



First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

April 2009

Rev. Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr. - Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Doug Ganyo - Associate Pastor



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

At Easter we are reminded of the words "he is not here!" How clearly these words so often repeated during the Easter season give us assurance that the stone has been rolled away. Through the risen Christ we too may rise from our

lives of fear and hopelessness to become what God desires for us to be - men and women of faith and hope and love.

Through the power of God in Christ we are united in a common call: that of bearing witness to God's redeeming love - a love that lifts its hands in praise just as quickly as it reaches out to pick up one who has fallen. The Contemporary Worship Service being held each Sunday in the Anchor provides a unique way of expressing worship and praise to mark our lives as people of God. Also, our traditional services verify that worshipping and glorifying God are, indeed, at the very heart of our faith.

We are grateful that Dr. Doug Ganyo has arrived as our Associate Pastor! Not only is he assisting regularly in worship, but he is also bearing witness to the "with-me" principle, whereby he is becoming vested in your life and mine. The "with-me" principle is just one of several defining practices noted in the Acts 16:5 Initiative (*"So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily"* NRSV), which our Session adopted at its March meeting.

The Acts 16:5 Initiative is a three-

year process through which our church will explore God's future for our congregation and for each of us personally. The Acts 16:5 Initiative will encourage us to ask of ourselves the following questions: What are we asking God to do? What vision defines our ministry? What process do we use to address adaptive challenges? Who cheers us on?

The question, "Who cheers us on?", came to my mind not long ago as my family and I were preparing for a road trip. It was very apparent that our Explorer needed quick attention: the maintenance light was on, the oil needed to be changed, etc. I had hoped to postpone the repairs until later, but Martha Ann "cheered" me on. I was fully aware that neglecting the repairs could result in more trouble down the road; I just needed someone to put steel into my spine.

Likewise, our church also needs to be repaired from time to time and prepared for the journey ahead. In fact, just last month our Session prayerfully considered and approved the issue of making the necessary structural repairs to the Manse's roof. While the budget had anticipated the expenditure, an expense in the neighborhood of \$70,000 is never taken lightly.

Let us be quick to remember that the future is as bright as the promises of God! This comforting thought is what Easter is all about, though our seasonal cultural influences do not indicate that fact. This realization recently became apparent to me as I browsed through some Easter cards; the bunnies and butterflies on the cards could just as well have identified them as Happy

Spring cards instead.

We must continue working in our culture and world to make known the differences between the generic Easter and the authentic Biblical event. When faced with the reality that Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead, we may experience a measure of paralyzing fear as well as a feeling of overwhelming joy.

"He is not here!" Acknowledging the reality of the miraculous resurrection allows us to look forward to the glad day when we as believers will be "not here" but in the presence of our risen Lord.

In Christ's Service,

AARP Driver's Safety Class

We will have an AARP Driver's Safety Class offered here on April 27th and 28th from 8:45 to 1 p.m. on both days. This is the last class offered until October. Class size is limited so call the church office at 261-3837 to enroll. The cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for others. Rev. Bert Swearingen, a certified instructor, will be the teacher. With a certificate of completion, you can save on your auto insurance.



FPC Library News

There are some new titles in the FPC library that will be of interest to many of you. Reverend Alex Awad is a Methodist pastor in Israel and Palestine. Rev. Awad was born in Jerusalem in 1946. Two years later his father was killed during the 1948 Arab-Israel war and the family became refugees. The family fled to the eastern side of Jerusalem where Alex and his brothers attended St. George's School. His book, Palestinian Memories, The Story of a Palestinian Mother and Her People recounts the story of his mother, Huda, and her resilience in the face of overwhelming circumstances in raising her family of seven children. The book sheds light on the hardships Palestinians have encountered in the last century.

Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore, is a true story that reads like really good fiction. A modern-day slave, an international art dealer, and the unlikely woman who bound them together make up the unforgettable "characters" in this story. "Gritty with pain and betrayal and brutality, it also shines with an unexpected, life-changing love."

APRIL SPECIAL: Pick a shopping bag full of books from the "retired books" cart for just \$5.00.

FEAR NOT!

Summer Camp at First Presbyterian
June 22-26

5 days of fun in the swamp for kids going into Kindergarten thru 5th grade in the fall

Register early online at

www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/fpcfb

Volunteers can sign up online, too!

Nursery and Preschool classes will be provided for children or grandchildren of volunteers.



Presbyterian Women News

Last month the PW Co-ordinating team after prayerful consideration decided to distribute the remaining Bazaar Mission Money to the



- Jamaican Medical Mission, \$800.00
- FPC Youth Mission Trip to Puerto Rico, \$1500
- Refrigerator for Little House Ministry, \$700
- Promise Land Church, \$1000.

