



First Press

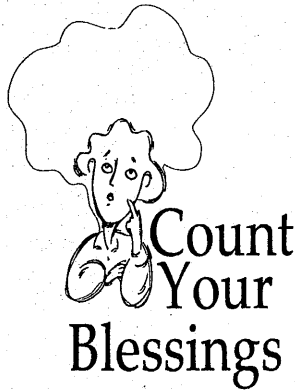
The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

January 2007

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

Counting Blessings

As you pack up the last of the Christmas decorations and throw out the remnants of boxes and wrappings, remember the moments of surprise, delight and joy that the lights and the sparkle of Christmas have given. Hold on to the memory of family gathered and friends' embraces.



Thank God for the peace now placed in your heart as the new year begins. Take time to savor the joys of your life. And begin this new year with a grateful heart for all that our gracious God has given, not only to you but to those you love.

We are blessed beyond measure with those precious gifts that cannot be measured-with faith and hope and love; with salvation and forgiveness, with amazing grace poured freely out. Counting blessings is a good thing to do. Do it often in this new year to keep yourself focused on what is important.

Let the lights of Christmas twinkle in your eyes and the sparkle of the season shine in your heart this whole year through as you deliver the good news that Christ is Born in your life.

Doris Davis

Back by popular demand beginning Wednesday, January 17th

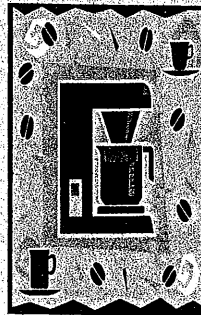
ASAP

Kindergarten-5th grade
Wednesdays
3:30-5:30 p.m.
January 17th - April
25th
Sign up ASAP!

After School at Presby
After School Fun
Recreation and Games
Music and Drama
Arts and Crafts with Miss Marlene
Visiting Storytellers

Registration forms are available in Jim Thomas Hall and the church office. Fees for the 12-week program are \$40 per child and \$25 for each additional child in the same family. Scholarships are available by contacting the church office.

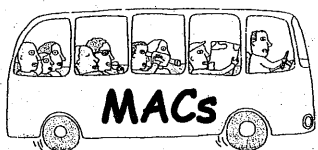
January Coffee Servers



January 7th - Hannah Circle
January 14th - Membership Care
January 21th - Lydia Circle
January 28th - Presbyterian Men

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

MACs Activities



The MACs will travel by chartered bus to The Cummer Museum for their newest exhibit, "Temples &

Tombs: Treasures of Egyptian Art from the British Museum" and a dutch treat lunch at The European Street Café on Thursday, January 18th. Reservations with payment must be in to the church office by January 10th. Cost for the exhibit and bus trip will be \$20. Bring a friend. Bus departs FPC at 9:00 a.m.

The MACs provided 25 calling cards to the Regimental Combat Team 7, a Marine Corp Unit serving in Iraq. They have been collecting money over several months and continue this project in months when there is not another mission project designated. Twenty -three four-pound canned hams were purchased by Barnabas Center with donations from the MACs at Thanksgiving. In December, paper goods for Hope House were collected at the Christmas Luncheon.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Classes for students who are 12-years old and older will begin in January. We will be using the PC(USA) curriculum, Professing Our Faith. The class will meet for 10 weeks with Confirmation celebrated on Palm Sunday.

Leaders will be Becca Gillespie, Doris Davis, and Larry Williams. The Confirmation Kick-off Dinner at Doris' will be Sunday, January 7th at 6:30 p.m. for candidates and their parents.

Classes will begin on Wednesday, January 17th at 4 p.m. Parents, please inform the church office if your son or daughter will be a candidate for Confirmation this year.



Memorial Gifts (June - November 2006)

To the Endowment Trust Fund

In Memory of Margreta McFadyen
Perk and Louise Bowers

To the Philips Memorial Fund

In Memory of Dr. William Wesley
Jane Philips

In Memory of Mildred Dixon Collins
Jane Philips

In Memory of Sara
Payne
Jane Philips

In Memory of Lessie
Brown
Jane Philips

In Memory of Ray
Perdue
Jane Philips

In Memory of Otis Meeks
Jane Philips

In Memory of Catherine Williams
Nelson and Marilyn Showalter

To the Education Fund

In Memory of Carey Kilgore
Cynthia Sapp, Andy Allan, Linda Love and
families

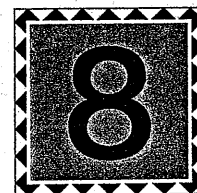
In Memory of Margreta McFayden
John and Suzanne Harland

In Honor of Allen and Mavis Jump's 60th
Wedding Anniversary
Tim and Tricia Kirkendall



Groups of 8

Groups of 8 dinner groups will begin meeting in January. If you have already signed up, expect instructions in the mail soon. If you have not signed up and would like to be included, call the church office by January 5th.



