



# First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

March 2011

Rev. Dr. Bruce Lancaster - Interim Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Doug Ganyo - Associate Pastor

## Hello from Our Interim Pastor - Dr. Bruce Lancaster

My Friends,

Cathi and I are looking forward to our time with you and enjoying Fernandina Beach and all of Amelia Island.

In answer to the question we have been asked the most, "No, we are not settled in yet!" But we are getting there, and that leads to what I imagine is the second most asked question: "Just what does an Interim Pastor do?" This is a two-part answer: First, there is the pastoral nature of this ministry, and the second part deals with the interim nature.

As a Pastor, there is no real difference between the ministries of an Interim or permanent Pastor. I will preach, teach, visit, counsel, serve as Moderator of the Session and as Head of Staff, and have all the other duties a Minister has.

The difference, however, is in the second part of this answer. The key word is interim.

I will be here only until you call your new Pastor. How long will that be? No one knows for sure, but it should be a "goldilocks" time: not too long, not too short, but just right! I've been told that it generally takes 18 to 24 months for a congregation to call a



new pastor. But please don't set your calendar by that! The timing belongs to God, and I will be here as long as I need to be according to God's plan for First Presbyterian Church.

We will be guided by the question, "*What does God desire for this congregation to be and do as it prepares to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a new pastor?*" The answer will be shaped as the Holy Spirit works through you – your faith, hope, and love – building on a strong foundation, eagerly preparing for the next chapter in the honored history of this church.

I am excited to serve with you as Interim Pastor, and I ask you to keep me in your prayers.

Thanks and blessings,  
Bruce Lancaster

Dr. Lancaster will deliver his first sermon on Sunday, March 6. The Evangelism and Member Care committees will host a reception for Cathi and Bruce to welcome them to our church family and island community. Please attend this reception in JTH between services at 9:30a.m. to meet and greet our new Interim Pastor and his wife.

## March Library News

Spring greetings from your FPC Library. While it is wonderful to finally get outside after what has seemed like a long cold winter, there are still those times when it is wonderful to just sit inside or on the porch and read. Your library has a great selection of Christian fiction, as well as research material, for your enjoyment and enlightenment. Our Karen Kingsbury and Jan Karon selections have grown to the point that they are filling up an entire shelf. There will be two new Francine Rivers' books out in the near future and they will be added to our collection.

Please note: Book donations to the FPC library are greatly appreciated but there are a few guidelines to keep in mind.

- Books donated should be in "like-new" condition and have been published within the last 10 years.
- Please leave your name when donating books.
- Study guides have a very limited interest and should not be donated.
- It is important for you to know that books that do not meet the criteria for acceptance will be placed in a book sale to be held in October during National Church Library Month, the proceeds of which will be used to purchase new books for the library.

A book discussion group will be held in the church library following the 1<sup>st</sup> Café Suppers beginning in mid-March. Please contact Sandi Neal (277-8270) to purchase the books to be used.

As members of the National Church Library Association, we have access to all publications from the Association. If you would like these forwarded to you, please contact Sandi at [skneal@aol.com](mailto:skneal@aol.com).

## Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with MACs

March 17<sup>th</sup> is St. Patrick's Day, and everything is coming up green! Join the MAC Group (55 and older) in Jim Thomas Hall on that Thursday for a catered

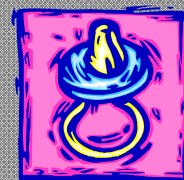


lunch provided by Fernandeli. We will be offering reubens and ham/cheese sandwiches with potato salad and an apple turnover. Drinks and chips will also be included for the great price of \$7 per person, prepaid. Please reserve and pay at the church office (261-3837) by Monday, noon, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Our program will be presented by master gardeners, including our own, Patricia Kramer, who will tell us all about container gardening. It looks to be a great program, so put on your best leprechaun smile and wear something green. Join us at 11:30a that day.