Other funds have previously been given to Nassau Prison Ministry, NAMI, Camp Montgomery, Hope House, Seed Money for Choir Robes and FPC Kitchen. We have been truly blessed in the last few years to have talented women who have given so much time and effort so that we may give these gifts from our Bazaar Funds.

Workshops for our Bazaar in November have already begun. There are various projects to work on and all Women in the church are invited to participate. Dates are March 23, April 16 and May 11. All workshops are at 10 a.m. and are held at the home of Phyllis Rouse at 1633 Ocean Forest Dr.

Presbyterian Women's Mission Project for April is to sell Mother's Day Cards to support the Networkers. Look for the ladies who will have the cards between services in Jim Thomas Hall.

Dates to mark on your calendar are:

- PW Spring Retreat at Montgomery Conference Center on April 24th and 25th
- Annual Spring Fling at FPC on May 31st - All Ladies of the Church are invited.
- PW Gathering in Louisville, July 11th - 15th (May 15th is the deadline and if anyone from our church is interested in attending please speak to Marilyn Showalter – This will not happen again for three years. That Gathering will be in Orlando.)

April Circle Meetings

- Elizabeth Circle –April 9th, 10 a.m., Jim Thomas Hall
- Esther Circle – April 9th, 1:00 p.m., Mim Walker's home
- Lydia Circle - April 13th, 6:30 p.m., Joy Drewry's home
- Martha Circle – April 8th, 10:00 a.m., Judy Lever's home
- Ruth Circle - April 9th, 10:00 a.m., Marilyn Showalter's home

Flower Calendar

- April 5th - Mary Jo and Cyril Higgs in memory of her daughter, Catherine L. Swann.
- April 12th - Ann Robas and daughters, Victoria, Annie and Toni in loving memory of her husband and their father, John Robas.
- April 19th - Margaret Pinchback in loving memory of her husband, John
- April 26th - Christine and Dean Dobbins



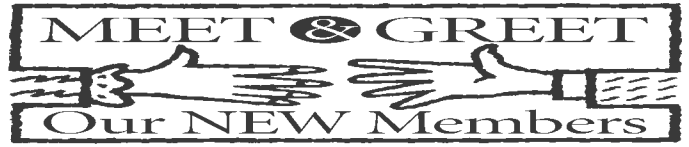
Palm Sunday Processional

As is our tradition, we will gather at the Courthouse on Centre Street at 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday to celebrate Christ the King's arrival into Jerusalem, and walk with our friends from the Methodist & Episcopal churches to our respective Sanctuaries. We will be led by a bagpiper and our children waving palm fronds. When we reach FPC, and all congregants are seated, the children will lead the processional into the sanctuary followed by the Chancel Choir and ministers.

Parents, do not miss this opportunity to place a memory of spiritual significance into the hearts of your children. By repeating these rituals each year, we build a foundation of faith and tradition that will accompany your child throughout their lives.

MOM,ME

Our Mom,me Play-group continues to meet every Thursday morning 9:30—11 a.m. with new moms and babies/toddlers joining regularly! You can be a part of this ministry of hospitality and nurture. Call the office to schedule a date to read a story or just to visit and play. Mom,me is a wonderful outreach to the families of our church and community. Participation is open to all. Spread the word.



Ed and Betty Burger are both Pennsylvania transplants. They moved into Isle de Mai in June of 2008 from Punxsutawney, PA. The Burgers had previously lived on Amelia Island from 2000-2004. Ed was cofounder of Nanonics Corporation, a developer of high reliability, miniature electronic interconnects for aerospace, defense and oil well drilling industries; which was later purchased by Tyco International Ltd. in 2001. Betty retired as personnel manager from The Broadway, Costa Mesa, CA.

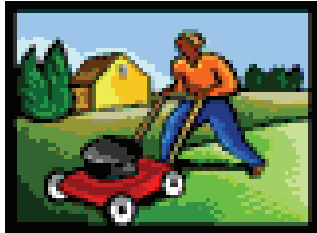
George and Lynne Stafford have lived in Fernandina since 2001 on a part-time schedule. They reside at 500 Crosswind Drive. George will be retiring from the University of Georgia as Associate Vice President of Business and Finance, where he has served for the past 25 years, at the end of March. Lynne is a retired insurance agent. They have two married children and three granddaughters. Their daughter Leslie and her family reside in Lexington, VA, and their son Josh and his family reside in Jesup, Georgia.

