



# First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

February 2007

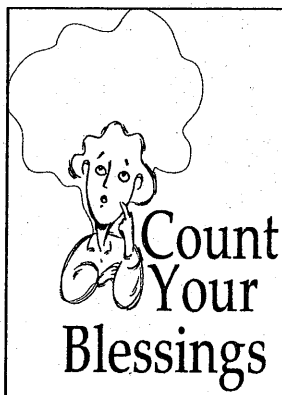
Rev. Dwight S. Bayley - Interim Pastor

## Counting Blessings

January was a happening month at FPC. Not the normal after Christmas Ho-Hum here. Instead of post holiday blahs, we hit the ground running with Kick Offs for Groups of Eight dinners, Confirmation & ASAP. We said our good byes to Dr. Bob Smith and Dr. John Harland in fine fashion with wonderful receptions filled to overflowing with appreciative and loving congregants.

The Presbyterian Men had a great dinner meeting and the MACs welcomed record attendance on their bus trip to the Cummer Museum. New Bible studies began in Faith & Friends, Christian Living and Saltshakers adult classes. The young adults, 1824, are beginning a book study of A Mind for God by James Emery White. The Choir is shaking the house at 8:30 and 11:00 with new energy and joy! Way to go, Presbyterians! Our church is abuzz with life and activity. There is something worthwhile and wonderful for every age group at First Presbyterian. Don't miss any of it yourself and share the good times by inviting someone to join you. God is Good and we are blessed!

Doris Davis



## *dealing with* today's teens

A seminar to help prepare for and survive the difficult years

Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 - 9 p.m.

Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 a.m. - noon  
Maxwell Hall (across the street)

Registration cost: \$30/person or \$40/couple  
website [www.dealingwithtodaysteens.com](http://www.dealingwithtodaysteens.com)



This five-hour seminar is designed to help you understand the world of struggling teens, and gain new insight of how to handle them. Presenter Mark Gregston shares his 30 years of experience working with teens in crisis, and offers wisdom, humor, and direction, with the belief that an atmosphere of relationships creates an arena for change.

A primary facet of this seminar is understanding how the losses of abuse, divorce, death, and adoption affect teens and how parents can effectively deal with an adolescent that is struggling. You'll also learn how to determine the reasons for your teen's behavior and how to develop a strategy to confront specific issues and set boundaries for behavior. Above all, this seminar will encourage loving perseverance amidst a time of crisis and will try to bring a sense of hope and direction to the struggles faced by your family.

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

# MISSION NEWS

## January's Minute for Mission

Greater Nassau Women's Services  
Pregnancy Care Center  
2227 Sadler Road  
Fernandina Beach  
225-9888 321-2008

Greater Nassau Women's Services is committed to enthusiastically develop and maintain a Christian-based, client-focused unplanned pregnancy facility to promote the sanctity of human life in Nassau County.

### What is a Pregnancy Care Center?

- A non-profit ministry offering compassionate help and hope to women and teens who are unprepared for pregnancy.
- Present sexual abstinence as a positive lifestyle for singles.
- Provide opportunity for healing and restoration to those who have been hurt by abortion.
- Present adoption as a loving choice.
- Demonstrate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

The Center is staffed by trained volunteers that operate on financial donations by individuals, churches, and other organizations. Greater Nassau Women's Services is not

- A medical facility
- An abortion clinic
- An abortion referral agency
- A maternity home
- An adoption agency
- Politically oriented

### Services:

- Free Pregnancy Tests
- Confidential & Compassionate Peer Counseling/Support
- Accurate Information on all Options
- Medical & Community Referrals
- Maternity & Baby Clothing, Supplies and Furnishings

## News from the DeLille's

*Season's greetings to all our Family and Friends!*

It's hard to believe that it's Christmas time again; the year has gone by so quickly and it's over 90 degrees here in Brazil!! We have much to be thankful for in 2006. God has blessed the ministries of Valley of our Savior Children's Home, the Live and Learn Program and the Valley/Rama Vo-tech School.

We continue serving in areas of music, Bible study, teaching and general helping out wherever we can. We praise God for the growth and success of the Live and Learn Program. The Moms of this program have learned many skills, made friendships and grown spiritually this year. Their children have grown as well and several of them will be ready to enter school next year. The Vo-tech school has had over 200 students in its classes of catering, sewing, computers, English and superlative classes.

