



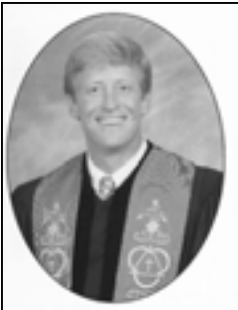
First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

August 2008

Rev. Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr. - Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Dwight Bayley, Parish Associate
<http://www.1stpres-fb.com>

Updates from the General Assembly



*by the Reverend Dr.
L. Holton Siegling, Jr.*

Dear Friends,

Let me share with you some good news about many events that will soon be taking place here at our church. Also, I would like to let you know that you will have an opportunity to hear more about the recent meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Our Worship Committee continues to make plans for the upcoming Contemporary Service. Great ideas are being generated while at the same time the Anchor is taking shape. Before long there will be in place a projector, screen, and sound equipment, all of which will help prepare us for our first service of worship which is scheduled for the early fall. Great care has gone into the configuration of the Anchor so as to maintain both a youth space and a sacred space; the A/V equipment will greatly enhance our youth ministry.

One interesting aspect of the service will be the medium by which the sermon will be presented. While there will be opportunities for both the 11:00 a.m. traditional and contemporary services to share in worship through such aspects as Scripture readings, Children's Church, etc., it is hard to share a pastor; therefore, since I do not want to lose the opportunity to be a pastor to those gathered in the Anchor, each week's sermon will be pre-recorded in a dressed-down and personalized fashion and displayed at the appro-

priate time.

While there are opportunities for fellowship at First Presbyterian on both a large and small scale, our new Wednesday night program is being designed with all age groups in mind. You may be interested to know that I have seen the menu for the dinners and I am hungry! Moreover, my spiritual appetite is eager to see this program begin on Wednesday, September 10. It will be exciting to share in the fellowship of an evening meal and then participate in age appropriate studies and activities designed to enrich our faith. For those who are interested, choir practice will be held at the conclusion of the Wednesday night program. All are welcome to rehearse with our choir and participate on Sunday morning.

The national governing body for our denomination, the General Assembly, met in San Jose, California, from June 21-28. For a full six days, those in attendance conducted a tremendous amount of business, worshipping and working from early in the morning until late at night. Many were glad to see a commitment to increase our mission personnel overseas; a new collaborative partnership between the denomination's mission department and the many independent mission organizations that exist; and the first steps toward developing "A Social Creed for the 21st Century," which comes exactly 100 years after the "Social Creed" of 1908, which spoke to the harshness of industrial life at the turn of the 20th century.

Probably the most controversial aspect

Pastor's Article, continued from page 1

of the General Assembly's work - and the part that continues to get the most attention - was an overture to change a chapter in the Book of Order (G-6.0106b) about ordination standards for Ministers, Elders, and Deacons.

The proposed standard is more theologically framed than the current standard and is reminiscent of the fourth ordination question every officer answers: "Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?" The controversial effect, as I understand it, is that one's sexual orientation and behavior would no longer disallow a person from becoming a Deacon, Elder, or Minister. Determining whether a person's beliefs and manner of life are faithful to the standards of the church would be the responsibility of sessions and presbyteries.

Before it could become a part of the Book of Order, this change would need to be approved by the majority of the 173 Presbyteries, the smaller regional bodies, which in 1997 and 2000 rejected proposals to delete G-6.0106b. Here again, I believe, is an opportunity for the church to speak the truth in love and offer a strong witness to biblical standards of sexuality by rejecting this proposal.

When issues such as these capture our attention and our imagination, it is very easy for us to lose focus on being the church where we are. There have been great de-

bates throughout the history of the church, some of which have lasted entire lifetimes - even centuries. In the midst of such controversies countless Christians lived their lives to the glory of God, not knowing what the future held except that it was held by God. For our part, we must continue to be the First Presbyterian Church as faithfully and carefully as we know how, support the PC (USA) in every way and encourage her to move towards greater faithfulness, and be mindful of the fact that those on one side of the debate are no less the children of God than those on the other.

