



First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

September 2008

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

Learning to Live in Faith



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

Dear Friends,

Sitting around a breakfast table with a few friends, a man suddenly realized that he had yet to be served any coffee. "Why did everyone else get coffee and I have not?" he asked. A friend responded, "You have to turn your cup over so that the server will pour you some!" To live in faith

is to position ourselves for God's grace, to turn our lives over to God, and to allow God to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit. Just two weeks ago we celebrated our first ever Ministry Fair! In addition to experiencing energy and joy, we assumed a posture of grace and explored how God could use us and through His grace bless us.

Service sometimes comes in the form of leadership. From Sunday, September 7th, through Sunday, September 21st, our church's nominating committee will solicit from you the names of those individuals who you feel are well suited to serve as Elders and Deacons. Incidentally, the Session has decided that the new Elders and Deacons will assume the duties of their office at the turn of the year instead of early spring so as to allow them to get started and have input into their respective committee's budget.

As I look at this year's budget, I sense that we are continuing to trust in God's abundant generosity and are living out of the strength of that abundance. It is good to see that our giving to date is greater than antici-

pated, and expenses are presently lower than budgeted. Should these trends continue, our 2008 total contributions may exceed those of any other year and possibly allow for a shorter deficit timeline than first thought. How grateful we are that God has richly blessed us with all that we need and more!

A member of our finance committee recently remarked, "Our financial situation is not typical of our economy." Indeed, in the nightmares of life God comes to us in our dreams and whispers promise and hope to our hearts; and when the world seems to hesitate for fear, God calls to us, "Come, we've work to do."

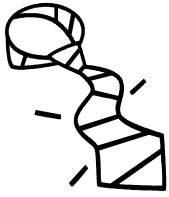
When you consider how our search committees continue to seek out both a Director for Youth and Families as well as an Associate Pastor and then reflect on how the Property Committee continues to assess and prioritize certain renovations associated with the Manse, it is easy to see that we have a great deal of work ahead of us to do. We, however, must also recognize the need to live boldly into God's future with our mission giving, thereby, as it were, turning our cup over to receive from the One who wishes to fill it to overflowing.

I love the way Jude ends his letter, "Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of His glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

In Christ's Service,

Ugly Tie Contest

And the winner is Clay Treska!



It was a pretty close race at the Ministry Fair Presbyterian Men's Booth, but the judges' decision was unanimous that Clay Treska owns the Ugliest Tie in Fernandina, maybe all of Florida. Roger Martin was proud to present the beautiful trophy to the first winner of FPC's Ugly Tie Contest. Clay will have the pleasure & distinction of displaying the trophy at his home until next year when the losers of this year's competition will have another chance to seize the coveted trophy! Thanks to all who participated in this year's contest including the Presbyterian women who chose the winner. Be on the lookout for next year's ugly tie!!!!



MAC is back



After a three-month hiatus, **MACs** (Mature Adult Christians) are back and better than ever with an interest filled year ahead including trips to Jax, St Mary's and Colquit, GA. Excitement is building with fun for all as we present our first Talent Show in the spring. Come along and join this band of merry makers as we fellowship, share good food, laugh and enjoy life together.

The Kick off Luncheon for the 2008-2009 MACs will be held at Bonitos Restaurant on Centre Street Thursday, September 18th, at 11:30 a.m. Call the church office with your reservation by September 11th.

There will be several delicious entrees to select from in addition to Bonitos' most popular Bento Box with choice of fish, chicken or shrimp. Catch up with old friends and meet someone new as we discover people and places with a spirit of adventure and curiosity. Bring a friend!!



