consulting business and enjoys fishing and hiking. Sherri is a stay-at-home mom who volunteers at the library, loves to read, and enjoys most outdoor activities, especially golf. Jonah also loves to "read" and they all like to travel.

Dr. William (Bill) Wesley and Jackie Wesley need no introduction to those of you who have lived in Fernandina for any length of time. Dr. Wesley, who recently retired after 39 years, came to the island in 1945 and set up practice as an optometrist. Jackie has lived here all her life (except for two years in South Africa) and has retired from a career in education. They have four children, seven grandchildren and in June expect number eight!

Barbara LaRose moved here following retirement from Rhode Island after a 20-year career in teaching. She also spent five years as a literary resource consultant. She has two grown children and three grandchildren still living in Rhode Island. Upon coming to Fernandina, Barbara owned a children's book store for seven years (and then retired again!). Her interests naturally include reading and anything to do with her grandchildren.

Peggy and Jim Nolan moved here from South Carolina and have had a home on the island for about a year. They have two grown children and three grandchildren (one is a sophomore in college) living in North Carolina. Peggy and Jim retired here because of his health and have found a lovely spot where they both can play golf. Peggy also enjoys duplicate bridge.

Summer Sunday School Teachers

Please get a sign up sheet from the Deacon's Table and prayerfully consider volunteering as a summer Sunday school teacher for a week or more. Two people are needed in each area except Children's Church for Kindergarten and 1st grade.



Session Notes - May 17th Meeting

During the May 17th, 2005 Stated Session Meeting, the Session discussed the following significant items:

- Committee reports.
- Our sexton Anthony "Tony" Brewer started work and immediately began tending to items often neglected.
- Katherine Schofield, daughter of Lee and Nancy, will be working as a part-time summer intern with our youth.
- The monthly meeting for June is canceled.



Flower Calendar

- ♥ June 5th - Mary Tom and Joe Drew to the Glory of God and in honor of this year's graduating seniors.
- ♥ June 12th - Jane and Bob Turney in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.
- ♥ June 19th - Marie Louise and Ernest Chaplin in memory of her father, W. A. Davis.
- ♥ June 26th - Dick and Ellen Hultberg in honor of their 44th Wedding Anniversary and in honor of their children and grandchildren, and Nancy Duty, Ginger Lawrence, and Nina Young in memory of their parents Nancy and Clinton Herring.



"Honor your father... as the LORD your God has commanded.. you .."

Deuteronomy 5:16

The Beginning of Father's Day

One Sunday in 1909, a young woman named Sonora Smart Dodd sat in a pew listening to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. She began to wonder why there wasn't a day to honor fathers.

Sonora decided to arrange for a tribute to be paid to her father at a church in her hometown of Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many believe that this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another view is that Dr. Robert Webb, pastor of Central Church, in Fairmont, West Virginia, held a service giving tribute to fathers in 1908. Regardless of which story is the correct one, it is certain that President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to choose a special day to honor fathers. He proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day in 1924.

Thank You, Teachers!



The Christian Education Committee and the congregation want to thank the following people for their dedicated ministry this past year:

Shirley Owens	Kim Scheele
Lynn Davis	Anita Hammond
Allison Crisp	Joyce Menz
Ann Chronister	Nancy Scofield
Kim Page	Casey Sapp
Doris Holloway	Lynn Hicks
Lisa Waas	Susan Stanley
Barbara Ross	David Hardee
Kathleen Hardee	Joy Drewrey
Lauren Sharps	Borden Hallowes
Sally Ericksen	Ann Thomas
Bill Wade	Mac Noden
John Patterson	Dale Pedrick
Ginny Grupe	

These people have been instrumental in the Christian education of our congregation.

VBS Could Use Some Stuff!

The Kingdom of the Son Safari is June 13th - 17th from 9 a.m. to noon. Donations of the following would be appreciated and helpful:

- ♥ Country Tyme Lemonade mix
- ♥ Goldfish Crackers
- ♥ Animal Crackers (Wal-Mart has some colored ones)
- ♥ Zoo Animal shaped fruit snacks individually wrapped
- ♥ Ice pops
- ♥ Zip lock sandwich bags or snack bags
- ♥ Paper towels
- ♥ Wet wipes
- ♥ Empty coffee cans (LARGE) are needed for a craft project



Deliver donations to JTH and thank you very much!

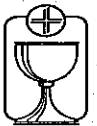
Bereavement Committee Help

The Deacons would like your help. Each month two or three Deacons are scheduled to coordinate plans for a meal or reception when a death in our church family occurs.

Your help would be greatly appreciated during periods the Deacons are working out of town. If you would like to offer your name for a "call list" to provide assistance, please see or call Iris Stewart at 321-2884 or the church office 261-3837.

June Communion

Communion will be served on June 19th at both services.



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

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Fernandina Beach
FL 32034



Show
yourself in
all respects a model
of good works.

Titus 2:7

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.