Word from the Interim Pastor

Marriage to a teacher of English literature has its advantages. Occasionally Phoebe introduces me to a new word (or gently corrects my use of one I thought I already knew). This reaffirms for me the complexity of our English language.

Many of our words do double or triple duty. (Racket, for example...something to hit a ball with, a loud noise, or mob-related crime).

Linguists tell us the English language already has in excess of 500,000 words. I think we don't so much need to coin new ones as to use the words we already have to their rich full potential.

Take the word *church*.

The elements in a written definition of church would, I suppose, include a building, an organization, a place of worship, an education center, a philanthropic association, etc. Written definitions cannot catch, however, the rich sense of faith, family, and communion that spans time and space. That cannot be defined. It can only be experienced.

For slightly more than a year it has been my great pleasure to share that experience with you. Because of prior family commitments, my term as Interim Pastor ends on the 14th of this month.

You are a lively, enthusiastic, faithful bunch of followers of Christ who is the head of this church. It has been a great honor to serve him with you and I look forward to our continuing friendship.

Blessing on you,

Bob Smith

Presbyterian Women's News

The Presbyterian Women's January mission is cancelled stamps for Duval Home and Campbell Soup labels for schools. Note: the UPC Code and Campbell's "Boy" Logo are what are now saved from the soup labels. They will no longer accept the front label from the soup can. These items may be given to your Circle Leader or mission coordinator.



Circle Meetings for January:

- ♥ Elizabeth Circle, January 11th, 10 a.m., in Jim Thomas Fellowship Hall
- ♥ Esther Circle, January 11th, 1 p.m., at the home of Marilyn Harlin
- ♥ Hannah Circle, January 11th, 7 p.m., in Jim Thomas Fellowship Hall
- ♥ Lydia Circle, January 8th, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Joy Drewry
- ♥ Martha Circle, January 10th, 10 a.m., at the home of Carol Sutton
- ♥ Ruth Circle, January 11th, 10 a.m., at the home of Karen McFadyen



Books on tape are the big news for January in the FPC library. Doris Davis has acquired four new CD's which may be checked out of the library. They are 90 Minutes in Heaven (A True Story of Life and Death) by Don Piper; The Beloved Disciple, Following John to the Heart of Jesus by Beth Moore; Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them by John Ortberg; and The Life You've Always Wanted also by John Ortberg. We have many new fiction books, including the Miss Julie series, which will be reviewed in a future newsletter. We also have a complete set of the Jan Karon Mitford series, a very popular fiction series.

As stated in the December FPC Newsletter, the second Sunday of each month beginning January 14th, a cart will be set up between services in Jim Thomas Hall with a selection of books and CD's for checkout. This will be a great opportunity to see what a wonderful and lively place your FPC library is and grant easy access to the collection.

Communications Committee News

Sound Kudos to our Volunteer Corp

Many of us are thrilled to hear clearly the words of our Pastor from the pulpit each Sunday as he preaches the Word in his own inimitable fashion. But did you know that a major part of the behind the scenes enabling of the acoustics in our worship services is provided by a dedicated group of volunteers. Our sound "techies" arrive early for each service and start a checklist which includes the replacement of batteries in the pulpit and altar microphones, the opening, starting and monitoring of the sound cabinet at the rear of the balcony during the service. One important part of their activities is the placement and deployment of the amplifying equipment used to support the wireless head sets used by those who need extra help in hearing within the sanctuary. The "techies" also use audio tape cassettes to record the major portions of the service for later distribution to the members of our church family that are shut-ins, or otherwise unable to attend the services in person.

