



First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

June 2011

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

The Universal Nature of God's Church



My Friends,

As we prepare to celebrate the birthday of the church on Pentecost Sunday, June 12, I ask myself what it means when I say each Sunday in the Apostles' Creed that I believe in *"the holy catholic church."* This is especially important because this

question is part of several issues we are working through as a church. For one thing, there is the concern in this congregation, on all sides of the issue, as to the recent denominational vote that changes the ordination standards. Also, there has been an ongoing discussion of encouraging and engaging people in the ministries, programs, and mission activities of FPC through the Acts 16:5 Initiative. And of course, on everyone's mind is the work of the PNC in calling a new Minister.

I know that it's easy to be pushed by disagreements or disappointments to be an "us versus them" kind of people. But the Holy Spirit reminds me that "I" was brought into a "we" which is called the holy, catholic church. Simply said, "holy" refers to the church's relation to God, and "catholic" refers to the universal nature of God's church. That's important to me, because our denomination and yes, this congregation, is comprised of people I don't know from places I've never been.

And I have to note that right before the "holy catholic church" comes the third person of the Trinity – *"I believe in the Holy Spirit."* The Holy Spirit, Scripture teaches us, empowers the church into existence for its mission of teaching Jesus' love and salvation. The church is called "holy", not because we are holy; but because God's holiness is reflected through us. God

chooses real people to do this – all sorts of people to live out this mission by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The church is called "catholic", not because we are THE church, but because our church calls as Lord the same Lord every other Christian calls Lord. That's why we say at the Lord's Supper that the table is not a Presbyterian table but the Lord's Table. Around that table is the *"communion of saints"* – the next phrase of the creed. Immediately after that comes the *"forgiveness of sins"* – maybe because we are more often a "motley crew" than a saintly communion!

However, a congregation does have and should have common ground for its life of faith together. More often than not, it's something we all know, but it is difficult to articulate. The problem, though, is when one assumes that what "I believe" is what everyone believes. 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, Roger Martin, and Marlene Strobach (and assisted by Dr. Ganyo) to develop a Statement of Faith that articulates the common ground of faith on which this congregation stands. This statement would say what FPC believes and provide the essential bearings for: 1) Discussion and decisions concerning whatever issues of the day come before the Session; 2) New Member classes in setting out the foundations of active and faithful membership in FPC; 3) The Pastor Nominating Committee in describing FPC to a candidate.

I ask for your prayers for this Task Force and for our Church so that we may grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ, faithful in our ministry and mission as the holy, catholic church.

Thanks and Blessings,
Bruce Lancaster

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER VACATION

No Summer Sunday School for children and youth! June 5th is our Sunday school wrap up! Many thanks to our Youth and Children's Sunday school leaders who have been so faithful throughout this school year. Enjoy your summer off from teaching.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

June 5th is the final children's church for the 11 o'clock service. Children are invited to show what they have learned in Children's Church this year as they enjoy worship with their parents during the summer months.



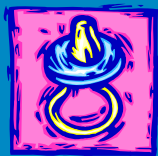
Don't Miss VBS

Vacation Bible School will begin on Monday, June 13th for children going into Kindergarten through 5th grade. Adult and Youth Volunteers are still needed. Register online as a participant or as a volunteer at www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/pres.

FPC's awesome VBS runs 9a.-12p. Monday – Friday with a Hot dog cookout and giant water slide for everyone involved in VBS and their families on Saturday, June 18th! Don't miss any of the fantastic fun!!! Let's Kick this summer off right. Call the church office if you have any questions. Nursery and Preschool classes are available for children or grandchildren of volunteers.

VBS Meeting, Set up, Decorating & Lunch-Sunday, June 12th at 12:10p.m. in Jim Thomas Hall for ALL volunteers . No excuses. No exceptions. Be there or be afraid.

MOM,ME



MOM,ME continues through the Summer months. Be sure to let newcomers to the Island and visitors to our church know about this wonderful free opportunity for moms and dads with their babies and toddlers to meet with other parents for play and conversation every Wednesday morning from 9:30 until 11:00a.m. in Noah's Place. We have great toys and tents for hours of fun. Spread the word- Everyone is Welcome!

Jackson, Mississippi Bound



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

Contemporary Worship

There will be no Contemporary Worship on June 5th due to the Fernandina Beach High School graduation and the PW Spring Fling also scheduled that day.



Becca Gillespie, pictured here with proud family, graduated from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary on Sunday, May 15.

MAC News

The Mature Adult Christians (MACs) ended the year with a bang up picnic at Mike and Charlotte Bowling's "Sugar Shack" on the Bells River. Sixty folks enjoyed a made to order day, great food, entertainment by Joey and Jeanie, and wonderful fellowship.