The Worship Committee did not monkey around decorating the BEST BOOTH at the Ministry Fair. The singing banana pushed them over the top with the judges. The entire Worship Committee will be treated to PIZZA at their next Worship Committee meeting! Hurry and join the committee before they meet again and enjoy the fruits of their labor!! Congratulations to all committees/ministries who made our 1st Ministry Fair a tremendous success! What fun It was to see all of you there! First Presbyterian is MORE than you realized!! Sincere thanks to Joyce and Ed Mathews and Bill Wade for manning the kitchen which was swamped with hungry, thirsty, fair goers and to Ben Cazell, the funnel cake KING, for providing all of the equipment, supplies and manpower for those delicious funnel cakes!



RALLY DAY August 31st

**GO FOR THE GOLD ON RALLY DAY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST
GAMES-MEDALS-FOOD & FUN**

- ★ **YOUTH** in the ANCHOR
- ★ **K-5** in Jim Thomas Hall
- ★ **PRESCHOOL-NOAH'S PLACE**

Meet your Coaches, have some fun, take home a prize! On your mark—Get Set—GO!

Experiencing the Presence of God A Spiritual Retreat

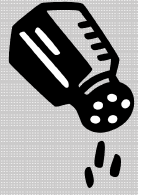
September 26 - 27, 2008

A spiritual retreat focused on experiencing the presence of God in everyday life will take place at Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center. Participants will gather at 6 p.m. for dinner on Friday night followed by an opportunity to share experiences in community and worship. On Saturday there will be structured time to learn about various spiritual practices and to experience them first hand. There will also be time for individual prayer and reflection as well as informal conversation with other retreat participants. For more information, check out the following link on the Presbytery of St. Augustine website:

http://www.staugpres.org/Events/spirituality_retreat.htm

Out of the Saltshaker

The Saltshaker Adult Sunday school class will resume the study: *Amazing Grace: The History and Theology of Calvinism* on September 7th. ". 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.



Join the Crop Hunger Walk

To Fight World Hunger

On Saturday, October 25th, at 9 a.m. the annual CROP Hunger Walk will take place. Each year, nationwide, more than 2,000 CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walks are sponsored by Church World Service, an international humanitarian aid organization.



Funds raised by walkers (who seek donations from supporters) are used to fight hunger around the world, including the U.S.; 25% of the money remains in our community. Join walkers from other local churches in this wonderful ecumenical opportunity—people from different faiths walking together to help those in dire need.

Walkers will meet at First Presbyterian Church and travel from the corner of 6th and Centre to Fletcher Ave. and back, about three miles—or any distance in between. Call CROP Walk Coordinator Terri Cunningham (261-7300) to sign up!

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. Check out the Presbytery website at <http://www.staugpres.org/Youth/index.htm>.

\$ Finance Facts \$

Did you know.....

Many of us will soon be going through the annual discipline of prayerfully listening for what God is saying to us about our (His!) resources. How much of God's riches, temporarily entrusted to us, does He want us to dedicate to the work of the church in 2009? If we are not yet tithing, is this the year to take that leap of faith? While many plan for this annual exercise, much as we plan ahead for mortgage payments, car payments, tuition payments, insurance costs, etc., some of us wonder, "WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH THESE PLANNED 'ESTIMATES OF GIVING'?" Isn't it enough just to give to the church as we are able, or put something in the offering plate whenever we attend? Why all the hoopla about filling out a little white card?

As with many things in God's economy, planned giving benefits ALL those involved. The Individual benefits from the exercise of making a COMMITMENT to the Lord...it forces us to "be still" and listen for God's direction, and to consider and deepen our level of trust in Him, faithfulness to Him, and understanding of His good plan for what he has entrusted to us. The Church benefits because planned "Estimates of Giving" are essential to make sound decisions and budgets

for the following year. God shows us many times in the Bible that He is a God of order, and He does things in a planned and very organized and detailed manner! Just read the many pages devoted to His instructions on building the Tent of Meeting and Ark of the Covenant...or the history of Creation in Genesis! Knowing how much income to expect helps your Session plan to meet essential expenses in an orderly manner, and decide how much can be spent on activities, ministries, improvements, etc. Similarly, if your employer told you that, no matter how hard or how well you worked, you would never know whether or when you would receive a paycheck or how much it might be, orderly living would be a chore!

