



# First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

May  
~~April~~ 2006

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



*Congratulations to our graduating seniors who will be recognized during our 11 a.m. service on May 21<sup>st</sup>.*

Many of our 2006 graduates have represented FPC through mission work in our community, our state, across the state line and across the United States border! As a congregation we can be exceptionally proud of our graduates who have distinguished themselves as members of the band, honor roll, student government, athletics, debate and various other school activities. "After school jobs" are pretty common for many of our young people. That coupled with school, family, social obligations and FPC activities (not to mention dating) keeps our young folks pretty busy, yet many have been actively engaged in the weekly offerings of FPC youth programs. Hopefully many of you will be able to join in the recognition of our graduating Seniors and take the opportunity to congratulate each one!!

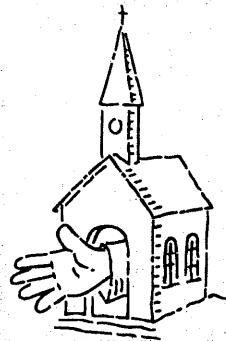
Seniors/Parents - please notify the church office (261-3837) to ensure we don't inadvertently miss any student.

Take-Stock-in-Youth will kick off in mid-May! This is one way interested adults can support the youth program by "buying into" the "Youth Company". Investors will be invited to an "end-of-summer event" in order to learn the outcome of their contribution!!

## A Welcoming Place

One of our newly elected elders told his fellow officers that he and he wife chose First Presbyterian Church of Fernandina Beach as their church home because of the warm welcome they received on their first Sunday and each Sunday thereafter.

Someone looking for a new church visited various congregations. The person sat near the front, walked to the rear of the service, then walked back to the front and rear again before leaving. The church's friendliness was measured on a point system:



- 10 points for a member's smile
- 10 points for a greeting from someone close by
- 100 points for an exchange of names
- 200 points for a personal invitation to the coffee hour
- 1000 points for an introduction to another church member
- 2000 points for an invitation to meet the Pastor

The seeker reported no church scored higher than 200 points. We want our church to continue to score much higher as we enter the summer months. Thank you for being a warm, welcoming congregation.

Your Membership Committee

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

## Minute for Mission

Habitat for Humanity is our for Humanity International Minute for Mission for the month of May. Habitat 1 (HFHI) is a Christian inspired ministry, though all people are welcome. It is headquartered in Americus, Georgia, and dedicated to the elimination of substandard housing in the world. Nassau Habitat for Humanity (NGFH) is an affiliate of HFHI, chartered to carry out its work in Nassau County. They are a Florida corporation – independent, locally governed, not-for-profit, and a federally qualified charity for tax-deductible donations. Simple, basic homes are built for families in need of decent housing using mainly volunteer labor and donated funds.

Habitat homes are sold at cost – not given – to qualified families through a no-interest mortgage issued by NHFH. They began in 1993 with one home and now plan to build three homes per year. Currently, they are building their 18<sup>th</sup> home. They raise their funds locally and these funds go 100% into land and home construction. Homes are built using volunteers, supported by licensed professionals as required. Skilled volunteer construction supervisors manage their efforts and provide for training of new volunteers. Workdays are Wednesday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. New volunteers are always welcome and construction experience is not required. Interested in helping? Please contact NHFH at the address below:

Nassau Habitat for Humanity  
516 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 203  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034  
Phone: (904) 277-0600  
Email: [nhfh@net-magic.net](mailto:nhfh@net-magic.net)

**P.S. Keep recycling for NHFH** – All proceeds from their recycling program are used to fund their new houses. Their aluminum can bins are everywhere. Spent printer ink cartridges can be brought to their office or mailed to them. Newspapers, magazines and aluminum cans can be brought to our special bins located behind North Jax Recycling at Lime and South 8<sup>th</sup> in Fernandina Beach.

## MAC News

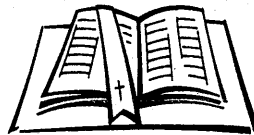
Calling all MACs to a delicious lunch on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Donna is cooking for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Low Country Boil. It could be a struggle to make your shrimp and cocktail sauce come out even! Please come to JTH by 11:30 a.m. for a brief meeting before lunch. The cost is \$12. Deadline for sign-up in the church office is Friday noon, May 12<sup>th</sup>.



