



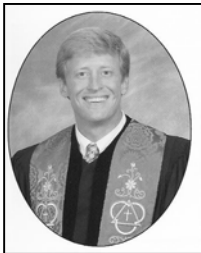
First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

May 2010

Rev. Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr. - Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Doug Ganyo - Associate Pastor
www.1stpres-fb.com

The Significance of Galilee



by the Reverend Dr.
L. Holton Siegling,

Dear Friends,

"But go", Jesus says, "tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you" (cf. Mk. 16:1-8). Have you ever wondered about the significance of Galilee? Of all the

places in the world where the risen Christ could meet with his disciples, why Galilee?

We tend to want to meet Jesus in extraordinary places; however, the reality is that, while some of Jesus' time was spent in pillared temples and Pilate's courts, most of his time was spent in ordinary places with ordinary people like you and me – people who were first met by God while performing their daily tasks and going about business as usual. "Follow me," Jesus says, and for each of us who has responded to God's call, our lives have never been the same.

"He is not here," we are told on Easter morning. So where is he? Why, Jesus is back in the old neighborhood; he's where we live. He's not only in those everyday places where we say goodbye to dear friends like Wade Preston, our Director for Youth and Their Families, but he is also where we will go in our search for whom God is calling to serve our students in the near future. In other words, Jesus is where we are; in fact, there is nowhere we can be where God is not present already. For the Christian it is a matter of getting alongside of God in those places

where He is already at work. In our journey of faith, too often we wait to see Jesus in the grandiose; thus, we miss the very present reality of God dwelling among us in ordinary events of our lives.

As we leave our Jerusalem, a place which is familiar to us and which serves as the center of our activities, and then make our way into our Galilee, it should not surprise us that God meets us and miraculously turns the cock's crow into the promise of a new day and changes those burdensome bags of silver each of us carries into gifts for the poor.

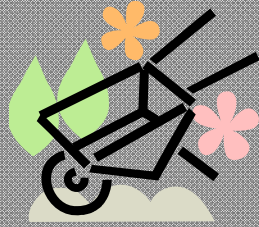
Go there, friends! Don't hesitate; know that you don't have to travel very far. Indeed, in order to better understand both where God is and where God is leading, recognize that we have been given the blessing that is the church called forth, the very place where we discern how God is at work in our lives. It has been said that, without the community of faith, we make our spiritual voyage with neither wind nor sail. As the Easter season carries us nearer still to the day of Pentecost, let us celebrate the Spirit of God, that mysterious and mighty wind which moves and blows among us even now.

May the Lord bless and keep you; may you be assured that, no matter where you are, God is there also. Admittedly, Galilee really was a special place after all; however, please meditate upon this thought: it was special only because of the presence and the power of the risen Christ.

In Christ's Service,
Holton

Spring Cleaning a Success!

Thank you to 18 church participants who came out on a beautiful Saturday morning, April 10, to spruce up the church grounds for spring and summer. Participants included Trish and Ed Kramer, James Johnson, Jana Rainey, Nelson Showalter, Ralph and Linda Palumbo, Dan and Robin Marley, Allesen and Will Reingold, Bill Erickson, Jack and Jane Dickison, Wendy Priesand, Tom Jost, Richard and DeAnn Johnson. Also assisting were church youth - Jonah Braeger and Hamilton Rainey who cleaned windows, provided water, and upon conclusion of the morning work as a special treat to the workers served ice cream.



We accomplished much in three hours of work to beautify our church grounds. The projects included a rework of the flowerbeds at the Manse, Angel Davis Hall, and the office, pressure washing many of the sidewalks and walkways, extensive mulching and weed pulling, and trimming trees at the Manse.

MOM, ME

Our MOM,ME Play-group continues to meet every Wednesday 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.



Shrimp Fest Worship Schedule

The 2010 Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival is April 30 - May 2. On Sunday, May 2, we will have only one Worship Service at 8:30 a.m. and no Sunday School or youth group in the evening. Come to the 8:30 service dressed casually so you can go to the Shrimp Festival afterwards.



The church youth will be selling soft drinks and water in the Anchor to help support mission trips and other youth activities on Saturday May 1 and Sunday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please drop by to cool off from heat and to take a respite from the crowds!

