



First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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www.1stpres-fb.com

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Dr. Stanley Ott

Take the Adventure – Acts 16:5 Initiative

Last fall in the midst of two months of travel to seventeen different cities to work with denominational regional areas in growing the vitality of their congregations, I found myself singing old road songs such as Simon and Garfunkel's, "Homeward Bound," Roger Miller's "King of the Road" and Peter, Paul and Mary's "Leaving on a Jet Plane." Life for all of us is a trip!

Four words that deeply express significant facets of this traveling Christian experience are journey, pilgrimage, quest and adventure. All of them involve travel and destination, goal and process, ends and means.

Journey portrays travel from one place to another as our Lord journeyed from Jericho to Jerusalem and our lives journey toward all manner of destinations. My daughter Shelley and I once took a bus tour of some of the castles, the chateaux, in the French Loire Valley. Our journey was simple movement from castle to castle through breathtaking scenery. The Christian life is very much a succession of journeys and destinations.

Pilgrimage is associated with the passage of the faithful to a holy place or to the Holy One. A group I traveled with to the Holy Land had a real sense of pilgrimage as we approached places such as the Sea of Galilee and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. I have the same sense when I spend a day on retreat for a time of reflection, meditation and prayer with our Lord.

A **quest** is a journey, often long and challenging, in pursuit of a goal. It is very much a seeking, the ardent pursuit of a momentous end. The word "quest" always reminds me of the Knights of the Round Table as they pursue some mission of mercy or of the Man of La Mancha (Don Quixote) as he sings The Impossible Dream (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfHnzYEHAow>): to be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause (Mitch Leigh, Joe Darion 1965). Quest is a wonderful word to use of Christian experience because we very much have an end in mind in this life –the Missio Dei- the mission of God – and in the life to come as Jesus said, where I am, there you may be also (John 1:4 NRSV).

Adventure describes what you may experience during your journey, pilgrimage and quest. Adventure involves exciting, troubling and often challenging experiences which may be risky, uncertain and often ambiguous in nature. I love the spirit of adventure on the road of the Christian life.

Once while I was the pastor of a congregation I was offered the opportunity to assume the additional responsibility for a publishing ministry. While the offer had all sorts of potential, it was also somewhat scary. It meant raising funds and learning good business practices such as product development, customer service, accounts receivable and payable and so on. During the process of deciding what to do I awoke very early one morning in a cold sweat thinking about the risks involved when suddenly and very force-

Take the Adventure (Cont.)

fully the words came to my mind, "Take the adventure the Lord has for you!"

I knew immediately it was a quote from the Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis. When the leading characters are about to undertake significant yet potentially challenging and risky activities they would say to each other, "Let us take the adventure Aslan has for us." The character of Aslan in the fictional world of Narnia represents the person of Jesus in our real world. I knew instantly my only faithful response was, "Yes, Lord." As it turned out the challenges I had anticipated in assuming that publishing concern were real yet the doors our Lord opened that I had not anticipated were remarkable.

When we take an adventure for our Lord, when we pursue the Missio Dei, the mission of God trusting in the grace of God, as we understand our Lord is leading us, we engage in the adventure of a journey, pilgrimage and quest with the most wonderful of traveling companions, the Lord's own self.

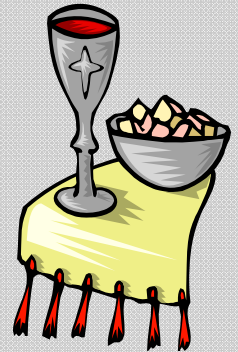
Our work at the Vital Churches Institute in general, and the Acts 16:5 Initiative in particular, seeks to enable denominational regional areas and congregations to flourish in missional and transformational vitality. This letter, Take the Adventure, aims to encourage and equip you in your own adventure of faith and ministry and to assist you as you encourage and equip others. Bringing vitality to our life together, doxological (God-ward), communal/koinonial (inward), and missional (outward) is the great adventure on which our Lord leads us all.