With love,  
Craig, Mary, Gennifer and Shelby DeLille

## Flower Calendar

- ♥ February 4<sup>th</sup> - Lillie and Ben Issac in loving memory of their son, Ben, Jr.
- ♥ February 11<sup>th</sup> - Ann and Bobby Mayne to the Glory of God
- ♥ February 18<sup>th</sup> - Faye Birkitt in memory of her husband, Buddy Birkitt.
- ♥ February 25<sup>th</sup> - Marie Louise and Ernest Chaplin in memory of her parents, Angel and W. A. Davis.



## Word from the Temporary Supply Pastor

Just these lines, My Friends, to say. . .

.....I am delighted to be in your midst. I am grateful to Bob Smith for his wonderful ministry with you for the past year. It is my hope that we can continue the excitement that is here while we all await the calling of your new Pastor.

.....Please keep the Pastor Nominating Committee in your prayers. They are at the point where your support and prayer will go a long way in helping them complete their task.

.....In the meantime and as I begin a short journey with you as your Temporary Supply Pastor, please know that I will be available to support, help and encourage each of you in the weeks to come. I will be preaching/leading worship on Sundays and will be in the church office about three days a week. However, I will be available for any emergency pastoral needs. If you have a need and I am not in the office, please call Barbara in the church office and she will know how to contact me.

.....Now, let me share a thought with you: this is your church and your help in making it grow is essential. I share this thought from one of my favorite authors/preachers, Barbara Brown Taylor:

*"We are God's sharecroppers. We tend the earth and its riches on someone else's behalf. We are expected to represent God's interests, being as generous with each other as God is with us. We are not owners. We were never meant to be. It is not the American way, but it is the kingdom way, and I will tell you something: the harvest will take your breath away."*

Dwight S. Bayley

## Groups of Eight Kick Off



A delicious meal, exciting musical entertainment, Jim Thomas Hall was transformed into an Italian Trattoria complete with Maitre d, Michael Flynn*gio*. It was a fun night for all who attended the Groups of Eight Kick-Off Dinner to find out who their dinner partners will be for the next four months.

Groups of Eight are off to a roaring start with Eight Groups meeting for lunch or dinner once a month February through May. There are a few tables of six and some lucky folks

will be asked to join them as surprise guests just to make the whole thing more interesting and involve more of our congregations.

### WANTED

Surprise Guest Diners

For one meal

February, March, April or May

Male or Female, married or single, hungry, reasonable table manners, able to make small talk

warning: other diners are Presbyterians  
reply to D. Davis @ FPC 261-3837



# Communications Committee News

## 2006 New Members

During 2006 our church was blest by the addition of 36 new members. As the opportunity presented itself we arranged to take their photographs as they came into membership, and along with a short biography, taken from their membership paperwork, we have set forth a series of new member cards which will now be displayed on the large bulletin board on the west wall of Jim Thomas Hall. Next time you are enjoying the goodies at the coffee hour between the services, take a look at the board, and familiarize yourself with the names and faces of our newcomers and make an effort to introduce yourself when you meet them for the first time. As the apostle Paul outlined in his letter to the Galatians, we should extend, *"The right hand of fellowship"* (Galatians 2:9)

## Temporary Pastors

Our new, part time, Interim Pastor, Dr. Dwight Bayley arrived on January 16, and in his first meeting as Moderator of the Session was welcomed and warmly received by our Elders. Dr. Bayley's short biographic note can be read on the church website at <http://ww.1stpres-fb.com>



Starting in early February, we will also have the part time services of Rev. John Peterson, who like Dr. Bayley, is an honorably retired Presbyterian minister. John lives in New Wilmington, PA and he and his wife have been coming to Amelia Island as "snow birds" for several years. During their winter sojourn here he has regularly attended the Men's Coffee Klatch on Tuesday afternoons.