### MOM, ME

Moms, Dads, babies & toddlers are all welcome to join in the fun and fellowship in Noah's Place every Wednesday morning from 9:30-11a.m. No cost, No reservations, just pop in! Park your stroller outside and come on in for safe play and adult conversation, sharing and networking. MOM,ME is a community ministry and a blessing open to all families in our area.



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY RETREAT

at Camp Montgomery

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

April 15-17, 2011

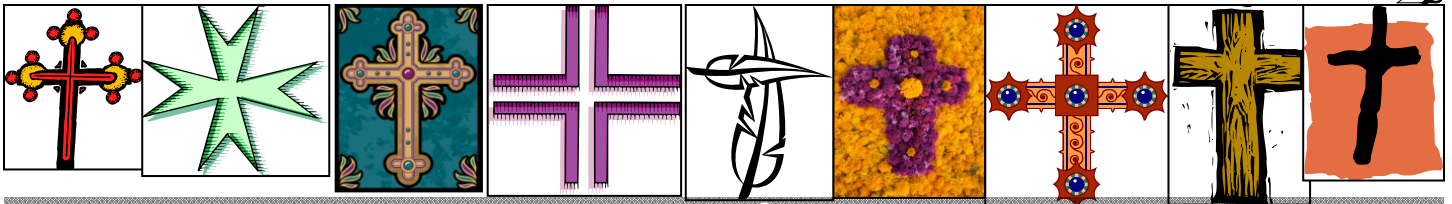


## Our Favorite Weekend of the year is here!

Total Rest, Total Fun or Total Activity, Time to be together or time to be apart! Two nights, five meals, cabins with heat and AC, swimming, boating, hiking, napping, games, reading, swinging, rocking, relaxing, volleyball, campfire & s'mores.

(WHEW!) Life is delicious! at Camp Montgomery. Bring a friend, a relative or come alone. There is something for everyone at FPC's annual Church Family Weekend Retreat! Worship together on Sunday morning in this beautiful setting!

Come home renewed, refreshed and aglow with a heart filled with sacred moments, special memories and a larger Christian family to call your own. Room assignments will be made after your full payment is received. For more details talk with Susan King or Janine Cazell, your camp fun directors!! Fill in the Registration Envelope located in the pew rack. Place your check inside and then just anticipate your joy!!!



## Cross Town

It's not too late to be a part of the Cross Town exhibit as we focus on the cross throughout our journey to Easter! Crosses created by members of the congregation will be hung in the ANCHOR windows on Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, for you and the world to view. The process of creating the cross is a sacred journey in itself. How will God use these personal creations to touch those he brings by our windows each day? The effect of your endeavor is exponential as each eye is drawn to the empty cross of our risen Lord. Will your cross creation warm a heart, bring a smile, perplex, ignite forgiveness, stimulate conversation, question one's purpose or cause soul searching? Perhaps. Results always belong to God and all things are possible in Him! Join us as we boldly display the hope and freedom offered at the cross. Cross creations may be dropped off at the church office beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please include a card with your name and the description or inspiration for your cross. Some form of hook or hanger must be attached to the back of the cross for hanging. Questions? Call Doris in the office.

Choir-Drama-Communion  
Maundy Thursday  
at 7 pm.

Our gifted choir will sing a series of Lenten themed songs and prepare us for a brief drama from the classic "Conversations at the Foot of the Cross". The drama will focus on the tender moment when Jesus speaks from the cross to his mother Mary and to his disciple John. Mary and John are asked to consider themselves as "mother and son" by Jesus. This contemplative worship service will conclude with those attending coming forward to share Holy Communion by Intinction. Mark your calendar for this inspirational worship service!



Adult\* Movie Night  
April 1<sup>st</sup>

**The Passion  
of the Christ**

7:00p.m. in the ANCHOR

A profound story of courage and sacrifice depicting the final 12 hours in the life of Jesus Christ. An inspired performance by Jim Caviezel directed and produced by Mel Gibson.

