

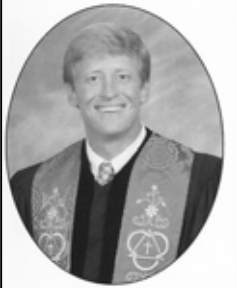


First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

March 2009

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



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

Nearly six years ago Martha Ann, Harrison, and I left our home in Marion to travel to Charleston to visit my family. Having driven for only about 15 minutes I was somewhat startled to see a wet little kitten in a ditch by the side of the highway. The poor creature was probably no

more than four or five weeks old, and its drenched little frame probably weighed no more than half a pound since it had survived a night of heavy rain. "Well, are you going to pull over?" Martha Ann asked. "Yes, honey, of course I'm going to pull over." After I picked up the phone and called my family to tell them that we were going to be running a little bit late, I then circled back to where we had seen the small cat.

After parking beside the road, I slowly walked up to that fragile, scared, and soaking wet kitten. The closer I got, the more frightened it became; when it started to stagger away from me and skirt the shoulder of the road, I had to stop traffic in both directions in an attempt to corral the "little guy." After several minutes of dodging scratching paws and hearing weak hissing sounds, as well as avoiding being injured by passing traffic myself, I scooped it up in a little box and put it into the back seat of the car near Harrison.

"Now, Harrison," I warned, "don't you touch that kitten. It's very dirty and it could be sick." We quarantined the "little guy" and took him to a veterinarian, who agreed to nurse him back to health. As it turns out,

the "little guy" was not a little guy at all but was instead a "little girl." We ended up taking her home and named her "Lucky." After a few days of being around us, I watched her play with Harrison. What a difference being found made for Lucky! Her hair was no longer matted and soaking wet; it was now soft and dry. Her attitude was no longer fearful and defensive but loving and secure.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter throughout this season of Lent, I hope that you take time to ponder what a difference being found makes for us as believers. For those who love God and are called according to His purposes, we understand through our faith in Him that God reached out his loving hand in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord at a time when we were frightened, tired, and soaked with sin. It was, indeed, a hand that had been scratched and marred by our own hissing animosity. Penetrating holes had been left behind as a result of God's willingness to love us and redeem us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

I dare say that once we are found, once we are cleansed and forgiven, and once we have accepted God's saving love, we are never the same. We realize that we think and talk and act differently than we did before; we also realize that we are no longer a people of confusion living in fear but a people of joy living in faith, because in God's eyes our lives are worth stopping for – even dying for.

Should we as Christians consider ourselves as Lucky? Emphatically, no! We have been bought with a price!

**Potluck Family Night Supper
Meet & Greet our New Associate
Pastor**

**Rev. Dr. Douglas R. Ganyo and his
wife Judy Ganyo**

March 1, 2009

5:30 P.M.

Jim Thomas Hall

If you last name begins with:

**A-H Bring a meat or meat casse-
role**

**I-R Bring a vegetable dish, salad,
or vegetable casserole**

S-Z Bring a dessert

Bring enough to serve 6-8



**YOUTH
GROUP
News**

*Don't miss
these
upcoming
youth events*

★ SNL every Sun-
day in March @
6:30 (Anchor opens
@ 6 p.m.). March
15th will be Espio-
nage.

★ 20/20 every
Thursday Morning
at 7:30 a.m., ex-
cept for the 12th.
No 20/20 on March
12th.

★ Engage for High
school youth. We'll

meet on Thursday night at 6:30 p.m.
March 5th will be at Beef O' Brady's.
Nothing on March 12th. March 19th is at
Wade's house. March 26th location TBA.

★ Dinner and a Movie for Middle School on
Friday March 6th in the Anchor @ 6:00
p.m.

Get in the Word

The Evangelism Committee would like to offer you an opportunity to serve God and our church. Each week, we mark the lessons in the Old and New Testament in the pew Bibles with a First Presbyterian Church bookmark. This makes it easier to find the scripture and read along while Dr. Seigling reads the scripture on Sunday morning. We usually mark the lessons on Thursday morning, and it only takes thirty minutes for three people to complete the sanctuary, choir, and balcony.

If you choose to mark the lessons at a time when the office is closed, you should arrange to get a key from the office. If you would like to help mark the lessons, please call Marilyn Harlin at 277-4848 or email at schmch@bellsouth.net. It's really very easy, and we'd love to have you!