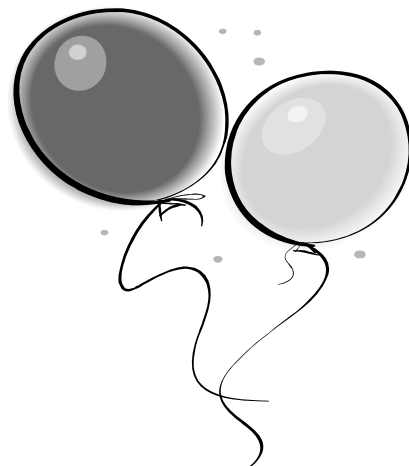
In a continued effort to give those who are interested in hearing about the actions of the General Assembly an opportunity to do so, I have invited our Executive Presbyter, Dr. Paul Hooker, to join us during the Sunday school hour on August 10. In addition to our regular Sunday School classes, Paul will provide a Sunday school forum during which time he will share with us his pastoral and constitutional insight into these matters. Please feel free to attend this Sunday school class, or call me if you have any questions.

On Sunday, July 13, what a joy it was to celebrate with you my first anniversary as pastor! My family continually delights in being a part of the First Presbyterian Church family. May the Lord continue to bless and keep us.

In Christ's Service,
Holton

The fair is coming! The fair is coming! The fair is coming!

Come to the Ministry Fair,
you'll be glad you're there
booths and goodies, prizes and treats,
faces of people you'll want to greet
so much to see and too much to eat
funnel cakes, popcorn, pancakes on a stick
balloons and music, scientific tricks
Hurry Up, Hurry Up, win a door prize,
First Presbyterian is more than you realize!



Just these lines, My Friends. . . .

Some of you have been asking, "What is Dwight Bayley up to?" Some of you would answer in terms of my weight while others would reply in terms of my foolishness. Well, let me give you the straight scoop: When Holton asked me to become the Parish Visitor last fall, I agreed. I spent the first few weeks on the telephone trying to line up some visits into your homes. Too much time was spent 'at the desk' so I decided to ask Polly Hord to serve as my scheduler. (I pay her \$1 per year – or take her to breakfast occasionally). She is doing a wonderful job, for which I am extremely grateful!

When Polly calls you to set up an appointment for me to come and visit in your home, please know that I come with only ONE item on my agenda: To Get To Know You.

Some of you have thought that I only visit people in the church who are sick or infirmed. Not True! My goal is to visit as many of you as possible just to learn more about you. So, when Polly Hord calls you on the phone and asks for an appointment, do your best to accommodate her by setting a time for my visit.

I try to make my visit on Monday, Tuesday and Friday of each week. Occasionally this will vary but I'll do my best to keep appointments. I'll be in your home for forty minutes, plus or minus. I'm interested in learning about you, your family, how and why you came to Fernandina Beach, and any other interesting tidbits you might want to share with me. And, if one visit isn't enough, I'll arrange a time for a return visit.

It has been my pleasure to visit in many homes of 1st Church members, and I'm looking forward to visiting with others of you.

Your Pastor and Friend,
Rev. Dr. Dwight Bayley



Updates from the Mission Field

- Great News! Those wonderful 2 Cents A Meal canisters are beginning to return and they are really heavy when loaded with pennies, or any cash. Four have already come back, carrying the astonishing total of \$54.74 in change. Therefore, we are officially designating Sunday, August 10th, as 2 CENTS A MEAL SUNDAY. Mission Committee members will greet you at the front door of the church before both services, to receive your canister, and to thank you for collecting your pennies.
- Sunday, August 17th, is the Family Night Mission Supper, beginning at 5:30 p.m. All of the wonderful mission work in which our church members, young and old, have participated this year, will be highlighted in presentations after our supper. It will be a great time to hear how far the mission work of our church has spread this past spring and summer.
- On August 24th, you will have the opportunity of learning more about the work of our Mission Committee at the Ministry Fair, and hopefully some of you will find that you are interested in joining our committee, where we are eager for more members whose heart lies in the mission field.
- In September, you will hear more about our GOD'S GIFT SHOP where you can buy unusual Christmas gifts for those special people on your Christmas shopping list who are most difficult to shop for. Begin to think about Saturday, October 4th, when CROP WALK is scheduled to begin at First Presbyterian Church. Will you be a walker, or pledge for a walker, to help stem hunger here in our community and the world?