Take the Adventure!
E. Stanley Ott

E. Stanley Ott, Ph.D. is president of the Vital Churches Institute and consults with denominational regional areas and with congregations. His books include [Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church](#) and [Transform Your Church with Ministry Teams](#).

Contemporary Worship Reinvented

on the third Sunday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the ANCHOR with Dr. Holton Siegling leading us in praise and worship through multimedia presentations, drama and sacred moments. Join us and bring someone along Sunday, October 17th! Communion will be served.



It's the 2nd Annual Chili Cook Off Wed, Oct 20 @ 5:30p



Sign up at Coffee hour or call the church office to compete for:

- ★ Best Chili in Fernandina
- ★ Most Unusual Chili
- ★ Meatless Wonder-ful Chili

Prepare enough chili to serve 10 people and deliver to JTH by 5:00p. Judging will take place prior to serving. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Don't miss the awesome awards, exciting entertainment, pinata and door prizes! Invite some friends, we're trying to raise some money here! All proceeds will be used to defray expenses for the church family weekend retreat at Camp Montgomery in April.



THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE

OCTOBER 30-31, 2010

REVEREND GRADYE PARSONS

STATED CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PC(USA)

Saturday Seminar: Where are We Going? 10a-12p in the ANCHOR
Open to the community, Nursery available with reservations 261-3837



REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 31

WORSHIP AT 8:30 AND 11:00A.M.

ARE YOU REFORMED?

MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday, Oct 17th

9a.m.-12:30p.m.

in Jim Thomas Hall

Sign up here, Volunteer!

Worship, Study, Sing or Sew,
Share with others what you know.
Connect, renew, get plugged in,
Join First Family, make a friend.
A place of service here for you,
A ministry God's called you to.

FPC is more than you realize. Come
and See for yourself all that your
church has to offer!

Get Ready for the 3rd
UGLY TIE CONTEST



Congratulations to our 3rd
grade students who re-
ceived their beautiful NIV
Adventure Bibles in Sep-
tember: Simon Banzhaf ,

Jonah Braeger, Trevor Goshert, Cova
Guerrin, Will Pickren, Sarah Rogers,
Matthew Stillwell and Chase Wilson. Re-
becca Banzhaf and Amy Steffen are
teaching our 3rd-5th graders this year
and part of their curriculum will include
learning all of the books of the Bible.

MOM, ME

Our MOM,ME Playgroup con-
tinues to meet every Wednesday
morning 9:30—11 a.m. in Noah's
Place. You can be a part of this ministry of
hospitality and nurture by inviting new-
comers and visitors to join our happy
group. We are continually making im-
provements in Noah's Place and would like
to purchase some new toys, books and
furniture. Call Doris if you would like to
participate in this ministry.



MAC Submarine Tour



Ahoy Mates! Do you know what the inside of a nuclear powered submarine looks and feels like? Join the over 55s, **Mature Adult Christians**, for a tour of one of the Navy's peacekeepers followed by lunch in the base galley. We will carpool from the church at 8:15 a.m. October 21st. King's Bay Security requires a list of attendees by October 6th. Please RSVP to the church office at 261-3837. If you are not sure you can attend but are interested, make a reservation. We can always delete your name, but we will not be able to add any names after October 6. All participants must be US citizens and have a photo I.D. with them. Please wear low heeled, sturdy shoes appropriate for boats and climbing ladders.

Mission Update

The FL/GA Blood Alliance is coming to our town and our street, right in front of the church. The date is October 31, from 8 am to 12 noon. We urgently need 25 healthy, giving, donors to donate a pint of blood before or after church. Please plan on giving up only 45 minutes of your time and a small portion of your blood to save someone's life. Registration will be held Sunday, October 24 in JTH.

While it may be hard to believe, winter is coming and the Cold Night Shelter will open again on nights of 40 degrees or colder. In order to make this a success, our church needs 20 volunteers to help out for a 4-hour shift on a rotating schedule. Won't you join us in staffing the CNS?



Operation Christmas Child

This is FPC's 6th year of participation in Operation Christmas Child, a unique shoe box gift project which began in 1990 providing millions of children throughout the world a Christmas shoe box filled with gifts, along with the good news of Jesus Christ.