Presbyterian Men News

Presbyterian Men will meet on Thursday, March 12th at 6:30 PM. Jesse Duke will join us and talk about his most recent book, "Own Yourself", which was written for young men. Jesse will share with us his motivation to write the book and what led him to the subjects he discusses.

Please plan to be with us. Call in your reservation by 5 PM on Tuesday to help plan for the meal.

AARP Driver's Safety Class

We will have an AARP Driver's Safety Class offered here on March 23rd and 24th from 8:45 to 1 p.m. on both days. Class size is limited so call the church office at 261-3837 to enroll.

Rev. Bert Swearingen, a certified instructor, will be the teacher. With a certificate of completion, you can save on your auto insurance.



Presbyterian Women News

Eleven ladies attended the PW Gathering at Riverside Presbyterian Church on January 31st. We had a wonderful Devotional Service followed by a Business Meeting and Installation of new officers. This was followed by lunch and then small group sessions. One of the highlights of the meeting was being able to talk to the representative from Thornwell who told us about our student there. We learned that the rest of her siblings were also there so it was nice that they were able to stay together.



The Presbyterian Women's Mission Project for March is Personal Items for Hope House. Thanks to Carolyn Guerrin for updating our information on the Website and also for making a PW handout for the new member packet.

PW 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
- PW Gathering in Louisville, July 11th - 15th (May 15 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.)

March Circle Meetings

- Elizabeth Circle – March 12th, 10 a.m., Jim Thomas Hall
- Esther Circle – March 12th, 1:00 p.m., Phyllis Rouse's home
- Lydia Circle - March 9th, 6:30 p.m., Joy Drewry's home
- Martha Circle – March 11th, 10:00 a.m., Sandi Neal's home
- Ruth Circle - March 12th, 10:00 a.m., Edith Jones' home

Flower Calendar

- March 1st - Robin and Dan Marley in honor of their 15th Wedding Anniversary .
- March 8th - The Shaw Family in memory of Audrey Shaw .
- March 15th - Polly Hord in honor of her children Tom, Max, JoAnn, and Max B.
- March 22nd - Theodore and Georgette Giles and Anita Gardiner in memory of their parents, George and Anita McGammage and Theodore and Ruth Giles .
- March 29th - Yvonne and Clay Treska in honor of their anniversary.



Presbyterian Women Gathering at Riverside Presbyterian



The Presbyterian Women Gathering took place at Riverside Presbyterian Church on January 31st, 2009. Eleven women from FPC attended.

Row 1: Nancy Inboden, Eunice Kurtz, Courtney Fassbender, Georgette Giles, Dot Bell

Row 2: Trish Booton, Beth Tilton, Carolyn Guerrin, Judy Levers, Marilyn Showalter, Jane Dickison

FPC Library News

New in adult fiction: The Whistling Season by Ivan Doig is one of those rare but beautifully written stories of family love and commitment exploring life in Marias Coulee, Montana beginning in 1909. Following the death of the wife and mother of the Milliron family, the necessity for a housekeeper became apparent. Father and the three Milliron boys placed an ad in the *Westwater Gazette* and received in reply the five simple but confounding words "Can't Cook But Doesn't Bite". Upon arriving in Marias Coulee, widow Rose Lewellyn and her brother, Morris Morgan, bring west with them "several kinds of education" none of them of the textbook variety and life will never be the same. This book has everything you could ever want in general fiction!

The FPC Library now has four copies of The Shack by William P. Young. If you have been waiting to read this, you now have the opportunity to do so.

Retired books sale:

The sale of "retired" books from the FPC library is ongoing and will continue throughout February. Books will be on the library rolling cart and will be priced at \$.50 for paperbacks and 1.00 for hardcovers. A special deal of \$5.00 per shopping bag is also available. Check it out!

Spring Break Ski Trip

Senior high youth and young adults are invited to a ski trip to Winter Park, CO the week of spring break, April 5th - 9th. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Wade Preston in the church office at 261-3837.



DECOLORES

—You've seen the bumper sticker...What does it mean?

Decolores, the slogan of the Cursillo movement means, "All is color". With the symbol of the rainbow, it represents the full spectrum of God's love for His people and all creation. The "Cursillo" movement has many different expressions, such as Sonshine North Via de Cristo, The Great Banquet, and Florida Presbyterian Cursillo.