Micah's Place will be showcasing their Shrimp Art Statues in the ANCHOR as well. Come by and get a first look!!

Presbyterian Men
will not meet in May.

SUMMER SUNDAY EVENINGS

Contemporary Worship events for FPC on summer Sundays each month:

- ☉ June 13 A Picnic Supper in the park
- ☉ July 4 Celebration and Fireworks
- ☉ Aug 1 Godsightings at Ft. Clinch
- ☉ Aug 22 Bonfire Worship on the beach

Contemporary Worship

Contemporary Worship at 11 in the ANCHOR will take a sabbatical over the summer to allow for creative worship opportunities in God's creation while we explore, plan and prepare for dynamic worship experiences in the fall.

Presbyterian Women's News

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

—Philippians 4:4

TO ALL WOMEN OF FPC Please join us for **LADIES' NIGHT OUT**

AN EVENT HONORING THE YOUNG ADULT
WOMEN OF FPC
SALAD SUPPER

Thursday, May 6
6:30 p.m.
Jim Thomas Hall

RSVP to Church Office, 261.3837
Questions? Please call Martha Ann Siegling, 310.6350, or Trish Booton, 491.1814.

Circles will provide the food; nursery care is available.
Come and enjoy the fellowship!

Prayer Shawl Ministry - On Sunday, April 25, the prayer shawls were dedicated during the morning worship services. These beautiful shawls are knitted and crocheted with love and prayer, bringing God's comfort, love, and peace to people who are ill, grieving, or facing a crisis. Please call one of the pastors, deacons, or prayer shawl members if you know of someone in need of this special blessing. The Shawl Ministry

meets in Jim Thomas Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, May 3 and Friday, May 21.

Hats for Troops - Are you interested in knitting or crocheting hats for the military?

These woolen hats are simple to make and will help bring warmth to the soldiers serving around the world. For information and pattern, call Trish, 491.1814.

Spring Fling - Sunday, June 6, 4:00 p.m.: Please come for the PW birthday celebration! Joey and Jeanie will entertain us with their upbeat music, and the Life Membership Award will be presented to one of our members.

May Circle Meetings

- Elizabeth Circle – May 13, 10 a.m., Jim Thomas Hall
- Esther Circle – May 13, 12:30 p.m., Trisha Kenner's home
- Martha Circle - May 12, 10:00 a.m., Jane Turney's home
- Ruth Circle - May 13, 9:30 a.m., Nancy Inboden's home



Coffee Service



- May 2 - No Coffee (Shrimp Festival)
- May 9 – Finance Committee
- May 16 – Martha Circle
- May 23 - Membership Care
- May 30 - Mission Committee

May Leaders in Children's Church

- May 9 – Doris Holloway
- May 16 – Sherri Braeger
- May 23 - Reg and Michelle Goshert
- May 30 -

Children's Church will not meet during the summer months. All children are invited to the Sanctuary for worship.

National Day of Prayer

to be observed May 6th, 2010

The Apostle Paul in I Timothy 2:1-2 urges us to pray "on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life..." President Ronald Reagan signed into law the designation of the first Thursday in May as the annual observance for the National Day of Prayer.

This May 6th will be the 59th Annual Observance with the theme "Prayer ... For Such a Time as This." At 6:30 p.m., there will be Praise and Worship Music at First Baptist Church..

Please consider attending this event and pray for our nation on May 6th, 2010, and indeed throughout the coming year.

Zombie Weekend



The Oxford English dictionary defines "zombie" as a lifeless, apathetic, or completely unresponsive person. This will describe the middle school youth who attend Wade's Zombie weekend on May 14th and 15th. The kids you drop off on Friday night will be turned

into zombies by the time you pick them up on Saturday night through non-stop fun and lack of sleep. We can't report how that will happen in the newsletter, but parents can call Wade for details. We also need parents to drive and chaperone this event. We promise you won't become zombies. Please contact Wade at the church if you plan to attend this event or would like more information.



Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser

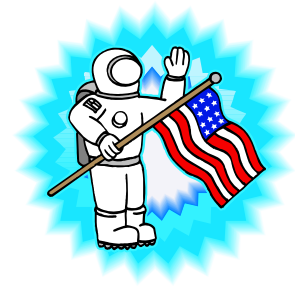
The youth of the church will hold a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Sunday, May 23 after the 11 a.m. worship service. Proceeds will be used to fund the summer Sr. High mission trip to Louisiana.

Tickets will go on sale in early May in the fellowship hall between services: \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. Your ticket includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and drink.

The table that provides the biggest tips to the youth server wins the opportunity for a night out on the town. Please support our youth in this fundraising activity.

Astronaut Visits the MACs

We have exciting news for our MAC group! On Thursday, May 20th, astronaut Shane Kimbrough, son of DeAnn Johnson, will be our very special guest.



We'll learn all about Shane's experiences with the NASA Space Program, including his trip to the International Space Station aboard the *Endeavour* and his two space walks. This is a program you don't want to miss! Because of Shane's schedule, we will meet at 11 a.m. and have our program first. Please bring a covered dish to share for lunch. For purposes of set up, please RSVP to the church office, 261-3837, by Monday, May 17. All senior adults 55 and older are invited and encouraged to join us.

Maundy Thursday Service



At this year's Maundy Thursday service, members of the congregation re-enacted the Last Supper.

New Fiction in the Library

If you loved the YadaYada Prayer Group series, you will be pleased to know that author, Neta Jackson, has begun a new series. The YadaYada House of Hope is "dedicated to the amazing staff of Breakthrough Urban Ministries and its 'Joshua Center', a shelter for homeless women in Chicago who have literally created a 'House of Hope' for their many guests". The first two volumes of this series where do I go? And who do I talk to? have been published and are now in the FPC library. All of the characters you remember from the original series re-appear and Gabby, a new personality, is introduced. Both series come highly recommended.



Also new in the library fiction section is Take Three by Karen Kingsbury the third from the Above the Line series. Kingsbury remains one of the most prolific and favorite of Christian fiction authors.

May is Get Caught Reading Month.

Baccalaureate Sunday

The church will recognize graduating high school and college seniors on Sunday, May 23rd at both the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services. If you have a graduating senior, please notify the church at 261-3837 so that we can recognize them at one of these services.



Graduation Exercises for Yulee High School will be held on June 3 at UNF at 6 p.m., and for Fernandina Beach High School on Saturday, June 5 at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena at 3 p.m.



Teacher Appreciation Sunday

will be celebrated on Sunday, May 16th, with a delicious catered luncheon following the 11 a.m. service of worship.

All teachers and leaders of preschool through Adults will be honored during each worship service. Spouses and children are also invited to enjoy lunch on this special day celebrating our teachers.

A nursery will be provided for infants, toddlers and preschool children during the luncheon. Plan now to accept the appreciation of your church family on Sunday, May 16th.

Please call the church office to let us know how many in your family will accompany you on Teacher Appreciation Sunday. You deserve it!

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

If you have volunteered to serve at Hope House you are on a list to be called and you will be called in the upcoming months. We would like to get emails of those who have volunteered so if you have signed up to serve at Hope House please email Marilyn Showalter at showalte@bellsouth.net (note there is no "r" in the email address). If you haven't signed up and would like to you may also send an email. Make sure the email is designated to Hope House.

If you are a member of a group or would like to make up a group to host a dinner at Hope House please contact Bill Erickson, Trish Booton, Eunice Kurtz or Marilyn Showalter.

We also are thrilled to have monetary donations to support our dinners and the IDN. If you would like to give an offering to this ministry you can make out a check to First Presbyterian Church and designate it to IDN or put cash in the offering in an envelope designated to IDN.

Memorial Day Closure

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 31 in honor of Memorial Day.



Mission News

A sincere thank you from the Mission Committee for your generosity to the One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter Sunday. A grand total of \$2,400.00 was collected for feeding the hungry in our community and for sharing with our Presbytery!



You will also be amazed to learn that our church's gift shoeboxes donated and mailed at Christmas, were part of a total of 8.2 million boxes shipped worldwide as a part of Operation Christmas Child! It feels so good to be a part of such a large, giving network.

