



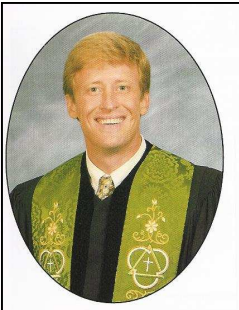
# First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

May 2008

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

## Looking Back While Moving Forward



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

Dear Friends,

At the Fannin County Hospital in North Georgia, ministers from the surrounding area take turns being chaplain for the week. It just so happened that on the occasion of a particular birth that minister Fred Craddock was on duty. When he arrived on the delivery floor

about nine o'clock in the morning, he saw people gathered around looking through the glass into the nursery. "What is it, boy or girl?" Craddock inquired.

"It's a girl." "What's her name?" "Elizabeth." "Well, is the father over here in this group?" "No." Craddock looked over to the area from where the voice came and saw a young man leaning against the wall. "I'm the father," he said. "I understand her name is Elizabeth." "Yeah." "She's a beautiful baby," Craddock said.

Elizabeth was in the newborn room squirming - you couldn't hear through the glass - but you could see that she was letting her nurses have it. Sensing that the father might be a little upset, Craddock said, "Now she's not sick. It's good for babies to scream and do all that. It clears out their lungs and gets their voices going. It's all right."

The father said, "Oh, I know she's not sick. She's just mad." "Well, why do you think she's so mad?" The father said, "Well, wouldn't you be mad? One minute you're with God in heaven, and the next minute

you're in Georgia."

"Well," Craddock said to himself, "I've got myself a real mountain Gnostic here on my hands. This guy's been reading too much Plato." He asked the father, "You believe she was with God before she came here?" The father said, "Oh, yeah!" "Well, do you think she will remember?" "Well, that's up to her mother and me. It's up to the church. We've got to see that she remembers, because if she forgets, she's a goner" (Craddock).

If the truth be known, it's really quite easy to forget that we are part of a story of faith which spans the whole of eternity. I am reminded of a particular time when the future of God's people was being realized in light of what had happened to them in the past (see Joshua 3:7-17). When God's children found themselves up against yet another watery barricade; and when they looked over at a future that seemed unattainable; and when they observed that the upstream waters of the Jordan River stopped their flow and piled up in a single heap; and when they walked across the dry ground, they remembered the past (cf. Exodus 14).

On Sunday, May 18, we will celebrate our church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and what a joy it is for us to prayerfully consider our present future in light of our rich history! For example, as we prepare for Shrimp Festival weekend, some of our members will be hosting one or more of the eight visiting international students sponsored by the Cross Cultural Network. For those who know our history well, this kind of hospitality may conjure

up memories of how our church literally functioned as a shelter for those in need. The *Florida Mirror*, in 1898, commended the Presbyterian Church for its "practical charity in maintaining a small hospital known as the Baraca (Baraca means "blessing" in Hebrew) where the sick and destitute received the best of care from the ladies belonging to this church."

During a recent conversation with George Geiger, we both laughed as he shared with me the story of our church's decision to add air conditioning; what a stir that idea initially caused! I'm filled with a sense of peace and awe as I consider how the Holy Spirit has blown in our midst and has guided us in such large and small scale decisions that the kingdom of God has prospered. Through the years, even when faced with difficult decisions about things which may not have seemed possible upon first glance, God has proven himself faithful. Therefore, should we find ourselves on the bank of life's watery barriers, through reflecting upon God's grace we can remember our past and be emboldened to live and trust and risk ourselves for Christ's sake, knowing that God has been and will always be with us.

Traditions are a special part of every church family; last weekend I was privileged to experience one of our most cherished. Susan King and Janine Cazell did a marvelous job at putting together what I understand to have been our 15<sup>th</sup> congregational retreat at Camp Montgomery. I learned that many of this year's participants have been going to Camp Montgomery for years upon years upon years. It was not uncommon to hear stories of previous sunburns and late nights along with near disasters in canoes and meaningful devotions, all of which added to an already rich legacy of fellowship in the Spirit.

