



First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

November 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

Playing It Safe

The story is told of a man standing on the steps of his tumble-down shack when a stranger stopped by for a drink of water.

"How's your cotton coming along?" the stranger asked,

looking around at the neglected surrounding.

"Didn't plant any," the man replied. "Afraid of weevils."

"How about your corn?" the stranger inquired.

"Didn't plant corn, either. Scared there wasn't going to be any rain."

"And your potatoes?"

"Scared of tater bugs."

"What did you plant?" the stranger asked, amazed.

"Nothing," the man replied. "I just played it safe."

Playing it safe is not always the most rewarding thing to do, yet oftentimes we play it safe. We think the less we give God, the more we'll have to spend. It doesn't take long to discover how wrong that thinking is! We never have more to spend; we have less. God has written this one fundamental principle into all of life. We see it in nature in our gardens; we see it in our church. It's the law of seedtime and harvest.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6 Scripture tells us that a farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop in return, but if he plants

much, he will reap much. Verse 10 goes on to

assure us that God, who gives the seed to the farmer to plant, will give more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that there will be more and more fruit from our harvest to give away.

Have you ever "played it safe" with your commitment? God will allow you to do that if that's what you choose. He won't force you to give. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Scripture tells us: Everyone should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

So, it's your choice what kind of steward you will be. God has given you the principles to follow in order to succeed. So you must decide. But remember this: When you give God what He desires you to give, He sees to it that what you have given will come to glorious results. That's His promise — not just someone's idle words. Sow and reap. Seedtime and harvest. Each act is a seed planted in God's productive soil.

At this important time for our church, if you have not already made your pledge of commitment please give God a chance to prove that you needn't fear for your future when following God's plan. Fill out a commitment card and return it to the church this week. If you have not received a pledge card please call the church office and we will get one to you quickly.

We needn't play it safe with God. Ever. God stands ready to bless the gift and the giver. All we must do is plant the seed of our

commitment in faith.

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

The Island Chamber Singers

The Island Chamber Singers, under the direction of Jane Lindberg, will perform a concert on Friday, November 18th at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. The concert will take place at 8 p.m., and tickets may be purchased at both Chamber of Commerce locations, Susan's Slightly Off Centre, Eileen's Art and Antiques, and the Waterwheel Gallery.

Tickets may also be purchased at the door or from Jane Lindberg. The cost is \$10 for Adults and \$2 for Students. Children under five will be admitted free.

The Island Chamber Singers will perform Vivaldi's Gloria and Pergolesi's Magnificat. They will be accompanied by an instrumental ensemble including string quartet, oboe, trumpet, and organ. Twelve members of the group also sing with our church choir, and we hope you will come out and support them as they sing to the glory of God!

LOGOS Calendar for November

- ♥ November 2nd - Florida Night (Wear your favorite Florida team colors.)
- ♥ November 9th - Western Night. (Put on your cowboy duds.)
- ♥ November 16th - Thanksgiving. (Come as a Pilgrim or Indian.)
- ♥ November 23rd - No LOGOS.
- ♥ November 30th - Crazy Hat Night. (You'll be making one in art.)



Work Project

Please join us for our Fall Work Day at the church on Saturday, November 12th, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending around noon. The focus will be on landscaping (weeding, planting, flowers, mulching flower beds) of all the church property. Contact Chuck Dahlgreen for more information at 277-2692.

More Adult Christians

The MAC's Thanksgiving luncheon will take place on Thursday, November 17th at 11:30 a.m. We will have a speaker from Barnabas. You are asked to bring food for Thanksgiving baskets.



Such items as sugar, stuffing mix, flour, canned goods, or anything that can be used to fix a Thanksgiving dinner will be appreciated. These will be boxed up and delivered to Barnabas for dispersal. The cost for the luncheon is \$10 and needs to be in the church office by November 10th.

Veteran's Day

On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country's service and to offer Americans the opportunity "to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."

Wanting to recognize more specifically America's veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954. On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).