In June we will have a Dutch Treat Lunch at one of the local restaurants. Be thinking about where you would like to eat. We'll decide at the May luncheon.

### New Learning Opportunity

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Faith and Friends class began a new Bible study that will continue for seven weeks on Sunday mornings at 9:50 a.m. This Bible study is based on the book Abraham, A Journey to the Heart of 3 Faiths by Bruce Fieler. This compelling, contemporary study compares Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, all of which claim the patriarch Abraham as the father of their faith. This study will add understanding to the long-standing roots of tension in the Middle East.

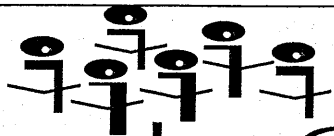


### Mission Thank You

Fred Meiners, Executive Director of Seamark Ranch, writes

*"As the new director of Seamark Ranch, I want to say "Thank You" for your generous support of our efforts to establish a ministry that will provide a nurturing Christian home for boys and girls in need.*

We appreciate your prayers as we work to bring your investment to fruition."



# Thanks, Choir!

## Choir Appreciation Sunday

On Choir Appreciation Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, members of our choir together with Choir Director Andi Flynn and Organist Carol Whitman will be honored for their faithful and outstanding music which raised our level of worship each Sunday and on other special occasions.

The congregation expresses its deep appreciation to:

### Sopranos

Kay Black  
Charlotte Collins  
Joy Drewry  
Eddie Lou Featherston  
Katie Flynn  
Trisha Kenner  
Judy Levers  
Alice Payne  
Marlene Spayde  
Marlene Strobach  
Barbara Swearingen  
Beth Tilton

### 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

### Altos

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



## Spring School of Christian Education

*Solving The DaVinci Code*  
Tuesdays – May 2nd thru May 30th  
12 p.m.-1 p.m.

More than 40,000,000 readers of The DaVinci Code have been led into a mysterious world of conspiracy, secret codes, and historical documents hidden for as many centuries as the Christian church has existed. In this thriller presented as a historical novel, the author raises intriguing questions, such as:

- Who was Jesus?
- Has there been a conspiracy through the years to hide certain truths about Jesus?
- Was Jesus married to Mary Magdalene?
- Did they have a child?
- Are some of their descendants alive today?
- Are the documents of the New Testament reliable accounts of his life and ministry?
- Who compiled the Bible as we have it today?
- Why were some documents included and others excluded?
- What is fact and what is fiction in this immensely popular mystery novel from which the soon-to-be released motion picture is based?

These and other significant issues will be explored on five Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. beginning on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and ending on May 30<sup>th</sup> in "Solving the DaVinci Code" led by Dr. Bob Smith.

Bob says:

"Having read The DaVinci Code is not necessary before participating in this class which will lead us into Bible study, early history of the church, investigation of Biblical characters such as the elusive Mary Magdalene, etc. However, if you've not yet read it and enjoy mysteries, I think you'll find this novel a good yarn. Why have so many people taken it to be much more than that? Come to this class and let's explore that together."

# Mother's Day



## Presbyterian Women's News



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

All ladies are invited to attend our annual birthday tea. The tea will be held on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 p.m. Hats and gloves are optional, but encouraged. Enjoy tea and refreshments, the music of a Celtic harpist. Make your birthday offering and be present

when our honorary life membership is awarded. Our heartfelt thanks to Phyllis Rouse and Kay Crandall who will chair our Fall bazaar. Workshops will begin in June. Watch for further detail about when and where.

### May Circle Meetings:

- Elizabeth Circle will meet on May 11<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m.
- Esther Circle will meet on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at the home of Charlotte Knight.
- Hannah Circle will meet on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the home of Bunny Selby.
- Lydia Circle will meet on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Joy Drewry.
- Martha Circle will meet on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the home of Sandi Neal.
- Ruth Circle will meet on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the home of Georgette Giles.

### Confirmation Class Received

A highlight of worship on Palm Sunday (April 9<sup>th</sup>) was the reception and welcome of the following members of the Confirmation Class:

- Nicholas Clark
- Rachel Gillespie
- Tyler King
- Katherine Lockhart
- Bobby Oliver



The congregation expresses its appreciation to David Murry and Darren Smith who provided leadership for the class. Please keep these special young people in your prayers as they continue their journey toward maturity in Christ.

