



# First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

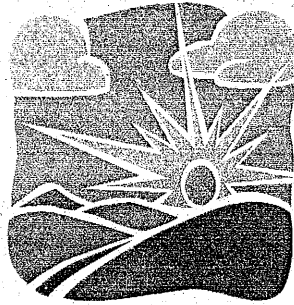
March 2007

Rev. Dwight S. Bayley - Interim Pastor

Married with children?

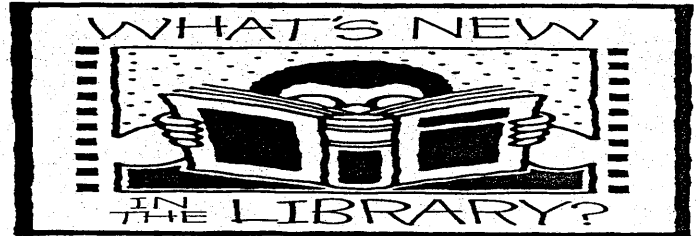
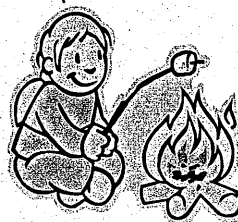
Single no children? Married no pets?  
Single with houseplants? Young Adult  
(less than 45)?

Hey, they say 60 is the new 40. So 45 must be the new 25. Wow! It feels good to be a young adult again. A new Sunday morning study for young adults is beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> (no fooling)! Doris Davis will facilitate a study targeted for you! (Details to follow.) Childcare is not a problem, as we have classes and teachers for every age group. Questions? call Doris in the church office at 261-3837 or email at [xcow@aol.com](mailto:xcow@aol.com). Meet me in the parlor at 9:50 a.m.



save the date

FPC's annual family  
weekend retreat  
Camp Montgomery  
April 20-22 !



Spring is the time for house cleaning and the FPC library is no exception. It is the time to look over the collection for duplicates and de-accession those items to make way for new books. As we receive duplicates through donation, these books will be put aside and will be made available at the monthly library table in Jim Thomas Hall for sale for a very nominal charge, proceeds to be used for purchasing new books.

Donations are so very welcome but many times these titles will already be in the library. If you are donating a book, be aware that duplicates will be added to the sale items. If you prefer that this not happen to the books you donate, please make us aware of that.

Please look at your bookshelves at home and if you find that you have had a book from the library for several months (or even years), read quickly and return the book to the library. A suggested time for the check-out period is four weeks.

Have you noticed the revolving stand in JT Hall? Books will be on display there and may be checked out at any time!

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

# MISSION NEWS

## Adult Mission Trip

We are packing to go on our adult mission trip to Punta Gorda, Florida! That area is still seriously in need of help. Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year after Hurricanes Charlie and Wilma came ashore near Fort Myers. All resources were diverted to the area of greatest devastation on the Gulf Coast. Much is yet to be done near Punta Gorda, so we are going to help our Florida neighbors, leaving Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, and returning Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. We will camp out on mattresses in the First Baptist Church in Fort Myers, and spend our days at sites which need our skills. Why not join us for what promises to be a very rewarding week? We need a final "missionary" count no later than Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Our church's Mission Committee is providing money for our van and gasoline. We are each covering the cost of our food and lodging, \$28 per day, or \$140 for the week. We have been asked to bring \$50 per person to cover the costs of our building materials. We know that not all of us can go on such a

trip, but if you would like to support our work by contributing to these materials costs, your generosity and your spirit will certainly be with us in our work. Please designate your donation for our Mission Trip, and thank you for your very generous support.

Our announcements at both services brought great response from the attending congregation. At the Sunday services \$1030 was collected toward the construction materials request made of those who go to work. We plan to have our Mission Trip paint buckets available after services again, for those who wanted to contribute and did not have a checkbook with them. A number of people who attended the service have asked for information about the trip so that our group is apt to grow.

Final numbers, skill sheets, and food requests need to be submitted to Dave Tuttle by March 4<sup>th</sup>. Call Gail Neidenhoffer at 491-1914 if you have any questions or want to commit to the trip.

### Thank You from Nassau House

There are 18 boys who will now have a clean, comfortable bed as they work through their Nassau House program. I guarantee you that they live very starkly. The new mattresses replaced old, stained and smelly ones. It seems a little "creature comfort" but it is much more.



You so generously gave and I cannot thank you and all Mission Committee members enough for your thoughtfulness. God asked you to help these children and you did.

