



# First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

October 2006

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

## Presbyterian Men Open New Season Thursday - October 12<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 p.m.

The time is now, and the place is Jim Thomas Fellowship Hall. The Presbyterian Men

## Presbyterian



## Men

will kick off the 2006/2007 season "with a supper and a song." That's right, a song. At our first meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>, the "Heritage

Barber Shop Quartet" will join us for an evening of entertainment.

The quartet is a group of Christian men with great voices, and the desire to sing. You might even know one or two of them from around town, but together they make a sweet sound. It's sure to be a hit. Call the church office (261-3837) and make your reservations early so we can plan accordingly.

Look for more information in upcoming Sunday bulletins and announcements at Sunday services. We will begin at 6:30 p.m. on October 12<sup>th</sup>, so plan to be there and bring your favorite mustache wax!! (And plan to share at your table during supper one memory from this past summer.)

## Experiencing the Presence of God A Spiritual Retreat October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006

You are invited to Montgomery Conference Center for a spiritual retreat focused on experiencing the presence of God in everyday life. We will gather at 6 p.m. for dinner on Friday night followed by an opportunity to share experiences in community and worship. On Saturday there will be structured time to learn about various spiritual practices and to experience them first hand. There will also be time for individual prayer and reflection as well as informal conversation with other retreat participants. We will adjourn on Saturday at 4 p.m..

Information and registration forms are on the Bulletin Board in Jim Thomas Hall.

## World Communion Sunday

We will come to the Lord's Table with believers in Christ from all parts of the world - a world now divided in so many ways and places by fear and hostility.



*It is Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who calls us to his table on the first day of October, saying: "Do this in remembrance of me."*  
Come and celebrate our oneness in Christ.

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



**Kim Brown** (Helen and Bob Walter's daughter) writes from her ministry as Co-Director of the Health Project for Tribal People in Thailand:

*"Thank you for your generous financial gift to our ministry in Thailand and for the box of Koolaid that you sent for the use of village churches when they take communion. Your prayer and financial support over the years has been a real blessing to me and to those we minister to. I am very aware that it is because of churches like First Presbyterian giving that the House of Love is able to provide a stable home for tribal children affected by AIDS and that the House of Blessing Day Care Center is able to minister to children and families living in urban slums. Thank you for your part in this ministry."*

As you read this, deacon **Carrie Allen** will be on a medical mission trip in China.

**Katherine Scofield**, who begins another year of mission among college students in Salerno, Italy, writes:

*"My past year was unbelievable, ending with a group of 27 American college students and Campus Crusade for Christ staff*

*members coming to join us in our mission work on campus. By the time everybody left, 40 students had come to Christ! Praise the Lord!"*

Our thanks to F.P.C. members **Jesse Duke and Brian Seuter** for giving us a window into their mission ministries in China and Africa respectively at our Mission Night on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

We received this news from the **Emersons'** ministry in Nicaragua:

*"Martina and I send you greeting In the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ and thank God for your continued prayers and support of our ministries in Nicaragua.*

*God continues to pour out His blessings over us as evidenced by the arrival this month of Pastor Jose Chay, a bilingual, ordained pastor. Pastor Chay comes to us from our Presbytery, Penisular Presbytery in Merida Yucatan, Mexico, where he was teaching at San Pablo Presbyterian Seminary and working in several Presbyterian churches in Merida. Pastor Chay will be teaching, preaching and organizing our church members in a session with deacons and elders."*

## Pastor Appreciation

Many churches observe October as Pastor Appreciation Month. Given the reluctance of many pastors to call attention to themselves, it's not likely that they will mention anything about being appreciated.

Were someone to ask a pastor, however, what might be done to show appreciation to him or her, the answer would likely be, "Pray for me." St. Paul never asked for anything for himself except that others pray for him.

Encourage your pastor by assuring him or her of your prayers and love.

## Opportunities for Service

There are many opportunities for service within our congregation. One of these is serving as Head Usher at either the 8:30 or 11 a.m service for one month during the year. Instructions on procedure are mailed to you the month prior to your serving. You recruit four or five other persons to serve with you each Sunday in your month. If this is a way that you feel you could serve our church, please contact Alice Payne, Head Usher Coordinator for the Worship Committee at 277-2001 or email at [fly-playne@bellsouth.net](mailto:fly-playne@bellsouth.net). We are scheduling head ushers for our church year 2007.

## Presbyterian Women's News

Thanks to all who made our Kick Off Luncheon a big success. A very special thank you to Gabriela Stegmann for her beautiful piano selections, Jeannie Langley for presenting our study lesson, Trisha Kenner for the lovely table decorations, and all the ladies who brought the delicious food. \$552.00 was collected for our annual Thank Offering.



