



First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

March 2006

Rev. Dr. Bob Smith - Interim Pastor
Rev. Dr. John R. Harland - Parish Associate

Service for Wholeness

"Healing was an integral part of the ministry of Jesus which the Church has been called to continue as one dimension of its concern for the wholeness of people. Through services for wholeness, the Church enacts in worship its ministry as a healing community." (Presbyterian (U.S.A.) Book of Order (Sec, W-3.5401))

A Service of Wholeness, as provided by our Presbyterian Directory of Worship will be offered on Sunday, March 12th, at 7 p.m. The focus of the service will be on the gospel's promise of wholeness through Christ. Healing will be understood not as a result of the earnestness of the one praying or the faith of the one seeking healing, but as the gift of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in response to prayer. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated around the Table.

Meet Your Missionaries

The ministry of Martina and Emerson Wilson among the people of Nicaragua is one of many missions for Christ supported by our congregation. Wilson will give a Minute for Mission at both worship services on Sunday, March 19th, and Martina will give the Time for Young Disciples at the 11 a.m. service. Both of our missionary friends will meet with interested adults in Jim Thomas Hall during the church school hour.

*"A church exists by mission
like a fire exists by burning."*
Emil Brunner

New FPC Leadership

"It is this special role of the ordained ministry, including Elders and Deacons, to strengthen every Christian in the discharge of the responsibilities of the priesthood of all believers in the church and the world."
(Statement of Belief Presbyterian Church)



Persons called by God through the election of our congregation on February 12th, to serve as officers of First Presbyterian Church will be ordained and/or installed to office on Sunday, March 26th, during both services.

Class of 2008

Elders

Doc Burgess
David Hardee
Charlotte Knight
Gail Niedernhofer
Malcolm Noden
Mim Walker

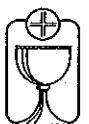
Deacons

Susan Clark
Trisha Kenner
Jeannie Langley
Don Monahan
Sandi Neal
Dave Turney
John Drew

Ten of the thirteen persons elected have never before served as either elder or deacon in First Presbyterian Church. We are grateful to God for this influx of new leadership.

March Communion

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



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

Register Now for Spring Fling

The Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) of the Prebytery of St. Augustine is offering the Spring Fling again at the Montgomery Conference Center. The event takes place on Thursday, April 20th from 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The registration deadline is Friday, April 7th. Payment is due with registration and is \$12 person, which include a Continental breakfast and lunch. The program includes:

- ♥ A performance by Lorna Greenwood, singer extraordinaire. Lorna spent 20 years in Nashville with the Grand Ole Opry Show.
- ♥ A professional panel will discuss "The Gift of Planning." Panelists include Reverend Jess McCrosky, Chaplain of Community Hospice and Mr. Bob Crosby, retired Attorney-at-law.

If you have questions, call Montgomery Conference Center at 352-473-4516 or Mavis Jump at 904-277-8790.

Family Retreat at Camp Montgomery

It's that marvelous time when Family Retreat is near! The dates for this year are April 21st - 23rd. The cost is \$42 per person, and it is first paid, first reserved! Remember, we filled the camp to capacity last year and some "last minuters" were not able to go. Please reserve your space now by bringing your payment to the church office. Be sure to include names and ages of children when you make your reservations. You won't want to miss the food, fellowship, square dancing, bon fire, and ice cream social, not to mention the water fun!

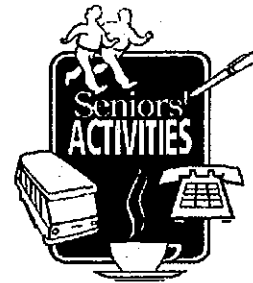
The Ice Cream Social will be Friday night at 9 p.m., Square Dancing Saturday night from 7 - 9 p.m., concluding with a bonfire and s'mores at 9:30 p.m.! Y'all come, now, y'hear!



Family Retreat

A Personal Invitation

If you are 50 or over and would enjoy great fellowship with singles and couples, please consider participating in the Mature Christian Adult (MAC'S) activities. There are delicious monthly luncheons with great programs or exciting day trips. Keep reading to see what you could, or have, missed!