Planned "Estimates of Giving" are valuable and helpful!

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, \$2770 of your tithes and offerings were used to purchase equipment to prepare the Anchor to accommodate the new Contemporary Service.

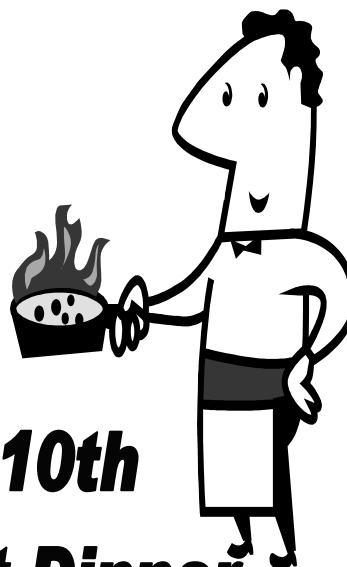
AS OF JULY 31, 2008	
JULY ACTUAL GIVING: \$ 61,350	ACTUAL GIVING YTD: \$ 430,094
JULY AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: 277	ACTUAL GIVING YTD VS GIVING NEEDED TO BALANCE THE BUDGET: 98%
MONTHLY NEED FOR 2008: \$66,417	

Fall Youth Programs Begin

Fall Youth programs resume on Sunday, September 14th from 6 to 7:30 p.m.. Both middle school and senior high youth will begin a six-week program on the parables of Jesus. This year's leadership lineup includes Roger Martin, Moira Sager, and Carolyn and Todd Lockhart leading senior high, and Becca Gillespie, Lew Reaves, John Cazell, and Doris Holloway leading middle school.

1st
GRAND OPENING

CAFE



SEPTEMBER 10th

Wednesday Night Dinner

5:15 - 6:15p

Jim Thomas Hall

6:15 - 7:00p

~Nursery & Preschool

~POWER LAB for kids

~Youth Small Groups

~Pastoral Forum for Adults

7:00 p.m

Adult Choir Rehearsal

Four ways to participate:

- **pay in advance for the series of 11 dinners**
- **call in your reservation to the church office each week by Monday @4:30p.m.**
- **sign up at dinner each week for the following dinner**
- **pay at the door \$1.00 more without reservations**



First Presbyterian Church

“A caring congregation nurturing spiritual growth and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ”

1st CAFÉ Wednesday Night Dinners 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

September 10:

Roast Beef

September 17:

Roasted Chicken

September 24:

Lasagna

October 1:

**Asian Pork tenderloin
w/stir fried vegetables**

October 8:

Broiled Tilapia

October 15:

Pork Roast

October 22:

Smoked Chicken

October 29:

Beef Stew

November 5:

Pasta w/meatballs

November 12:

Roasted Turkey breast

November 19:

Jambalaya

PB & J for the kids if they so desire!

1st CAFÉ RESERVATIONS

Series of 11 Wednesday Night 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)

Please complete a reservation form below indicating the # of family members. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian.

Weekly 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 **Monday** at 4:30 PM. A sign up sheet will be available each week for the following Wednesday Dinner. Walk-ins without reservations will be charged \$1.00 extra per meal. The family rate without reservations will be \$25.00.

Name: _____

of Adults/Youth: _____

of children: _____

Family reservation: _____
(please indicate number of adults and children)

Presbyterian Women News

Hooray!!! It is time for the Presbyterian Women to begin a new year and a new Bible Study. On September 11, 2008 at 11:00 am The Presbyterian Women will have a Salad Luncheon with an introduction to the Bible Study that is "Jubilee" (A study of the Book of Luke) and we will have the dedication of the Thank Offering. 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.

All women in the church are invited to attend this luncheon. If you will be attending please bring a salad to share and if possible call the church office and make a reservation so that we will know how to plan our set up.

If you are interested in joining a circle you may talk to circle leaders at the luncheon or you may call Marilyn Showalter, 261-4885.