Thank you so very much.  
Becky Duke

### Nassau Council on Aging

On behalf of the Nassau Council on Aging, we want to thank First Presbyterian Church for your generous donation. As you know, it is our goal to assist area seniors to remain independent and in their own homes. Because of caring folks like you, we are able to continue to serve them.



Our sincere appreciation to you for your donation.

Sincerely,  
Susan Parry  
Director, Development and  
Community Relations

## Word from the Temporary Supply Pastor

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

. . .the First Presbyterian Church of Fernandina Beach is to be congratulated for the progress you have made as a church during the interim period. Due to the outstanding leadership of Dr. Bob Smith, your Interim Pastor during 2006, much progress was made.

. . .looking at the statistical information from our General Assembly, First Church reported 36 new members received in '06. Even though we lost 104 members, some of these individuals have chosen to be part of the new church in Yulee. If you put these two numbers together, of course, it represents a net loss of membership for 2006. That is to be expected during an interim period.

. . .again, looking at the same statistical report, First Church shows a significant increase in contributions during 2006. That was in part due to the excellent work of Ron Walker and the Consecration Sunday Team. There are many churches throughout our denomination who do not show an increase in giving, even when there is no leadership change.

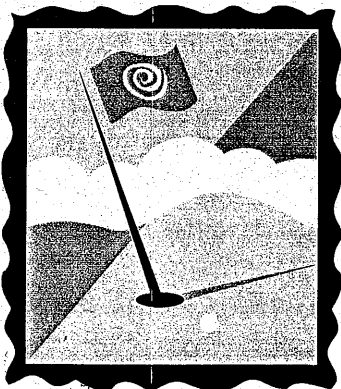
. . .your congregation has elected some excellent women and men to serve as Elders and Deacons in the coming months and years. My joy is helping them learn what their jobs will be as they serve this congregation.

. . .finally, my observation from being with you a month; the Spirit is operative in this congregation. Our attendance at worship is good. Your concern and expressions of love and care for members in distress is outstanding. You are a loving church, and you really care about individuals. Keep up the good work.

*Dwight S. Bayley*

### Free Golf Clinic

*To create interest in the wonderful wholesome game of golf*



Church Middle School Age Youth  
Beginner to Mid-handicap player  
Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Place: The Anchor  
Time: 4 to 6 p.m.

Conducted by USGTF Golf Teaching Pro  
Course substance: Game overview, Grip, Stance, Balance, Address & Target Line, Swing (See perfect swing), Approach Shots, Pitching, Chipping and Putting, Golf terms and etiquette handouts.



Clinic, followed by driving range opportunity at a later date.

(High School and Adult programs will be offered if we get enough interest.)

Please contact Don Monahan if you are interested. 277 2091 and  
e-mail: Shopwithcops@aol.com

# Communications Committee News

## New Elders and Deacons

The newly elected Elders and Deacons are spending some time in training and reflection upon their call to service with Pastor Dwight



Bayley. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, they will spend the day in the company of the other Elders and Deacons as we attend to their further training and orientation. The entire group will then be examined by the existing Elders at a special meeting schedule for 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Following these events, thirteen willing servants will be ordained and installed during the worship services on March 25<sup>th</sup>. As Matthew, (22:14), put it so succinctly, *"Many are called, but few are chosen."*

"The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart"

Helen Keller

## Original Adults Sunday School Class

The Original Adults Sunday School Class is in mourning for one of our beloved members who died this month. Ann Thomas, was a teacher in our class, and inspired us all by her quiet example to try to match the depth of her faith and works. Our hearts are filled with love and sorrow, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to Jim Thomas and the rest of their far flung family. May she rest in eternal peace following a life well-lived in the service of Jesus Christ.

"I am careful not to confuse excellence with perfection. Excellence I can reach for. Perfection is God's business."

Michael J. Fox.

## 90-Day Mentoring Program

The 90-Day mentoring program for our new members is going along very well and the contact reports from the mentors show that newcomers really appreciate our hand of welcome, and the offers of help in "learning the ropes" of our church and the larger community. If you would like to volunteer to serve as a mentor for just a 90-day period, we would like to hear from you. Call the church office, or Mac Noden at 491-3816 for more details.

## Men's News

The Men's Coffee Klatch, which meets every Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m., is now meeting at the Community Room of Amelia Woods. Thanks go to Ken Loper, who is the President of their homeowners association. Every man of the church is welcome. Come along and bring a friend to share the coffee, cookies and the fellowship.

The Presbyterian Men's group will start up again in March. Please watch the announcements in the church bulletin, and the information board in Jim Thomas Hall for details of the next dinner meeting.