When I look ahead to the Confirmation Class's joining the church on Sunday, May 11, I can't help but recall anew how the faith we possess today results from a great transmission of faith, indeed an apostolic witness from one generation to

another. How mightily we have been blessed by those who have gone before us and have seen fit to teach and share and give of themselves as the Lord has blessed them!

As God's children walked across dry ground for the second time, what went before them into the Promised Land was the ark (see Joshua 3:7-17). As the church called forth, we may not have an ark that symbolizes God's presence with us; but we do have several very important things which function in much the same manner, and we call them *means of grace*. Three practices through which God continues to remind us of the old and teach us the new are those of the reading and proclamation of God's Word, the observing the Sacraments of the church, and engaging in prayer.

Through the inward witness of the Holy Spirit, the Bible reveals to us the very mission of God and thus the mission of the church. Indeed, the only rules by which we can know how to live and love come from Scripture. Such a Scriptural rationale (see Matthew 25:31-46) has led the Ministerial Association of Nassau County to suggest to the churches in our area that they participate in a new initiative called the Interfaith Dinner Network.

The goal of this ministry is for churches to offer a hot meal to people of our community, particularly the homeless and low income families and individuals. Plans are being made for this feeding ministry to take place Mondays through Thursdays at the Hope House in Fernandina Beach. The goal at the start is to involve eight churches, which would serve two nights per month. While this activity would take a commitment on our part, it could be a powerful ministry. At this point, I would simply ask that anyone interested in helping to coordinate our efforts should please contact me.

Another way by which God communicates his love to us is through the Sacraments. Thanks to Susan Steger's research, it is apparent that in the earliest days of our church family the members of the Methodist Church were kind enough to let us use their facility to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with them. Therefore, on

## Pastor's Article, continued from page 2

Wednesday, March 19, 2008, as part of our ongoing 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, we commemorated that historical occasion by partaking in yet another joint Communion Service with our brethren from the Methodist Church.

Regarding prayer, John Bunyan once said, "You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until after you have prayed." Prayer is yet another way by which we come into God's presence and allow God to lead us into the future. By praying, we commit our care to God's care; we yield our desires to God's desires. Prayer enables us to belong more fully to God. And in doing so, we are increasingly aware of what God has done and continues to do, not only in our lives, but also in the life of the world.

To that end, I ask that you continue to keep the ministries of our church family in your prayers. Specifically, I invite you to pray for the members of the Member Care Committee and the Christian Education Committee as together they develop and make plans to provide a weekly Family Night supper and program set to begin next fall. I also invite you to pray for the members of our Worship Committee as they take seriously the maintenance of divine worship, especially the new contemporary service which we envision happening in the Anchor on Sunday mornings in the fall. Finally, I know that our two search committees covet your prayers as well.

It is by such seemingly ordinary means of grace that the story of our faith is engrafted into the fabric of our lives, and, as a result, we are better equipped to serve as companions in joy and counselors in perplexity. We must remember the creative, redemptive, and sustaining nature of God's story if we are to truly live into God's future, or, as the father of that little girl in North Georgia might say, "We've got to make sure we remember because if we forget, we're goners." May the Lord bless and keep us all!

In Christ's Service,  
Holton

## MOM,ME Playgroup

The MOM,ME Playgroup meets each Thursday morning in Noah's Place. New moms and children are continually joining. Last month we launched an e-newsletter specifically for this group of moms. If you would like to be added to the MOM,ME Chatter, call the church office with your name and email address. Sharon Scherer of our congregation is presenting ideas, instruction and resources once a month for about 15 minutes. Sharon will be sharing again on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30a.m. Yvonne Treska has taken on the role of hostess each Thursday morning to open Noah's Place and greet the moms and especially the babies. If you would like to spend a few minutes reading a story or holding a baby, we invite you to join us between 9:30 and 11 a.m.