"When all else fails, tell the truth-and run."  
Author unknown

## Committee Opportunities


To borrow part of a well known phrase, the committee is looking for a few good members. If you are of a mind to help with maintaining and improving our communication with our congregation, and the surrounding community, you should attend one of our monthly meetings and see what goes on. We would particularly welcome you if you have good personal verbal and written communication skills, but a warm and willing heart is the only absolute criterion for membership. We promise a warm welcome and no "hard sell" tactics. We meet in Jim Thomas Hall, at 6:15 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

## Kudos to the Walker's

Mim and Ron Walker were very busy folks in January. In addition to their other church work, they arranged and deployed the coffee hour and farewell luncheons for both, Pastor Bob, (Phoebe) Smith, (January 14<sup>th</sup>), and Pastor John, (Suzanna) Harland, (January 21<sup>st</sup>). Their dedication and hard work, supported by a slew of volunteers, made two (potentially) sad occasions into joyous celebrations of the enormous service rendered to our congregation by these two men whose lives have touched ours in countless ways. That we have such folks as the Walker's, and have been so recently blessed by Rev. Bob and Rev. John, reinforces the poetic words of Robert Louis Stevenson, (1850-1894) "So long as we love we serve; so long as we are loved by others, I would almost say that we are indispensable; and no man is useless while he has a friend."

"Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail"

Ralph Waldo Emerson



# MAC Potluck Luncheon

February's MAC event will be a potluck luncheon on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

11:30 a.m.

Jim Thomas Hall

with Special Guest

**Sandra Baker-Hinton**, artist in water media & glass, photographer, naturalist & owner of Amelia SanJon Gallery

Bring your most delicious dish and reserve your seat by Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>!

Don't miss the culinary creations of the best cooks on Amelia Island



Our first session of bringing books into Jim Thomas Hall on January 14<sup>th</sup> was very successful with many books being checked out. Our next session in JT Hall will be on February 11<sup>th</sup>. This will provide a convenient opportunity to bring back the books that were checked out on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Alternatively, books may be dropped off on the table in the library just past Jim Thomas Hall. A book that may be of interest is Not-So-Desperate, Fantasy, Fact, and Faith on Wisteria Lane by Shawnthea Monroe. In what she calls a "sometimes cheeky" meditation on "Desperate Housewives", the author looks for good news among the manicured lawns and tawdry plots of the hit television show. Monroe finds that beneath the farce, the issues faced by the women of Wisteria Lane are ones that many of us experience. She takes a down-to-earth look at those issues from a Christian perspective and, with a style and humor all her own, she shows us that while we may have a little dirty laundry, we are not desperate. Also, remember, that our library provides a comprehensive source for reference materials for classes and personal use.

## Confirmation Class 2007

The 2007 Confirmation class is meeting Wednesday afternoons at 4 p.m. in the Youth Center with Becca Gillespie and Larry Williams leading this year's class. Encourage these young people and their families and keep them in your prayers as they study, learn and grow on their spiritual journey toward full membership in First Presbyterian Church. Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at the 11:00 worship service.



Confirmation Class- (pictured left to right) Becca Gillespie, Hannah Duke, Larry Williams, Trent Kirkendall, April Ross & Katherine Jackson

## Welcome Dr. Dwight S. Bayley

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has called Dr. Dwight S. Bayley as Interim Pastor. Dwight was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida. After high school, he attended Presbyterian Junior College in Maxton, NC and Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, GA. After two years at OU, he volunteered for the draft and went into the United States Army. After his military time, Dwight returned to Jacksonville and worked in business.

In 1963 Dwight returned to college and graduated from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC. During his year at St. Andrews, he felt the call to enter Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. While at Columbia Seminary, he spent a year of internship, serving as minister of Youth at Riviera Presbyterian Church in South Miami, FL.

At the end of the internship, Dwight and Sarah Atkins (Pittsburgh, PA) were married in June 1966. He returned to Columbia Seminary and completed two more years of study, graduating in June 1968. His first call to ministry was as Associate Pastor of Ormond Beach Presbyterian Church, Ormond Beach, FL. He served in that position for four years and then accepted a call to the Central Presbyterian Church of Anderson, SC.

In September of 1974, Dwight accepted the call of Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, as Minister of Commitment, with responsibilities in the area of stewardship and

evangelism. He continued to serve at Peachtree until 1980 when Atlanta Presbytery called him to become a New Church Development Pastor in Roswell, GA (just north of Atlanta). He was quite successful in establishing a new congregation and completing two major building programs. Dwight completed the requirements for a Doctor of Ministry degree at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago in 1983.

In 1995 he was called to be Pastor (Head of Staff) at Orange Park Presbyterian Church, Orange Park, FL, where he served for seven years. In 2002 he became Interim Pastor of Lakewood Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville and served until their new Head of Staff came in February 2004.