The MAC group will not meet again until September 15. Watch your July newsletter for time and place for that meeting. If you have a program idea or something you would like to see the MAC group do, please let Bert Swearingen, Mary Hughes, or Alice Payne know.

Thanks to everyone who participated in any way to help make this a great MAC year. We love and appreciate you all.

Youth and Families Beach Party

The Youth Committee invites the youth of the church and their families to a beach party at Peter's Point on Sunday, June 12 at 4:30 pm. We will honor the adult volunteers who have provided ministry to our youth throughout this school year: Stan Bell, Becca Gillespie, John Cazell, and Darren Smith. We'll have volley ball and bocce ball on the beach. Dinner will be served at the pavilion at 5:30. Hotdogs, hamburgers, beverages, and dessert will be provided. Bring a side dish to serve six, beach or camp chairs for your family, and beach gear. Please RSVP to the church office by June 10. Don't miss this chance to fellowship with other parents and to thank the volunteers who have worked so faithfully with our youth and to support Forrest this year.



Summer Reading

Here's your opportunity to get an early start on reading the book chosen for the fall discussion following First Café on Wednesday evenings. The



book selected is The Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand, the biography of Louie Zamperini. Zamperini (now in his 90's) began life as a juvenile delinquent who turned his life around when he became an athlete, even competing in the Berlin Olympics. During WWII, he survived a shipwreck, only to be captured by the Japanese and placed in a prisoner of war camp. His life after the war was fraught with memories and nightmares of his experience in the camp and a period of alcoholism.

Hillenbrand restores to our collective memory this tale of heroism, cruelty, life, death, joy, suffering, remorselessness and redemption. How Zamperini is able to turn his life around makes for a very inspiring read.

Plan to join us in the library in the fall for what promises to be a very good discussion.



New Members Are Joining

Sharon Collins works at Jacksonville University's Davis College of Business and began her career at JU in 2007. Prior to JU, she taught at a middle school in Nassau County for seven years. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from Jacksonville University and a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of North Florida. Sharon will begin the Master of Education program in August 2011. Ms. Collins is engaged to David Sturges of Fernandina Beach. She has two sons and enjoys spending time with them going to the beach and traveling.

Miles P. Dean, age 57, is a native Floridian married to **Diane Antkowiak Dean** of Brandon, MS. Miles grew up in Jacksonville and was a member of the Community Presbyterian Church in Atlantic Beach as a youth. He is a graduate of Fletcher Senior High in Neptune Beach and received his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and his master's degree from Georgia State University. Miles is a retired U.S. Navy Commander whose work experience includes public and private positions in budgeting, facility management, retirement plan management, training program management, and maintenance program management.

Coffee Service



- ♥ June 5 - Communications Committee
- ♥ June 12 - Elizabeth Circle
- ♥ June 19 - Esther Circle
- ♥ June 26 - Evangelism Committee

Two Cents a Meal

A Summer Mission Project



On Sunday, May 22, the Mission Committee passed out canisters to the congregation, asking that each family member add 2 cents at every meal over the summer. Dedicated to fighting hunger, 25% of the monies collected will stay in the county for local food banks, and the rest will be sent to combat hunger nationally and internationally. We will collect the canisters on Sunday, September 11. The great news is that you do not need to count or roll the coins—just put them in the canister 'bank' and bring them back in September. Many thanks for your part in making this a great mission project!

Cleanup Buckets for Alabama

Thanks for responding to the call for cleanup buckets needed to help with recovery from the Alabama tornadoes. Pastor Doug Ganyo and Stephen Noden took 25 of the buckets to Tuscaloosa, where they were greeted with many thanks. Later in the summer, it is likely that a group from our church will go again to Alabama to help with disaster relief. Be thinking about joining this team!

They're Off to New Orleans!!

The 15-member Mission Team leaves on Sunday, June 5, for a six-day stay in New Orleans, helping restore homes so that people might come home again—still providing disaster assistance from Hurricane Katrina. Please keep our team, led by Pastor Doug, in your prayers.

Congratulations to Our High School Graduates!



Our high school graduates were honored at a family night dinner on May 22. A presentation was given featuring baby photos and comments from their families. Please take time to congratulate Nick Clark and Jessica Flynn who graduate from Yulee High School on June 3, and Alex Bridwell, Dean Dunman, and Tyler King who graduate from Fernandina Beach High School on June 5.

Interfaith Dinner Network

(Serving dinners to the Homeless and Needy at Salvation Army Hope House)

"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 25:40



Thanks to all the groups who have volunteered to Host dinners at Hope House this year. The Mission Committee hosted in March, The Congregational Care Committee hosted in May, the Youth Committee will host August, and the Deacons plan to host September. We are so blessed in our church to have these groups that volunteered and we know that other groups are looking forward to helping out. Also thank you to the individuals who give their time each month to serve in this ministry to our community.