We recently heard from a former church member now living in North Carolina. After reporting on how much she is enjoying her new community and new church, she mentioned something that really puzzles her. Said she, "Why is it that a slight tax increase costs me \$200 while a substantial tax cut saves me only 30 cents?"

Overheard by a visiting Grandparent while listening to the bedtime prayers of a grandchild: "Lead me not into temptation. I can find it myself."

# NEWS FROM



## Greetings from Montgomery!

Though winter is around us, we at Montgomery have summer on our minds as we busily prepare for our summer camping season! We have the opportunity every summer to serve the children and youth of this presbytery in ways that teach them about themselves, each other, and the amazing love that we have been shown through Jesus Christ. Our summer curriculum will focus on faith journeys – both our own and those of several people from the Bible – and how they have a beginning and not an end, about the process and not the destination, and that those journeys are dynamic, changing course all the time.

Our camps are split up throughout 8 weeks of summer – from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup>. Our youngest camp starts with those entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade next fall and goes up from there! This year also includes our first ever Family Camp from July 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, where we have reserved the entire site for family fun and excitement. (Imagine our annual family retreat in April, and extend it a few days that include a full schedule and a staff ready to make sure you have a great time!) We are also beginning caving and canoeing camps along with our normal camping sessions. A full schedule and session listing is available in the Montgomery Presbyterian Center Summer Camp 2007 brochure which is available in the church office, or by calling camp at (352) 473-4516. You can register for camp on-line at [www.montgomerycenter.org](http://www.montgomerycenter.org).

We look forward to seeing you and your children this summer, and I personally look forward to seeing you on the family retreat in April!!! May the Lord bless you and keep you!

Michael Whitman

## Counting Blessings

The journey begins—the road to Jerusalem and on to Calvary to witness the great sacrifice of the Lamb. Prepare yourselves, feed your souls and fill your hearts with prayer and worship so that you may run along side our Lord, Jesus, as he makes his way— to the table, washes the feet of the disciples, stands guiltless before Pontius Pilate, bears the beating and humiliation and carries his cross to the altar of all time.

Will you be ready? Will you be ready for what God has done for you? It is time. It is time..... to prepare your body, heart, mind and soul during this season of Lent. It is time. Get ready for the Messiah. He dies your death so that you may live eternally. Get ready.

Doris Davis



FALL CRAFT  
**BAZAAR**

*Update on 2007 Holiday Craft Bazaar*

As many of you know, we are starting early this year so that we can meet last year's success – and maybe even exceed it!! Wouldn't that be wonderful for God's ministry?

Our first workshop will be March 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at Phyllis Rouse's home. Many new items have been discussed and planned for production. Please plan to join us and lend a hand or learn a new craft.

If you think you are not crafty, you might just be surprised!! If you need directions, please just give Phyllis a call at 491-5202.

## The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent has a long-standing tradition in the Roman Catholic Church especially. Going to church on Ash Wednesday (the beginning of the Season of Lent) and getting ashes smudged on your forehead has long been associated with Catholics. However, in recent years the tradition has made its way into protestant thinking and acting.



The Season is a time for us to bring some sort of order to our hurried and busy lives. We become a people looking for instant gratification in almost everything we do or experience. However, this Season is offered to us as a time to slow down and reflect on our spiritual lives. It's a time to look deep within ourselves and reflect on our lives and our condition of living. The reflective times might lead us to see our lives "outside the box" of what we call 'normal living', opening up new possibilities for positive living. Lent is a time to reexamine our understanding of forgiveness and renewal in Jesus Christ.

Lent is frequently understood as a time to "give up" something. Maybe or maybe not. It could be a time to "adopt" or "take in" something new, especially if it leads us to a deeper understanding and appreciation for what Christ has done for us - exemplified in His forgiving act on Good Friday. Let the Season of Lent be a special time for you to examine your life and seek maturity in your spirituality.

### Communion in Your Home

If for some reason you are unable to come to church to receive communion, we suggest you call the church office and request a minister and a deacon to come to your home. We prefer daylight hours and will need to know how many in your household will partake communion. A phone call to your home will be made to schedule arrangements.

## China Mission News

On February 11<sup>th</sup> we had a combined Sunday School class where we heard Matthew Xu tell about his "home church" in China's Guangxi Province. Matthew showed some video of our Chinese brothers and sisters worshipping at Christmastime. He told some interesting facts about how the Christians in China are connected via an "underground" fellowship with each other.

