



First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

August 2009

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



Are you 55 and looking for fun, 65 and ready to run, 75 and going strong, 85 and asking how long, 95 and still alive? The Mature Adult Christians have planned a year full of new activities, lunch dates, day trips and overnights with your fun meter in mind! The MAC Group is enriched by people of various ages, backgrounds and experiences. Plan to have some fun this fall. MACs meet the Third Thursday of each month September through May. The Kick off luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, September 17th at Gennaro's. Stop by the MAC Booth at the Ministry Fair to pick up a copy of the MacCalendar of Events.

Ministry Fair

August 23rd - One Day Only
JTH 9:30 -12:45

Don't miss the
BIGGEST, best EVENT of the year!

If your class, committee, mission or study group would like to have a booth at the ministry Fair, fill out a Registration Form in the Church Office and return to Doris Davis ASAP. There are a limited number of spaces, electrical outlets & easels available. Last year's Ministry Fair was a huge success and a lot of fun. If you are new or old to First Presbyterian don't miss this opportunity to find out about all the possibilities, programs and events that you can become a part of at your church. **First Presbyterian is more than you realize!!!!**

1st Cafe Begins Again.....



Last year, 1st Café was a resounding success and it returns this fall with new program and study options. 1st Cafe begins again Wednesdays on September 16th at 5:30 p.m. (note the new time). Besides special speakers later in the year, the program portion, which begins at 6 p.m. will begin with the following options in September:

- Stephen Ministry training with Pastor Doug Ganyo
- Parenting course taught by Pastor Holton Siegling
- Doris Davis teaching a DVD study by John and Nancy Ortberg on the "Spiritual Disciplines".

Plan now to attend and be sure to sign up for the meal and the program options. Bunny Selby and her volunteers promise to keep producing that amazing home cooking we've become accustomed to.



Summer Pulpit Exchange Reaps Rewards

Dear Friends,

Exchanging ministry and countries with Holton Siegling the Rev. Scott Burton, his wife Jill and their two lovely daughters Eilidn and Sara have come from Scotland to charm and bless us at Fernandina Beach. Whether spending time at a pool, the beach, kayaking, or enjoying dinner with members they have filled their days here with activity. In the pulpit Scott's accent actually seems to enhance his very engaging preaching style. His quick wit and ready humor serve him well as a communicator. Whether it is teaching at the Time for Young Disciples or his preaching duties Scott comes to his duties well prepared and is very well received. While here Scott is seeking to explore and learn new ways of doing ministry, specifically examining our Sunday School.

Scott has shared very personally about his concerns for the future vitality of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland. Declines in numbers, financial support and spiritual growth are weakening the church's impact and influence in society in Scotland. He has told of his own strong sense of call to minister and shared how he came to accept Jesus as his Savior and Lord, out of some troubled teen life. Scott remains hopeful and asks for our continuing prayerful support of him and the church there.

Service of Wholeness

Several people gathered at noon on the first Tuesday of July to pray for wholeness and healing in the church sanctuary. Pastor Doug Ganyo will convene the next Service of Wholeness August 4th at noon.

Come and bring a family member or a friend to sing, pray, receive prayer and be anointed and supported in whatever difficulty, pain or disease is challenging you. You are welcome to use this time in intercessory prayer for loved ones.

Both Jill and Scott have said they are overwhelmed by the hospitality shown to them by members of First Presbyterian Church. Their living in Holton and Martha Ann's home and having access to their vehicles has been a huge blessing in helping them get acclimated and in sight seeing.

Meanwhile Pastor Holton, Martha Ann, Harrison, and Will have been just as active in Scotland. Scott Burton's St Matthew's Church in Perth, Scotland is a large classic tall spired church along a beautiful river. Holton is finding it an inspiring place to preach at. In their travels the Siegling's have visited historic St Andrews and they have also been making the social scene among members of St Matthew's. We can look forward to Pastor Holton and family sharing their wonderful experience upon their return to the USA.

Church members here and in Scotland are learning together how very much we have in common as servants of our Lord and Savior Jesus. As Paul says in I Corinthians 12 we are all parts of the Body of Christ. Holton and Scott may be exchanging pulpit duties but their churches are exchanging hospitality and ideas about ministry across the Atlantic. We are family!

In Christ's Service,
Doug



2nd Annual Ugly Tie Contest!

Gentlemen, you have a 2nd chance to dazzle the judges with your ugliest tie. Win this awesome award and have your name inscribed on the coveted trophy that is displayed all year in the parlor! Last year's winner, Clay Treska's almost wedding tie, is on display in Jim Thomas Hall for the world to see. Check it out and see if anything in your closet comes close. I'm sure your wife or teenage daughter would be happy to make the selection for you. Wear your UT proudly on August 23rd for the Parade of Beauties!