\*This motion picture is not appropriate for children. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. A movie for children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be shown in the high school classroom. Nursery and preschool childcare in Noah's Place will be available by reservation. Call the church office to reserve a seat for the movie and for your children. There is no charge. Popcorn and soda will be available for sale to benefit our Camp Montgomery Family Weekend Retreat.

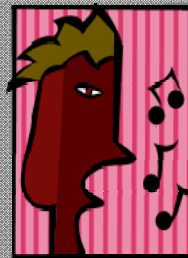


**Ash Wednesday**

**Lenten Series at Noon**

Wednesdays-**Beginning March 9th with Ash Wednesday** we will be gathering to consider and encourage our spiritual journey together. With the imposition of ashes our pilgrimage toward Easter begins. Please come to sing, pray and focus our hearts on Christ on six successive Wednesdays through April 13th. A pastor/leader from our church will share from his/her spiritual journey at each noon Lenten Worship. On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday the devotional booklet "**Forty Days of Love**" as well as an inspirational devotional by acclaimed Christian author Max Lucado will be distributed. The Worship Committee is excited to share these Lenten resources with our church family.

**JUBILATION** (noun) *an act of rejoicing; an expression of great joy; a season of celebration; a religious song referring to a time of future happiness.*



A new experience for children on Wednesday nights following 1<sup>st</sup> Café Family Dinner. Ages K-5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet in the KIDMO room for music and fun with our Children's Choir director, Lili Lauer.





**VBS**

**June 13-18  
save the  
dates**

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH  
SCHEDULE—March 2011**

Many thanks to our ministry partners who have volunteered to serve in Children's Church this month. As you can see, one date is still not filled. If God is calling you to serve him by serving "of such is the kingdom of heaven", contact Marilyn Flynn or Doris Davis. Our Children's Church leaders for March are:

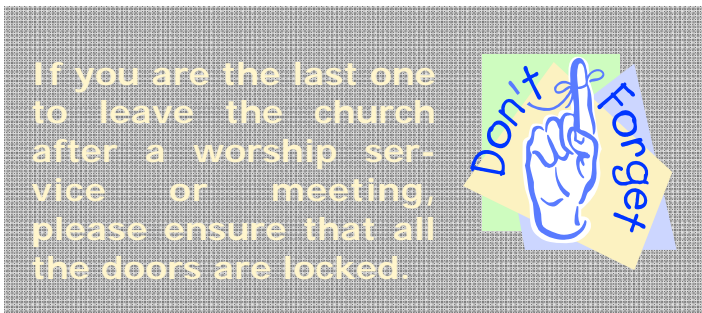
- ♥ March 6 **Michelle Goshert**
- ♥ March 13 **Hope Stark**
- ♥ March 20 **Hope Stark**
- ♥ March 27 \_\_\_\_\_?



**Mission Trip: June 5-11, 2011  
Helping New Orleans Come Home**

Project Homecoming is a rebuilding effort of The Presbytery of South Louisiana in partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. They are committed to rebuilding homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina that belong to families who are low-income, uninsured, underinsured, disabled, and elderly. With the help of volunteer labor, they make rebuilding affordable for those who would not otherwise be able to return home.

You can be a part of this year's mission team in New Orleans. We will stay at a former Presbyterian Church made into air-conditioned and dormitory-style living quarters. Food and accommodations are paid for. Out of what is called "Olive Tree" Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Village we will work to help in all kinds of reconstruction. Our team will be guided and supported by experienced contractors who will prepare us each day to make a difference in the life of one of God's children. Any kind of construction experience is welcome of course, but one need not have such experience to participate. It's On the Job Training (OJT) for everyone. You may drive your own vehicle to the site in downtown New Orleans or hop a ride with someone. This is often a life-changing experience of caring and giving in the name of Jesus. We will return to the church on Saturday June 11th. Call Dr. Ganyo, 261-3837.