The October mission for circle members is gathering items for care packages to be sent to our first year college students living away from home. Parents, if you have a son or daughter who fits this category, please call the church office at 261-3837 and give us their mailing address. We know you always phone or email them, but we need a real address in order to get their package to them.

### Circle Meetings for October:

- ♥ Elizabeth Circle, October 12, 10 a.m., in J.T. Fellowship Hall
- ♥ Esther Circle, October 12, 1 p.m., Claudia Welshhans
- ♥ Hannah Circle, October 12, 7 p.m., Bunny Selby
- ♥ Lydia Circle, October 9, 6:30 p.m., Joy Drewry
- ♥ Martha Circle, October 11, 10 a.m., Velma Jacobs
- ♥ Ruth Circle, October 12, 10 a.m., Elizabeth Kendrick

1824

Our newest Young Adult Class for 18-24-year olds led by Becca Gillespie is meeting at the coffee shop on Centre Street Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. They are discussing Letters From A Skeptic by Dr. Gregory Boyd & Edward Boyd while enjoying fresh brewed coffee, lattes, and cappuccinos.

Wake up and smell the coffee. Something's brewing just for you.



Since the last newsletter, I hope that many of you have visited the church library. You can look forward to many new books arriving and books on CD in the near future. New acquisitions on the shelves include:

- ♥ Adolescents in Crisis, A Guidebook for Parents, Teachers, Ministers and Counselors by G. Rowatt.
- ♥ The Gospel According to the Simpsons by Mark L. Pinsky. This is the first full length treatment of the religious implications of The Simpsons which has been called by some religious leaders the most theologically relevant show on television.
- ♥ The Gospel According to Disney. Pinsky explores the role that Disney animated features have played in the moral and spiritual development of generations of children.
- ♥ Just Wives? Stories of Power and Survival in the Old Testament and Today by Katherine Doob Sakenfeld.
- ♥ Were You There? Finding Ourselves at the Foot of the Cross, explores the stories of those who were present at the crucifixion.

Just a reminder that when checking out a book, please write your name and the date on the card in the back of the book and place the card in the box on the sideboard. When returning the book, please place it in the plastic box on the window seat.

### R.S.V.P.

Membership Care Committee loves to serve you dinner, but we need your help. You need to RSVP by the date shown in the church bulletin so we will have enough food. God has provided for our last two dinners, but please help out by responding.

## Who We Are

A new member of our church who came from another denomination asked: How does FPC fit into the larger Presbyterian scheme of things? In order to accomplish Christ's purposes, we are organically connected to 11,000 other congregations in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., a body of 2.6 million believers. Being a member of this connective denomination gives us:

1. **Identity:** we bear witness to a distinctive Reformed understanding of the Christian faith.
2. **Accountability:** the congregation and its leaders are held responsible for their faithfulness to Jesus Christ.
3. **Resourcing:** we can accomplish Christ's mission better in places near and far away because we're part of a national and international team.

We are related to three levels of governing bodies:

- † **Presbytery of Saint Augustine** - Headquartered in Jacksonville, the Presbytery of St. Augustine was founded in 1985 after the merger of the Suwannee Presbytery (PCUS) and the Northeast Florida Presbytery (UPCUSA). The presbytery currently has 64 churches in the surrounding counties of Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwannee, Levy, Columbia, Alachua, Bradford, Marion, Nassau, Putnam and Flagler. The presbytery has over 150 Ministries of Word and Sacrament members and over 20,000 congregational members. Visit the Presbytery website at: <http://www.staugpres.org/>
- † **The Synod of South Atlantic** - Headquartered in Jacksonville, the Synod cooperates with churches in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina to support institutions like colleges and retirement homes. The Synod is comprised of 16 Presbyteries, 987 churches, and 296,030 church members.
- † **PC(USA) General Assembly Staff headquarters** are in Louisville; every other year clergy and lay commissioners from each Presbytery meet to determine policies and programs for national and international mission.



### Flower Calendar

- ♥ October 1<sup>st</sup> - Ann and Dan Kirby in honor of their 51st Wedding Anniversary. The Shaw Family in loving memory of Audrey.
- ♥ October 13<sup>th</sup> - Charlotte and Mike Bowling to the Glory of God.
- ♥ October 15<sup>th</sup> - Betty Long, Jimmy Long and Beth Richey in loving memory of James L. Long
- ♥ October 22<sup>nd</sup> - The Hardee Girls in loving memory of their Mother and Dad, Suzanne and Bill Hardee.
- ♥ October 29<sup>th</sup> - Kathy and Richard Adams in memory of her parents, Joy and Billy Higginbotham and his parents, Bruster and Chalma Adams.