If you plan to be in town for Christmas, and would like to host one or more foreign college students who are unable to go home for the holidays, we would love to hear from you. We are hoping First Presbyterian Church can be a site for several of these students as a part of Christmas International House. Please call Pastor Doug or notify the church of your interest.

There is still room to be a part of the mission trip to Houma, LA, the week of June 13. Call Pastor Doug to learn more details of the mission opportunities that week.

Two Cents A Meal is successful once again. Thanks to Rich Lang's membership at First Coast Community Credit Union, we have been able to use their free coin counting machine, so the entire amount collected, \$745.00, can be used to fight hunger. As the canisters continue to be brought to church, we will post new totals. Thank you for being a part of this important ministry.

VBS

Sailing dates are set for VBS

on July 26-31



First Presbyterian will provide 5 days of *High Seas Adventure* plus a 6th day of Family Fun & Celebration with Hot

Dogs and Water Slides on Saturday, July 31st! Students going into Kindergarten through 5th grade in September may come aboard. Nursery and Pre-school boats will be available for children or grandchildren of our volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to have a wonderful time at VBS, call Doris Davis office. Registration for students will begin in June.



Peggy Albrecht was born in New Rochelle, New York, and husband **Helmut** was born and raised in Nuernberg, Germany. They met in Huntsville, Alabama where Peggy worked as a field engineer, and Helmut was a German Air Force Officer. After more than 20 years in Germany, the Albrecht's came back to the US in 2001 and lived in Rochester, NY. They relocated to Fernandina Beach in October of 2009 to be closer to Peggy's parents. Peggy works at the AIFBY Chamber of Commerce, and Helmut is developing his consulting company. Both are active Rotarians and love to be engaged in volunteer work and helping others.

Camp Montgomery Family Weekend

Our annual Church Family Weekend Retreat was Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 16-18th at Camp Montgomery. Approx. 105 people attended this year!



Becca Gillespie delivered the sermon at the outdoor worship service Sunday morning.



Connect Through Prayer

We sometimes wonder how to connect with the unchurched and those who simply don't know Jesus as their Savior. For a football fan who is a follower of the Florida Gators the witness of Tim Tebow, the eye shadow scripture, the mission trips and a ever present "Bless you", has been an easy connection recently.

When there are disasters, and churches and parachurch organizations step in to fill the need gap, we are once again given an open door to say, "Praise the Lord" for caring people. Such opportunities seem so natural and unassuming.

But if we can trust the accuracy of people surveys, we might note another very ordinary opportunity to witness to God's activity in the world. Poll after poll records that nearly everyone prays. And there is even an increasing science that attests to the power of prayer. Dr. Herbert Benson of Harvard Medical School noted a few years back that prayer is "effective in stimulating healthful physiological changes in the body."

It would seem that at a bare minimum prayer does indeed help people connect to God and other people. I think we can help people with that connection and make it stronger. First we can affirm and encourage prayer by simply agreeing that we all need strength and wisdom beyond ourselves. Second, we can share a conviction that God hears and answers prayer, but not necessarily in just the way we want or expect. P.T. Forsythe in one of his classic devotionals gives us good counsel when he says, "pray as your actual self not as some fancied saint."

Finally, when we and others encounter a spiritual dry spell we can be assured and give assurance that sometimes we feel as though our prayers go no where and are unheard. It is then we can recall and use Jesus' teaching to "seek" and "knock" until the door opens.

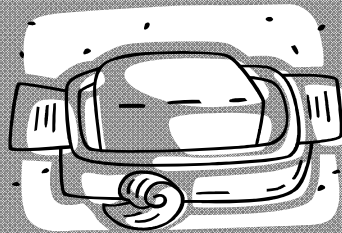
In summary, we can not only recognize and affirm prayer but we can also covenant with others to pray with them. We can encourage others that their ordinary conversational prayers are good and effective. Furthermore, we can join others in seeing and knocking, knowing God will reveal himself to those who persist. And when the Holy Spirit of God leads and convicts someone to seek Jesus as their Savior we can share that this too is an answer to prayer.