## LOGOS Season Ends on Upbeat Note

The closing Logos celebration at Central Park climaxed a very successful year of this ministry to children and youth. The congregation, the participants, and the community express their appreciation to the following for their creative efforts and time which made the LOGOS programs such a success:



Susan King, Rich Bowman, Polly Hord, Lisa and Joe Waas, Elaine Burford, Chip and Lisa Caddy, Janine Cazell, Chuck and Barbara Dahlgren, Barbara and Ron Heymann, Carol Heymann, Claudia Welshhans, Kim Scheele, Jeannie Langley, Jim Oliver, Dave Plews, Susan Rodriguez, Janet Croft, Helen Wickson, Susan Steger, Larry Williams, Becca Gillespie, Alexa Bishop, Susan Clark, Barbara Kent, Kent Hamb, Brandi Williams, Andi Flynn, Phyllis Rouse, Carolyn Lockhart, Dave Murry, Darren Smith, Marilyn Flynn, Tricia Kirkendall, Cheryl Deubner, Peggy Smelt-Day, Terri Korn, Marlene Deutcher.

(Please let the church office (261.3837) know if we have inadvertently omitted anyone. Thank you.)

### One Worship Service on May 7<sup>th</sup>

As is the tradition at First Presbyterian Church, the 8:30 a.m. worship service will be the only one on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Please dress casually as we will find ourselves that morning in the midst of the Shrimp Festival visitors.

May 7<sup>th</sup>

8:30 worship service

Scripture Lesson: Mark  
4:35-41

Sermon: "It Wasn't a  
Shrimpboat, but..."



## Word from the Pastor

Spring's a traditional time for budding romance. When I was courting Phoebe in high school and college ( it took me seven years to "win her hand," as they used to say) the dating schedule in springtime was hot and heavy. I had no dating guideline to follow, and I did the best I could.

A best-seller The Rules (Warner Books), co-authored by Ellen Fein and Sherrie Schneider, runs upstream against much recent feminist thinking by recommending to women a "new approach" to dating.

Examples:

- Do not telephone a man who interests you.
- Never pick up even half the tab.
- Don't accept dates for the weekend after a certain point early in the week (even when you're dying to go).

This "new approach" doesn't sound too new to someone my age who dated back in the days when the initiative rested with the man. However, the cultural rules and strategies for interpersonal relationships do change from time to time.

Jesus suggested a rule for relationships that is timeless:

*"Here's a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior:  
Ask yourself what you want people to do for you,  
Then grab the initiative and do it for them."*

(Matthew 7:12, New Testament in Contemporary English)

This avoids seeing people as objects to be manipulated or used. Of course, I'm not suggesting there's no place for flirting, playing hard to get, or keeping the mystery in dating. However in 2006, I'm resolving to make the respect and consideration of others suggested by Jesus a more central part of my lifestyle.

*Thinking about new opportunities for springtime?*

Maybe Matthew 7:12 offers and an attractive option.

Sincerely

Bob Smith



P.S. According to the Book of Genesis, Jacob waited seven years for Rachel. *For Jacob and me, it was well worth the wait!*

**MEET & GREET**  
  
**Our NEW Members**

On Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Session received into communing membership and the congregation welcomed the following new members:

**Linda and Gene Bell** (by transfer from Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia). Linda is a C.P.A. and Gene a retired physician. They moved here in June 2005. They have two daughters and a son.

**Stan Bell** (affiliate member from Bethany Presbyterian Church in Loves Park, IL). Stan, an ordained Presbyterian Elder, moved to our area earlier this year. His mother Dot also recently joined our church. Stan enjoys fishing, hunting, and camping.

**Otie Bowden** (by transfer from First Baptist Church of Akron, Ohio). Otie, a native of Arkansas, retired from the profession of executive search. He moved to Fernandina Beach in 1999. He has held leadership positions at the highest levels of another denomination and of Christian mission enterprises. Like many other members of our congregation, Otie enjoys golf.

**Yvonne and Woody Brandon** (by reaffirmation of faith). The Brandons built a home in our area in 2001 and moved permanently from Indiana in December of last year. Yvonne is a retired nurse and Woody owns a manufacturing business in Indiana. They enjoy genealogy and art collection.