- ♥ Anchors Aweigh! - The MACS are off on another adventure! On Thursday, March 16th, the MACS will board Amelia Island Cruises (be there by 10:45 a.m.) for a trip to St. Mary's. Once in St. Mary's, you will have lunch, not included in price, and tours of the Historic District. The boat will return at 4 p.m. The price for the boat trip is \$24 per person and is due in the church office by March 9th. Don't miss this fun day of sun, sail, and fellowship!
- ♥ If you missed the February luncheon and program, you missed a great meal. Chef Donna's own, special, real Italian lasagna and a craft session with the island's own Miss Marlene. The guys designed their own visors and the gals made photo albums. Several attendees said they didn't think they were artistic till Miss Marlene inspired them. Miss Marlene has offered to do a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly art/craft class for \$5 per person. If this sounds good to you, please call the church office to express your desire for such an offering.

LOGOS Calendar for March

- ♥ March 1st - Ash Wednesday
- ♥ March 8th - Garden Party
- ♥ March 15th - St. Patrick's (wear your green!)
- ♥ March 22nd - No Logos...spring break
- ♥ March 29th - Pirate Night

Presbyterian Women's News

The following officers for the Presbyterian Women 2006 were installed at the February 26th worship service:



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

- ♥ Moderator – Alice Payne
- ♥ Moderator Elect – Marilyn Showalter
- ♥ Secretary – Trisha Kenner
- ♥ Treasurer – Barbara Hooper
- ♥ Historian – Nancy Inboden
- ♥ Mission Coordinator – Martha Ratchford
- ♥ Circle Leaders:
- ♥ Elizabeth – Polly Hord
- ♥ Esther – Judy Loper & Lyn Davis
- ♥ Hannah – Bunny Selby & Linda Armstrong
- ♥ Lydia – Joy Drewry
- ♥ Martha – Barbara Burton & Pat Knerr
- ♥ Ruth – Elizabeth Kendrick

Our Presbyterian Women's group is looking for a woman who possesses organizational skills and has a heart for God to help co-chair this year's bazaar. Please prayerfully consider serving God and our mission program through this endeavor. If you feel so led, please contact Alice Payne at 277-2001.

March Circle Meetings:

- ♥ Elizabeth Circle will meet on March 9th in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m.
- ♥ Esther Circle will meet on March 9th at 1 p.m. at the home of Mary Jo Higgs, 173 Marsh Lakes Drive.
- ♥ Hannah Circle will meet on March 9th at 7 p.m. at the home of Ann Thomas, 2024 Bridal Road.
- ♥ Lydia Circle will meet on March 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Susan McNeal, 1150 South Fletcher Avenue.
- ♥ Martha Circle will meet on March 8th at 10 a.m. at the home of Mary Williams, 2026 S. Lakeside Drive.
- ♥ Ruth Circle will meet on March 9th at 10 a.m. at the home of Edith Jones, 1658 Yachtsman Court.

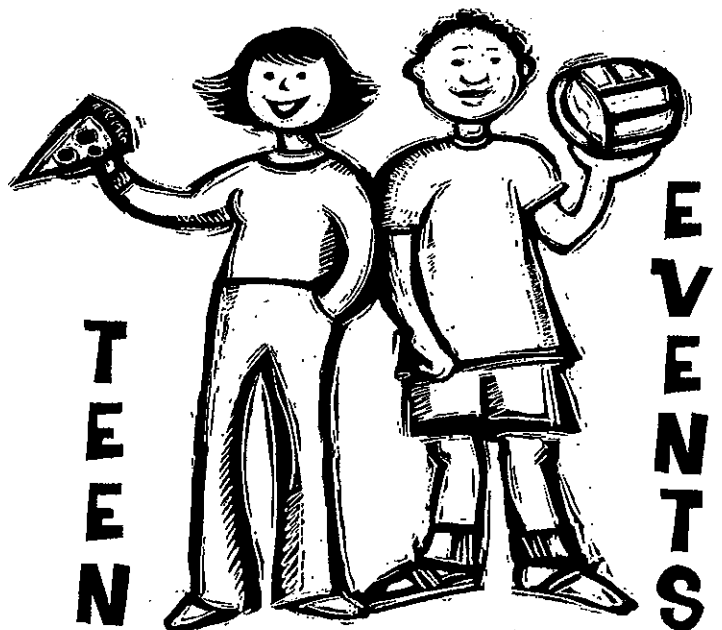
JUST 4 YOUTH!