Presbyterian Women's News

The Presbyterian Women are busily preparing for the annual Christmas Bazaar to be held Saturday, November 5th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come and do your Christmas shopping and stay for a delicious lunch prepared by the Esther Circle. Proceeds from the bazaar are given to various mission projects.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

The date and location of the November circle meetings are as follows:

- ♥ Elizabeth Circle meets on November 10th at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- ♥ Esther Circle meets on November 10th at 1 p.m. at the home of Alice Payne at 201 Rowan Oak Place.
- ♥ Hannah Circle meets on November 10th at 7 p.m. in the home of Jayne Conkin at 1611 Highland Street.
- ♥ Lydia Circle meets on November 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the home of Joy Drewry at 5483 Florence Point Drive.
- ♥ Martha Circle meets on November 9th at 10 a.m. in the home of Jane Lindberg at 579 Little Piney Island Point.
- ♥ Ruth Circle meets on November 10th at 10 a.m. in the home of Barbara Hooper at 3350 South Fletcher Avenue, apartment M5.

All women in our church are invited to visit any or all of the circles as we pray together, have Bible study, and social time. These small groups are an excellent way to meet other women in our church family. If you have any questions, call Diane Pasioka at 321-0601.

November Communion

Communion will be served on November 20th at both services.



Steve and Becca Gillespie have two children and are new to the island. They moved to Fernandina from Nebraska where Steve worked at the military's Strategic Command. He is now the commanding officer on the USS Rhode Island Gold. Though Becca isn't working right now, she was a Youth Director at a church when they were living in Nebraska. Steve is a tri-athlete who is interested in all kinds of sports and also enjoys a good game of poker. Becca is an avid reader and is learning to play the guitar plus she enjoys playing tennis.

Robert (Bob) and Joanne Carroll have a daughter and son and have lived in Callahan for several years. Both Bob and Joanne were born and raised in Jacksonville and have extended family in the area. Bob has his own business, Expert Gas Appliances. Their children attend school in Fernandina, and Joanne is a pre-K exceptional education teacher at Southside. Joanne says Bob is the "ultimate home improvement guy" and is an expert woodworker/carpenter. Joanne says she's very much into music and anything "children." She is also very involved with her teacher sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa, and has composed and published a number of songs for this group. In addition she is an experienced vocal soloist. Their children must have both inherited her love of music as they both have had extensive instruction on the piano and play the flute and saxophone.

King Tut Trip

There are openings for the trip to Ft. Lauderdale, FL, January 18th - 20th, to visit the King Tut exhibit. The cost is \$355 per person based on double occupancy and includes all costs except for two lunches. If you are interested, come by the church office and pick up a flyer.

November 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	7	1	2	3	4	5
12:00 PM Commitment Sunday/Picnic 6:00 PM Sunday Nite Live Min. for Stewardship	6:30 PM Teen CBS, YC 7:00 PM Night CBS, FH & Sanc.	12:00 PM Kerygma Bible Study 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch 3:00 PM Twizzlers, YC 7:00 PM Property	3:30 PM LOGOS 7:00 PM Choir	8:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM-5:00 PM Craft Bazaar Set-Up, JTH 4:00 PM PW CT 6:00 PM T-N-T 7:00 PM Island Singers, Choir	10:00 AM-5:00 PM Craft Bazaar Set-Up, JTH	7:00 AM-5:00 PM Craft Bazaar
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
12:15 PM Christian Ed., Library 6:00 PM Sunday Nite Live	5:15 PM Mission, Library 6:30 PM Finance 6:30 PM Lydia Circle 6:30 PM Teen CBS, YC 7:00 PM Night CBS, FH & Sanc.	12:00 PM Kerygma Bible Study 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch 3:00 PM Twizzlers, YC 5:45 PM Deacon's Mig. Session	3:30 PM LOGOS 7:00 PM Choir	8:00 AM Prayer 11:30 AM MAC Thanksgiving Luncheon 6:00 PM T-N-T		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
6:00 PM Sunday Nite Live Communion		3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch	7:00 PM Choir	8:00 AM Prayer		
27	28	29	30			
6:00 PM Halfway House Ministry	6:30 PM Teen CBS, YC 7:00 PM Night CBS, FH & Sanc.	12:00 PM Kerygma Bible Study 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch 3:00 PM Twizzlers, YC	3:30 PM LOGOS 7:00 PM Choir			
12	11	10	9	10	11	12
Church Work Day	Youth Island-wide Event	8:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Eliz. Circle 7:00 PM Island Singers, Choir Ruth, Esther, Hannah Circles Youth Island-wide Event	12:15 PM Christian Ed., Library 2:00 PM Membership Care 3:30 PM LOGOS 7:00 PM Choir	8:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Eliz. Circle 7:00 PM Island Singers, Choir Ruth, Esther, Hannah Circles Youth Island-wide Event	Youth Island-wide Event	

Oct 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Dec 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Energy Conservation

Did you know that First Presbyterian will pay approximately \$16,000 for electricity in 2005. The cost of electricity is scheduled to increase significantly starting in January 2006.

