



# First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

August 2011

Rev. Bruce Lancaster - Interim Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Doug Ganyo - Associate Pastor  
www.1stpres-fb.com

## Presbyterians Renewed



My Friends,  
Two months ago, I shared my thoughts with you on what it means to me when we say that we "believe in the holy, catholic church." I concluded with these words:

*"Seeking to be that 'holy catholic church' following where Jesus leads, the Session has appointed a Task Force of John Enlow, Sally Ericksen, Doris Holloway, Marlene Strobach, and Roger Martin (and assisted by Dr. Ganyo) to develop a Statement of Faith that articulates the common ground of faith on which this congregation stands."*

Unified in our central belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the Session has approved the Statement of Faith you will find elsewhere in "First Press." I want to thank you for your prayers for the Task Force as it worked these past several months composing this Statement; and for the Elders as they prayerfully considered and discussed the Statement of Faith before they voted on its approval.

The Task Force used this process to develop the Statement of Faith:

1. They reviewed materials provided by Dr. Ganyo to better understand the issues and various positions around the recent Book of Order changes.

2. They each shared their individual faith statements with each other and reviewed and discussed those, building on the commonalities in their statements.

3. They focused on the tenets of the Reformed faith as the basis for developing the faith statement.

4. The final draft submitted to the Session was reached through several weeks of discussion, listening, prayer, and study of Scripture.

This Statement of Faith is to be used to provide the essential bearings for: 1) Discussion and decisions concerning whatever issues of the day come before the Session; 2) New Member, Confirmation, and Officer Training classes in setting out the foundations of active and faithful membership and leadership in FPC; and 3) The Pastor Nominating Committee in describing FPC to a candidate.

The Session hopes you will find this Statement of Faith gives us common ground for sharing our faith and being part of this fellowship at First Presbyterian Church, and provides each of us with bearings for growing together as disciples of Jesus Christ, faithful in our ministry and mission as the holy, catholic church.

Thanks and blessings,  
Bruce

## Sunday School and Children's Church



will begin after Labor Day if there are enough volunteer leaders.

These programs are only possible when each one of us answers God's call to serve in His kingdom.

The leaders the children need are

- Christian men and women who are active members of FPC in good standing.
- Passionate about sharing God's story.
- Answering God's call to serve/lead/share.
- Eager, enthusiastic, compassionate and patient.
- Willing to be on time and prepared each week.
- Faithful in attendance and committed to these classes from September through May.
- Confident that they will have spiritual support, constant encouragement and abundant resources available through the Christian Education Director and CE Committee.

**9-10-11 is coming!**  
**Are you Wanted?**

## MOM,ME Playgroup

for moms or dads, babies and toddlers meets every Wednesday throughout the summer for making new friends, safe play, networking and fun fellowship.



MOM,ME is open to the community. All are welcome and invited to participate as you are able. MOM,ME meets in our delightful Noah's Place Nursery & Pre-school House from 9:30-11:00a.m., but no one makes you leave if you want to play longer. If you have family and friends visiting during the summer, take advantage of this ministry offered by FPC at no charge. New neighbors? Let them know about MOM,ME and invite them to visit. Evangelism is easy—it's an invitation.

## Summer Sunday Evening August 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Hamburger cook out at Central park with live music and preaching



Bring a chair, blanket or hammock and a nice gentle breeze!

There will be a challenge Softball game between the **Youth**-Forrest Foxes (Forrest Foxworth, manager) and **Adults**-Roger Dodgers (Roger Martin, manager) following our picnic. We'll need fans and cheerleaders for both teams. Call the church office with the number attending in your family! Invite some friends and neighbors too!



# Presbyterian Women's News

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

—Philippians 4:4



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

All women of the church are a part of Presbyterian Women. You do not need to be a member of a circle to participate in any PW activity. All are welcome at all times—come and join us!!

Presbyterian Women, mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- **Prayer Shawls**, Monday, August 1 and Friday, August 19 at 9:30 a.m. in Jim Thomas Hall
- **PW Fall Kickoff**, Sunday, September 11, 2 p.m., Jim Thomas Hall
- **Fair Trade Market**, Saturday, October 8, 9 - 3, The Anchor

Join us for the **Fall Kickoff** on Sunday, September 11, as we begin our PW year. A special introduction to the Beatitudes will be given by Linda Johns. Come for fellowship with your sisters in Christ, and celebrate our Thank Offering! Fun and food provided for all!