\$ Finance Facts \$

Did you know.....

... FPC operates on a budget, much like your family or business. Your Session estimates and sets money aside for utilities, repairs, yard work, education, salaries, helping others, food, activities, etc. Naturally, as with the family budget, FPC can't afford EVERYTHING we want...after all, how many of us can have the new car, replace the appliances and the roof, take a nice vacation, upgrade the computer, pay Junior's college tuition, and pay the bills without making some tough choices and tradeoffs?! And even in the closest knit families, people have different priorities...the teenager NEEDS wheels...Mom wants that dishwasher replaced and Dad is thinking soon he'll be paying 2 college tuitions, and with the cost of gas maybe he shouldn't have bought the SUV last year!

FPC expenses fall into 11 main areas:
 Personnel (salaries/benefits)
 Property (maintenance/repair/improvement), Missions (benevolence/Unified Mission Support to Presbytery), Admin/Office (machines/phone/postage), Finance (insurance/ stewardship), Christian Ed (activities/curriculum/VBS), Communications (nametags/ advertising, a/v), Mem-

ber Care (activities/meals/kitchen), Youth (trips, activities), Worship (choir/ musicians), Evangelism.

Your Finance Committee and Session are already thinking about 2009, subject to Stewardship results in the fall. The Finance Committee welcomes your thoughts and suggestions. If you help out around the church, you may even have ideas to save FPC money or use your dollars more efficiently to bring glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We covet your prayers as we seek the Lord's will in these matters, so that our resources will produce the greatest harvest of new believers, spiritually growing disciples, and worship in Spirit and Truth.

Your Finance Committee

Emily Kunzelmann (Chair) 321-2169, Jack Dickison , Len Ermold 261-4718, John Grupe 277-9670, Jack Meeks (Treasurer), David Sapp, Ron Walker 261-4475

Featured Expense

Last month, \$5240 of your tithes and offerings were used to pay property insurance premiums (\$17,797 annually) – including hurricane and flood insurance.

AS OF JUNE 30, 2008

JUNE ACTUAL GIVING: \$ 63,507	ACTUAL GIVING YTD: \$ 368,744
JUNE AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: 285	ACTUAL GIVING YTD VS GIVING NEEDED TO BALANCE THE BUDGET: 98%
MONTHLY NEED FOR 2008: \$66,417	

Music and Enrichment at Montgomery Conference Center

Enrichment 2008 on August 23rd is the premier event in St. Augustine Presbytery for enriching the lives of all our brothers and sisters in every one of our churches. What began as a Christian Education event many years ago has grown significantly in both the range and scope of the offerings as well as the participation and excitement of the day. This year there will be a wide variety of classes and workshops offering everything from spiritual growth to helpful workshops for planning worship and education in your church setting.

On the evening of August 22nd, a pre-Enrichment music event will take place led by Mona Bagasao, Chaplain at Eckerd College, and David LaMotte, renowned folk singer, songwriter, and acoustic guitarist. You are welcome to enjoy dinner and an overnight stay. For more information, check out the website: http://www.staugpres.org/Events/pre_enrichment.htm.

PRESBYTERY MEETING

The spring stated meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine was held at Community Presbyterian Church, Atlantic Beach, on Saturday, July 19th, 2008. Holton Siegling, Mac Noden, and Rich Lang represented First Presbyterian, Fernandina Beach. Agenda items considered included the following:

- Approved the annual reading of minutes and registers of church sessions without exception of First, Fernandina Beach.
- Reported inquirers Rebecca Gillespie and Michael Whitman under the care of First, Fernandina Beach.
- Approved the call of Rev. Do In Kim as the organizing Pastor for the One-In-Christ Korean New Church Development in Jacksonville.
- Approved the Honorable retirement of James Bullock (Fort King) and Michael Williams (Associate Executive Presbyter)
- Approved John Ragsdale as Temporary Associate Executive Presbyter.
- Communion service and sermon by Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly that challenged all to answer the question: "What are your spiritual Dreams?"
- Presentation by Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly called attention to the First Presbytery meeting held in Philadelphia, in 1706. This humble beginning addressed three areas: (1) Preaching the Word of God (2) Evangelism and (3) Social concerns. Rev. Parsons also placed emphasis on Elder training, young adults and the consideration of the proposed Form of Government.
- Received the Commissioners' Report of the 218th General Assembly recently held at San Jose, CA.
- Presentation of the Strategic Planning Team that recommended three goals:
 - Strengthening congregations in becoming transformational communities.
 - Birthing new communities of witness to the Gospel.
 - Teaching the principles of missional leadership to its ministers, elders, and deacons.
- Elder and Deacon educational session, Enrichment, will be held at MPCC Saturday, August 22.
- Fall Spiritual Retreat, Experiencing the Presence of God, Friday and Saturday September 26 & 27.



Seamark Ranch Youth Visit

The youth visited Seamark Ranch on Saturday, July 12th, to participate in a service project with other Jacksonville-area families. The Ranch opens its doors to the public once a month for service projects.

Back row from left: Barbara Ross, Doris Holloway, Becca Gillespie, Debbie L'Huillier (Girls House houseparent)

Front row from left: Rachael Gillespie, Jordan Gillespie, Riley Hall, and April Ross

Interfaith Dinner Network

"For I was Hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

Matt 25: 39

"The King will reply, I tell you the truth whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did for me."

Matt 25: 40

Just as promised in the last First Press we actually have a schedule for the Interfaith Dinner Network. We will begin in September preparing dinners at Hope House to serve the homeless and needy in our community.

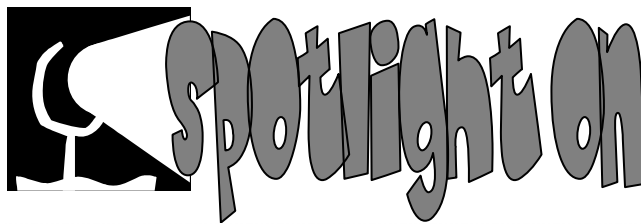
Dinners will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. and preparation will begin around 2:00 pm. The schedule follows:

- September 4th - St. Michaels Catholic
- September 9th - First Presbyterian
- September 11th - Memorial United Methodist Church
- September 16th - St. Peter's Episcopal
- September 18th - St Michael's Catholic
- September 23rd - First Presbyterian
- September 25th - Memorial United Methodist Church
- September 30th - St Peter's Episcopal

This is an opportunity for community outreach that our church has committed to and we will need church members who can give time to prepare and serve meals and to clean up after the meals.

If you can participate in this program on one or both of our days please contact Bill Erickson, Men of the Church, Gail Neiderhofer, Mission Committee or Marilyn Showalter, Presbyterian Women. Everyone in the church is invited to participate. We would also welcome monetary donations in order to purchase paper products, food, canned goods and staples.

Christian Education



Marilyn Flynn has been an over active member of the Christian Education Committee for the past two years. However, she has been working with children for much longer. Her expertise is vast and varied from baking brownies and breakfast casseroles to painting and repairs. She has a passion for organization and orderliness which she has tirelessly struggled to create and maintain in our various storage areas. But somebody keeps messing it up. (Oh my!) Her greatest assets are her winning smile, loving and generous heart and boundless energy for going above and beyond to produce quality and excellence in every endeavor. Marilyn has been in charge of our Children's Church program this year and has served as head bunny for our Palm Sunday and Easter Egg Hunts. We couldn't have managed our Christmas Camp and Pageants with out her clever costuming, crafts and special treats for the children! I believe Marilyn has served in VBS every year that she has been at FPC. She and John will be leaving us in a couple of months, and we are not happy about that!! John has been volunteered for a few activities that he may not have chosen for himself, but he served well, with a smile and gentle spirit. Way to serve, Marilyn and John Flynn!! I think I'm gonna cry! Don't go.....