Holiday Bazaar Update (October 31st and November 1st)

Now, we are down to about seven weeks before the bazaar. We hope you are creating items at home to donate along with planning what you will bake for the goodie table. Also, your help is greatly needed at the workshops. We are a little behind so more hands will make the task lighter and the fun shared by more!! You will also get more information if you can join us at the Women's Luncheon on September 11th and through the ladies' circles. However, if you are not a member of a circle, please feel welcome to join us. We need everyone's help. All workshops are held at the Rouse Home. For directions, please call Phyllis at 491-5202.

September workshop dates are:

- 8th -- 10:00 a.m.
- 16th-- 10:00 a.m.
- 24th-- 1:00 p.m.
- 30th-- 10:00 a.m.

October workshop dates are:

- 6th -- 9:00 a.m.
- 13th - 9:00 a.m.
- 20th - 9:00 a.m.
- Week of 27th -- Mon. -- Thurs. Set Up -- All Hands Please

We hope you will join us as much as possible!!

Dinner and a Movie

Middle school and senior high youth meet in the Anchor on Friday, September 12th at 6:30 p.m. for Dinner and a Movie. We plan to do this on the second Friday of each month.

Come watch a movie, eat pizza, and participate in a discussion of the movie afterwards.



Barbara Pezzulo moved from Cleveland to West Palm Beach 28 years ago. Three years ago she moved to FB due to her work as a Trust Advisor with Wachovia. She enjoys reading and cross stitching.

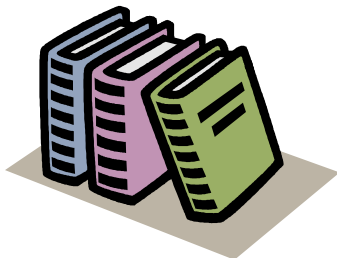
Susan Ryder has lived in FB three years. Her son Tyler McPeek spoke Japanese at our Pentecost Service. Her hobbies are volunteering at the Nassau Medical Center and the Adult Day Care Center.

Tom & Martha Hannan lived in VA for 35 years. Martha has retired from the Federal Government and Tom from Exxon. They have four children and four grandchildren and live in North Hampton. Tom is now a land developer.

Anna B. Clark was a member of Raiford Presbyterian Church of Raiford, NC, for many years. While a member there she taught at one time or another almost every class. She enjoys reading, and is considering taking up painting

FPC Library News Sept. 2008

The FPC library has taken a bit of a summer break. We're back up to speed with 38 new titles – everything from scholarly works to Christian fiction to children's books. Look for a survey to be coming your way in the next several months to assess what you want from your church library.



Meanwhile a series for your consideration is called the For Today Series. The For Today Series provides reliable and accessible resources for the study of biblical texts, theological documents and Christian practices. The two titles in the FPC library are The Lord's Prayer for Today by William J. Carl III and The Ten Commandments for Today by Walter J. Harrelson.

Each of these very readable volumes applies directly to how we live and how we can apply them to our 21st Century lives. At the end of each chapter are discussion questions. Either of these books would lend itself well to group study and book discussion groups.

Come visit the library and Check It Out!

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

Plans for the Interfaith Dinner Network are progressing. Thanks to all the people who have contacted us to shop, cook, serve, clean up, or donate monetary or food items. First Presbyterians first opportunities to prepare a meal will be Tuesday, September 9th and Tuesday September 23rd. For those who have volunteered to serve in this most important community ministry someone will contact you soon for scheduling.

Thanks to all who donated to 2 Cents A Meal. 25 percent of the donation stays within our community and the Mission Committee designated those funds to the Interfaith Dinner Network so that we might serve the homeless and needy in our Community.

We continue to ask for volunteers to help with the dinners as this is an ongoing ministry and our church has committed to the whole year. If you feel that you can help out please contact Bill Erickson, Gail Neiderhofer, Eunice Kurtz or Marilyn Showalter.

Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership



At the Presbyterian Women's Spring Fling in June, Martha Ratchford received the Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership. An Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is conferred upon an individual in recognition of faithful service in some area of church work. Moderators, leaders, teachers, officers, pastors, and missionaries have been among the recipients of this honor.

Contemporary Service Update

As we go to press the new sound booth in the Anchor has been completed and the paint and wood stain has been applied; the back wall shelves designed to hold amplifiers, and TV controls have been built, and the construction phase of the project is coming to a close. The rest of the electronic equipment--computer, projector and electric screen will be installed in the next few days.

A Joy to Ponder

A friend knows the song in your heart and sings it to you when memory fails.

Kids Say the Darndest Things

One little boy to another at Sunday School. *"Does your Grandma say prayers out loud?"* *"Yes, mostly before dinner"* says the second boy, *she says, Bless this house Lord, our humble home. Bless our clutter, and our burned toast. Bless the dust bunnies under the bed, and the dishes in the sink. For our house is truly a home, where love counts more than tidiness."*



My Grandma Used to Say

"Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail"

"If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all"

"A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water"

"Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job"

"No one has more driving ambition than the boy who wants to buy a car"

"There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4:00 am. It could be a right number"

What It Means to be a Christian

Have you ever noticed that even Christians sometimes have difficulty saying the name of Jesus Christ around people who are unbelievers? We find it easy to say "God," but seem to choke on the name of Jesus. Why is that? I think it comes from a fear of being slapped with a "divisive" or "exclusivist" label. With the exception of atheists, most religions profess a faith in some sort of god. Therefore, it is not a big risk to speak of God. However, many cringe when we speak the name of Jesus.

When the name of Jesus goes unspoken long enough it becomes accepted as a social taboo. Our silence and reticence in proclaiming the gospel of JESUS is contributing to the marginalization of our faith. How can we expect people to want to put their faith in the Someone whose name we are afraid to speak?

Every Christian needs to take a moment of introspection. We must examine what it means to be a Christian. Think about the inimitable grace we have been shown through the saving sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Ponder the boundless love that omnipotent God demonstrated by justifying us through the shed blood of Christ. Consider that we are, in and of ourselves, completely unworthy of the salvation that Jesus freely gives us. Now, ask yourselves if Jesus has asked too much of us in commanding us to say His name publicly and proudly? If we don't start proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ collectively and individually, His name will continue to slide into social obscurity, and our message will become a social taboo.

Are we grateful to God for our salvation? Do we understand and comprehend the depths of His love that He showed us as He hung on the cross, bearing our sins? May we never be too embarrassed or afraid to say the name of our Lord who purchased our salvation through the shedding of His blood. Let us all commit ourselves to being fearless contenders, boldly proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. - from an article by Ben Rast of Contender Ministries