Joe and Missi Gray have lived here since 2005. Prior to moving here we lived in Atlanta, where Joe worked for HTS of GA, and Missi was an Elementary Physical Education Teacher. They were transferred to Amelia Island by Joe's company, and now Missi is fulfilling her dream of photography. After having their son Luke in 2007, Missi got involved in the MOM,ME program that brought both Missi and Joe many life long friendships.

Barbara Mann was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. She and her husband have four adult children and four grandsons. Barbara has traveled extensively and lived in Spain and Scotland as well as many parts of the United States during her husband's long career in the Navy's submarine force. She and her husband relocated to Amelia Island from Amarillo, Texas 8 years ago.

Need A Kid? Rent One of Ours!

Do you have home improvement projects piling up that you just can't get to? Would you like to help FPC Youth earn money towards their future mission trip expenses? If you answered YES to either or both questions, have we got a deal for you!



With Rent-A-Kid, you can hire one or more of our high school/middle school youth to tackle most small to medium size projects around your home and all the money goes directly towards their mission trip travel expenses. Here's how it works:

- Email Wade Preston FPCAnchor@gmail.com or call the church office with your job description and best available date and time for someone to come to your home. You may request any particular kid or kids.
- What you deem the job to be worth is entirely up to you. Upon satisfactory completion of the job, payment will be due in the form of a check made out to FPC with all workers' names on the Memo line of your check. You may mail your check to the church or give to the kids directly.

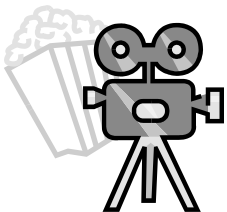
Communications Committee News

We are pleased to announce that several folks have come forward to volunteer in helping with the church sound system. Dick Kenner, Bill Rodgers, and Charlie Schaefer have undertaken the short training course, and will be available to help out the 8:30 a.m. services. Roger Martin has also come forward, and after his short orientation he will help Jack Dickison with the 11:00 am operations.

The first contemporary services at the Anchor revealed some technical issues with the limited capacity of the computer that was being used to support the telemetrics of the service. This unit has been removed and given to our new Associate Pastor, and a new upgraded unit was put in its place together with additional cabling and software.

More volunteers are needed who would be willing to spend a few hours each month doing the folding, labeling and mailing of this newsletter-First Press. If you have a couple of spare hours and would like to come and share the joy of the work with others at the church office call Dean Dobbins at 261-0620, or Barbara Kirkpatrick at the church office.

MAC Midday Matinee



Lunch & a Movie

Thursday, April 16th

11:30a.m. in the ANCHOR

A theatre lunch:

Hotdogs, popcorn & candy

\$5.00/person

paid reservation by Thursday, April 9th

All **Mature Adult** Christians are cordially invited to participate in the **MAC** activities and events scheduled through out the year!

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. 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 25:39 - 40

Eunice Kurtz led a group of volunteers in serving dinner on March 17th. FPC served 30 guests. Seven volunteers from our church helped to make St Patricks Day a wonderful experience for diners at Hope House. Thanks to all the volunteers and the four ladies that provided brownies.

Thank you to the people that have responded from a group to host a dinner. We look forward to working with you on this very important ministry to our community. We are still hoping that other groups from the church will respond. We have guidelines and ideas for dinners. Hosting a dinner includes planning a menu for about 40 people, shopping, preparing the meal at church or Hope House, Cooking at Hope House, Setting up and Serving Dinner and Clean Up.

Dinner is from 5 to 7 and we are usually out of Hope House before 7:30. We are also looking for individuals who would like to plan a dinner and host it. We have a lot of volunteers that have signed up to help so if you feel that you are ready to express your culinary skills give us a call.

We continue to ask for volunteers to help with the dinners as this is an on-going ministry and our church has committed to the whole year. We thank all of you who have already signed up and we look forward to calling on you for help. If you cannot physically help but would like to make a monetary donation that would also be helpful. If you feel that you can help out please contact Bill Erickson, Trish Booton, Eunice Kurtz or Marilyn Showalter.

A Book Review by Mac Noden
of *Eternity in their Hearts*
by Don Richardson

The author's central premise is that cross cultural values are often expressed in a manner that suggests and defines God's word to many different people, in many different historic periods and cultures, and that they are understood in many different ways. The message of the synchronicity of God's work and word, and the resulting monotheistic human preferences, is the constant theme that runs through the first part of this instructive & and well written book.