Presbyterian Women News

The Presbyterian Women are making plans for the coming year. Our new circle leaders are

- Elizabeth – Polly Hord
- Esther – Sharon Scherer
- Lydia – Audrey Rodriguez
- Martha – Courtney Fassbender
- Ruth – Dot Bell with co-leader Edith Jones.



Esther Circle will be studying God Is Closer Than You Think by John Ortberg. The Lydia Circle is going to study God's Psychiatry by Charles Allen, and the Elizabeth, Martha and Ruth Circles will be studying the Horizon's study of "Joshua". All women of the church are invited to join a circle for fellowship and Bible Study. There will be a Kick-Off Luncheon on September 10th, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is asked to bring a salad and come and hear about our exciting studies and activities.

Workshops for our Bazaar, A Dickens Christmas in December, on October 30th and 31st are continuing. All workshops are held at Phyllis Rouse's house at 10 a.m. Dates for the workshops will be July 28th, August 10th, and August 20th (this will be a longer work period and a light lunch will be provided). You do not have to be a member of a circle to participate; you just have to want to fellowship with a great group of women and want to work on Bazaar projects.

.....CHECK IT OUT!.....

Did you know? The First Presbyterian Church Library is more than what you see periodically displayed in Jim Thomas Hall? You can access the beautiful library space by passing through the copier area and emerging into a sunny, bright and friendly area just full of wonderful reference, inspirational reading, appropriate children's literature, and excellent fiction. When 1st Café restarts in the fall, the library will be open on those Wednesday evenings for your use.



When looking for something to read, check out the novel, Safe at Home by Richard Doster. In it the spring of 1951 started out like any other for sportswriter, Jack Hall. He and the rest of the small Southern town of Whitney eagerly awaited the magical first pitch that would open the Bobcats' season. But air-conditioning now offers a new incentive to spend summer nights at home. And I Love Lucy has captured America's imagination. The Bobcats are not only losing money, they may lose their careers as well. In a crunch to win more fans, the Bobcats sign seventeen-year-old Percy Jackson – a black player who's bound to draw a whole new crowd. Percy is just what the Bobcats need – or is he? As the town of Whitney must come to grips with integration amid the early years of the Civil Rights Movement, hearts, minds, faith, and tradition will be tested.

Coming soon: Two new Karen Kingsbury novels!

Out of the Saltshaker

Beginning Sunday July 26th and continuing through August we will view the pre-conference seminar presentations from the Ligonier Conference celebrating the 500th birthday of John Calvin, born July 10, 1509. His masterful expositions of scripture laid down the doctrinal distinctive of the Protestant reformation. In turn he helped fashion the founding principles of western civilization, giving rise to the republican form of government, the ideals of public education, and the philosophy of free market capitalism. Please join us at 9:50 am in our classroom in Jim Thomas Hall. You will be amazed and thankful to God as you learn of his life and legacy.



MEET & GREET



Our NEW Members

The **Fetherston** family has owned a home on Amelia Island for over eight years, and is now spending their summers here. Jim is Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Walsworth Publishing Company in Marcelline, Missouri, and has been employed in the printing industry for over 20 years. He enjoys playing golf and tennis and spending time on the beach of our beautiful island. Sherri, a CPA, has been a full-time homemaker for the past 16 years and is hoping to soon convert her numerous volunteer activities over that time into employment in the non-profit sector. John, 19, is a sophomore at Arizona State University, majoring in Elementary Education. He sings with the ASU Men's Choir and plays guitar and ukulele. He enjoys tennis and golf and loves bicycling and anything outdoors. Anne, 16, is a junior at St. Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri, where she lives during the school year and sings in the school choir, is active in the drama program, and competes with the school's Academic Challenge Team, which came in second in the state this past year. A new addition to the family this summer is Sadie, a 1-½ year old golden retriever rescue.



Senior high youth and young adults will attend Rock the Universe, the Christian rock concert, in Orlando at Universal Studios on Saturday, September 12th. The musical lineup includes Third Day, Casting Crowns, and tobyMac. We plan to team up with the Methodist Church youth on this event. If you are interested in attending, please contact Wade Preston, for information on cost and schedules.

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

We have been so blessed to have people volunteer to help with this ministry, and we are so thankful for the groups that have taken a dinner. We encourage all groups in the church to take the opportunity to do a dinner.

Again we would like to thank the Original Adults Sunday School and the Mission Committee for taking on a dinner. There are guidelines for dinner and there are ideas for menus. Just get a group and volunteer to prepare a dinner for one month.