The Sanctuary Choir resumed its Wednesday practice schedule at 7 p.m. on August 20<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to join them. Coming together to sing honors God, generates friendship, enhances emotional health, expands the mind, and is just plain fun.

If you wonder whether you have the time for this grand experience, why not adopt our "Try It You'll Like It" Plan. Come to rehearsals throughout October and sing with the choir during this month. If you then feel your schedule won't allow you to continue, you've made no commitment beyond that point and will have had a joyful series of Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.

## Word from the Pastor

**Bob Zuppke**, football coach at the University of Illinois, was famous for his motivational locker room speeches when his team was down at half-time. One Saturday he laid it on especially thick, as his boys were losing and lethargic. In a grand dramatic flourish, he pointed to the door at the far end of the locker room and said: "Now go out there and win this game!"

The team members jumped up and ran to the door. One by one, they burst out of the room. But it was the wrong door! One by one, they fell into the swimming pool. (Stan Toler, *God Has Never Failed Me*)

Excitement, conviction, sincerity, and energy are all important ingredients for success in life. We encourage it in politicians, business leaders, and athletes. But all of this without the proper direction – and failure is inevitable.

Critics of organized religion like to point out that many of history's wars and prejudices have been caused by religious fanaticism. And that is true. Believing in God does not automatically make us wise, mentally balanced, or even good. When emotionally aroused and invigorated, some folks will charge off and attempt whatever their leaders suggest – even if it is in the completely wrong direction.

Don't blame God for that.

**Jesus** did not come to earth merely to point the way. He boldly asserted, "I **AM** the way..." (John 14:6). If we are following him closely as we find him in the gospels, and not just what people say about him, we can be sure we are taking the right course every time.

This *same* Jesus, the Risen Christ, desires to meet *you* at the Lord's table on World Communion Sunday (October 1).

Sincerely,

**Bob Smith**

P.S. Our words and example are pointing the way for others. Maybe we'd better be sure we know which end is up.

### FPC Church Mission Statement

As part of the body of Christ, The First Presbyterian Church family is called together to worship God, to nurture one another, to discover together where God is leading us; to plan effectively how to witness to our faith; and to teach and carry out the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ to the best of our ability. Our outreach is to our families, our church, our community, and to all the world. Amen.



*Have you heard about...*

#### **THE DISCOVERY CLASS**

Orientation Classes for New and Prospective Members of First Presbyterian Church  
October 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

An informative yet informal two-session gathering to explore what we believe as Presbyterians, who we are as First Presbyterian Church, and what are some marker events along our own life journeys.

Today at 9:50-10:50 a.m.

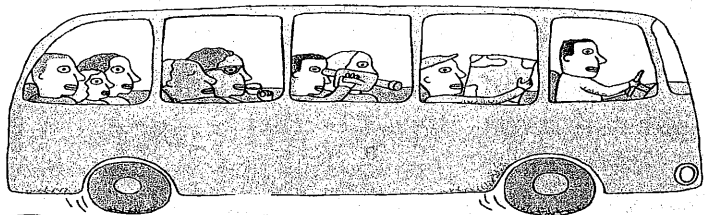
Pastor's Study

(In Church Office Building)