This is an ideal family project with children and/or grandchildren. Have each member of the family pack a box with a variety of gifts such as schools supplies, toys and hygiene items.

Every single gift box is treated as a Gospel opportunity. Each person is asked to pray for the child who will receive their box and ask God to touch that child's heart. That's where the real power of Operation Christmas Child lies, in God's answers to those millions of heartfelt prayers.

Last year, 8.2 million boxes were collected and delivered to children in 108 countries. From our own congregation we sent over 200 boxes to India.

Boxes, wrapping paper, plastic boxes (no need to wrap) along with brochures listing items to include and to avoid will be available during coffee hour in JTH during October.

Samaritan's Purse is also asking that a \$7 donation (to cover the cost of shipping) accompany each box. If you make your donation online at samaritanaspurse.org/ezgive and print the EZ Give label, the barcode on the label will enable you to track your gift.

Let's prepare our hearts for Christmas by caring for the precious children of the world whom God has called by name. Do Not Delay in being the hands and heart of Christ.



1st Cafe Fellowship 5:30 P.M.

Wednesday Night Dinners October 6th – October 27th Menu:

- Oct. 6th – Shepherd's Pie
- Oct. 13th _ Chicken & Dumplings
- Oct. 27th – Spaghetti & Meatballs

Weekly 1st Café Dinners:
Adults/Youth--\$7.00 each
Children--\$3.00 each (6-11)
Family--\$20.00

Three ways to participate:

1. Call in your reservation to the church office each week by Tuesday@ 4:30 P.M.
2. Sign up at dinner each week.
3. Sign up between services on Sunday

6:15 – 7:15

Wednesday Night Programs:

- Dr. Siegling Presents Presbyterian 101
- Oct. 6th – Altar or Table?
- Oct. 13th – Good Works or Grace? Young Women's Circle
- Oct. 20th CHILI COOK-OFF Fund-raiser to benefit Camp Montgomery Family Retreat
- Oct. 27th The Delilles, missionaries to Brazil
- Choir Rehearsal@ 6:30 P.M.
- Every Wednesday for Youth—W3 - WALKING WISELY ON WEDNESDAY,

Coffee Service

- October 3 - Property
- October 10 – Ruth Circle
- October 17 – Worship
- October 24 - Youth
- October 31 - Martha Circle



GEEK, NERD, TECHIE

Any of these synonymous with your name? The Communications Committee is looking for a few Apple wizards to run the AV equipment in



the ANCHOR for the Contemporary Service once a month. If your pulse quickened or your ears began to twitch, that could be a sign from God that you are being called to this important ministry at FPC. Call Dean Dobbins at 261-0620 for more information about training, equipment and time commitment. Isn't it amazing how God provides a place for you to serve in the area that you love?

Women of Church Baby Shower



On September 19, the Women of the Church gave Martha Ann & Holton a baby shower for baby girl Siegling.

Presbyterian Women's News

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



The Presbyterian Women began the new Circle year with a wonderful kickoff luncheon and program on Thursday, September 9. Special guest was Dr. Meighan Johnson of Seniors vs. Crime, who was very entertaining while providing excellent information about protecting ourselves in financial situations. A delicious salad luncheon was provided by the members. Circle leaders gave brief presentations about Bible studies, and the PW Players entertained the guests with Christian and women's humor.

Wednesday, September 15, approximately a dozen of the church's young women came out for the inaugural meeting of the Lydia Circle. In the coming year, they will be studying *Discovering God's Will for Your Life*. This time of study, prayer, and fellowship will take place the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:15 p.m., following Family Night Supper at 1st Café.

There is still time to get involved in one of the circles as we begin our PW year. Please contact Trish Booton, 491-1814, to join one of the groups.