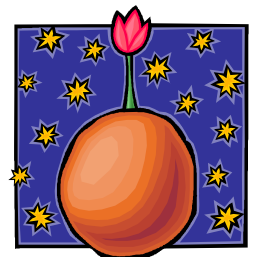
## Graduating Seniors

The Youth Committee will recognize graduating seniors on Sunday, June 1st at the 11:00 service. If you have a graduating senior, please contact Doris Holloway at 277-8366.



## Flower Calendar

- May 4<sup>th</sup> - (No Name)  
To the Glory of God
- May 11<sup>th</sup> - Jim Thomas in loving memory of his wife, Ann, her mother, Ms. Mae Walters, and his mother, Ms. Treatie Thomas.
- May 18<sup>th</sup> - Susan, Erica and Thomas Rodriguez in honor of Steven's graduation and his 18th birthday.
- May 25<sup>th</sup> - Ed and Joyce Mathews in loving memory of their son, Scott.



## \$ Finance Facts \$

*Did you know.....*

The 2008 Budget of \$797,000, compares with expected income of \$700,000. That's a shortfall of \$97,000, which we hope to cover from our savings. What's the money going for?

- Since 2005 (our most recent year with a full staff), Non-Personnel Expenses have grown \$66,000:
  - \$24,000 for Christian Education
  - \$14,000 for Communication
  - \$5,000 for Membership Care
  - \$4,000 for Finance/Insurance
  - \$3,000 for Worship and Choir
  - \$16,000 for Property Expenses
- Our historic buildings require upkeep, cleaning, and yard care; and the cost of utilities has increased.
- In Personnel, plans to add a Youth Director and Associate Pastor and eliminate the temporary Parish Associate by mid-2008, will increase Personnel Expense a net \$79,000 in 2008 and \$115,000 in 2009 compared with 2005, the year we last had a full staff.
- These increases would cause much more than a \$97,000 deficit, but your Session has with great regret cut Missions and our giving to the Presbytery/Synod/General Assembly by a combined \$49,000 to bring the deficit down to that level.

Please pray that your efforts and ours as "Ministers" fulfilling the Church's Calling (PCUSA Book of Order) to "tell the good news of salvation by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ as the only Savior and Lord" will be in line with and pleasing to the Lord. For we know that when we do His will, He supplies all that we need. In the words of missionary Hudson Taylor: "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies."

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

## The Journey of Life

Our spiritual journeys usually take us through several stages. Often it begins with questioning the existence of God or searching for answers to the purpose of life. From there, we may move on to some level of commitment - we embrace the teachings of Jesus or we become committed to Christian oral values, or being relational, we join a church. Perhaps we even become committed to serving others.

But we must move beyond intellectual belief, commitment to Christian ideas, or just joining a church. One becomes a Christian by commitment to Jesus Christ and the personal transformation He brings to one's life. It is through Jesus that we find the supernatural power we need in order to love ourselves and others.

C.S. Lewis described what it was like to decide to follow Jesus after toying with atheism. "Remember, I had always wanted, above all things, not to be 'interfered with.' I had wanted (mad wish) 'to call my soul my own.'" But now what had been an ideal became a command.....Total surrender, the absolute leap into the dark, were demanded....The demand was not even 'All or nothing.'.....Now, the demand was simply, 'All.'

You must picture me alone in that room at Oxford, night after night, feeling the steady unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In 1929, I gave in, admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed; perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.

The Prodigal Son at least walked home on his own feet. But who can duly adore that Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance to escape.....The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men....."

(From Surprised by Joy.)

He invites us all: "Come, follow me."

Your Evangelism Committee

## 2008 Confirmation Class



Back row: Larry Williams, Riley Hall, Jake Foley, Becca Gillespie, Jordan Gillespie, Rhett Burford

Front row: Jena Foley, McKenna Williams, Kara Rose, Connor Holland

### Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday will be celebrated on Pentecost, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Christian Education Committee will host the candidates and their families for breakfast with the Session at 10:00a.m. in Jim Thomas Hall. Confirmation will be during the 11:00a.m. Worship Service. Please keep in prayer these young people who step forward to take their chosen place among the full membership of First Presbyterian Church. God Bless them and their families as they move forward on their spiritual journey of faith.