**Lunch Bunch** - Women enjoying lunch together each month! We've been to Bright Mornings, Bonito's, Peppers, and Café Karibo...wonder what's next! Check the Sunday worship bulletin for the August event.

## Thank You

- **Tissue Holders for the Gathering** - A special thank you to Jo Brumund for opening her home to PW to make tissue holders for the Gathering bags. Three Hundred (**300**) holders have been cut, sewn, ironed, and stuffed! Almost all are completed, ready to be given to our guests at the January 2012 Gathering of the PW of the Presbytery at our church. Thanks to all who have helped.
- **Yarn Necklaces** - these beautiful necklaces will also be a part of the Gathering bags for our guests. Our thanks to those who have crocheted and assembled the necklaces for us. Seashells will be added as reminders of the theme of the Gathering, *Fishers of Women—Blessings by the Sea*.

## Fair Trade Market Saturday, October 8—The Anchor

Please put a special note on your calendars to come to PW's Fair Trade Market. Items from around the world will be available for your shopping pleasure. All proceeds go back to those who made them, giving them a hand up to a better way of life. Come, find some great gifts, and help those in need.

## This Year's Fair Trade groups:

Bead of Life—Uganda  
Café Justo—Mexico  
Creation of Hope—Haiti  
MayaWorks—Guatemala  
Rahab's Rope—India  
SERVV—International



## Save the date for

# Fall Enrichment September 10, 2011

9 AM - 3:15 PM

Palms Presbyterian Church  
3410 S. Third St.  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250  
(904) 246-6427

Enrichment is the premier event in the Presbytery of St. Augustine, enriching the lives of all of our brothers and sisters in every one of our churches. There will be a wide variety of classes and workshops offering spiritual growth and education.

Celebrate your Presbyterian identity by joining us to learn and grow together.

Registration is \$20 and includes lunch. Childcare is available for \$15 per child. Please call the church office to register before September 3<sup>rd</sup>. You may see all of the classes available at the website <http://staugpres.org/NewsandEvents/Enrichment> or pick up a brochure in the office. Christian Education will pay the registration and childcare fees for members of FPC!

Please let Doris know if you will attend no later than September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Safeguarding God's Children

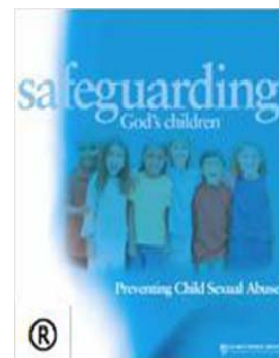
August 20, 2011

9 AM - 1 PM

Montgomery  
Presbyterian  
Center

Starke, FL 32091

(352) 473-4516



The presbytery's Resource Center is offering a three-hour workshop at Montgomery Conference Center on "Safeguarding God's Children" on August 20th beginning at 9 am. Malinda Harris, Interim Educator at Riverside Presbyterian Church will lead the training. We are fortunate to have someone with her experience in this area to be with us.

Registration is \$10 and Includes Lunch. The intent is to prepare volunteer teachers, church staff members, Christian Education Committees, parents, youth workers, nursery workers, and others working with children in preventing and recognizing abuse.

If you are teaching/leading in the nursery-youth departments, please plan to attend this Saturday event. The registration will be paid by the Christian Education Committee and transportation will be coordinated. Please contact Doris Davis in the office if you will attend.



## Save the dates

1<sup>st</sup> Café begins on  
Wednesday,  
September 14<sup>th</sup>.

More information on  
1<sup>st</sup> Café menus and

Discipleship programs  
coming in the September newsletter.

## Coffee Service 9:30a.m Sundays



- ♥ August 7 - Personnel
- ♥ August 14 – Property
- ♥ August 21 – Ruth Circle
- ♥ August 28 - Worship

## Greetings in Christ!

At long last, my seminary journey is coming to a close. With only a little more coursework left, and my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) experience awaiting me in the Fall, I am celebrating the end of this season of preparation and studying, and awaiting the next. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your love, encouragement, prayers, and financial assistance through my, no, our time at Louisville Seminary.