Thanks to everyone who brought donations to the Bag Ladies. The response was beautiful, and many more bags can now be filled for the children of Micah's Place. Thank you to DeAnn Johnson for her leadership of this ministry. Questions, call DeAnn at 261-2399.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- ♥ **Prayer Shawl Ministry**—Monday, October 4 , Friday, October 22—9:30 a.m.—Jim Thomas Hall
- ♥ **Fair Trade Festival**— **Saturday, October 9**—SERRV, Beatitudes (Haiti), Rahab's Rope, MayaWorks, Chikumbuso, and Amani African Goods are fair trade organizations being represented. The festival will be held in the Anchor on Saturday, with remaining items moved on Sunday to JTH for the final sales.
- ♥ **October 23**—PW of the Synod of South Atlantic Gathering at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island.
- ♥ **PW Christmas**—Thursday, December 9—Luncheon to celebrate Christmas with our sisters in Christ. On that day, the individual circles will meet before or after lunch for their monthly Bible studies.

October Circle Meetings

- ♥ Elizabeth Circle - Thursday, October 14, 1:30 p.m., Jim Thomas Hall
- ♥ Esther Circle - Thursday, October 21, 12:30 p.m., Home of Peggy McCarroll
- ♥ Lydia Circle (Young Women) - Wednesday, October 13, 6:15 p.m., Faith Cafe
- ♥ Martha Circle - Wednesday, October 13 , 10:00 a.m., Jim Thomas Hall
- ♥ Ruth Circle - Thursday, October 14, 9:30 a.m., Home of Jan Gundersen



FAIR TRADE FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 9

9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Anchor

Handmade Gifts from Around the World

- Amani African Goods
 - Beatitudes
 - Chikumbuso
 - MayaWorks
 - Rahab's Rope
 - SERRV

Sponsored by Presbyterian Women

Update from Brazil & the DeLilles

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

We are looking forward to visiting with you all, our First Pres Family, on October 27 and sharing about the ministry and mission work in Recife, Brazil. We are currently in the states on Home Ministry Assignment and will be returning to the field in January. We have now been on the field for a total of 6 years. Initially, we served at a children's home and in the past three years we have continued to serve in the same community by expanding our ministry to various redemptive ministry projects.

Construction of 25 new homes has been completed for people living in high risk situations and numerous



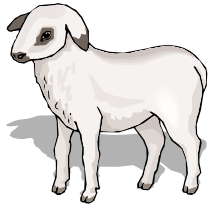
home renovations that have provided bathrooms, sewers and additions for larger families. Our ministry is now operating a food bank that is providing monthly food baskets for 50 families and we are able to offer literacy and tutoring classes for adults and children and a new soccer project for young boys. Bible studies and the construction of a new Presbyterian church are blessings to the ministry and the community.

First Presbyterian Church is very much a part of this mission work with us and we are excited to share with you all that you have been doing!

Serving an awesome God,
Craig, Mary, Gennifer, and Shelby

Seeking the Lost Sheep

A major theme of the Bible is that God actively seeks those who are lost – entire nations and individuals – so that they may regain their rightful place with Him; e.g., in Luke 15 three “lost” parables appear back-to-back. One describes the shepherd who leaves 99 sheep to search for one who is lost. The next tells of a woman who refuses to stop looking for a coin she lost in her home, and the last is about the prodigal son who chooses to become lost.



In the case of the lost sheep, it had wandered off to the nearby fields; in the case of the prodigal son, he traveled to a distant country; in the case of the lost coin, it was lost in the house. While we can certainly travel to far off lands to take part in God's wonderful and evangelistic work, sometimes those who are lost may actually be found quite near to where we are.

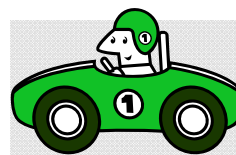
Granted, only God seeks and saves, and asking who is “lost” is not necessarily a question that we ask. However, it is nevertheless true that the lost can sometimes be found among our family and friends, even those who visit the church; indeed, to all those for whom the Lord our God so earnestly seeks, they will benefit greatly and eternally from our faithful witness to God's “lost searching” love in our own lives.

So let us allow the people we encounter along life's journey of faith to experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ through which we have been found and in which we live and move and have our being.