# Presbyterian Women's News

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

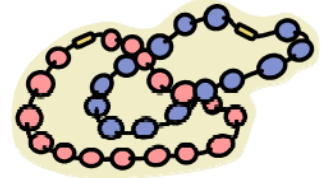
—Philippians 4: 4



Presbyterian Women, mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

**Prayer Shawls Ministry** meets Monday, March 7 and Friday, March 18, 9:30 a.m., JTH.

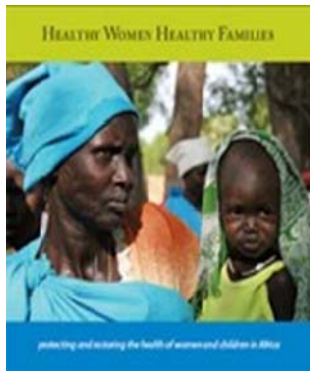
**Yarn Necklaces for the 2012 Gathering** - Work is continuing on the yarn/shell necklaces. Stop by the PW table in Jim Thomas Hall on Sunday mornings if you want to help with this fun project.



**Lunch Bunch—April 4—11:30 a.m.—Jim Thomas Hall** - In

April, instead of sharing a meal at a local restaurant, Lunch Bunch comes to Jim Thomas Hall. The meal will be provided by Yankee Catering, and we will sample the menu that has been suggested for the 2012 Gathering of the Presbytery PW. Call the church office to sign up for this fun time of fellowship with your PW sisters.

**Mother's Day Cards - Healthy Women Healthy Families** - The annual **Mother's**



**Day Project**, that until 2010 supported only malaria prevention, will now support the range of health projects within the **Healthy Women Healthy Families** program. PCUSA's **NetWorkers Malaria Prevention Program** is now part of Healthy Women Healthy Families (HWHF). This organization responds to the needs of church partners in Malawi, Ethiopia, Southern Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where services to protect and restore the health of women and children are inadequate, and where poor health exacerbates poverty. The Mother's Day Cards will be available in April between services and at Circle meetings.

**Palm Crosses** - Do you want to help make palm crosses for Palm Sunday? Call Trish Booton, 491-1814.



**Diapers and Wipes—A new ministry to the young families of our church**

As a way to say congratulations and to welcome a new baby, the Presbyterian Women will begin a **Diapers and Wipes** ministry. When we know a new baby is on the way, we will ask people to begin bringing diapers and wipes to the box in Jim Thomas Hall. When the baby arrives, the gift of these necessary items will be given to the new parents. Just another way of sharing the love of Christ to our church family and welcoming the youngest of God's children!

## March Circle Meetings

- ♥ Elizabeth Circle - Thursday, March 10, 1:30 a.m., Jim Thomas Hall
- ♥ Esther Circle - Thursday, March 10, 12:30, Home of Mim Walker
- ♥ Lydia Circle (Young Women) - Wednesday, March 9, 6:15 p.m., Faith Cafe
- ♥ Martha Circle - Wednesday, March 9, 10:00 a.m., Home of Sandi Neal
- ♥ Ruth Circle - Thursday, March 10, 9:30 a.m., Home of Beth Tilton

## Interfaith Dinner Network

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



*"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*

It is hard to imagine that the Interfaith dinners have been served to the Homeless and Needy for over three years. God has surely blessed this ministry. Trish Booton has been instrumental in booking the FPC Praise Band to bring their spiritual music to the dinners. We have groups from our church hosting the dinners for the next 3 months. The Mission committee will host March, Eunice Kurtz and friends will host April (they will be having meatballs and gravy) and the Congregational Care Committee will be host in May. Thank you to all of these wonderful volunteers.

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](mailto: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.

## Mutual Mission Medical

Do you know that the Presbytery of St. Augustine sponsors two adult medical/dental mission trips to Jamaica each year? The next trip is June 12-19, and they need



doctors, nurses, dentists, optometrists, opticians and others, including a chaplain. The deadline for applications is April 1. Participants pay their own way, so if you can't go and want to sponsor someone else who may need financial help that is also appreciated. Contact the Presbytery office for more information or Rev. Alisun Donovan, mission coordinator, at [alisund@bellsouth.net](mailto:alisund@bellsouth.net).