The Summer and Fall months will be just as busy as being in classes! My time is spent continuing my work in the Office of Evangelism and Church Growth at the PC(USA) denominational offices in downtown Louisville, and filling vacant pulpits in Kentucky and Indiana on Sunday mornings. I will be attending the Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry in Clinton, TN in July, and completing an independent study on congregational conflict resolution. All of this will conclude in September as my CPE experience begins.

Many of you have asked about my next steps towards seeking a call after I complete my educational requirements. As it currently stands, as soon as I have completed CPE, I will meet with our presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry to be examined and request approval to begin seeking a call. This process, as you know from currently seeking new pastoral leadership yourselves, is one without a pre-determined timeline. Your prayers through that process would be much appreciated, as mine will be with you as your Pastor Nominating Committee continues its good work.

Thank you again for your continued prayer and support, and I look forward to seeing all of you the next time I am in town on a Sunday. Grace to you and peace!

In Christ, Michael Whitman

## Interfaith Dinner Network

*"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: 40*

The numbers are increasing for the IDN dinners at Hope House. In June our church served 84 guests. 21 of those were children. Previously our numbers have been in the high 60s. We barely had enough food but we were able to serve the 84<sup>th</sup> person who was very grateful. It seems that this increase is due to the economy, and some people have come from areas that have had recent disasters.

The Esther Circle has graciously volunteered to prepare and serve a dinner in October. The Youth Committee will be serving in August and the Deacons in September. If you are a member of a special group that would like the opportunity to assist with Interfaith Dinners you may contact Marilyn Showalter at 261-4885 or showalte@bellsouth.net. 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.



New Members Are Joining

## WELCOME!

**Tom and Sue Rowan** moved here roughly a year ago from Houston. They love taking their son Nick (nearly three years old) to the beach and all of the family activities that Amelia Island has to offer. They've been to four parades already! Tom enjoys playing chess and woodworking projects, and Sue enjoys being outdoors. They have been recurring visitors at Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Houston, but this is the first church they have joined, and they are looking forward to being active members.

## Mission Committee News

**Your 2 Cents A Meal Canister –Has it begun to rattle nicely with your donations each meal?** The local and international food programs urgently need our help to feed the hungry. Please continue to contribute so it is a healthy collection of coins, or bills, that you bring to church on **Sunday, September 11!**



Another important date to circle on your calendar: **Relay for Life on November 5 and 6.** Please talk with James Johnson, our extra-special coffee chef each Sunday, or call him at 225-2687, to be a part of this walking team for a very real cause.

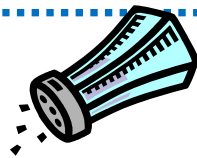


## August Family Night Dinner Features Summer Mission Trips

Come join the church family on Sunday, August 14 at 5:30 pm in Jim Thomas Hall for a family night supper. Participants in the Adult and Youth Summer Mission trips will provide a presentation on their trips to New Orleans, LA and Jackson, MS. with real-life stories of their adventures in the mission field. Membership Care will provide baked chicken and beverages, and the Mission and Youth Committees will provide dessert. Please bring a vegetable side dish or salad that feeds 6. Please RSVP to the church with the number of guests attending by noon on Friday, August 12.



In August, the Saltshakers Sunday school class will be viewing selected presentations from Ligonier conferences by inspiring speakers such as R.C. Sproul, John MacArthur, Al Mohler, Sinclair Ferguson, and Ligon Duncan. Please join us Sundays starting promptly at 10 am for the opportunity to learn from such noted theologians. All are welcome!



Ministry Fair  
Sunday, September 25th  
COME & SEE all that is FPC

## We Can All Be Friendship Evangelists

What does 'evangelism' mean to you? A general definition is 'the practice of relaying information about a particular set of beliefs to others who do not hold those beliefs (usually in reference to Christianity);' also, 'the spreading of the Christian Gospel by preaching or by personal witness; zealous advocacy of a cause.' The Evangelism Committee at FPC expands that definition, through its various activities, by offering spiritual friendship, the opportunity for Church fellowship/membership, *and* the good news of the Bible.