Your Evangelism Committee

Flower Calendar

- ♥ October 3 - Jim Shaw in loving memory of Audrey Shaw. Anne and Dan Kirby in honor of 55 years of marriage
- ♥ October 10 - Mary Tom and Joe Drew in memory of her parents, Edna and John Willis
- ♥ October 17 - Betty Long, Jimmy Long and Beth Richey in memory of her husband and their father, James L. Long
- ♥ October 24 - The Hardee Girls in memory of their parents, Suzanne and Bill Hardee
- ♥ October 31 - The Christian Education Committee



FPC will host an AARP Driver's Safety Course on October 18th and 19th from 8:45 AM to 1 PM. Cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for others. Completion of the course will save you on your auto insurance. Class size is limited so call 261-3837 to register. The course is taught by a qualified instructor.

Friday Night Dinner and a Movie

October 1 and 22
November 5 and 19

FPC Youth

In the Anchor 6 pm - 9 pm
\$5.00 - pizza, drink and popcorn
Hang out eat pizza and enjoy a cool movie on the big screen



***PARENTS & YOUTH - sign up on FACEBOOK with First Presbyterian Church Youth Group page to get updates

October @ 1st Pres



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES 8:30a Early Morning Worship 9:30a Coffee Break 9:50a Sunday School 11a Traditional Worship			1 6p YOUTH Dinner & a Movie	2 Relay for Life
3 9:50a New Member Class World Communion Sunday 6:30p SNL	4 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry 4p Christian Ed 5:30p Teen CBS 6:15p Communica-	5 4p Member Care 5p Mission 7p Youth	6 9a Staff Meeting 9:30a MOM,ME 12p Worship Comm 5:30p 1st Café 6:30p Choir	7 12p- Wholeness/Healing 2:30p PW CT Mtg. 7:30p Young Adult CBS	8	9 FAIR TRADE FESTIVAL In the ANCHOR
10 9:50a New Member Class 12p- Evangelism Fair Trade Festival 6:30p SNL	11 Columbus Day 5:30p Teen CBS	12 6p Property	13 9a Staff Meeting 9:30a MOM,ME 5:30p 1st Café 6:15p Lydia Circle 6:30p Choir	14 6:30p Presbyterian Men 7:30p Young Adult CBS	15 9a Acts 16:5 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry	16 10a-2p Ministry Fair Setup in JTH
 17 9a - Ministry Fair 5:30p Contemporary Worship 6:30p SNL	18 8:45a-1p AARP Driving Class 5:30p Teen CBS	19 8:45a-1p AARP Driving Class 4p Finance Comm 5:45p Deacons 7p Session	20 9:30a MOM,ME 3:30p Staff Meeting 5:30p Chili Cookoff 6:30 Choir	21 MACs Sub Tour & Lunch at King's Bay 7:30p Young Adult CBS	22 6p YOUTH Dinner & a Movie 6:30p New Member Reception	23
24 6:30p SNL 31 Reformation Sunday	25 5:30p Teen CBS	26 Interfaith Dinner Network	27 9a Staff Meeting 9:30a MOM,ME 5:30p 1st Café 6:30p Choir	28 7:30p Young Adult CBS	29	30 10a Theologian in Residence Seminar in the Anchor

Theologian in Residence

National Church Library Month

All libraries are given special recognition during the month of October. This month is also specifically Church Library Month. This would be a great time to pay a visit to your very own library at First Presbyterian Church. Almost any need for printed materials can be fulfilled right on our shelves - from resource material when you may have the responsibility of preparing a lesson or devotional to reading a biography, accessing resources on church history, finding wonderful books for the children and teens in your life and, very popularly, exploring the fiction section. Our library is such a bright sunny spot with comfortable window seating - a perfect spot to sit and read some of your favorite inspirational authors.



One of the people who makes your library work so well is **Pat Knerr**. Pat comes into the library several times a month and catalogues all of the new books and prepares them for placement on the shelves. She has been doing this for many years and she deserves special thanks for all that she does to make the library work. Thank you, Pat.

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