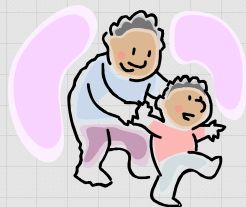
Three-day weekend retreats are held throughout the year for men and women as an opportunity for Christians to deepen one's knowledge of the Christian faith, to enhance one's spiritual life, and to help the participants become more active as servants in God's Kingdom. The aim is not conversion, but rather renewal and to build and renew Christian leaders.

A Sonshine North Via de Cristo weekend #1 will be held May 7—10 at Camp St. Johns in Switzerland, FL, while a Florida Presbyterian Cursillo weekend will be held April 29 - May 3 at the Christian Church Conference Center in Silver Springs, FL. Both weekends are for men and women (not necessarily couples).

If you want more information about this retreat, please speak to Sally or Bill Ericksen. (261-2329) or go to floridacursillo.org.

MOM, ME

Our Mom, me Playgroup 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.



Communications Committee News

- The committee needs additional volunteers to be trained to operate the sound system in the sanctuary for both services. The business of learning the church sound board system is not difficult, but there is a need for some more volunteers to take a turn at the booth, so that no one person will be asked to do the job forever. If you, or someone in your family, would like to learn more about the tasks and timing involved with the sound system, please see Dean Dobbins, or call him at 261-0260.
- Rich Lang, and Mack Sisson have been assigned to reviewing and updating the standard Time & Talent forms which are completed by new members as they join the church. The idea is to revise the form in order to make the forms more helpful to the various committee chairs as they search the congregation for new members who have the appropriate talent and previous experience to assist in the work of each committee.
- The church sign, which used to be located adjacent to Lime and 8th Street, on the lot next to Dr. Jim Hicks' Veterinary Clinic, has been removed for cleaning and renovation, and will be relocated by a sub-committee appointed for that purpose. If you have some useful ideas about a new location, call Don McFadyen at 261-3665, or Susan Steger at 261-4372.
- The committee has asked Jack Dickison to review the appearance of the First Press, with an eye towards possible upgrading graphics and layout. In addition, the committee discussed various methods to increase the number of congregants who will opt for taking the newsletter electronically, thereby saving paper and postage, reducing operating costs, and helping to reduce the solid waste stream in our community. If you would like to help in this initiative, and read your First Press on-line, send an e-mail to, Charlie@digitalvillager.net

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 it for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did for me." Matt 25:39 - 40

On February 17th at the Hope House our church served 33 dinners to homeless and needy people. Dinner was Chicken Noodle Casserole, Mixed Vegetables, Waldorf Salad, Rolls and Cake and Sweet Tea and Coffee. We want to thank all the people that helped with this dinner and those that have helped in the past. We could not do this without all of you.

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. This can be Sunday School Classes, Committees, groups of friends, Dinner for Eight or any other of our church groups.

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 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.

Presbytery Winter Meeting

This meeting was held at Mandarin Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 14th. Three clergy and eight lay members from Fernandina attended. Highlights included the following:

- Harry Saxton presented our call to Rev. Doug Ganyo as associate pastor. A commission was appointed to install Doug.
- Fernandina was asked to send a third commissioner for the next four presbytery stated meetings. This action required by the Book of Order maintains an equal balance between clergy and elder commissioners.
- Presbytery nominating committee presented their slate, which was approved. Included in this slate was Bert Swearingen to serve on the Administration and Finance Committee through 2011.
- Consideration of the overture from Fernandina, approved by the session December 16, 2008, was postponed until the May 5 meeting.

Mission Trip to Matewan, West Virginia

June 15-21 or June 22-28
Choose your week!

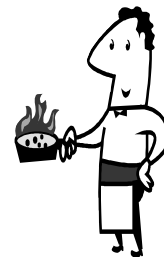
Here's how you can serve!

- | | |
|---|---|
| * Construction & Repair | * Singing, Playing an Instrument |
| * Painting | * Food Pantry |
| * VBS Activities | * Cooking for the Team |
| * Adult Bible Study & Crafts | * Movie Nights |

Members from First Presbyterian are joining with the team from Amelia Baptist to share God's love by helping the people of Appalachia. To be a part of this wonderful experience, please call: Marlene Strobach 277-4486.