September 2008

Phone: 904 261-3837

Fax: 904 261-0056



Email: churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com

Web: www.1stpres-fb.com

1858

First Presbyterian Church — 150 years in the heart of Fernandina

2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>1st CAFÉ 261-3837</p>	<p>1 6:15p Comm. Com. LABOR DAY Church office closed</p>	<p>2 3:00p Coffee Klatch 6:30p Youth Comm. 6:45p Mission Comm.</p>	<p>3 7:00p Choir</p>	<p>4 8:00a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 2:30p PW Comm 4:00p C E Comm</p>	<p>5 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p</p>	<p>6 1:00p YOUTH ROCK THE UNIVERSE</p>
<p>7 6-7:30p Youth 80's Party</p>	<p>8 Call Today for 1st Café Dinner Reservations 261-3837</p>	<p>9 10:00a Member Care Comm. 3:00p Coffee Klatch 6:00p Property Comm</p>	<p>10 1st CAFÉ 5:15p Roast Beef 6:15p Power Lab, Youth & Adult Study 7:00p Choir</p>	<p>11 8:00a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME PW Luncheon 5:30p APNC 6:30p Pres Men</p>	<p>12 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p 5:30p Finance 6:30p YOUTH Dinner & a Movie</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 12:00p Evangelism Comm-Library 6:00p SNL 6:00p Senior High</p>	<p>15 Call Today for 1st Café Dinner Reservations 261-3837 5:00p Teen CBS-YC</p>	<p>16 3:00p Coffee Klatch 5:45p Deacons 7:00p Session</p>	<p>17 1st CAFÉ 4:30p Staff Meeting 5:15p Herb Roasted Chicken 6:15p Power Lab, Youth & Adult Study 7:00p Choir</p>	<p>18 8:00a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 11:30a MACs @ Bonitos 5:30p APNC</p>	<p>19 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p</p>	<p>20 1:00p Youth Rally Central Park</p>
<p>21 COMMUNION 6:00p SNL 6:00p Senior High</p>	<p>22 Call Today for 1st Café Dinner Reservations 5:00p Teen CBS-YC</p>	<p>23 3:00p Coffee Klatch </p>	<p>24 1st CAFÉ 5:15p Lasagna 6:15p Power Lab, Youth & Adult Study 7:00p Choir</p>	<p>25 8:00a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 5:30p APNC</p>	<p>26 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 6:00p SNL 6:00p Senior High 6:00p Halfway House Ministry</p>	<p>29 Call Today for 1st Café Dinner Reservations 5:00p Teen CBS-YC</p>	<p>30 3:00p Coffee Klatch</p>	<p>Sunday Schedule of Opportunities 8:30a Worship 9:30a Coffee 9:50a Sunday School & Adult Studies 11:00a Worship Nursery 8:15a-12:15p</p>			

The Horizon's of Life and Beyond

For everything there is a season – A time to be born and a time to die.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2

On January 8th, 15th, and 22nd, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., FPC will offer a three-session seminar on the Horizons of Life and beyond. How do we deal with the big questions; the big issues near the end of one's life? Do we put them aside and hope they will go away? Many times we do just that. We busy ourselves to avoid confronting a problem or an issue. Eventually, however, problems must be confronted, perhaps not solved but confronted.

The last great issue is death. Are we prepared to face the death of a mother, father, spouse, child, relative, friend or ourselves? Qualified professionals will speak on these subjects and many others during the seminars. Please plan to attend the three sessions and make this a meaningful Christian Community experience.

Flower Calendar

- September 7th - Terri and Bob Speer in loving memory of their parents and Russ Korn and Maureen Speer.
- September 14th - Addie and Herb Underwood in honor of their 55th Wedding Anniversary.
- September 21st - Libby Ozmer in loving memory of her husband, James McGiffin Ozmer.
- September 28th - Ginny and John Grupe in memory of their parents



Coffee Service

- September 7th - Esther Circle
- September 14th - Presbyterian Men
- September 21st - Elizabeth Circle
- September 28th - Membership Care



Presbytery of St. Augustine Fall Stated Meeting

Our church will host the Fall Stated Meeting for the Presbytery on Tuesday, October 21st beginning at 9 a.m.

Save Your Place for Rock the Universe!

Senior High and college-age youth, join us to attend Rock the Universe on Saturday, September 6th. Cost is \$45 plus spending money for meals. We plan to leave the church at 1 p.m. and will to the church after the event. Parents can pick you up or you can crash in the Anchor. Pick up in the morning is 8 a.m. Call Roger Martin by September 1 to reserve your slot. Friends are invited.



Dust off Your 80s Dance Moves

Youth come dressed in your best (or worst) 80s attire and join us in the Anchor on Sunday, September 7th at 6 p.m. for an 80s party to kick off our Fall youth program. We'll have a costume contest, where the winner will receive a \$25 iTunes gift card. Brush up on your 80s movies for the 80s movie trivia game. (Hint: Breakfast Club, Ferris Bueller, 16 Candles, etc.) Snacks will be served under disco lights.