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. 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

Our dinner for July 21st, 2009 was baked ziti, tossed salad, fruit salad, rolls, cake, and ice cream with sweet tea and lemonade. Our thanks to Joyce Mathews who provided the baked ziti. Joyce also prepared two other dinners.

Our dinners have been averaging around 45 people. An average of 10 more guests in the last four months. In the last few months we had as many as 80 guests but in the words of the church that cooked that night "God provided" since they had only cooked for about 50. The next dinner for FPC will be August 18th, 2009.

.....Mission Updates.....

On July 7th, the Mission Committee hosted a dinner for Scott, Jill, Eilidn, and Sara Burton. We were honored to have them join us in a wonderful evening of fellowship, when we learned more about their lives and ministry in Scotland. That evening we also celebrated the return of our mission team members, who shared with us their experiences in West Virginia. We thank God for those among us who have a passion to spread the good news of the Gospel and to show God's love to those in need.

This month the Mission Committee highlights Seamark Ranch, one of the missions supported by First Presbyterian Church. Thank you to Emily Kunzelmann for this informative article. Seamark Ranch believes as we do as Christians at FPC, that, "Every child deserves a home, a family and a chance in life". Seamark Ranch provides all of these and more based on the Love of Christ. Seamark is a non-denominational Christ-centered Children's Home committed to sharing the Gospel, hope and healing and a brighter future with abused, neglected, abandoned and homeless children. Located on miraculously donated land just west of Jacksonville, it serves our area and has taken in at least one child from Nassau County, referred by FPC members involved in our County Guardian Ad Litem Program. Seamark's core values reflect our own:

- Christ-centered
- Faith-rooted
- Child-focused
- Excellence-developed
- Prayer-driven

Seamark Ranch's leadership states: "Our seamark is Jesus Christ. The shining light portrays His salvation, love, peace, hope, and grace - all of which are freely given to our children at Seamark Ranch. In John 8:12, Christ states, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of my life."



I Stay Near the Door

I stay near the door.
I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out,
The door is the most important door in the world--
It is the door through which men walk when they
find God.
There's no use my going way inside, and staying
there,
When so many are still outside and they, as much
as I,
Crave to know where the door is.
And all that so many ever find
Is only the wall where a door ought to be.
They creep along the wall like blind men,
With outstretched, groping hands,
Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,
Yet they never find it. ..
So I stay near the door.
The most tremendous thing in the world
Is for men to find that door--the door to God.
The most important thing any man can do
Is to take hold of one of those blind, groping
hands,
And put it on the latch--the latch that only clicks
And opens to the man's own touch.
Men die outside that door, as starving beggars die
On cold nights in cruel cities in the dead of winter--
Die for want of what is within their grasp.
They live, on the other side of it---live because
they have found it.

Nothing else matters compared to helping them
find it,
And open it, and walk in, and find Him...
So I stay near the door.

As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place,
Near enough to God to hear Him, and know that He
is there, But not so far from men as not to hear
them,
And remember they are there, too.
Where? Outside the door--
Thousands of them, millions of them.
But--more important for me--
One of them, two of them, ten of them,
Whose hands I am intended to put on the latch. So
I shall stay by the door and wait
For those who seek it.
"I had rather be a door-keeper... " So I stay near
the door.

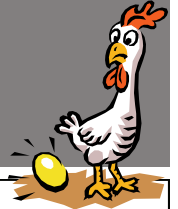
By Samuel Shoemaker, founder of Faith At Work at Calvary Episcopal Church in New York City, in 1926, was also one of the spiritual leaders who helped draft the 12 Steps of A.A. View poem in it's entirety at www.thejaywalker.com/pages/shoemaker.html

From your Evangelism Committee

Rally Day

Rally Day for children and Youth will be Sunday, August 30th beginning at 9:50 a.m. Nursery, Toddlers, Preschool and Kindergarten will meet in their classrooms in Noah's Place. First & Second Graders will meet in the POWER LAB and Third through Fifth graders will meet in the KIDMO theatre. Middle School students will meet in the Skate Room in the Youth Center. Senior High Youth will meet in Faith Cafe at 12:15 p.m. for lunch and Bible Study.

Parents of all children, Nursery through Senior High are invited to Breakfast & Conversation in Jim Thomas Hall at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Christian Education Committee. Parents, please call the church office to confirm your attendance no later than Thursday, August 27th, as the chickens will need to know how many eggs to lay!



MOM,ME Playgroup

MOM,ME meets every Wednesday morning 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in Noah's Place, First Presbyterian's Nursery and Preschool classrooms. Everyone is welcome to participate in our mom and baby/toddler playgroup that has evolved into a delightfully interesting group of moms and children growing and nurturing, networking and socializing, sharing and caring with all who come. This wonderful group of moms and children meets year round. Spread the word. This ministry is open to the public. No reservations are needed, just drop in. Park your stroller out front. You never know who might stop by with a guitar and a song.