Presbyterian Women News

All women of the church are invited to join a circle. There are morning, afternoon and evening circles. If you are interested in joining please contact Marilyn Showalter at 261-4885 or email showalter@bellsouth.net.



Four of our circles will be studying the New Horizons Bible Study "Jubilee" (a study of the Book of Luke). This is a look at healing the spiritually poor. We will begin the new Bible Study at our opening meeting on September 11, 2008 at 11:00. This will be a salad luncheon and all women are invited to see what's in store for the coming year. At our September meeting we will have our Thank Offering Dedication. In February 2008 Presbyterian Women approved grants totaling \$516,239.50 from the 2007 Thank Offering for twenty-eight projects all around the world. At least 40% of Thank Offering funds go to health related projects.

Family Night Mission Dinner

Wondering what your fellow church members have been up to this summer?

Come to a Family Night Dinner on Sunday, August 17th at 5:30 p.m. to hear about

the adult mission trip

to Matewan, West Virginia,

the senior high mission trip

to Taylorsville, Tennessee, and

the middle school Great Escape trip.

Reservations can be made by calling the church office by August 14th.

Please bring a vegetable, casserole or salad to feed a family of six.

Thanks to Membership Care who will provide the meat and the Mission Committee who will provide dessert.



Holiday Bazaar Coming Fast (October 31st and November 1st)

We hope everyone is enjoying the summer days in Fernandina Beach!! However, we also want to remind you that the Holiday Bazaar is just around the corner -- just three months!! Yikes!! We are gearing up for the upcoming workshops because we have a lot of work to do! We hope you are working on projects at home, too.

The Bazaar committee is requesting that if you know or patronize a business that would be willing to donate to our Silent Auction or Raffle, would you please request that item so that we can plan ahead. You may get these items to Phyllis Rouse or Bunny Selby. Also, as you thumb through our new cookbooks (and others) please begin to think about the goods you would like to bake. Some folks are even baking ahead and freezing because it does become a busy time....

Also, please mark your calendars for the following workshops. We need everyone's help and there is something for everyone to do!! All workshops are at the Rouse House. Please call 491-5202 for directions.

- August 7th, 10 a.m.
- August 19th, 1:00 p.m.
- August 28th, 10:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. Drop in (lunch will be available) Stay as long as you like!!

For those of you who plan ahead---

- September 8th, 10 a.m.
- September 16th, 10 a.m.
- September 24th, 1 p.m.
- September 30th, 10 a.m.



Flower Calendar

- August 3rd - Cynthia Sapp, Linda Love and Andy Allan in memory of their parents, Sarah and Andrew Allan, Jr.
- August 10th - Mike, Marsha, Nancy and Pam Daniel in loving memory of their mother, Anne.
- August 17th - In loving memory of Bob Turney from his family.
- August 24th - Mary Jo Griffin in loving memory of her husband, Ransom Griffin
- August 31st - Nelson and Marilyn Showalter in memory of their parents.

Enjoy the Last Days of Summer

At Ginnie Springs

The senior high and college-age youth will take a day trip to Ginnie Springs in High Springs, Florida on Saturday, August 2nd, where we will enjoy seven crystal-clear, freshwater springs nestled in over 200 wooded acres along the banks of the Santa Fe River in Florida.



We'll snorkel in the springs, tube down the Santa Fe River, and play volley ball. We'll leave at 8 a.m. from the Starbucks in Yulee and return at 6 p.m. Please have breakfast beforehand. We will grill out at the park for lunch.

Bring the gear you would need for a water park: sun screen, towel, swimsuit, snorkel and mask, float or tube, etc. Friends are invited. Cost for the trip is \$3 for youth up to 14 and \$12 for youth and adults over 14. Bring additional money to rent a snorkel and mask (\$5) or a tube (\$6 for single tube or \$12 for a double). RSVP to Doris Holloway by Thursday, July 31st so transportation and food can be arranged. A permission slip is also required for all those attending.