The candidates for Confirmation, class of 2008, are: Rhett Burford, Jake Foley, Jena Foley, Jordan Gillespie, Riley Hall, Connor Holland, Kara Rose, and McKenna Williams.



*The Shrimp Festival is May 4th. There will be only one Worship Service - at 8:30 a.m and no Sunday School. Come to the 8:30 service dressed casually so you can go to the Shrimp Festival afterwards.*

### Adult Sunday School Classes

#### *Schedule Changes*

The Saltshaker Adult Sunday School class will not meet on May 4<sup>th</sup> because of the Shrimp Festival. On May 11<sup>th</sup> we will conclude the series Faith Under Fire. We will not meet on May 18<sup>th</sup> due to the anniversary celebration reception between services. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, we will start a new series, Reformation Overview. This DVD study will vividly bring to life the Reformation, its colorful leaders, and history-shaping turning points. Please join us to learn about the faithful and brave people who shaped the reformation and our Presbyterian faith. We meet in Jim Thomas Hall at 9:50 am.

The Christian Living Sunday school class will not met during the month of May. However, we'll resume again Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. We'll begin a new study for the summer focusing on I and II Thessalonians as we learn more about Paul's letters to the Christians at Thessalonica. If you'd like a study book, contact Jayne Conkin (261-0346). See you this summer!



## Great New Restaurant

*A new restaurant is opening in town-your town!*



Beginning in September, you will have your very own dinner diner on Wednesday evenings. First Café will be the place to gather with family and friends for delicious food (very reasonably priced), activities for children and youth after dinner, as well as a special time of learning and sharing for adults with our pastor. So plan now to enjoy dinner at First Pres Wednesdays in the fall. No need to plan, cook or prepare, just come and relax. However, there are volunteer opportunities for those with the gift of pot washing, table setting or trash disposal. There may even be on the job training for any who would like to become a chef's assistant. If you can chop, slice, sprinkle, stir or spread, you have real potential in the food prep industry. Talk to Bunny Selby, Chair of Membership Care, about your career opportunities at First Café.

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## MAC's

(Mature Adult Christians over 55)

### ANNUAL LOW COUNTRY BOIL & Nomination of new Officers

Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30a.m.

Jim Thomas Hall

Price \$ 12.00

Reservations by Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

261-3837

Last meeting until September



## The Horizon of Life and Beyond

For everything there is a season - a time to be born and a time to die. - Ecclesiastes 3:1-2. God has given us this promise as part of His plan for us. We need to be able to understand death as part of life and to understand our belief in eternal life as part of the process.

First Presbyterian Church is planning to host a series of seminars early in 2009 dealing with end-of-life issues. Sessions will address attitudes toward death and dying as well as ways to approach this part of life and the lives of our loved ones from a faith perspective as well as a practical one. The plan is to incorporate in these seminars qualified professionals to speak on issues such as wills, trusts, endowments, necessary papers and finances.

The seminar topics will also include the various aspects of long term care, making funeral arrangements, coping with grief and discovering the path through loss all with a faith based orientation that reminds us that there is no greater gift than Christ gave us on the cross.

*Check out the church web site for a video stream of Doris Davis re-enacting the role of a 1940's Sunday School teacher in the sanctuary.*

## 150th Celebration Confirmed Guests!

*How excited we are to know that special guests will join us for our May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations.*

We hope you can come to meet or welcome the following former ministers and families. The family of Reverend William Moreau, the family of Reverend Raymond Wickersham, the Reverend John Thompson and his wife Marian, the Reverend John Harland and his wife Suzanna, and the Reverend Doctor Conrad Sharps and his family.



## History of the FPC in Fernandina 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration

In the 1920's, stain glass windows were installed in our sanctuary. Andy Allan and Cynthia Sapp gave me a copy of a letter written by their grandfather to Countess Pugny in Paris asking if she might be interested in giving money for a window. The letter is written on A S Allan stationery, and for those of you new to our area, Allans was Fernandina's department store from 1902 to 1985. Some of us remember their tag line as the Best Store for the rich, and good store for the poor. This stationery uses the tag line "The Big Store with Little Prices." A notation on the letterhead indicates, "Strictly for Cash".