Stephen Ministers Care!

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2

Stephen Ministers have done this for several years at our Church. We are grateful for their service.

Beginning Wednesday Sept. 9th, 2009 the Stephen Ministry training will be offered by pastors, counselors and trained Stephen Ministers. Meeting on consecutive Wednesday evenings, after the 1st Cafe dinner, from 6 — 8:30 pm, two Saturdays, and one Sunday this 50-hour series will offer special training to members seeking to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community. Topics covered include

- grief and loneliness
- divorce
- hospitalization
- disability
- job loss
- and many other life difficulties.

Once trained these ministers will provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, job loss, and many other life difficulties.

To learn how to become (sign-up for the Fall session)--or receive care from--a Stephen Minister please talk to Pastor Doug Ganyo, or call him at the office or on his cell phone at 904-382-8660. Please prayerfully consider how our Lord may be calling you to this ministry of compassion and care giving.

Shop for Cops VBS Donation



At **Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School** this summer, the children brought in their offerings everyday for the **Shop with Cops** program that First Presbyterian Church has supported for many years. The children were









very excited about giving money to the Fernandina Police Officers to take children shopping at Christmas.

A check for **\$601.00** was presented to **Don Monahan** of our congregation who is the founder and biggest supporter of the **Shop with Cops** Program in Fernandina.

AUGUST @ 1ST PRES



2nd Annual
UGLY TIE CONTEST
@ the Ministry Fair

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|
|  <p>2 Wear your plaids to say farewell to the Burtons!</p> | <p>3 4p Christian Ed Mtg 6:15p Communication Comm. 6:30p Youth Comm.</p> | <p>4 4p Membership Care Comm. 7p Mission Comm.</p> | <p>5 9:30-11a MOM,ME Playgroup-Noah's Place</p>  | <p>6 2:30p PW Ct mtg. 4:45p Worship 6p Praise Band Rehearsal-ANCHOR</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> |
| <p>9 12p Evangelism Comm. Library</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11 6p Property Mtg</p> | <p>12 9:30-11a MOM,ME Playgroup-Noah's Place</p>  | <p>13 6p Praise Band Rehearsal-ANCHOR</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15</p> |
| <p>16 Communion</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18 4p Finance Comm. 5:45p Deacons 7p Session</p> | <p>19 9:30-11a MOM,ME Playgroup-Noah's Place</p>  | <p>20 6p Praise Band Rehearsal-ANCHOR</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22 10a-2p Ministry Fair Set up</p> |
|  | <p>24 Back to School</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26 9:30-11a MOM,ME Playgroup-Noah's Place</p>  | <p>27 6p Praise Band Rehearsal-ANCHOR</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> |
|  <p>30 Family Nite Mission Supper</p> | <p>31</p> | <p>SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES 8:30a Early Morning Worship 9:30a Coffee Break 9:50a Sunday School 11a Traditional Worship 11a Contemporary Worship-the ANCHOR</p> | | |  <p>the ANCHOR Contemporary Worship Sunday @ 11:00 515 Centre Street First Presbyterian</p> | |

Sr. High Sunday School Time Change

Starting in September, Senior High Sunday School will begin meeting after the 11 a.m. worship service for a lesson led by Wade Preston. Lunch will be served each week. Check out the September newsletter for more information on this new class.

Enrichment at Montgomery Center

The Presbytery's annual Enrichment program will be held at Montgomery Presbyterian Center on Saturday, August 29th from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. The cost is \$20, and you must preregister by August 22nd. There will be childcare available for preschool children, and a program provided for elementary-aged children. Sessions include Creating Sacred Space, Rediscovery of the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool, Developing Community Ministries, and The Scope of Sanctification (led by our own Dr. Siegling). Stop by the church office for brochure with details on sessions and schedules or go online to the Presbytery website: www.staugpres.org.

Coffee Service

- August 2nd - Ruth Circle
- August 9th - Worship Comm
- August 16th - Youth Comm
- August 23th - Ministry Fair
- August 30th - Communications



Flower Calendar

- August 2nd - Cynthia Sapp, Linda Love and Andy Allan in loving memory of their parents, Sara & Andrew Allan, Jr.
- August 9th - Mike, Marsha, Nancy and Pam Daniel in loving memory of their mother, Ann Daniel
- August 16th - Ann Bass in honor of family and friends
- August 23th - Mary Jo Griffin in loving memory of her husband, Ransom Griffin
- August 30th - Sharon and Jay Scherer in memory of their parents, Dorothy & Harry Grant and Eleanor & Lu Scherer.



"So the churches were strengthened in faith and increased in numbers daily." Acts 16:5