In February 2004, Dwight was granted Honorable Retirement by the Presbytery of St. Augustine. He and Sarah have recently moved to Ortega Forest in Jacksonville.

Sarah and Dwight had two sons, Stephen and Peter. Stephen died in 1989 and Peter has graduated from Presbyterian College and serves as Educational Manager of the Jacksonville Humane Society. Peter and his wife Jeneen, have one son, Ethan, born March 2005.

In addition to being involved in Presbytery work and activities, Dwight enjoys reading, exercise and golf. He and Sarah have traveled to Scotland in the past and have plans to return for a two-month visit in the summer of 2007.

### DeColores Weekends

The Sonshine North Via de Cristo spring weekends have been scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> (Men), and May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> (Women). If you are interested in attending or know someone you would like to sponsor, please contact Sally Ericksen (261-2329) for information or applications.





Our after school program on Wednesday afternoon offers experiences not to be found anywhere else on Amelia Island.

- ♥ What a delight it was to have the only mime in Nassau County (Thea Seagraves) as our guest on January 17<sup>th</sup> as we began our second session of ASAP.
- ♥ We welcome Rose Anderson to the ASAP staff for a music component with percussion instruments and singing.
- ♥ Miss Marlene continues to expand the artistic opportunities for each student through the exploration of various art media.

First Presbyterian has created an oasis of interesting and stimulating activity for kindergarten –fifth graders in the middle of their weekly routine. Through out our time together, leaders are modeling and affirming respect for one another, kindness, cooperation, team building and God’s love for each individual.

Please express appreciation to Shirley Owens, Peggy Smelt-Day and Roger Martin for their obedience to God’s call of presence, love and service.

### Service Men and Women

Oh, say can you see...the pictures of our service men and women on a bulletin board in Jim Thomas Hall? If you have a loved one serving our country, please bring their photograph to the church office. Include their name, branch of service, duty station and an address if you would like them to receive mail.



We would like to put faces to names of those we are praying for and recognize and honor their service for our freedom. Place your name on the back of photographs and keep the office informed as to the service member’s status (deployed, in or out of the country or at home).

### Lincoln

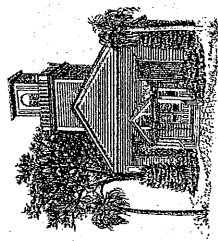
When it came time for the pastoral prayer at the church Abraham Lincoln attended, the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Washington, D.C., the president stood up. Because most of the worshipers remained seated, someone asked the president why he stood.



The president responded, “When my generals come into the Oval Office, they stand for their commander-in-chief. Isn’t it proper then, that I stand for my commander-in-chief?”



# February 2007



First Presbyterian Church

9 N. 6th Street

Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
8:30a Worship 9:30a Coffee 9:50a Sunday School 11:00a Worship Nursery 8:15-12:15				1 8:00a Prayer 4:00p PW Cmt. Mtg 7:00p HS TNT	2 7:00-9:00p Dealing with Teens Seminar	3 9:00-noon Dealing with Teens Seminar	
4 Souper Bowl Sunday Youth Coin Collection	5 4:00p Christian Ed. Committee	6 3:00p Men's Coffee Klatch 7:00p Property Committee	7 <b>A\$AP</b> 4:00p Confirmation 6:15p Communication Committee 7:00p Choir	8 8:00a Prayer 6:30p Presb. Men 7:00p HS TNT	9	10	
11 6:00p MS SNL	12 5:15p Mission Committee	13 3:00p Men's Coffee Klatch	14 <b>A\$AP</b> 4:00p Confirmation 6:00p Worship Committee 7:00p Choir	15 8:00a Prayer 11:30a MAC potluck luncheon JTH 7:00p HS TNT	16	17	
18 <b>Communion</b> 3:00p Girl's Retreat @ Camp Montgomery 6:00p MS SNL	19 <b>President's Day</b> No School	20 3:00p Men's Coffee Klatch 5:45p Deacons 7:00p Session	21 12:00p Lenten Service <b>ASH Wednesday</b> 4:00p Confirmation 7:00p Choir	22 8:00a Prayer 7:00p HS TNT	23 Youth Leadership Workshop @ Camp Montgomery	24 Youth Leadership Workshop @ Camp Montgomery Beth Moore Simulcast @ FBC	
25 6:00p Halfway House Ministry 6:00p MS SNL	26 9:00a AARP Course 	27 9:00a AARP Course 3:00p Men's Coffee Klatch	28 12:00p Lenten Service <b>A\$AP</b> 4:00p Confirmation 7:00p Choir	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Phone: 904 261-3837            Email: churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com            Web: www.1stpres-fb.com         </div>			