FPC young people were busy throughout February with fellowship, Bible study and local mission activities:

- Thanks to the congregation for a very successful "Souper Bowl for Caring" drive which netted just over \$300. The money will go to Barnabus to support our own Roland Knight's mission with Fernandina elderly. Also thanks to the Youth who collected!!
- John and Nathan Cazell donated a Saturday morning to clear trash, brush, tree limbs, and crawling vines around our church sign on 8th Street.
- Weekly programs continue meeting with varying numbers of youth...it's a busy time of year and many choices for our young people. Fellowship and Bible study are a constant at all activities.
- Middle School Lock-In ends February as this March Newsletter is printed!

Keep a close eye on weekly dates for March activities since Spring Break '06 is set for March 16th-26th and we'll be working around those dates!! Be safe out there!

It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. (2 John 1:4)



Additional Search Committee Formed

The Session of FPC at its February 21st Stated Meeting formed a Search Committee and gave it the following direction:

"To proceed immediately to seek an ordained Interim Associate Pastor or otherwise qualified person to serve with specific responsibility for direction and support of youth ministry in our church."

The Committee is comprised of members of the Session's Youth Committee and Personnel Committee. The Committee began interviewing candidates on February 28th.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March – to which all people are welcome.

From www.worlddayofprayer.net/



VBS – 2006

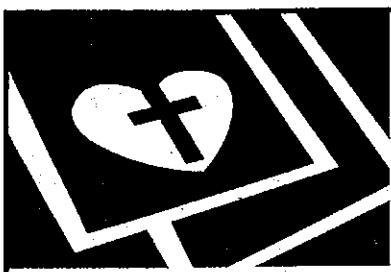
Vacation Bible School will take place from June 12th - 16th from 9 a.m. to noon. Watch Sunday bulletin inserts and the April issue of First Press for Volunteer Sign-Up and Registration Forms. It will be a wonderful experience for kids again this year.



Session Notes

The following church business was covered at the February meeting:

- After a thoughtful opening devotional by Elder John Drew and the lighting of the Christ Candle, the Session welcomed new church officers-elect who were present as observers to the meeting.
- Treasurer Ted Selby reviewed the previous month's church financial statement and Finance Com. Chair Jack Meeks reported (with appreciation to the congregation) a very positive direction in stewardship giving.
- The Christian Education Com. announced the dinner for Confirmands and their families will be March 29th at 5:30 p.m.
- The Session appointed a four-person task-force to confer with Presbytery's New Church Development Com. and a Yulee group's Steering Com. concerning a new work in the Yulee area.
- Communications and Evangelism Com. reported a very successful, well-attended Elder/Deacon Retreat.
- The Property Committee advised that the new carpet has been installed in the choir loft.



FROM THE PASTOR

Last week someone asked me: "If you could have only one prayer answered, what would you pray for?"

I've given that some thought. As we enter the 2006 Lenten Season leading to Easter, if you could have only one prayer answered, what would you pray for?

All kinds of possibilities flow through my mind. Perhaps yours as well. How would we choose?

The Apostle Paul helps me at this point when in his letter to the church at Philippi he prays:

"For my deep desire and hope is that I shall never fail my duty, but that at all times, and especially right now, I shall be full of courage, so that with my whole self I shall bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die."