People often respond to the word 'evangelism' with some discomfort, especially when they fear that they will be asked to evangelize or that someone will over-zealously attempt to evangelize them. In fact, we who have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior and strive to live by 1 Corinthians 10:31, "Therefore,...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God," *are* evangelizing, in a way. By acting with grace and kindness toward others, by living a life of faith, love and good works, by reflecting God's truth and goodness in our lives, we are, hopefully, pointing people to God.

The Evangelism Committee encourages each of us to become a 'friendship' evangelist to visitors worshiping with us. Whether you notice an unfamiliar face or see a visitor's name in the friendship pad, greet that individual, express pleasure that he or she is visiting FPC, and extend an invitation to join you at the Coffee Hour. We never know when such a simple act of friendship might profoundly affect someone struggling with spiritual uncertainties or simply searching for a church home.

Finally, do remind all visitors to pick up a Visitor Gift Bag, available from a volunteer after each service.

*Truly, "The seeds of good deeds become a tree of life; a wise person wins souls."  
Proverbs 11:30*



## Youth Summer Mission Trip to Jackson

Ginny and Forrest Foxworth took a group of 11 youth on a senior high mission trip to Jackson, Mississippi, June 19-24. Attending were Jenny Strozinsky, Taylor Owens, Jena Foley, McKenna Williams, Kat Jackson, Tyler King, Sam Bridwell, Alex Bridwell, Dean Dunman, Nick Clark, Rhett Burford, and Jordan Gillespie.

## Aloha Youth and Families!



Youth and their families are invited to a Luau in the Anchor on Sunday, August 21 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Come dressed in your most colorful island attire as we kick off the new school year! Nui Kahuna Forrest will give a preview of what he has planned for this school year, and we'll officially welcome the rising middle schoolers: Adam Cazell, Jack Goshert, William Waas, David Noah Sturges, and Katherine Doss.

Entrée, beverages, and dessert will be provided. Please bring a side dish or salad that serves six.

Call the church (261-3837) to RSVP by noon on Friday, August 19.

### Flower Calendar

- August 7 - Cynthia Sapp. Linda Love and Andy Allan in loving memory of their parents Andrew and Sarah Allan.
- August 14 - Mike, Marsha, Nancy and Kim Daniels in loving memory of their mother, Ann.
- August 21 - Jane Turney and her children in loving memory of her husband and their father, Robert Turney.
- August 28 - Mary Jo Griffin in loving memory of her husband, Ransom Griffin.



## From the Library Happy Birthday KJV

The King James Version of the Bible celebrates its 400<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. Without examining the reasons or motivations for James I commissioning the KJV in 1611, it is always appropriate for readers of all versions of the Bible to revere the unique and beautiful language of the KJV. For myself, when I read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm or John 3:16, there is just no substitute for the beautiful words of the KJV. Many of the idioms and expressions we use today are directly taken from this beautiful and enduring version. Such as:





- Eat, drink, and be merry (Luke 12:19)
- The apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10)
- An eye for an eye (Matt. 5:38)
- It came to pass (Gen. 38:27)
- Fight the good fight (1Tim. 6:12)
- Fell flat on his face (Num. 22:31)
- The fullness of time (Gal. 4:4 and Eph. 1:10)
- Can the leopard change his spots? (Jer. 13:23)
- Am I my brother's keeper? (Gen. 4:9).

The above references are taken from the July 12, 2011 issue of Christian Century magazine available in the FPC Library.