The number of dinners served at Hope House is averaging around 53 guests. This number has increased since last year. We usually plan to cook for 60 with the average cost for dinners around \$98.00. The Interfaith Dinner committee donated \$5.00 from each church and we were able to buy a new vacuum cleaner for Hope House. It is wonderful.

Please note, Macedonia Church needs 2 or 3 people to help them clean up after their dinners that are the 2nd Tuesday of the month around 6:30. If you can help out one month please call Marilyn Showalter. A couple of churches have dropped out of the dinners and we now have open dates. Hopefully we will have some new churches join IDN. Also two smaller churches have joined to work together.

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.

Defining Evangelism

Enthusiasm

Virgin Birth

Advent

New Covenant

Good News



Eternity

Love

Inspiration

Salvation

Messiah

Presbyterian Women's News

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
—Philippians 4:4



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Dates to Remember

- Prayer Shawls - Monday, June 6, 9:30 a.m., and Friday, June 17, 9:30 a.m., both in Jim Thomas Hall.
- Lunch Bunch - Wednesday, June 29, 11:30 a.m. Bonito's. Let's get together for lunch! Call the church office, 261.3837, to make a reservation for lunch with PW friends. Join us for a great time of fun, food, and fellowship! Questions, please call Marilyn Showalter, 261.4885.
- PW Spring Fling - Friendship and Chocolate, Sunday, June 5, 2:00 p.m., Jim Thomas Hall. Please join PW as we celebrate the friendships we share and honor one of our own with the Lifetime Member Award. The offering will be dedicated to the PW Birthday Offering and the local Soup Train. Child care will be provided.
- Please continue during the summer to bring items to the PW basket in Jim Thomas Hall for Bag Ladies and Diapers and Wipes.



Don't miss the annual Church Garage Sale to benefit Camp Montgomery Family Weekend. Enjoy this beautiful weather while you clean out the garage and the attic, closets and drawers. Bring all of your no longer wanted/needed valuable treasures to the church to benefit our annual family retreat! Let's turn your trash into cash, give yourself more space and simplify your life. It's all good! We have a room ready to receive your donations. The garage sale is scheduled for July 15 & 16 in Jim Thomas Hall. No clothes, please.

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.....

Would you like to receive the newsletter in color? And earlier? If so, please contact the church office with your email address.



Lunch Bunch at Bright Mornings



Spring Retreat at Camp Montgomery


Showcasing Our Talented Church

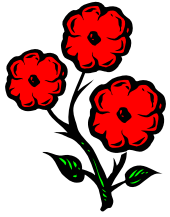
On May 15, the youth of the church hosted a talent show and dessert buffet to thank church members for their support throughout the school year. The audience was entertained by youth and adult church members. Many thanks to Susan King and the volunteers she coordinated who prepared the wonderful dessert buffet.





Jun & @1stPrqs

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 9:30a MOM,ME	2 12p Wholeness/Healing 6:15p Stephen Ministry	3 Yulee HS Graduation	4 
5 2p PW Spring Fling FBHS Graduation	6 9:30a Prayer Shawl 10a VBS Crew leaders 4p Christian Ed 6:15p Communications	7 Last Day of School 4p Member Care 7p Youth	8 9:30a MOM,ME	9 5p Stephen Ministry 6:15p Stephen Ministry Training	10	11
Adult Mission Trip - New Orleans, Louisiana, June 5 - 11						
12 10a New Member 12 VBS meeting 12 Evangelism 4:30p Youth Beach Party	13	14 5p Acts 16:5 meeting 6p Property Committee	15 9:30a MOM,ME	16 6:15p Stephen Ministry Training	17 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry	18 PANDAMANIA EXTRA VAGANZA
VBS 9a. - 12p. In the ANCHOR PandaMania - Where God is Wild About You!						
19 Communion FATHERS' DAY 10a New Member Class	20 	21 4p Finance 5:45p Diaconate	22 9:30a MOM,ME	23 5p Stephen Ministry 6:15p Stephen Ministry Training	24	25
Senior High Mission Trip - Jackson, Mississippi, June 19 - 24						
26 	27	28 Interfaith Dinner Net-work	29 9:30a MOM,ME	30 6:15p Stephen Ministry Training		



Flower Calendar

- June 5 - Presbyterian Women
- June 12 - Wendy and Chuck Priesand
- June 19 - Mary Louise Chaplin and the Chaplin Children in loving memory of her father, W. A. Davis and her husband and their father, Ernest Chaplin.
- June 26 - Dick and Ellen Hultberg in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary and their children and grandchildren.

Jump! Jive! And Staying Alive!

Plan now to
Join our First Presbyterian
Relay for Life Team
Saturday, November 5, 2011
Team Captain -
James Johnson

**Save
the
Date**

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