In my better moments I want this to be my choice of prayer. It seeks a *relationship* rather than answers. It asks three things: that we not fail in our duty, that we be full of courage, that we will bring honor to Christ. It reflects an inner desire to be faithful, to be bold, and to reflect Christ's love and power in our everyday life at work, at home, in our social circle, in our church, in our community.

As we walk the Lenten road toward Good Friday and Easter, the Risen Christ who walks with us desires to answer this prayer even more than we wish to ask it.

If you could have only one prayer answered, what would you pray for?

Sincerely,
Bob Smith

P.S. Why not join us for the Ash Wednesday Service at noon on Wednesday, March 1?

Pastor Nominating Committee

Expectation and excitement filled the congregational meeting on Sunday, February 12th, as it looked to the future by electing the following persons to the PNC.

Elaine Burford	Sally Ericksen
JoAnn Hord	Roger Martin
Ed Mathews	Nancy Scofield
Susan Steger	Ed Strobach
Steven Whitman	Larry Williams

This vitally important committee solicits your regular prayers as they seek to discern God's choice for the future pastoral leadership of our congregation.

2006 Nominating Committee

The church expresses its appreciation to the following who have been selected to serve on the 2006 Church Nominating Committee:

Members-at-Large

- Charlotte Bowling Bill Ericksen
- Charlotte Collins Roland Knight
- Gail Niedernhofer

Session Representatives

- Ben Cazell
- Martha Ratchford

Deaconate Representative

- Ron Walker

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



February was a busy time for the Men of the Church.

February 5th was Men's Sunday at First Presbyterian with the men group conducting the worship service for both 8:30 and 11:00 services. From ushering to delivering the message, many thanks to all the men who assisted in making this a well attended and well accepted event.

We also hosted our annual Valentine's Day sweetheart dinner the Friday evening following the holiday. With 55 people attending, Lisa Harter from La Bodega restaurant again demonstrated her wonderful culinary talents.

Those in attendance dined on Shakespeare Salad, Chicken Marsala, and Lisa's special chocolate dessert. It was a fun evening and a chance for the Men of the Church to provide a nice dinner to the fine women in our church.

March will see our regular meeting on the 9th at 6:30 p.m., and we need all men to call the church office to reserve your spot. Another fine meal, devotion and program are on tap, and we look forward to seeing everyone for this monthly fellowship.



Music Notes



There are songs everywhere in Scripture. The people of God sing. They express exuberance in realizing the majesty of God and the mercy of Christ, the wholeness of reality and their new-found ability to participate in it. Songs proliferate. Hymns gather the voices of men, women, and children into century-tiered choirs. David sings. Mary sings. When persons of faith become aware of who God is what he does, they *sing*. The songs are irrepressible.

Singing in our choir offers a valuable gift to God through music in worship and lifts the worship of our entire congregation to a higher level. We express our gratitude to the present members of our Sanctuary Choir who help make every Sunday so special.

Sopranos

Kay Black
Charlotte Collins
Joy Drewry
Trisha Kenner
Alice Payne
Eddie Lou Featherson
Marlene Spayde
Marlene Strobach
Barbara Swearingen
Linda Evans

Altos

Barbara Cleland
Eunice Kurtz
Martha Ratchford
Allesen Reingold
Jackie Schaefer
Nancy Scofield

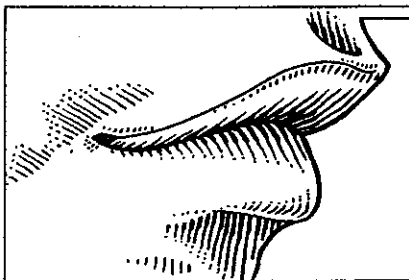
Tenors

Buddy Drewry
Michael Flynn
Jerry Hooper
Steve Noden
Jim Thomas

Basses

Clare Cleland
George Collins
Todd Davis
John Drew
Bill Hooper
Bill Peace
Lee Scofield
Nelson Showalter
Richard Evans

Andi Flynn – Interim Director
Carol Whitman - Organist



O LORD, OPEN MY LIPS,
AND MY MOUTH WILL
DECLARE YOUR PRAISE.