**Jane and Jack Dickison** (by transfer from First Congregational Church of Milton, Mass.). Jack, a retired church administrator, and Jane, a retired teacher, moved to our community earlier this year. They have two daughters. They enjoy cycling.

**Pat and Len Ermold** (by reaffirmation of faith). After retirement, the Ermolds moved here from the state of Washington in 2003. Len has served as a church officer and Pat is a trained Stephen Minister. Natives of Pennsylvania, they enjoy travel, including visits to their children and grandchildren.

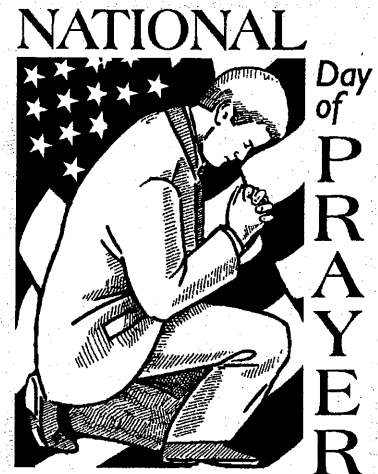
**National Day of Prayer**

The theme for the 2006 National Day of Prayer is "America, Honor God"

and will be observed locally on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at Fort Clinch State Park.

This year's event is free, and everyone is encouraged

to join us from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. at the Fort Clinch State Park beach access as we lift up prayers for local, county, state and national leaders. There is no need to sign up, simply come and be part of the National Day of Prayer. It is recommended that you bring personal lawn chairs and bug repellent due to the location of this year's event.



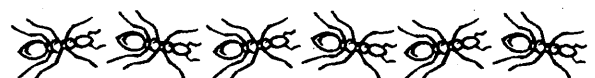
**Church Family Camp**

*A great success!*

The 94 church folk from FPC enjoyed a beautiful weekend (April 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>) at Montgomery Camp and Conference Center. Thanks go to Susan King, Janine Cazell, Andi Flynn and all others who made this event such a success.

All activities made an unforgettable weekend of Christian restoration and friendship:

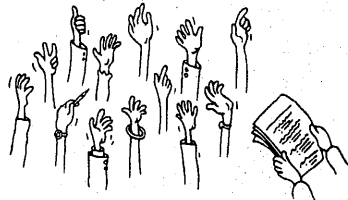
- the Friday night ice cream social
- the Saturday swimming, canoeing, hiking, volleyball, basketball, rockin', Square Dance, campfire singing, etc
- the Sunday worship by the lake led by Roger Martin and others.

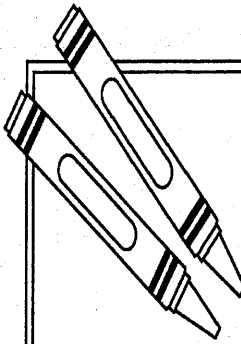


## Session Notes

- During the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, Larry Williams presented a progress report from the Pastor Nominating Committee. The PNC is finalizing the Church Information Form which will be submitted to the Session, the Presbytery and to candidates.
- Christian Education announced they are seeking volunteers for Summer Sunday School teachers. They are presently studying ways to revitalize the Logos program.
- On recommendation of Communication and Evangelism, Evangelism was made a separate committee. The church web site is being reworked and expanded. The sound system operation has been transferred from the Property Committee to the Communication Committee.
- The Church Treasurer and Finance Committee reported that we are operating within our budget.
- The Property Committee reported that we had a successful Spring Work Day. The sidewalk in front of the Church will be repainted by the City and the Church.
- An Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Steven Noden, Charlotte Collins, Todd Davis, Sandi Neal and Carol Whitman (staff liaison) was named to search for a new choir director. Andi Flynn has done a commendable job acting as our interim director.
- The Youth Committee reported that all preparations were completed for the summer mission trips by the High School and Middle School youth.
- David Hardee and Cyril Higgs were elected as the Session representatives on the Endowment Trust Board.