Dust off Your 80s Dance Moves

Youth and parents come dressed in your best (or worst) 80s attire and join us in the Anchor on Sunday, August 24th at 6 p.m. for an 80s party to kick off our Fall youth program. Snacks will be served under disco lights, as well as era-appropriate games. You'll hear about our plans for the Fall, and parents will complete information forms for their youth.



Middle Schoolers Glow in the Dark

Middle school youth and friends are invited to a glow in the dark lock-in on Saturday, August 2nd at the church.

- Arrive at the Anchor at 6 p.m. for pizza and a movie.
- Nick Clark will make a special presentation.
- After the movie, walk downtown and get ice cream. (Bring a couple of bucks for the ice cream.)
- Then play glow in the dark games, vampire, sardines, and other night games.
- Before lights out, we'll watch another movie.
- Rise and shine will be at 7 a.m. with pancakes.



Parents should pick up youth at 7:30 a.m. sharp! If your family is staying for the 8:30 a.m. service, bring your church clothes with you.

Attention Middle School Boys

Middle school boys are invited to participate in a retreat hosted by the Presbytery at Camp Montgomery on September 13th and 14th. For more information, check out the Presbytery website at <http://www.staugpres.org/Youth/index.htm>.

Communications Committee News

Contemporary Service Update

As we were going to press the construction of the new sound control booth was scheduled to begin in the Anchor. The new contemporary service that will begin this fall will require new equipment installed there to help support the new service format. This will include an automated scroll down screen, a ceiling mounted computer projector, a pair of ceiling mounted speakers, and a new laptop computer to handle the DVDs that will carry Pastor Holton's sermon to the new congregation. The space in the Anchor will be divided into two separate areas to accommodate both the new service, and the existing recreation area for the youth of the church.

Pastor Holton, will also be utilizing a portable digital camera to previously record his sermons, from his office, and sometimes on location around the island. The new electronic equipment will also support the musical instruments which are so much a part of the modern contemporary worship service.

This is an exciting development in the life of our church, and the Worship Committee, under the able direction of Charlotte Knight, is working very hard to help make this project a success.



Kids Say the Darndest Things

The Sunday school teacher was explaining the story of Elijah and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood on it, cut the steer into pieces, and laid it upon the altar. Then Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour them over the altar. "Now", said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour the water over the steer on the altar?" From the back of the class, a little girl piped up, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

Mathematics for the Faithful

A professor of mathematics uses the following to help answer three questions posed by a freshman student.



How can you have more than 100%?

What equals 100% in life?

How about achieving 101%?

Says he if:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z

Is represented as:

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

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K

$$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11=98\%$$

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

$$11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5=96\%$$

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E

$$1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5=100\%$$

L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D

$$12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4=101\%$$

Therefore, he concludes with mathematical certainty, that while Hard Work, & Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the Love of God that will put you over the top!

Thought for the Month

"Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger people. Do not pray for tasks equal to your power. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be the miracle"

Phillip Brooks, (1835-1893)



August @ 1st



1858

First Presbyterian Church — 150 years in the heart of Fernandina

2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule of Opportunities 8:30a Worship 9:30a Coffee 9:50a Sunday School & Adult Studies 11:00a Worship Nursery 8:15a-12:15p					1 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p	2 Senior High & College Youth Trip to Ginnie Springs 6p MS Youth Lock In
3 Good News Book Table during Coffee Break	4 6:15p Comm. Com. 6:30p Youth Comm.	5 9:30a Staff Mtg. 6:45p Mission Com	6	7 8a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 2:30p Pres.Women 4:00p C E mtg. 5:30p APNC	8 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p	9
10	11	12 Staff Retreat 10:00a Member Care 6:00p Property	13 5:30p Worship Committee	14 8a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 5:30p APNC	15 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p	16
17 COMMUNION 9:50a Theology on the Thirds-JTH 5:30p Family Mission Dinner	18 SCHOOL STARTS 5:30p Finance Mtg.	19 9:30a Staff Mtg. 5:00p Crop Walk Rally 5:45p Deacons 7:00p Session	20	21 8a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 5:30p APNC	22 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p	23 10:00a-2:00p Ministry Fair Set-up JTH
24 Ministry Fair 9-12:45 Jim Thomas Hall	25	26 9:30a Staff Mtg.	27 7:00p Choir	28 8a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 5:30p APNC	29 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p	30
31 RALLY DAY Children & youth 6:00p Halfway House Ministry					Phone: 904 261-3837 Fax: 904 261-0056 Email: churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com Web: www.1stpres-fb.com	