Dated - 1928

My dear Countess:

I have not forgotten the generous contributions made by you to the First Presbyterian Church of Fernandina, in the past. The interior of the church is now being completely renovated and handsome memorial windows being installed. It naturally occurred to me that you would like to have one of these windows. They are handsome and have as usual an inscription plate at the bottom with such inscription in the glass as you may wish. They cost \$125 each. All have been taken, with the exception of 3, and they I am sure will be taken very soon. I am however holding one for you and would be pleased to know your wishes at your early convenience.

Awaiting the pleasure of your early response, I beg leave to remain, most sincerely yours A.S. Allan.

Submitted by Andy Allan and  
Cynthia Sapp

*Church Financial Statements are available in the Deacon's Box at the Deacon's Prayer Table in the folder marked "Financial Statements" every Sunday. Pick up a copy during Coffee Hour."*

## Presbyterian Men



Presbyterian Men will meet Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, in Jim Thomas Hall at 6:30 p.m. Our speaker will be Jim Tippins. Jim is the Senior Chaplain for Baptist Hospital, and the first full-time chaplain for Baptist Hospital, Nassau.

Prior to coming to Baptist Hospital, Jim served as the pastor of the Summit Heights Baptist Church, Easley SC. During Jim's 18 years at Summit Heights he was involved in mentoring over 30 young people into seminary or ministry and is recognized by the Fund for Theological Education (2004) and by Southern Seminary (2000) as a Mentoring Pastor. He has been active in establishing several benevolence ministries, hospital chaplain training centers, and pastoral care, counseling centers. Jim is also trained as a crisis responder. He has published many sermons, dramas, articles and guides to creative worship services.

Jim is a native of Brunswick, GA, and is a graduate of West Georgia College, Carrolton GA, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. The meeting consists of a catered meal (\$10), devotion and our speaker.

## More Than Just Books

The FPC Library is not just books! Located on the shelves in the Underwood room, you will find many audio and visual items. There are books on tape as well as DVDs and CDs. Religions of the World is a DVD that consists of six 50-minute discs highlighting the six major world religions. Each of these is informative as well as being visually stunning. This reviewer certainly learned some previously unknown facts about Protestantism. You will also find on the shelves in this room current and back issues of Horizons magazine and a growing number of study aids. Check it out!



**Pearl Von Balson** moved to Fernandina Beach in 2000 from Jacksonville. She works part-time at Amelia Island Plantation at the Spa. She has one son, two daughters, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. They all live in the Jacksonville and Kingsland, GA area, which makes it nice to be able to spend time with them. She enjoys her quilting group at Fernandina Shores where she lives. She also enjoys walking on the beach and collecting shells. She has moved her membership from North Shore Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville.

**Marlyne Clark** and her husband Russ moved to Fernandina Beach in 2005. She is the attorney for Nassau County Sheriff's office. She is a new mom! Their son Sam will be baptized in our sanctuary on April 27.

**Jane and Bob Holmes** moved here from Vero Beach in November of last year. They have a son who lives in Fernandina Beach and a daughter in Dallas. They are blessed with two grandsons and three great granddaughters. Both Jane and Bob enjoy golf.

### Special Gift Opportunity

Many of us are grateful to individuals who have impacted our lives and who have played a significant role in the life of First Presbyterian Church. An opportunity is available to those who wish to recognize these individuals during our May 18<sup>th</sup> worship service.

The option to donate (tax deductible) to the Endowment Fund is still available. Please call the church office, prior to Monday morning May 12<sup>th</sup> if you wish to make a contribution.

### Good News Table

There will not be a Good News table on Shrimp Festival weekend. Watch for more new titles the first Sunday in June.

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend

May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

*Picnic, Hymn Sing, and Worship Service*

The highlight of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is fast approaching! We look forward to welcoming former pastors and their families, enjoying good fellowship, worshiping together, and giving thanks for our many blessings.