Led by Dr. Bob Smith

# October 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<b>1</b> 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM MS Annual Jeil-O Bowl  World Communion Sunday	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Micah's Place Mtg., YC  5:30 PM Teen CBS, YC	<b>3</b> 12:00 PM Kerygma, JTH  3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch  3:30 PM Gen. Soc.  7:00 PM Property	<b>4</b> 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM ASAP  6:00 PM Corn.  7:00 PM Choir	<b>5</b> 8:00 AM Prayer  4:00 PM PW CT Mtg.  4:30 PM Bazaar Workshop-Rouse's  6:30 PM HS TNT	<b>6</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Baz. Wkshp-Rouse's																																																	
<b>8</b> 9:50 AM Discovery Class  6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MS Sunday Night Live, YC	<b>9</b> 5:15 PM Mission, Library  5:30 PM Teen CBS, YC  Lydia Circle	<b>10</b> 7:00 AM HS Prayer Bkt.  12:00 PM Kerygma, JTH  3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch  4:30 PM Baz. Wkshp-Rouse's	<b>11</b> 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM ASAP  6:00 PM Worship  7:00 PM Choir  Martha Circle	<b>12</b> 8:00 AM Prayer  6:30 PM HS TNT  6:30 PM Presbyterian Men  Elizabeth, Ruth, Esther, Hannah Circles	<b>13</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>14</b>																																																	
<b>15</b> 9:50 AM Discovery Class  6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MS Sunday Night Live, YC	<b>16</b> 5:30 PM Finance	<b>17</b> 12:00 PM Kerygma, JTH  3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch  5:45 PM Deacon's Mtg.  7:00 PM Session	<b>18</b> 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM ASAP  7:00 PM Choir	<b>19</b> 8:00 AM Prayer  4:30 PM Baz. Wkshp-Rouse's  6:30 PM HS TNT	<b>20</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Baz. Wkshp-Rouse's																																																	
<b>22</b> 11:00 AM Baptism  6:00 PM Halfway House Ministry  6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MS Sunday Night Live, YC  Minute for Mission	<b>23</b> 5:30 PM Teen CBS, YC	<b>24</b> 12:00 PM Kerygma, JTH  3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch  4:30 PM Baz. Wkshp-Rouse's	<b>25</b> 9:30 AM Baz. Wkshp-Crandall's  3:30 PM - 5:30 PM ASAP  7:00 PM Choir	<b>26</b> 8:00 AM Prayer  6:30 PM HS TNT	<b>27</b> FPC Fall Youth Retreat  Pastor's Day Off	<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Baz. Wkshp-Rouse's  FPC Fall Youth Retreat																																																	
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:30 PM Teen CBS, YC	<b>31</b> 12:00 PM Kerygma, JTH  3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Sep 2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> </table>				Sep 2006							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	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
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# First Pres MACs

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, the MACs will be taking a tour of the Ribault Club and Ft. George Episcopal Church followed by a dutch treat lunch at the Sand Dollar Restaurant. The group will carpool from the church at 9 a.m. Please make your reservation by calling the church office no later than Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Please indicate if you can drive, how many passengers you can take, or if you will need a ride. The MACs will return to the church by 2:30 p.m. All adults 50 and over are invited to be a part of this fun and interesting outing.



## Presbyterian Youth

### Teens "Slip-n-Slid" into Fall.....

Middle and High School students (parents and adult leaders too) kicked off the year with a tailgate meal (hotdogs, home made chili, chips, sodas and cookies), program overview.

They concluded with a good old fashioned slip-n-slide on the "grassy hill" between the Sanctuary and Noah's Place on September 17<sup>th</sup> (a beautiful and chilly Sunday evening once we got wet!!). Parents look pretty funny when they slip and slide!!

Weekly activities start for all Middle School teens (SNL) on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. with their annual Jello-Bowl. TNT for High School teens begins Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Other October opportunities for fellowship and fun:

- ♥ October 10<sup>th</sup> - High School Prayer Breakfast, Shoney's, 7 a.m.
- ♥ October 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> - All teens overnight retreat. (You'll hear more about this special event during weekly meetings and the next "Youth News and World Report" coming to you soon.)

There's plenty of events already planned and some interesting ideas being discussed for our teens this year. Hope to see all you sometime at some of the activities.

Families: Should you like to cancel, change info or correct info on phone calls, Youth newsletter or postcards, please advise the church office at 261-3837.



Another month has come and gone and the Pastor Nominating Committee has reached another milestone. After reviewing numerous pastors' Personal Information Forms from all across the country, the committee has managed to whittle the list of active candidates down to a workable number. We are now asking these potential candidates to send us additional materials, including sermon tapes, and we will begin the process of telephone interviews with these exceptionally qualified persons over the next 30 days.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact any PNC member with questions you may have about the search process. We will be happy to talk to you about our work for the church.

## Christmas Shoe Boxes

*"Is your heart broken by the desperate plight of millions of children around the world? Whether they are refugees of civil war, survivors of a natural disaster, or victims of extreme poverty, these little ones need to know that they are precious to God.*



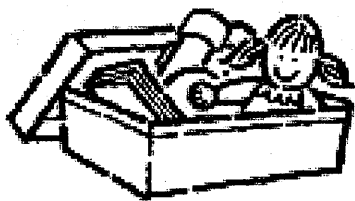
*That's the motivation behind Operation Christmas Child, the unique project of Samaritan's Purse that enables caring people to share God's love with hurting girls and boys in the far corners of the globe.*

*Take an ordinary shoe box, fill it with toys and other presents, and you have an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope. Most important, these shoe boxes provide opportunities for local believers to tell children about Jesus Christ through Gospel literature and evangelism programs. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV)."*