Please pray for the young pastor/preacher, Ning Meng An, who is working hard to pastor several home churches and also working a secular job to support himself and his family. Matthew was here because he escorted a 9-year old girl, Jinmei and her mother, Zigui, to get a heart operation for Jinmei at Wolfson's Children's hospital last month, which several of our church members supported financially.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in reaching the Chinese people with the good news of Jesus Christ, call Jesse or Becky Duke at 277-8552.

## Volunteers Needed for Work Day

CE workday to energize two rooms on March 10<sup>th</sup>. We need cleaners, painters, decorators, carpenters, handymen and women, movers and willing hands to revitalize two spaces



for new uses. Both rooms are located in the educational wing (brick horseshoe building) behind JTH. One room will become a coffee bistro for our 18-24-year old Sunday morning study group and the other space (former logos music room) will be transformed into a techno savvy, media enhanced, kid friendly Sunday morning arena (literary license allows for some mild exaggeration). Curiosity alone should entice numerous volunteers. Call Shirley Owens at 261-5375 to reserve a work shirt in your size. Coffee & cinnamon rolls served at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will also be provided for volunteers.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

# March 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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			

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					

<p>4 6:00 PM MS S.N.L. YC PW Installation</p>	<p>5 5:30 PM Teen CBS, YC 6:30 PM Christian Ed.</p>	<p>6 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch 7:00 PM Elder/Deacon Training 7:00 PM Property</p>	<p>7 12:21 PM Lenten Service 3:30 PM -5:30 PM ASAP 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:15 PM Com. 7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>8 8:00 AM Prayer 6:30 PM Presbyterian Men 7:00 PM HS TNT</p>	<p>9 CE Work Day</p>
<p>11 6:00 PM MS S.N.L. YC 4 PM Called Session Exam Baptism, Hurst</p>	<p>12 5:30 PM Teen CBS, YC</p>	<p>13 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch 4:00 PM -10:00 PM Soccer Event</p>	<p>14 12:00 PM Lenten Service 3:30 PM -5:30 PM ASAP 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Worship 7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>15 8:00 AM Prayer 7:00 PM HS TNT MAC Mtg.</p>	<p>17 9:00 AM Elder/Deacon Retreat: Wom. Club</p>
<p>18 6:00 PM MS S.N.L. YC Communion</p>	<p>19 5:30 PM Finance 9 AM Bazaar Workshop</p>	<p>20 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch 5:45 PM Deacon's Mtg. 7:00 PM Session</p>	<p>21 12:22 PM Lenten Service 7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>22 8:00 AM Prayer</p>	<p>24 Confirmation Overnight Retreat</p>
<p>25 6:00 PM Halfway House Ministry 6:00 PM MS S.N.L. YC Installation/Ord. Service</p>	<p>26 9:00 AM AARP Course 5:30 PM Teen CBS, YC</p>	<p>27 9:00 AM AARP Course 3:00 PM Men's Coffee Klatch</p>	<p>28 12:00 PM Lenten Service 3:30 PM -5:30 PM ASAP 4:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>29 8:00 AM Prayer 7:00 PM HS TNT</p>	<p>31 Confirmation Overnight Retreat</p>

# Confirmation

## Meet the 2007 Class

### **Kathryn Jackson,**

daughter of Karla Bowers, is a student at Fernandina Beach Middle School. She was baptized into First Presbyterian as an infant. Kathryn says she has learned more about the Bible in her Confirmation class than she ever knew before. Kathryn and April share the same birthday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Children's pictures are not published on the Internet iaw Presbytery policy

### **Trent Kirkendall,**

age 12, son of Tim & Tricia, has attended 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church all his life. He is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Fernandina Beach Middle School. His favorite thing about Confirmation class so far has been the Create Your Own World poster project. When asked what he is learning about Presbyterians, he said, "I know that they are Christians." Good answer.

Children's pictures are not published on the Internet iaw Presbytery policy

### **Hannah Duke,**

daughter of Jesse & Becky, was baptized here and has grown up in the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian family. She is 12 years old and a student at Fernandina Beach Middle School. Her favorite thing in Confirmation has been learning about the symbols of our faith.

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### **April Ross,**

daughter of Gary & Barbara, will be baptized when she is confirmed. She is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Fernandina Beach Middle School. April said she has enjoyed learning about the Presbyterian crest and all of the hidden symbols in it. "The act it out game is a lot of fun."