Farewell Family Night Supper

The Membership Care Committee will host a farewell Family Night Pot-Luck Supper on Sunday, May 16th at 5:30 p.m. in honor of our Youth Director, Wade Preston.

Meat, bread, drinks and dessert will be provided. We are asking the church family to bring a vegetable, salad, or side dish that will feed six people.

We hope everyone will be able to attend this special event to Roast Farewell to Wade and Megan and wish them the best in their new "Church Home".



It won't be long before a search committee is formed, which will prayerfully look for that new person who will work with our youth and their families. If you know of someone that you believe would be well suited to serve on such a committee, please forward their name(s) to the church office c/o the Nominating Committee by Tuesday, May 4th.

May @ 1st Pres

SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES

- 8:30a & 11a Traditional Worship
- 9:30a Coffee Fellowship
- 9:50a Sunday School & Adult Studies
- 11a Contemporary Worship in the Anchor
- 12:15p Senior High Sunday School

Sun

Mon

Tue

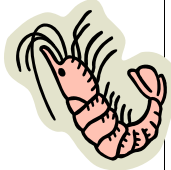
Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

30



31 Memorial Day
Office Closed



3 9:30a Prayer Shawl
Ministry
4p Christian Ed
5p TEEN CBS
6:15 Communications
6:30 Youth
8:30p YA prayer grp

2 8:30 Worship Service
Only
No Sunday School

Shrimp Festival

9

Mother's Day



10 5p TEEN CBS
8:30p YA prayer grp

11 7:30a Prayer for Youth
9a Staff Meeting
6p Property Comm

12 9:30a MOM,ME
4p Hand bell Choir
6:30p Choir

13 4:30p Stephen Minis-tries

14



15 2 p Memorial
Service Ken
Jenkins

16

Communion

Noon - Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
5:30 - Family Dinner for Wade and Megan Preston

17 5p TEEN CBS
8:30p YA prayer grp

18 7:30a Prayer for Youth
4p Finance
5:45 Deacons
7p Session

19 9:30a MOM,ME
3:30p Staff Mtg
4p Hand bell Choir
6:30p Choir

20 11 a MACs Luncheon



21

9:30a Prayer Shawl
Ministry



22

Zombie Weekend

23

Baccalaureate Sunday
Noon Spaghetti Dinner



24 5p TEEN CBS
8:30p YA prayer grp

25 7:30a Prayer for Youth
9a Staff Meeting

26 9:30a MOM,ME
4p Hand bell Choir
6:30p Choir

27 4:30p Stephen Minis-tries

28

29

Isle of Eight Flags

7

2:30p PW CT Mtg
6:30p PW Salad Supper
6:30p FBC Nat'l Day of Prayer Service

5 9:30a MOM,ME
4p Hand bell Choir
5:30p Worship Comm
6:30p Choir

4 7:30a Prayer Youth
9a Staff Meeting
Noon Wholeness Healing Service
5p Member Care Mission

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5p TEEN CBS
6:15 Communications
6:30 Youth
8:30p YA prayer grp

2 8:30 Worship Service
Only
No Sunday School

14

15 2 p Memorial
Service Ken
Jenkins

21

9:30a Prayer Shawl
Ministry



22

Zombie Weekend

28

29

Isle of Eight Flags

7

2:30p PW CT Mtg
6:30p PW Salad Supper
6:30p FBC Nat'l Day of Prayer Service

5 9:30a MOM,ME
4p Hand bell Choir
5:30p Worship Comm
6:30p Choir

4 7:30a Prayer Youth
9a Staff Meeting
Noon Wholeness Healing Service
5p Member Care Mission

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Ministry
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MAC Cruise



In March, the MACs took a cruise to Key west and the Bahamas.

Flower Calendar

- May 2 - Ed Burger in loving memory of Betty Burger.
- May 9 - Jim Thomas in memory of his wife, Ann Thomas, his mother, Treatie Thomas and Ann's mother, Mae Walters.
- May 16 - Ann Bass in honor of friends and family
- May 23 - Joe and Mary Tom Drew in honor of our grandchildren, Cameron, Chandler and Joseph.
- May 30 - Ed and Joyce Mathews in loving memory of their son, Scott.



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