The volunteer corps comprises both young disciples as well as some more mature church

members. Next time you see Kyle Anderson, John Cazell, Nick Clark, Caleb Hatfield, Tom Orr, Joel Payne or Steve Whitman be sure to thank them for their ongoing and largely unheralded service to us. In addition, Martha Ratchford, and a band of volunteers working in the church office, work their way through the tape replication process so that we can deliver the cassette tapes during the week following the service.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers who would like to join us in bringing this service to the congregation. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested in these activities, call Mac Noden at 491-3816. No prior audio technical experience is required. All we need is a good pair of ears, and a periodic willingness to serve at one of the morning services. We provide a short and complete orientation and instruction period in order to effectively use the A/V equipment. The words from Proverbs resonate clearly on this subject. *"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them"* (Proverbs 20:12)

Ray Black Memorial Audio-Visual Room

As the result of a generous bequest from the family and estate of Ray Black, a long time member of the Original Adults Sunday School Class, and a faithful church member, we have converted a former room in the education wing to a secure storage facility for the portable A/V equipment of the church. The Session approved the initiative, and the internal work of clean up and repainting has been completed in fine fashion by our Sexton Tony Brewer.

This month, shelving will be installed, and a memorial plaque placed next to the door. The committee is planning an appropriate dedication ceremony for sometime in the early spring. Ray, who was always fascinated by things electronic, and who was a lover of gadgets, is remembered by the Original Adults Class as a gentle man of wry wit, and gentle humor.

Ancient Communications Theory

"Beginning of the teaching for life, the instructions for well-being...knowing how to answer one who speaks, to reply to one who sends a message"

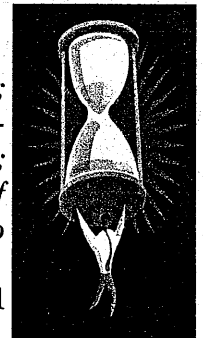
(Prologue-The Instruction of Amenemope)

11th. Century BC

Words to Ponder...

"Know the true value of time; snatch, seize, and enjoy every minute of it. No idleness; no laziness; no procrastination; never put off until tomorrow what you can do today."

Lord Chesterfield



Thank You Choir!

The congregation expresses its great appreciation to our Chancel Choir, the Choir Director Gabriela Stegmann, and Organist Carol Whitman for the splendid and inspiring Christmas Cantata "Ceremony of Candles" by Joseph M. Martin. This presentation lifted the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services on Sunday, December 10th, on the wings of Christmas music.

Our thanks go to:

Sopranos

Kay Black
Charlotte Collins
Eddie Lou Featherston
Andrea Flynn
Katie Flynn
Tricia Kenner
Judy Levers
Alice Payne
Marlene Spayde
Marlene Strobach
Barbara Swearingen

Altos

Barbara Cleland
Eunice Kurtz
Martha Ratchford
Allesen Reingold
Jackie Schaefer
Nancy Scofield
Janet Sisson
Katie Sapp

Tenors

Jerry Hooper
Steven Noden
David Sapp

Basses

Clare Cleland
George Collins
Todd Davis
Bill Hooper
Lee Scofield
Nelson Showalter
Mack Sisson

Flute

Katie Flynn

Narrators

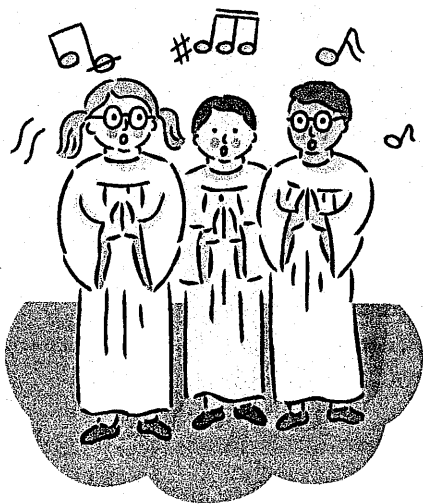
Tricia Kenner
Todd Davis
Alice Payne
George Collins
Eunice Kurtz
Allesen Reingold
Steven Noden
Beth Tilton
Marlene Spayde
Nancy Scofield

Pianist

Carol Whitman

Choir Director

Gabriela Stegmann

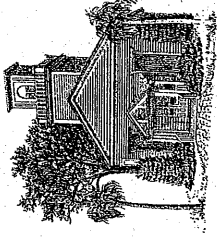


The Musician's Prayer

*You've given me
the words, Lord, and the music,
a song of life that's new and unrehearsed.
You've given me
the joy that makes my heart sing,
even though at times the tears come first.
You've given me
the theme of my existence,
and I will sing your glory all my days.
For now, Lord, and forever
be my music
and make my life a symphony of praise.*