Thermostat settings recommended by Florida Public Utilities are posted above each thermostat as follows:

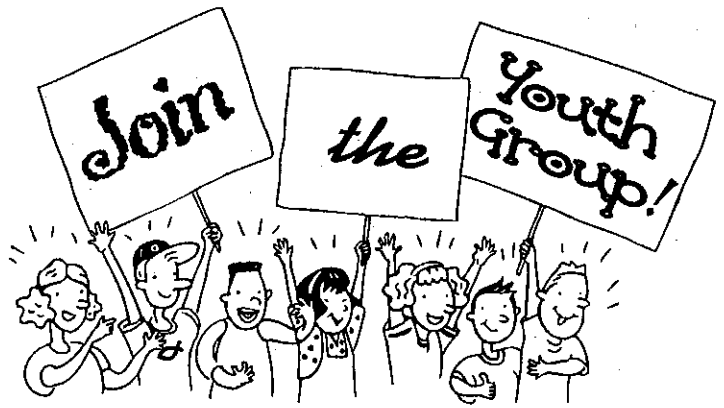
- Summer settings – 77 degrees when room is not in use; 73 degrees when room is in use.
- Winter settings – 67 degrees when room is not in use; 73 degrees when room is in use.

No two people have the same temperature comfort level, and often thermostats are adjusted accordingly. However, the thermostats are not being returned to the posted setting as occupants exit the facility (for example, left on 65 degrees indefinitely). To control costs, the facility thermostats should be set to the "in use" setting one hour prior to the scheduled use and reset to the "not in use" setting on the way out.

Please follow these basic rules to reduce the funds to be diverted to the utility company and to help ensure that more funds are available for the church's missions.

Flower Calendar

- ♥ November 6th - Nancy and Ken Sturges in memory of her grandmother, Blanche Adams, and her beloved children, Alice, Frank, Viers, and Zella.
- ♥ November 13th - Carolyn Forman in memory of her father, Henry B. Henze.
- ♥ November 20th - Deanne and Richard Johnson in honor of their third Wedding Anniversary.
- ♥ November 27th - Shayna and Todd Ericksen in honor of his parents, Sally and Bill Ericksen.



November Activities

- ★ November Sunday Night LIVE is alive and well every Sunday at 6 p.m. except for November 27th.
- ★ "Mizz Brandie" will see all TWIZZLERS each Tuesday at 3 p.m. except November 22nd for Bible Study.
- ★ TNT November schedule will be a bit "off kilter" so make sure you mark your calendar for November 3rd and 17th.

Specifics on youth activities will be in the Sunday bulletins or call Martha Ratchford at 261-6404. Also, be making your decisions about all the '06 Summer Trips since registrations must be made in January.

Stewardship Events

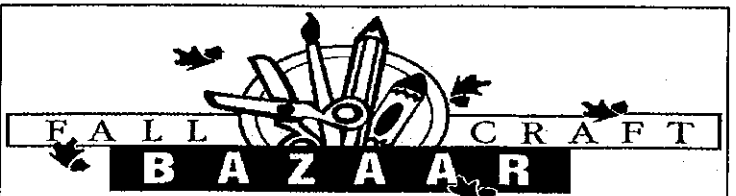
A stimulating month of witness and the sharing of God's work in individual lives will culminate in an all-church dinner celebration following services on Sunday, November 6th. After the finance committee has had time to tally our pledges and is certain that all members wishing to pledge have had the opportunity to do so, they will recommend the final 2006 budget to the Session.

We are all grateful for the letters and spoken remarks during services by fellow members who reminded us so eloquently how God always works for good in the lives of his followers. If you are one of the members who has not yet made your 2006 pledge, please do so right away. Your help is needed to plan and carry out our work and worship during the coming year.

Kerygma Bible Study

The Tuesday noon Bible Study group will begin an Advent study of His *Light Will Shine* on November 29th. The study will continue through December 20th, with a final Ephianany lesson on January 10th.

If you would like to be a part of this spiritual journey, please call the church office prior to November 15th so materials may be ordered.



Raffle tickets for many items are now on sale in Jim Thomas Hall. We also need women to take tins (available in the Fellowship Hall) and fill them with goodies to sell at the Bazaar being held on November 5th.

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

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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.