## Presbyterian Women's News

Officers for 2007 to be installed on March 4<sup>th</sup> include:

- Moderator -Alice Payne
- Vice Moderator - Marilyn Showalter
- Secretary - Trisha Kenner
- Treasurer - Barbara Hooper
- Mission Coordinator - Mary Hunt



### Circle Leaders:

- Elizabeth - Polly Hord
- Esther - Judy Loper
- Hannah - Carolyn Guerrin and Linda Armstrong, Co-Leaders
- Lydia - Joy Drewry
- Martha - Pat Knerr and Barbara Burton, Co-Leaders
- Ruth - Barbara Hooper and Georgette Giles, Co-Leaders

### Circle Meetings for March:

- Elizabeth Circle, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., in Jim Thomas Fellowship Hall
- Esther Circle, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m., at the home of Kay Black
- Hannah Circle, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m., at the home of Bunny Selby
- Lydia Circle, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Joy Drewry
- Martha Circle, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., at the home of Sandi Neal
- Ruth Circle, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., at the home of Edith Jones

The Presbyterian Women's "Spring Fling" will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. This is our annual gathering for food, fellowship and giving of our Birthday Offering. The Lifetime Membership Award will also be presented that day. We hope that all women will note the date and plan to be with us that day. The Bazaar Planning Committee, under the leadership of Phyllis Rouse, is already at work making plans for this year's bazaar. The date is November 3<sup>rd</sup>, so go ahead and mark your calendars! Start making your own plans for creative items to donate, and watch the newsletter and bulletin for times and places of workshops.

## Youth News

It's not too late to sign up for the 2007 Summer trips, so here's the basics:

- High Mission Trip (HMT) is set for June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>! We're flying to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Two things we'll see for sure are people with a great need for God's love and Mount Rushmore!! Total cost is \$650. Initial and most critical non-refundable deposit of \$250 is due March 12<sup>th</sup>. Current 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students only.
- High School Fun in the Sun (FIT) will be at Jekyll Island, GA, from July 15<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>. Non-refundable deposit of \$150 is due by March 12<sup>th</sup>. Total cost per participant will be \$350!
- Middle School GREAT ESCAPE (GE) is July 23<sup>rd</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup> in Ocala, FL. \$150 non-refundable deposit is due March 12<sup>th</sup> total cost per participant is \$350!

**Youth and Parents** - Please pray about your participation in the trip you're eligible to attend. If you've never been or heard someone's experience while on one of these trips, ASK someone who has...you're bound to get a great story or two!! Parents (or Youth) - Checks should be made out to FPC with the youth/trip name in the "For" line and can be mailed or drop off in the church office. Additional information will be publicized soon or if you're just too excited to wait give Martha a call (261-6404) for details!

### Flower Calendar

- March 4<sup>th</sup> - Vivian and George Geiger in memory of his parents Berley and George Geiger and her parents, Roberta and Turner Edmondson.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> - The Shaw Family in loving memory of Audrey Shaw.
- March 18<sup>th</sup> - Anita Gardiner, Georgette and Theodore Giles in loving memory of their parents, George and Anita McGammage and Ruth and Theodore Giles.
- March 25<sup>th</sup> - Yvonne and Clay Treska in honor of their anniversary.

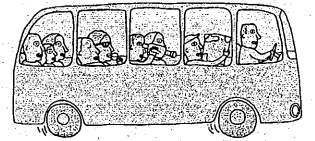


# April in Charleston

*Take a trip to beautiful, historic Charleston, SC  
April 16-18, 2007*

**Your Tour Includes:**

- Roundtrip Deluxe Motorcoach
- Two Nights' Hotel Accommodations
- Guided Tour of Charleston with local guide
- Two Breakfasts
- Dinner in Charleston at Poogan's Porch
- Spirit Line Harbor Dinner Cruise
- South Carolina Aquarium
- Fort Sumter Cruise & Tour
- Professional Tour Director
- Baggage Handling
- All Taxes & Gratuities (except driver & guide)



\$399 per person based on double occupancy

\$100 deposit due by March 8<sup>th</sup>

Balance due April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

Detailed information available on flyers in the church office and JTH. This trip is open to friends and relatives. Let's fill the bus!!

## MACs St Patrick's Luncheon

Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 a.m. in  
Jim Thomas Hall

Lunch by Chef Donna  
\$10.00 per person

Irish Program  
presented by  
Joel & Alice O'Payne

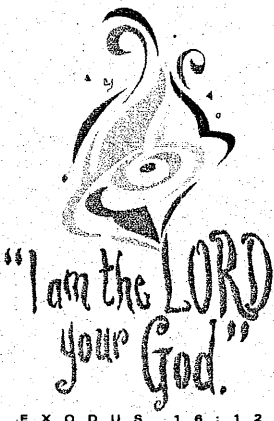
RSVP by March 8<sup>th</sup>  
church office

261-3837

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

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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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.**