B. J. Hoff




January 2007

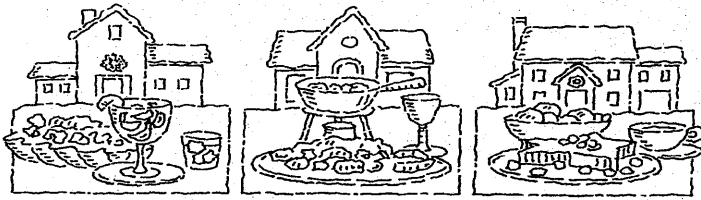


First Presbyterian Church

9 N. 6th Street

Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	Church Office Closed	7:00p Property Church Office Closed	3 6:00p Comm. 7:00p Choir	4 Back to school 8:00a Prayer 4:00p PW cmt. Mtg	5	6
7 6:30p Confirmation Kick Off Dinner	8 5:15p Mission	9 3:00p Men's Coffee Klatch	10 6:00p Worship 7:00p Choir	11 8:00a Prayer 7:00p HS TNT	12 6:30p Groups of 8 	13
14 Reception for Dr. Bob Smith 6:00p MS SNL	15 No school MLK Birthday	16 3:00p Men's Coffee Klatch 5:45p Deacons 7:00p Session	17 3:30-5:30p ASAP 4:00p Confirmation 7:00p Choir	18 8:00a Prayer MAC Trip to The Curmuer & Lunch 7:00p HS TNT 	19	20
21 Communion Reception for Dr. John Harland 6:00p MS SNL	22	23 3:00p Men's Coffee Klatch	24 3:30-5:30p ASAP 4:00p Confirmation 7:00p Choir	25 8:00a Prayer 7:00p HS TNT	26	27
28 Men's Sunday 6:00p MS SNL	29 9:00a AARP Course	30 9:00a AARP Course 3:00p Men's Coffee Klatch	31 3:30-5:30p ASAP 4:00p Confirmation 7:00p Choir			Phone: 904 261-3837 Email: churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com Web: www.1stpres-fb.com



International Student Dinner

Thanks to everyone who helped with the International Student Dinner. It was a huge success. There were 30 students from several different countries; Japan, China, England, Thailand and others. They sang Christmas songs for us in their native language. The meal was delicious and the fellowship was experiencing the true meaning of Christmas.

Our Mission Committee, Membership Care Committee and Sharon William's group from Riverside Presbyterian Church certainly helped these students have a wonderful Christmas away from home. We also wish to thank Peggy Smelt-Day for having two of the young men in her home for the holidays. The church family members not in attendance really missed a wonderful experience.

Flower Calendar

- January 7th - Trish and Paul Booton in honor of their children and grandchildren.
- January 14th - First Presbyterian Church in honor and appreciation of Dr. and Mrs. Bob Smith.
- January 21st - In memory of Alma Conner by her children.
- January 28th - Sally and Bill Bailey in memory of his mother Miriam Bailey.



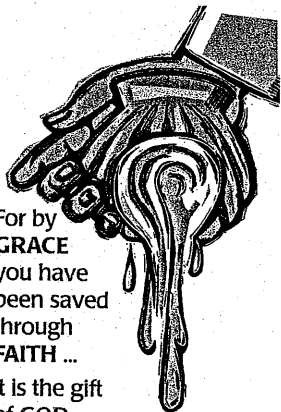
AARP Safe Driving Class

There will be an AARP Safe Drawing class held here on January 29th and 30th from 8:45 a.m to 1 p.m. The cost will be \$10, and you'll save at least that much on your auto insurance. If you have not taken this class in the last three years, call 261-3837 to enroll. The instructor will be Reverend Bert Swearingen. Class size is limited.

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

First Presbyterian Church
9 North 6th Street
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
Office Phone: (904) 261-3837 FAX: 261-0056
Web site: //www.1stpres-fb.com

Bulk Rate
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Nonprofit Org.
Permit No. 10
 Fernandina Beach
 FL 32034



For by
GRACE
 you have
 been saved
 through
FAITH ...
 it is the gift
 of **GOD ...**

Ephesians 2:8, 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.