**IF WE UNDERSTAND
THE BAD NEWS, THEN
THE GOOD NEWS MAKES SENSE**

If we are honest with ourselves and hold the Ten Commandments up as a mirror and look at ourselves through them, we would agree with Paul who writes: "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. The Ten Commandments can be found in Deuteronomy 5:1-22 and also Exodus 20:1-17.

Are you ready for some bad news? "The wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23. When the Bible used the word death, it means hell and according to scripture, hell is a very real place. If we are all sinners, and the wages of our sin is death or hell, then what must we do to be saved?

The very best news in the whole world is found in Jesus: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16. If we first do not understand our sinful condition and the just penalty of our sins, we will never appreciate Jesus' love for us or why he died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. The truth is that without his sacrifice for us, we are all without hope. Jesus paid our sin debt in full in order to purchase for us a place in heaven which He offers as a gift.

Jesus will never force Himself on anyone. We have free will and can accept Jesus or not. Jesus said. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him." Revelation 3:20. Trusting that Jesus has paid the price for our sins, coupled with saying "thank you" in prayer to God, is the way to eternal life. Have you accepted God's gift for you?

The Evangelism Committee encourages all of us to learn to share God's plan of salvation with others. The sin of silence is a deadly sin. Watch for the upcoming class "Sharing Jesus Without Fear."

Sincerely,
Your friends from
the Evangelism Committee

First Café Opens In September

The menus for First Café have been planned with lots of yummy choices from roast beef to roasted chicken, lasagna to Asian pork tenderloin, tilapia, to smoked chicken, and beef stew to jambalaya. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or something similar will be available for children who don't like a particular evening's entrée choice.



First Café will offer several pricing options, and you can purchase a series of meals or pay by the meal.

Series of 11 First Café Dinners:

Adults/Youth--\$66.00 (\$6.00 x 11)

Children-- \$33.00 (\$3.00 x 11)
(11 and under)

Family--\$198.00 (\$18.00 x 11)

Weekly First Café Dinner: (with reservations)

Adults/Youth--\$7.00 each

Children--\$4.00 each (11 and under)

Family--\$22.00

Reservations may be made on a weekly basis by phoning the church office (261-3837) no later than Mondays at 4:30 p.m. A sign up sheet will also be available each week for the following First Cafe Dinner. Walk-ins will be charged \$1.00 extra per meal. The family rate without reservations will be \$25.00.

First Café will be open every Wednesday from 5:15 to 6:15, beginning on September 10th.

The fair is coming!

One Day Only

August 24, 2008

Jim Thomas Hall

9:30a.m.-12:45p.m.

Coffee Service

- August 3rd Youth
- August 10th - Mission
- August 17th - Personnel
- August 24th - Ministry Fair
- August 31st - Finance



Theology on the Thirds

A special treat for all adults, Dr. Siegling will be teaching the 3rd Sunday in August! Don't miss this great opportunity to learn from Dr. Siegling and one another as we all gather to grow in God's instruction.

Out of the Saltshaker

The Saltshaker Adult Sunday school class continues the 10-week study, "Amazing Grace: The History and Theology of Calvinism". If you've ever wondered about the things you've heard about Calvinism, or you're not quite sure what it is, this program is a perfect introduction. You are invited to join us at 9:50 a.m. on Sunday in our Jim Thomas Hall classroom.



"FOR I AM WITH YOU
TO RESCUE
AND SAVE YOU,"
DECLARES THE LORD.

JEREMIAH 15:20, NIV