## Session Meeting






# Just for KIDS

## Mothers of the Bible

*God wants us to love and honor our mothers - not just on Mother's Day, but every day. The Bible tells us about many mothers who loved God.*

Use the code to discover each mother's name.

| CODE |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---|---|
|      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1    | A | E | I | O |
| 2    | R | C | L | Y |
| 3    | Z | B | S | H |
| 4    | D | N | V | K |



Answers: NAOMI, RUTH, EVE, SARAH, HAGAR, HANNAH, MARY, ELIZABETH, LEAH, RACHEL, REBEKAH

# Memorial Gifts (February – March 2006)

## To the Endowment Trust Fund

*In Memory of C. Ray Black*  
American Conservative Foundation  
Ambassador Stuart Bernstein  
Faye Birkitt  
Kenneth Black  
Burson-Marsteller  
Leonard Cali  
Clark Enterprises, A. James Clark  
Don and Susan Cogman  
Jesse and Margaret Crim  
DCI Family  
David and Caroline Denherder  
Mark Disler  
J. Douglas and Ann Holladay  
Joe and Mary Tom Drew  
Curtis and Teresa Dyer  
Philip and Christine Ganzer  
Tim Gilmore  
Thomas Hudson  
Jerry Klepner  
Terri Korn  
Charles Merin  
Cleta Mitchell  
Alfred Mottur  
Dean Nakayama  
New York State Conservative Party  
Jane Norton  
Nicholas Panuzio  
Howard and Gail Paster  
Claudine Pate  
Roger Ream  
Amy Redfern  
Shirley and Banister, Public Affairs  
Nelson and Marilyn Showalter  
Stonebridge International  
Randal Teague  
Patrick and Charlotte Templeton  
Fred and Jeri Thompson  
Ted Trimpa  
Bill Tucker and Martha Ratchford  
Justin Wilson

### *In Memory of Russ Korn*

William and Alyson Cate  
Elizabeth Circle  
Annette George  
Leonard and Sammie Mauk  
Libby Ozmer  
Joel and Alice Payne  
Mariella Schrantz  
Bill Tucker and Martha Ratchford

### *In Memory of Joe McGlory*

Susan Steger

### *In Memory of Mrs. Laurrett Ovellete*

Barbara Burton

### *In Memory of Jerry Pearson*

Barbara Burton

### *In Memory of E.E. Stockhower*

James Shaw

### *In Honor of David Turney*

Ed Stewart

### *In Memory of Robert Turney*

Terri Korn

Bill Tucker and Martha Ratchford

## To the Philips Memorial Fund

### *In Memory of C. Ray Black*

Herb and Addie Underwood  
Original Adults Sunday School Class  
Jane Philips  
Ruth Reader

### *In Memory of Rene D. Kemp*

Jane Philips

### *In Memory of Russ Korn*

Johnsye Campbell  
Joyce Cleaver  
Mildred Cobb  
Carolyn Disher and Tom Ryan  
Sewell and Marilyn Harlin  
William and Peggye Kujanpaa  
Ken and Shirley Owens  
Jane Philips  
Jim and Ann Thomas  
Robert and Kathryn Turba  
Herb and Addie Underwood

### *In Memory of Claude Reader*

Herb and Addie Underwood

### *In Memory of Robert Turney*

Herb and Addie Underwood

## To the Education Fund

### *In Memory of Joe McGlory*

Mike and Charlotte Bowling

### *In Memory of Russ Korn*

Mike and Charlotte Bowling  
Mary Hughes  
MAC's  
Nelson and Marilyn Showalter

### *In Memory of Robert Turney*

Mike and Charlotte Bowling





### Flower Calendar

- May 7 - Polly Hord in honor of her children and grandson, Tom, Max, Joanne and Max B.
- May 14 - Ann and Jim Thomas in loving memory of their mothers, Mae Walters and Treatie Thomas
- May 21 - Shirley and Ken Owens in loving memory of his parents, Helen and Ray Owens
- May 28 - Joyce and Ed Matthews in loving memory of their son, Scott

### Church Office Hours

Monday -Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Friday 9 a.m. - Noon

### Church Office

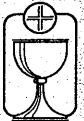
Telephone 904.261.3837  
 Fax 904.261.0056  
 E-Mail [churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com](mailto:churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com)

### For Non-Church Emergencies

Dr. Bob Smith  
 Apartment 261.2450  
 Cell phone 556.9149  
 Dr. John Harland  
 Cell phone 556.9211

### May Communion

Communion will be served on May 21<sup>st</sup> at both Services.



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

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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 FL 32034



Encourage  
 one another  
 and build up  
 each other....

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

**Sunday Worship Hours: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.**  
**Thursday Morning Prayer Group: 8:00 a.m.**