The human story is first located in ancient Greece, as various characters wrestle with the concept of a name for God. Later in the section on the Canaanites, the author speaks eloquently about the mission of Paul as he struggles with the mysteries of the name of Yahweh. Chapter two details the missionary outreach from the Christian west to places in remote parts of Asia. Part one of the book ends with a review of some of the strange religious theories that are in effect, the echo of their proponent's political beliefs

Pastor Richardson writes about what he calls, "The 4,000-Year Connection" in which he sets forth the ancient biblical text support for the requirement for mission on the part of believers. The Abrahamic Covenant begins a very powerful discussion of how all peoples of the earth are included

In the final chapter, Richardson makes clear that the apostles were very reluctant to understand the imperatives of apostolic outreach. The scriptural retelling of their reluctance, makes very clear that the cross cultural imperatives were the most troublesome aspect in the lives of the apostles. The retelling of the history and the wonder of the revelation of God's presence in the hearts of people worldwide make this book a valuable addition to our understanding of the universality of the one God.

First Presbyterian Family Retreat Camp Montgomery

April 17-19, 2009

Two nights in a cabin by the lake, sun by day and stars at night, no cooking except for s'mores by camp-fire!, swimming, boating, napping, games, reading, swinging, rocking, relaxing, volleyball. All for \$50 per person! It's the best weekend vacation deal around! Sign up quickly. Bring your family and your friends. Reservation envelopes are located in the office in the Anchor, and in the pew racks in the Sanctuary. Registration ends on Sunday, April 12th.



Constitutional Amendments

At the Winter Stated Meeting held on February 14, 2009, the presbytery considered and voted on proposed amendments to the *Book of Order*. It approved the adoption by the General Assembly of four new ecumenical statements that define our relationship with Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, the Korean Presbyterian Church in America, and the Moravian Church. All proposed amendments were approved except the following; these were disapproved:

- 08 – A – on amending G-5.0200 to require professions of faith by all persons joining a congregation, regardless of the manner in which the person joined.
- 08 – B – on amending G-6.0106b to remove the language of "fidelity and chastity" as a requirement for ordination or installation as a deacon, elder, or minister of the Word and Sacrament.
- 08 – F – on amending G-11.0407 and G-14.0730 to limit the right of the presbytery floor to Certified Christian Educators to the duration of their service on a congregational staff or other professional employment within the supervision of the presbytery.

Mission Trip to Matewan, WV

The mission trip with Amelia Baptist has been changed to one week only, June 22-28. Already ten of our church members are planning to participate in the sharing of the Gospel to the people of Appalachia. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact Marlene Strobach, 277.4486. As the time for the trip gets closer, the team will let us know how we can help. Most importantly, the team requests your prayers as they prepare for this mission of love and hope.

BOGO - Buy One Get One Free

A great way to support Barnabas

If you are shopping and see some BOGO specials, please remember Barnabas. Keep one for yourself and bring the second one to Jim Thomas Hall for Barnabas. Everyone wins!

Two-Cents-A-Meal Container Collection

Though we began the Two-Cents-A-Meal collection as a Lenten effort, we are extending the program until late April to maximize the time that families have to make contributions.

We will collect the containers Sunday, April 26, at both services. Thank you all for your willing participation in this very worthwhile endeavor to help those in need!

MAC Fun

The MACs recently traveled to Tallahassee, Colquitt, Georgia, and Thomasville, Georgia. Here the happy travelers are gathered in front of the Tarrer Inn in Colquitt, Georgia, before they enjoyed a delicious Southern meal including swamp gravy.



Christmas International House

A national program which originated in 1965, Christmas International House brings



students from other countries who are studying in the United States into the homes and hearts of church families for the Christmas season. It is a time of sharing with students who are unable to return to their own homes during the holidays.

Christmas International House was a ministry of our church in the past, and we need to know if there is an interest in again hosting the students. The number of students coming to Fernandina Beach would depend on the number of families willing to participate. The students would become a part of your family and participate in all of your activities.

There would also be organized group activities and outings to attractions in this part of Florida. As in the past, there would be International Night, when the students cook their native dishes and provide a talent show for the participating families---a highlight of the visit!

In addition to a chairperson of the event and the host families, volunteers are needed to help with publicity, registration, transportation, and meals.

If you have the heart and enthusiasm for this wonderful ministry, please contact Trish Booton, tbooton@comcast.net, 491.1814, or call the church office.

Flower the Cross on Easter
Sunday morning!



Bring an array of God's beautiful spring blooms and place them on the cross on your way to worship this Resurrection Day! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

A photographer will be available for pictures near the cross. Bring your family and friends to church and make a memory. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us Rejoice!!