Franklin Graham

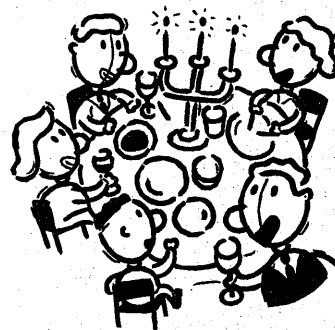
You too can be involved in a global mission project. Our church will again be filling age and gender appropriate Christmas shoe boxes for children in need, whether from poverty, sickness,

war, natural disaster, etc. There are 150 shoeboxes in Jim Thomas Hall. Please pick one up and fill it for a child who may only receive what you send this year at Christmas. Instructions are provided with each shoebox. Filled shoeboxes must be returned to the church by Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Do not forget to include \$7.00 in an envelope to help pay shipping costs.



## Attention Congregation

Groups of Eight will begin in November! Please call the church office and sign up by October 22<sup>nd</sup> if you would like to get acquainted with a



few members of First Presbyterian. Sign up sheets will also be available on the bulletin board in Jim Thomas Hall.

Adult couples and singles from each worship service will be mixed to create community and friendship around the table. Brunch or lunch after church on Sunday, dinner at home or in one of our fine local restaurants, picnics on the beach or a tailgate supper are just a few choices for fun, adventure and gastronomic delight!

Groups of Eight will meet for four months (November, December, January, and February); then names will be thrown back in the hat and reselected for another four months (March, April, May, and June) with a different group of eight. Expand your social circle, get off the couch and enjoy Christian fellowship. Questions? Call Doris in the office at 261-3837.



FALL CRAFT  
BAZAAR

Right Around the Corner.....Holiday Craft Bazaar

Keep working – we need your items!!! The Holiday Craft Bazaar, which is to be held November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006, is closer than you think. If you have items for the raffle or can gather gift certificates, please let Phyllis or Kay know.

Sign-up sheets are in JTH between Sunday morning services and after the 11 a.m. service. Please don't wait to sign up for your preference. We need *everyone's* help to make this a success.

Workshops are well underway and your help is greatly needed. We only have October left for preparation and set up is in November. Please plan to attend as many of the following workshops as possible. (The finishing touches take the most time!)

October dates include many opportunities to lend a hand.

♥ Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm at the Rouse house

- ♥ Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. at the Rouse house
- ♥ Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm at the Rouse house
- ♥ Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm at the Rouse house
- ♥ Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 a.m. at the Rouse house
- ♥ Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m. at the Rouse house
- ♥ Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 at the Crandall home (Please call for directions.)
- ♥ Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. at the Rouse house

November -- Set up will begin Thursday a.m., and projects may be brought anytime Thursday or Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Rouse at 491-5205 or Kay Crandall at 277-2932. We look forward to seeing you!!!

MEET & GREET  
Our NEW Members

The Session was pleased to welcome into communing membership of our church Natalie Babson. Born in Canada, Natalie spent her early childhood years in Argentina. She moved to Fernandina Beach from Leesburg, Virginia in 1996. She enjoys music, travel, and art. Natalie comes to us by Reaffirmation of Faith.

### The Origin of World Communion

World Communion began in 1933 when a Pittsburgh pastor, Hugh Thompson Kerr, had a unique idea. What if churches all around the world celebrated Holy Communion on the same Sunday?

He contacted leaders of various denominations worldwide. His idea was met with such warm enthusiasm that celebrating the sacrament on the first Sunday of October is now an annual affair. It unites Christians throughout the world.

# ASAP on Wednesdays

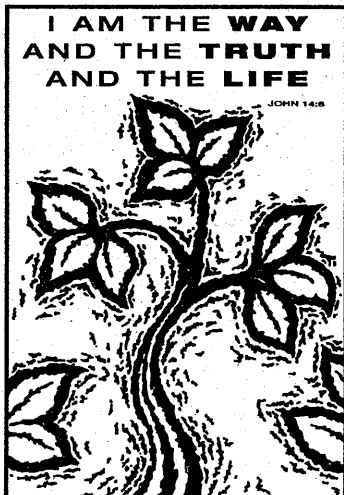
After School At Presby meets on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. for two hours of recreational fun, arts and crafts, and storytelling. Registration forms are available in Jim Thomas Hall and the church office. Sign up ASAP to join this fresh, energizing ministry of FPC for students in Kindergarten through fifth grade.



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: 9:50 a.m.  
Thursday Morning Prayer Group: 8:00 a.m.