## 9-10-11 Round up!

# August@1stPrqs



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry 	2 9:30a Staff Meeting 4p Member Care 6p Mission 7p Youth	3 9:30a MOM,ME Noon Lunch Bible Study 4p Worship	4 Noon Wholeness/Healing Service 2:30p PW CT	5	6
7 5:30p Summer Sunday Evening Worship, Picnic & Ball-game	8 4p Christian Ed	9 9:30a Staff Meeting 6p Property	10 9:30a MOM,ME Noon Lunch Bible Study	11 5p Stephen Ministries	12	13
14 12 Evangelism 5:30 Mission Family Night Dinner	15 First Day of School 	16 9:30a Staff Meeting 4p Finance 6p Deacons 7p Session	17 9:30a MOM,ME Noon Lunch Bible Study	18	19 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry 	20 Safeguarding God's Children Seminar Camp Montgomery
21 Communion 5p Youth and Families Luau 	22	23 9:30a Staff Meeting IDN-Youth	24 9:30a MOM,ME Noon Lunch Bible Study 6:30p Choir	25 5p Stephen Ministries	26	27
28	29	30 9:30a Staff Meeting	31 9:30a MOM,ME Noon Lunch Bible Study	<b>SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES</b> 8:30a Early Morning Worship 9:30a Coffee Break 9:50a Adult Sunday School 11a Traditional Worship		

# What We Believe

*Statement of Faith – First Presbyterian Church, Fernandina Beach, Florida*  
(Adopted - July 25, 2011)

The core beliefs in this faith statement are the central tenets of the Reformed Christian faith as proclaimed in the witness of Scripture.

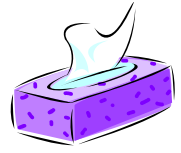
1. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the uniquely revealed and infallible Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, and is exemplified through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are the church's first and final authority in all areas of faith and life including, but not limited to theological doctrine, mission, church order, character, and ethical behavior.
2. There is one Holy, true, merciful and loving God, who exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He alone is worthy of all praise, honor, and glory. In sovereign love, God created the world, proclaiming it good, and made everyone equally in his image, male and female. He rules over His creation with absolute power and authority.
3. Jesus Christ alone is Lord of all and the only way to salvation. Through his son, Jesus Christ, God saved us by grace through faith. Our salvation is based on our faith in Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for us, on our accepting the true message of salvation and our trust in God to apply this salvation to us.
4. Anything that separates us from God is sin. From the beginning, we have rebelled against God and violated the image of God in ourselves, in others, and in the earth. All people are sinful and need to repent of their sins and turn to God. God came to this earth in human form for each of us. We are reconciled to God through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus sacrificed his life so that we could be forgiven and freed from sin and death and have eternal life in heaven.
5. Jesus is the head of the church and the fundamental difference that separates us from other religions. Our purpose is to glorify, worship, honor, and serve God. The people of God are called to seek justice and live in obedience to the Word of God, thereby transforming the world around us. We are called to follow Christ's command to love all people. Since all are sinners and fall short of the glory of God, all are welcome to join in worship and fellowship in His church. Christ also calls us to go into all the world to make disciples of all nations in preparation for His coming again.
6. God's people are called to Holiness in all aspects of life and should not be compromised by ethics drawn from a changing culture. Those God calls to serve the church as teachers, elders, deacons, and pastors are expected to lead a life of obedience consistent with the standards defined in Scripture, and First Presbyterian Church will uphold all these standards.

-----  
Scripture References (New Revised Standard Version)

1. Psalm 19: 7, Matthew 4:4, John 17:17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Peter 1:24-25, 2 Peter 1: 20-21
2. Genesis 1:1, Genesis 1:31, Isaiah 6:3, Mark 1:10-11, Acts 1:4-5, 1 John 4:13-14, Revelation 4:11
3. Mark 10:45, John 3:16, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Romans 5:1, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 2:8-9
4. Genesis 3:8, Genesis 4:8, Genesis 6:5, Psalm 51:5, Jeremiah 17:9, Matthew 15:19-20, John 1:29, Romans 3:10, Romans 5:18-19, Romans 6:23, Romans 8:7, Ephesians 2:1-3
5. Micah 6:8, Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 4:16-22, John 15:16-17, John 17:1-11, 20-24, Acts 2:43-47, Romans 3:23, Romans 14:1, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 23-31, Ephesians 5:23, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-22, 2 Peter 3:1-11, 1 John 4:7-8, John 14:3, Revelations 21:1-7
6. Genesis 2:24, Leviticus 18:22, Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:17-32, Ephesians 5: 21-22, 25, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 1 Peter 1:16



Presbyterian Women work on tissue holders and yarn necklaces for The Gathering in January.



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