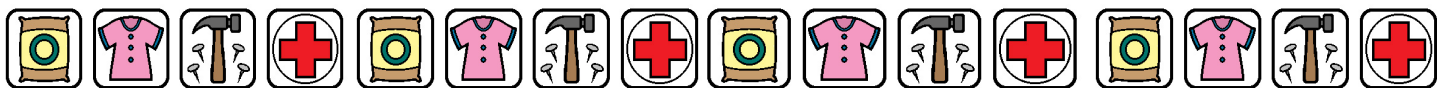
Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., we will gather at Maxwell Hall/Methodist Church (across the street from Jim Thomas Hall) for an "All Church Picnic". Master grill, Dale Burford promises delicious hamburgers and hotdogs for all to enjoy.

Following our picnic, we will proceed to the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church for an "Old Fashion Hymn Sing". Stephen Noden has gathered up some favorite hymn requests, and he will be leading us in song. Nursery open for hymn sing. Our traditional worship service schedule will be followed on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The Rev Dr L. Holton Siegling Jr will officiate. A reception will be held between services.

## YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

- ★ Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. No youth group meetings because of Shrimp Festival
- ★ Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Middle and sr. high youth meet at church at 6 p.m. for youth group meetings. High school youth will have a Video Scavenger Hunt.
- ★ Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Middle school youth meet at church at 6 p.m. High school youth meet at Peter's Point for a beach party.
- ★ Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Middle school youth meet at church at 6 p.m. High school youth meet in the kitchen after church for the Ronald McDonald House service project.





## Adult Mission Trip to West Virginia

Plans continue for our exciting adventure to Matewan WV, June 23<sup>rd</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> when we will be spreading the Good News of Jesus to one of the poorest counties in the nation. There are still two spaces left, so join us and take a Summer Vacation with Christ to the beautiful Smoky Mountains. There are opportunities for construction/repair, painting, cooking, stocking the Food Pantry, folding and sorting clothes for the Clothes Closet, preparing Gift Baskets, singing, helping with Kids activities, etc. Call the church office or pick up an information/registration sheet in JTH.

If you can't go, you can still be part of this wonderful ministry by bringing in items for First Aid kits for the seven work crews, solid white or light colored t-shirts and fabric paint pens for the Kids Crafts, Walmart Gift Cards and food/toiletries for Gift Baskets, and Facing the Giants DVD to give out with a Christ-centered brochure and listing of the Sunday Service schedules of the Matewan Ministerial Association churches. For those unfamiliar with this DVD (written and produced for the big screen by a youth pastor and church in Albany, GA!), it is a wonderfully uplifting story of the down-and-out coach of a down-and-out football team that challenges us to have faith in the face of long odds and align our priorities with God's. We will also be giving Jesus Videos as gifts (high quality movie of life of Jesus according to Gospel of Luke).

Donate any items on the list below by placing them in the receptacle in Jim Thomas Hall or by bringing them to the church office:

- First Aid Kits (\$5-\$20 at Walmart and other stores)
- Facing the Giants DVDs (about \$15 at Walmart, Kmart, Amazon, or \$12 in bulk directly from
- [www.providentministryresources.org](http://www.providentministryresources.org))
- Jesus Film Video or DVD (videos \$7.95 each or DVDs \$6.50 each in case lots from <http://www.jesusfilmstore.com/>)
- Kids' Craft: Kids' plain t-shirts in light colors or white (any size); Fabric paint markers
- Food And Toiletries Gift Bags:
- Walmart Gift Cards - any amount
- Spaghetti and Sauce
- Canned chicken
- Canned tuna, pickles, mayo
- Canned vegetables
- Instant potatoes
- Mac & Cheese
- Coffee, creamer, sugar
- Pancake mix & syrup
- Oatmeal, cream of wheat
- Mixes: muffins, brownies, cornbread, etc.
- Crackers: saltines, goldfish, graham
- Snack bars
- Shampoo and Lotion
- Soap & washcloths
- Toothbrush, toothpaste
- Band-Aids



# VBS June 16-20

Register online through June 8th

[www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/1stpresbyterian](http://www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/1stpresbyterian)