If you are unable to join the Mission Team, please keep them in your prayers.

1 CAFE



Wednesday Night Dinner

5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Jim Thomas Hall



6:15 - 7:00 p.m.

**Nursery & Preschool
POWER LAB for K-5th
Middle School Groups
Adult Forum**

1st CAFÉ Menu March 4th - April 1st

March 4:
Baked Chicken

March 18:
Meat Loaf

March 11:
Corned Beef

March 25:
Penne/Sausage
& Peppers

April 1:
BBQ Chicken

PB & J always available for the kids.

RESERVATIONS

Can be made on Wednesday night,
Sunday morning, and by phone to the
church office by Monday at 4:30 p.m.

Dinners:

- Adults/Youth--(\$7.00)
- Children----- (\$4.00)
(11 and under)
- Family-----(\$22.00)






March 2009

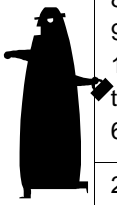


1858

First Presbyterian Church — 150 years in the heart of Fernandina

2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30a Early Worship 9:30a Coffee Break 11a Traditional and Contemporary Worship 5:30p Potluck Family Supper for Ganyos 6:30 SNL	2 4p Member Care/ Christian Ed Mtg 5p Teen CBS 6:15p Com. Mtg. 6:30p Youth Com.	3 7:30a Pray for Youth in Faith Café 9:30a Staff Mtg. 6:45p Mission Comm.	4 1st CAFÉ 12p Lenten Service 5:15p Baked Chicken 6:15p Power Lab, Youth & Adult Study 5:40p Bell Choir 6:30p Choir	5 7:30a 20/20 8a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 2:30p PW Comm 5:30 Worship Mtg 6:30p Engage - Beef O'Bradys	6 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p 6p Dinner and a Movie	7 
8 Daylight Savings 8:30a Early Worship 9:30a Coffee Break 11a Traditional and Contemporary Worship 6:30 SNL	9 5p Teen CBS	10 7:30a Pray for Youth in Faith Café 9:30a Staff Mtg. 10a Member Care	11 1st CAFÉ 12p Lenten Service 5:15p Corned Beef 6:15p Power Lab, Youth & Adult Study 5:40p Bell Choir 6:30p Choir	12 8a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 6:30p Presb. Men	13 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p	14
COMMUNION 15 8:30a Early Worship 9:30a Coffee Break 11a Traditional and Contemporary Worship 6:30 Espionage Game	16 5p Teen CBS	17 7:30a Pray for Youth in Faith Café 9:30a Staff Mtg. 5:45p Deacons 7p Session 	18 1st CAFÉ 12p Lenten Service 5:15p Meat Loaf 6:15p Power Lab, Youth & Adult Study 5:40p Bell Choir 6:30p Choir	MAC MEETING 19 7:30a 20/20 8a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 6:30p Engage - Wade's House	20 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p	21
22 8:30a Early Worship 9:30a Coffee Break 11a Traditional and Contemporary Worship 6:30 SNL	23 8:45a AARP Class 5p Teen CBS 	24 7:30a Pray for Youth in Faith Café 8:45a AARP Class	25 1st CAFÉ 12p Lenten Service 5:15p Penne/Sausage 6:15p Power Lab, Youth & Adult Study 5:40p Bell Choir 6:30p Choir	26 7:30a 20/20 8a Prayer 9:30a MOM,ME 6:30p Engage	27 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12p	28
Dr. Ganyo Installation 29 8:30a Early Worship 11a Traditional and Contemporary Worship 6:30 SNL	30	31 7:30a Pray for Youth in Faith Café		Phone: 904 261-3837 Fax: 904 261-0056 Email: churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com Web: www.1stpres-fb.com		



Coffee Service

- March 1st - Membership Care
- March 8th - Mission Committee
- March 15th - Personnel Circle
- March 22nd - Presbyterian Men
- March 29th - Property Committee

Did you know.....

Each week we place on our website the entire service of worship in audio form. If you aren't able to attend a service on Sunday, visit the Home page of our website (www.1stpres-fb.com) to access the service.

SAVE THE DATE for VBS

Take a romp through the
swamp with
Crocodile Dock,
his year's theme for VBS!
Vacation Bible School will
take place
this summer from
June 22nd to 26th.