Church Babies under Last Year's Cross



HOLY WEEK



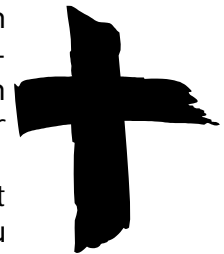
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- + April 5th - Palm Sunday Processional
- + April 9th - Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m.
- + April 12th - Easter
 - Sunrise service at Ft. Clinch at 6:45 a.m.
 - Pancake Breakfast at is back this year from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in JTH.
 - Worship services - the ANCHOR Contemporary Service at 11 a.m. and traditional Easter worship services with communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in sanctuary.

Easter Sunday Family Event

Parents, please join your children in Kindergarten through 5th grade in their classrooms on Easter morning at 9:50 a.m.

A special family event has been planned for you and your child to experience the story of Easter in a Walk to the Cross. The trail will begin with instructions and maps for the journey. An adventure awaits.



Coffee Service


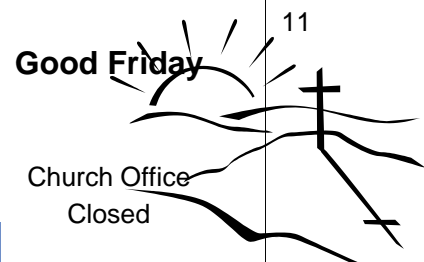


- April 5th - Ruth Circle
- April 12th - Worship Committee
- April 19th - Youth Committee
- April 26th - Christian Ed



April 2009



First Presbyterian Church
9 N. 6th Street
Fernandina Beach

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>the ANCHOR Contemporary Worship Sunday @ 11:00 515 Centre Street First Presbyterian</p>			<p>1 12p Lenten Service Methodist Church 4:45p Worship 5:15p Dinner & Programs 5:40p Hand Bell Choir 6:30p Choir</p>	<p>2 7:30a 20/20 Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 2:30p PW Ct mtg. 7p ENGAGE (HS Youth)</p>	<p>3 Church Office Closes at 12 noon</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Palm Sunday 8:30a Worship 9:50a Sunday Sch. 10:30a Palm Processional from Courthouse 11a Worship 12p Confirmation</p>	<p>6 4p Christian Ed 6:15p Comm. 6:30p Youth Comm.</p>	<p>7 7:30a Prayer for Youth in Faith Cafe</p>	<p>8 5:40p Hand Bell Choir 6:30p Choir</p>	<p>9 9:30a MOM,ME 7p Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service</p>	<p>10 Good Friday Church Office Closed</p> 	<p>11</p>
<p>High School Youth SKI Trip to Colorado</p>						
<p>12 EASTER 6:45a Sunrise Service 7:30-8:30a Pancake Breakfast 8:30a Worship 9:50a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship</p> 	<p>13 5p Teen CBS</p>	<p>14 7:30a Prayer for Youth in Faith Café 4p Member Care 6p Property 7p Mission Comm.</p>	<p>15 5:15p 1st Café Dinner 6p Hand Bell Choir 7p Adult Forum, Youth & Power Lab 6:30p Choir</p>	<p>16 9:30a MOM,ME 11:30a MAC Midday Matinee & lunch- ANCHOR 7p ENGAGE (HS Youth)</p> 	<p>17 Church Office Closes at 12 noon CAMP MONTGOMERY FAMILY</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 COMMUNION 8:30a Worship 9:50a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship 12p Confirmation RETREAT</p>	<p>20 5p Teen CBS</p>	<p>21 7:30a Prayer for Youth in Faith Café 4p Finance Comm. 5:45p Deacons 7p Session</p>	<p>22 5:15p 1st Café Dinner 6p Hand Bell Choir 6:30p Adult Forum, Youth & Power Lab 7p Choir</p>	<p>23 9:30a MOM,ME 7p ENGAGE (HS Youth)</p>	<p>24 Church Office Closes at 12 noon</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:30a Worship 9:50a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship 12p Confirmation</p>	<p>27 8:45a AARP Driving Class 5p Teen CBS</p>	<p>28 7:30a Prayer for Youth in Faith Cafe 8:45a AARP Driving Class</p>	<p>29 5:15p 1st Café Dinner 6p Hand Bell Choir 6:30p Adult Forum, Youth & Power Lab 7p Choir</p>	<p>30 7:30a 20/20 Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME Shrimp Fest Parade Followed by ENGAGE in the ANCHOR</p>	<p>Phone: 904 261-3837 Fax: 904 261-0056 churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com Web: www.1stpres-fb.com</p>	

Youth of the Church Participate in Espionage Game on March 15