Volunteer positions are still available.

questions? 261-3837

## 2 Cents A Meal

On Mother's Day, Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Mission Committee is going to share with the church a new ministry in which all of us can participate without going anywhere. Many of you may have already been a part of 2 Cents A



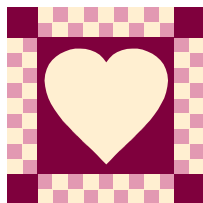
Meal at another church where you worshiped. Each family will receive a 2 Cents A Meal container (which formerly held tennis balls) to take home and place on your dining table. Please place 2 cents in the container for each member of the family, at each meal. The wonderful part of the containers is that they are transparent so you can see the money grow.

The money we collect each quarter will help fund the Mutual Mission with Jamaica, begun in 1979, as a new way of doing mission. Instead of sending missionaries, we could mutually resource each other. In joint meeting, each partner would share needs and resources, setting the goals to be attained together.

In the beginning, we focused on agricultural needs in Jamaica, such as providing better coffee plants and supplying chickens and cows, and also on the job training for young adults. In Florida we engaged in community development in rural Alachua County and the urban center of Jacksonville. In recent years, the emphasis has changed to undergirding medical and dental services to the rural poor and to helping provide pastoral counseling. The program has been so successful that it has expanded into Cuba as well.

### Wanted

Experienced quilters to join our Baby Quilt project. We need a few clever, willing people to meet the increasing number of Baptism quilts given. Please call Jane Turney at 261-2519.



## First Presbyterian Mission News

Gifts donated recently in memory of Ed Strobach, longtime member and dedicated worker at First Presbyterian Church, have been forwarded to Barnabas Center by his wife Marlene, specifically for use by Barnabas Chaplain, Roland Knight. Ed was for years a worker and a member of the Board of Barnabas, with a special passion for local mission work. Roland plans to use the money to help launch The Promised Land, a new mission on the island which helps young Hispanics learn English for their work and find Christ. These young people plan to work a short time, saving their wages, and return to their native countries to help their families, and share Christianity.

### Presbytery Mission News

- Medical Mission: Each year in June, doctors, nurses and dentists travel to Jamaica to treat well over a thousand patients in need. The next trip is June 15<sup>th</sup> - June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.
- Dental-Only Mission : Each January a group of dental professionals (dentists, hygienists, assistants) spend a week-long mission in Jamaica providing dental work, cleanings, and dentures. The next rip is January 2009 (tba).
- Youth Exchange: A joint youth exchange between US American and Jamaican youth is held during the summer. The entire group spends a week in mission in each country. The next trip is July 9<sup>th</sup> - July 23rd, 2008.
- Barnabas Center has received a \$4000 grant from St. Augustine Presbytery to help pay for the nurse who manages the very busy Samaritan Dental Clinic which serves the dental needs of those in our county who do not have the money to pay for dental care. The grant money is especially valuable, according to Executive Director and grant writer, Susan Holden-Dodge, because few grants cover staffing needs.

## Presbyterian Women News

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook "Celebrating Our Roots" is on sale now between services. They make great gifts for just about everyone. The PW wishes to thank the congregation and friends who submitted recipes for the cookbooks.



Also thanks to Nancy Inboden, Marilyn Showalter, Georgette Giles, Eunice Kurtz, Anita Gardiner, Bunny Selby who served on the committee and Carolyn Guerrin who served as chairman and also did the huge job of typing all of the recipes and putting the cookbook together. We also offer a special thanks to Karen McFadyen for the cover picture and Ed Mathews for the pictures on the divider pages and to Susan Steger for searching for some of the pictures. Along with the cookbooks we will be selling celebration ornaments for \$20 and celebration note cards with drawings by Karen McFadyen for \$5.00. You can shop around between services and get some wonderful momentos of the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration.

The "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" bazaar committee has been hard at work working on various projects at Phyllis Rouse's house. Everyone is invited to participate. If you would like to know workshop dates contact your circle leader or call Phyllis. The Bazaar committee is also collecting Christmas Past items (regifted or unused) and old Christmas Ornaments or decorations. You may drop them off in the PW box in Jim Thomas Hall.