The annual Youth Exchange to Jamaica will be July 7-19, led by Rev. Drew and Susie Marshall (Murray Hill church). This is a life-changing opportunity for youth who spend a week in Jamaica working with the Jamaican youth, who return to Florida with them for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week for mission work in NE Florida. It is truly a "mutual mission". For more information, please talk to Forrest.


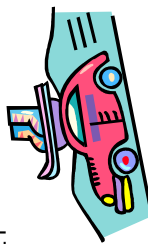
## Contemporary Worship

on the third Sunday of each month at 5:30 p.m. In the ANCHOR. Come March 20th and experience the Cross Town Exhibit that will be hanging during Lent. Come to the cross and share communion, fellowship and spiritual renewal.





# March @1stPrqs

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>Welcome</b> <b>Dr. Lancaster!</b> 10a New Member Class 6:30p SNL	9:30a Prayer Shawl 4p Christian Ed 5:30p Teen CBS 6:15p Communications	9a Staff Meeting 10a Hand Bells 4p Member Care 5p Mission 7p Youth	<b>9 Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Cross Town Exhibit</b> 9:30a MOM,ME 12p Service of Ashes 5:30p 1st Café 6:30p Choir	12p Wholeness/Healing Service 1:30p PW CT Mtg. 6 Stephen Ministries 7:30p Young Adult CBS	9:30a Prayer Shawl 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
12p Evangelism Comm 6:30p SNL	10a Hand Bells 4p Finance 5:45 Diaconate 7p Session 5:30p Teen CBS	10a Hand Bells 4p Finance 5:45 Diaconate 7p Session	9:30a MOM,ME 12p Lenten Service 3:30p Staff Meeting 5:30p 1st Café 6:30p Choir	<b>HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b> 11:30a MAC Lunch 6p Stephen Ministries 7:30p Young Adult CBS	9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Communion</b> 5:30p Contemporary Worship		9a Staff Meeting 10a Hand Bells 5p Stephen Ministry Interfaith Dinner Ntwk	9:30a MOM,ME 12p Lenten Service	6p Stephen Ministries Training 7:30p Young Adult CBS		
<b>Spring Break—Youth and Families Ski Trip to N C</b>						
27	28	29	30	31		
10a New Member Class 6:30p SNL	8:45a AARP 9a Staff Meeting 10a Hand Bells 5:30p Teen CBS	8:45a AARP 9a Staff Meeting 10a Hand Bells	9:30a MOM,ME 12p Lenten Service 5:30p 1st Café 6:30p Choir	6p Stephen Ministries Training 7:30p Young Adult CBS	<b>SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES</b> 8:30a Early Morning Worship 9:30a Coffee Break 9:50a Sunday School 11a Traditional Worship	

## Flower

## Calendar



- March 6 - Paul & Trish Booton
- March 13 - The Shaw family in honor of Audrey Shaw
- March 20 - James & Lou Johnson
- March 27 - Yvonne & Clay Treska in honor of their anniversary

## Driver's Safety Course

AARP will offer a Driver's Safety Course on March 28 & 29 in Jim Thomas Hall. Sign up and save on your car insurance. Call the church office at 261-3837 to register. Class size is limited.



## Coffee Service

- ♥ March 6 - Evangelism Committee
- ♥ March 13 - Finance Committee
- ♥ March 20 - Lydia Circle
- ♥ March 27 - Martha Circle



## BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.....

Would you like to receive the newsletter in color? And earlier? If so, please contact the church office to provide your email address. You will receive a .pdf version of the newsletter right to your desktop even before it is printed! \$ave \$, \$ave paper, \$ave trees, \$ave time! Be green!!!

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