PSALM 51:15, NRSV



MISSIONS

Dear Friends,

There was a Levite from Cyrus named Joseph to whom the Apostles gave the name Barnabas. Barnabas sold a farm he owned and made a donation of the money, laying it at the Apostle's feet (Acts 4:36-37). Similar acts of philanthropy here in Nassau County have supported the ongoing mission of the Barnabas Center. It is a simple, straightforward ideal that states - "To provide assistance to individual and families in need throughout Nassau County."

Nowhere have caring words become action than here at the First Presbyterian Church. Many members including Gail Neidernhofer, Barbara Noden, Marilyn Flynn, Don Monohan, and Roland Knight to name a few have volunteered to our crisis center. Others of you have given monetarily or donated goods to our resale store, New to You. All of us that staff the Barnabas Center thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your acts of kindness.

During 2005, Barnabas Center has financially assisted over 3000 adults and 2300 youth. We did that by making \$84,000 in housing payments, \$43,000 in electric bills, \$14,000 in prescriptions payments, \$30,000 in dental care and an additional \$100,000 in a wide range of need. Our food pantry has dispersed well over 40,000 pounds of food and many of you have assisted by the ongoing peanut butter and jelly drive here at this church.

Without a doubt, the First Presbyterian Church has been and will continue to be a full service partner with the Barnabas Center. Your donations of time, money, and foodstuffs have been an act from the heart and all of you are part of the ministry of the Barnabas Center.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Susan Holden-Dodge
Executive Director
Barnabas Center, Inc.

Note of Appreciation

Dear Members of the Session and beautiful members of First Presbyterian Church,

Your expression of love to one family in such a painful time truly comforted our souls. The love of Christ truly radiates through all of you and it holds us up even now.

With great love and appreciation,
Conrad, Lauren, Daron, Madison, and
Gerald Ford

A Cross Made by Ashes

Ash Wednesday is a time for repentance and the beginning of Lent. Ashes were used in ancient times, according to the Bible, to express penitence. Dusting themselves with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sins and faults. In Job 42:3-5. Job says to God: "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (v. 5, NRSV).

March 2006

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<p>5</p> <p>6:00 PM Sunday Night Live Min. for Mission</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 PM Teen CBS, YC 7:00 PM Night CBS, FH & Sanc.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Study 12:00 PM Lenten Bible Study 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch 4:00 PM Gen. Soc. 7:00 PM Property</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12:00 PM Lenten Service 12:30 PM Com. Pray. Ser. 2:00 PM Membership Care 3:30 PM LOGOS 6:00 PM Twizzlers, YC 7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Eliz. & Ruth Cir. 6:30 PM Presbyterian Men 6:30 PM T-N-T</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM -2:00 PM Quilters, JTH 11:00 AM Wedding</p>																																																																																																																										
<p>12</p> <p>12:15 PM Christian Ed., Library 6:00 PM Sunday Night Live 7:00 PM Service for Wholeness</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:15 PM Mission, Library 6:30 PM Lydia Circle 6:30 PM Teen CBS, YC 7:00 PM Night CBS, FH & Sanc.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Study 12:00 PM Lenten Bible Study 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch 7:00 PM Worship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:00 PM Lenten Service 12:30 PM Com. Pray. Ser. 3:30 PM LOGOS 6:00 PM Twizzlers, YC 7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00 AM Prayer MAC Mtg.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>18</p>																																																																																																																										
<p>19</p> <p>Communion Emerson Wilson</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30 PM Finance 6:30 PM Teen CBS, YC Island Art Assoc.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Study 12:00 PM Lenten Bible Study 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch 5:45 PM Deacons Mtg. 7:00 PM Session/Elder/Deacon Exam</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:00 PM Lenten Service 12:30 PM Com. Pray. Ser. 3:30 PM LOGOS 7:00 PM Choir Island Art Assoc.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00 AM Prayer Island Art Assoc.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Island Art Assoc. Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>25</p> <p>MAC Dinner Theater</p>																																																																																																																										
<p>26</p> <p>6:00 PM Halfway House Ministry Ordination/Installation Service</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 PM Teen CBS, YC 7:00 PM Night CBS, FH & Sanc.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Study 12:00 PM Lenten Bible Study 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:00 PM Lenten Service 12:30 PM Com. Pray. Ser. 3:30 PM LOGOS 5:30 PM Confirmation Dinner 6:00 PM Twizzlers, YC 7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00 AM Prayer 6:30 PM T-N-T</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>																																																																																																																											