### April Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings

- Elizabeth Circle - May 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., Jim Thomas Hall
- Esther Circle - May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m., Peggy Smelt-Day's home
- Hannah Circle - May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m., Eddie Lou Featherston's home
- Lydia Circle - April 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 p.m., Joy Drewry's home (time change)
- Martha Circle - May 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., Barbara Cleland's home
- Ruth Circle - April 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., Caroline Tunkel's home

Attention:

Ladies of the Church

You Are Invited to Attend

The Presbyterian Women's Spring Fling  
Celebrating the Birthday Offering and It's  
Missions

Sunday, June 1, 2008

At

4:00 pm

at

First Presbyterian Church of Fernandina  
Beach

Jim Thomas Hall

Come Join Us and Bring a Friend!

Please bring a donation

for the West Virginia Mission Project:

Staples, such as Peanut Butter,

Mac/Cheese, Oatmeal,

crackers, etc.

## Cross Cultural Mission

Founded in 1984, the Association of Presbyterians for Cross-cultural Mission (APCM) is a network of Presbyterians with cross-cultural experience and commitment to affirm the gifts, calling, and vocations of persons in cross-cultural ministry; explore past, present and future mission theology and practice; facilitate mission advocacy with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); support the professional development of mission workers; and assist mission workers relocating in the United States.

APCM provides an e-mail newsletter that is a forum for the ongoing discussion of the meaning and goals of cross-cultural mission within the diversity represented in the PCUSA. To subscribe, visit <http://www.missionpastor.org/links.htm>

From PCUSA Worldwide

# Communications Committee News

## New Name Tags

On Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, we will unveil the new name tag storage boards that have been installed in Jim Thomas Hall. Each member of the congregation will have a new magnetic style name tag, displayed in alphabetical order, and the boards are the place to store them for use each Sunday, and at other church events. Storing them in church will make it easier for all of us to know where they are, and to keep them from being lost or mislaid as we go about our busy lives.



The purpose of the new tags is to make it easier for us all to recognize other members, and to facilitate Pastor Siegling's memory as he learns to recognize us all by name. We will also have a supply of name tags marked "visitor" and this, too, will help us in welcoming the many visitors to our church.

## Kids Say the Darndest Things

A recent note from our former minister brought the following story. His five-year old daughter noticed that before starting his sermon he always paused and bowed his head for a moment. One day she asked him why he did this. He was proud that his daughter had noticed this, and so he said to her, "Honey, I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." She quickly responded, "How come He doesn't do it?"

## First Press by E-Mail

Several folks have signed up to have the First Press sent to them via their e-mail. If you wish to follow suit, please send an e-mail to Charlie Monroe who is managing the e-mail list. He can be reached at [charlie@digitalvillager.net](mailto:charlie@digitalvillager.net)

## Creed for Living

A colleague of mine from our days on the faculty at Cornell University is now living out a long time dream of living in, and learning about the culture and culinary arts of Cambodia. He sent me a very moving letter in which he recounted attending services in a Christian Church in Phnom Penh.

As part of his sermon, the minister in the church set forth the following list, which he described as a creed for living.

- Don't underestimate your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special
- Don't set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you.
- Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them, life is meaningless.
- Don't let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future. By living your life one day at a time, you will live all the days of your life.
- Don't give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.
- Don't be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.
- Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love is to give love; the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly; and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.
- Don't dismiss your dreams; to be without dreams is to be without hope; to be without hope is to be without purpose.
- Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each and every step of the way.

## Coffee Service

- May 4<sup>th</sup> - No coffee hour (Shrimp Festival)
- May 11<sup>th</sup> - Esther Circle
- May 18<sup>th</sup> - 150th Celebration - All Circles
- May 25<sup>th</sup> - Hannah and Worship



## All Church Picnic Reservations

Please make your reservation for the All Church Picnic scheduled for Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. by Monday morning, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Simply call the church office or send an e-mail to [churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com](mailto:churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com)