## Presbyterian Women's News

Our mission collection for the month of February will be items to help the elderly in Nas-sau County. This is to aid Roland Knight's ministry through the Barnabas Center. Some suggested needed items are personal hygiene products like deodorant, toothpaste and tooth brushes, Depends; Clorox and cleaning supplies; products like toilet paper and paper towels. These things may be taken to your Circle meeting or deposited in the PW Box located in the Jim Thomas Hall.



### Circle Meetings for February:

- ♥ Elizabeth Circle, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., in Jim Thomas Fellowship Hall
- ♥ Esther Circle, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m., at the home of Mim Walker
- ♥ Hannah Circle, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m., in Jim at the home of Addie Underwood
- ♥ Lydia Circle, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Joy Drewry
- ♥ Martha Circle, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., at the home of Barbara Cleland
- ♥ Ruth Circle, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., at the home of Beth Tilton

## NEWS FROM



Brochures for Summer Camp at Montgomery Retreat Center are available in Jim Thomas Hall. Please pick one up for your fun summer planning and one for a friend, too.

Our own Michael Whitman is now a full time staffer at Camp Montgomery. He will be happy to answer all of your questions about facilities and programs.

Start planning now to attend FPC's annual family weekend retreat at Camp Montgomery April 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> !

## Thank You from the Harlands

Suzanna and I wish to thank the Elders, Deacons and members of First Presbyterian Church for their most generous "Love Gift" as well as the Tidewater Amelia book on the occasion of my retirement. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and express our sincere appreciation. The "Gas Gift" from the Presbyterian Women was an added blessing. It will "fill our tank" as we travel across the United States.

Our thanks to all who have sent cards, notes and expressions of appreciation for my ministry among you. It has been a joy to be a friend and a caring Parish Associate these past years. May God continue to bless your lives and lead you into the future as you await your new Senior Pastor.

With sincere thanks,  
John and Suzanna Harland



### Have a Heart



Valentines of every size and description adorn store windows and other places of business this time of year. The holiday has become a time for love to be enthroned as a virtue, with the heart symbolizing the romance of our lives. But the heart symbolizes not only love, but life itself! Without a heart, our bodies cannot survive.

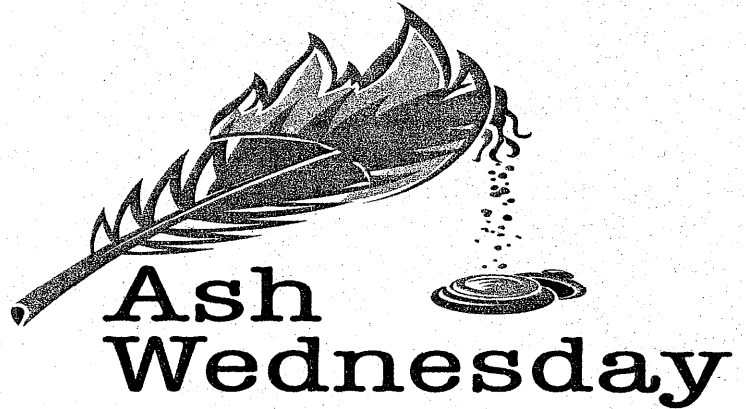
Consider God's words to Samuel: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7, NRSV).

The heart — that inner countenance — shows what we really are. Samuel was to seek one of the sons of Jesse to be the new king. David, even though he was the weakest physical specimen, was the one selected. His heart was great. Love looks deeper than outward appearances, and we can thank God for that. Don't be swayed by mere valentines — have a heart!



### Why Ashes?

On Ash Wednesday many pastors dip a finger or thumb in black ashes and make the form of a cross on the foreheads of worshipers. Many Christians keep the symbol on their head for the entire day. It is a reminder of one's sorrow for one's sins. It is a sign of humility and the need for forgiveness. Also, the cross on the forehead reminds us of the death of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.



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

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**Fernandina Beach, FL 32034**  
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Bulk Rate  
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**Permit No. 10**  
Fernandina Beach  
FL 32034



**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.**