MEET & GREET

Our NEW Members

Barbara Dunn is a retired math teacher who lived 10 years in Keystone Heights, Florida, where she was a member of the Methodist Church. Barbara has taught at the University of Florida, UNF, and for 12 years in Korea at the Department of Defense Dependent School. Barbara has three sons and 10 grandchildren. Her hobbies involve anything relating to the water: diving, swimming, scuba diving.

Kari Burgess, a native of Fernandina Beach, serves as a technology/integration specialist for the Nassau County School Board. She received her undergraduate degree from University of Florida and her graduate degree from FSU. She enjoys tennis and the beach. Her skill in arts and crafts is presently being used in remodeling a historic Fernandina home.

Pam and George Grant retired here from the Washington, DC area to be near their family. Pam shared how much she loves the friendliness of the members of the church. They have one son who lives in Manhattan and one granddaughter, Cameron. George is an attorney and Pam was assistant to the headmaster at St. Alban's Episcopal School at Washington Cathedral. She loves to garden and enjoys reading and knitting. George enjoys golf and fishing.

Julia Nowlin is not new to this area. She attended FSU and was a flight attendant for 4 ½ years. She and her husband, Larry, were married in Faith Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee and have two children. Both she and Larry own their own businesses. Julia likes antiques, art, music, enjoys gardening, and is vice regent for the DAR chapter.

Dot Bell has been visiting in Fernandina Beach since 1960 and moved here in May. She and her husband had retired to the mountains of north Georgia where he passed away three years ago. Dot has three children, several grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. Dot's husband was a Presbyterian pastor, and throughout his career they served churches in Georgia and Florida. Dot taught preschool for 18 years and then became a certified medical office assistant. She plays the piano and organ, sang in the church choir and participated in handbell choir. In her "spare time", Dot enjoys cooking.

Cervera Burgess was born and raised in Fernandina Beach. She is presently a Media Specialist at Fernandina Beach High School and has been appointed to open the media center at the new high school in Yulee. She and her husband, Doc, have three children. Cervera enjoys gardening in the surroundings of their historic home.

Jim McGuire joins our church by transfer of membership from the Third Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia. He retired from the insurance business and moved to the island two years ago to be near a brother who is living in Juno Beach, Florida. Jim is originally from eastern Long Island and loves to play golf.

Ray Watkins moved to the island from Jacksonville where he works as a network manager for Coleman Technology. He has two young children: 11 year old Austin and 7 year old Sydney. Ray is engaged to marry Kari Burgess, another new member. He likes to golf and enjoys working on home improvement projects.



Flower Calendar

- March 5th - The Shaw Family in loving memory of Audry Shaw.
- March 12th - Addie and Herb Underwood in honor of their children Lee, Keith and Elaine and their grandchildren Katie, Rhett, Danielle and Rachel.
- March 19th - Teddy and Georgette Giles and Anita Gardiner in memory of their parents.
- March 26th - Clay and Yevonne Tresca in honor of their wedding anniversary.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE — for — LENT

Our congregation will observe the journey to Good Friday and Easter with special Lenten Services.

- **Ash Wednesday** - March 1st at Noon, Holy Communion
- **Mid-Week Lenten Services** - Wednesdays at Noon, March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, and April 5th, Holy Communion
- **Maundy Thursday Communion Service** - April 13th at 7:00 p.m.

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

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"As I live,
 says the Lord,
 every knee shall bow
 to me, and every
 tongue shall give
 praise to God."

Romans 14:11, NRSV



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.