



# First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

## November 2011

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

My Friends,

As we approach our season of church budgets and stewardship, of planning for mission and ministry in 2012, I share these thoughts with you....

We give, not because God needs our money, but because giving helps us grow as Christians. This is something I recently heard said by the Reverend Karl Travis, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Dr. Travis went on to say three things about giving:

1. "The spiritual practice of generosity begins with a promise, a promise to share. It is a promise to ourselves and God."
2. "Generosity isn't measured first by the amount but rather by the proportion of the giver's abundance."
3. "Disciplines are self-confirming. Only by engaging them can we learn of their value. This is true of prayer, of Bible study, of worship, and certainly of generosity. We must keep at it."

Two stories help illustrate the truth that giving is a joyful spiritual discipline:

A church member told his pastor, "I don't pledge." His pastor asked, "Do you have a mortgage?" "Yes," the member replied. "Do you make car payments?" the pastor continued. "Yes," the man said. "It seems to me you make a lot of pledges," the pastor concluded. "Is God worthy of one?" A pledge is your 'promissory prayer' that can transform your giving into a spiritual discipline.

A church member tithed from her modest retirement income. Her Social Security check arrived monthly, so she wanted to write only one offering check each month. On the other Sunday mornings, she simply dropped an empty offering envelope into the passing plate because, she said, "I don't want an offering plate to pass and a child see me not drop something into it."

First we share, persistent in our giving, and in so doing we grow more deeply toward the generous heart of God!

You've heard it said, "Give until it hurts." I say, "Give until it feels good!"

Bruce Lancaster



It's almost time! Filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child will be

dedicated in church on Sunday November 6th and packed up on November 9th.

It is too late to be early, but it is not too late to be late!!! So if you haven't filled a box for a needy child, please do it now! It only takes a little time and you will be blessed by the effort.

Information about filling a shoebox is available in Jim Thomas Hall, or contact the project chairs, Jan Gundersen (261-3962 or [janonamelia@bellsouth.net](mailto:janonamelia@bellsouth.net)) or Barbara Hooper (261-8476 or [barbhooper@gmail.com](mailto:barbhooper@gmail.com)).

## How I Survived Wall Street



New member Bruce Bunner will share from his life experience at a Men's Prayer Breakfast to be held in Jim Thomas Hall at 8 am, November 19th. A Southern Breakfast of grits, biscuits, crisp bacon and scrambled eggs will be served. Associate Pastor Doug Ganyo will be our cook for the morning.

We intend to pray for our families, for our country, and for our servicemen and women who desperately need our advocacy overseas and at home. Come as you are and bring a friend.

Our Men's Prayer Breakfast speaker Bruce Bunner graduated from New York University in 1959 and was a CPA with KPMG until 1992. In addition, from 1982-1986 he served as the Insurance Commissioner of the State of California. Then in 1995 he founded and became CEO of a specialty insurance company until 2003.

But Bruce tells us that his most important experience was coming to know Christ through the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, with whom he has now served on the Board of Directors for almost 43 years.

## For she's a jolly good fellow, which nobody can deny!



**Sandi Neal**  
**Church Librarian**

Sandi Neal brought it to the attention of the Christian Education committee that October was National Church Library Month and she wanted to do something special to feature our Ann Thomas Resource Library and that's where it all began.

The CE committee trusts that you have become more aware of the outstanding collection of books available to you and your family through this month long emphasis. The library brochure inserted in the first Sunday's bulletin provided a wonderful overview of the resources on hand as well as policies and procedures for the library's use.

The Book Box Lunch facilitated by John Ragsdale of the Presbytery welcomed 20 participants for lunch and a book review. It was a most successful event.

Sandi Neal has led a book study this month following dinner in 1st Café. This is the 3rd book study that Sandi has facilitated as part of our discipleship development on Wednesdays. As a member of the Christian Education committee, Sandi has eagerly taken on the responsibility of our library, making improvements in aesthetics and technical services, pursuing accreditation for our library, serving on the national board of church libraries, selecting new books, providing articles for First Pres, cleaning, sorting, labeling, and promoting our library by bringing it to you during coffee once each month.

Sandi is a voracious reader and a talented quilter. I'm not sure which she loves more or if she could do without either one of these passions. First Presbyterian is indeed fortunate to have Sandi Neal as Church Librarian. She is an active and vital member of this congregation along with her husband, Jerry! They are a delightful and interesting couple making their home in Amelia Park. The CE committee commends Sandi for her years of dedicated service to the Library, VBS, Camp Joy, the Theologian in Residence program and many more areas of service including Deacon. Way to Serve, Sandi!

## GATHERING 2012

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FERNANDINA BEACH, FL



"FISHERS OF WOMEN"

"BLESSINGS BY THE SEA"

### *Making Table Decorations:*

Tuesday, November 1

Tuesday, November 8

10:00 a.m.

Jim Thomas Hall

# MacNews

In December the MACs are off to Savannah for the holiday glitz and glitter of "A Christmas Tradition" at the Savannah Theatre capturing the memories of Christmas standards sprinkled with a little comedy and audience participation. Lunch at the Pirate's House and shopping on River Street make this a wonderful Christmas memory in itself. Take a break from wrapping and baking and checking that list and join the MACs on **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**, for a relaxing, fun and entertaining day in Savannah. The cost is only \$89 for the show, lunch and roundtrip motor coach. Secure your comfortable seat with a deposit of \$30 no later than October 31<sup>st</sup> and final payment due on November 20th . Stop by the church office or mail your check pronto!



**In October, the MACs traveled to the Catty Shack, a preserve for big cats that have been rescued and retired!**



**New Member Classes**  
New member classes will be held on November 6, 13, and 20. If you would like to find out more about what it means to be a Presbyterian, consider joining our classes.

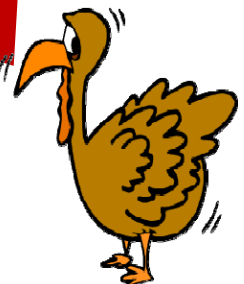
Friends, let's talk turkey.....  
over some delicious Sonny's  
Bar-B-Q  
Thursday, Nov 17<sup>th</sup> at  
11:30a in Jim Thomas Hall  
reservations by Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>  
Bring non perishable food  
items for the Hope House  
as we share our bounty and  
our blessings!

**Coffee Service**

- Nov 6 - Membership Care
- Nov 13 - Mission
- Nov 20 - Personnel
- Nov 27 - Property

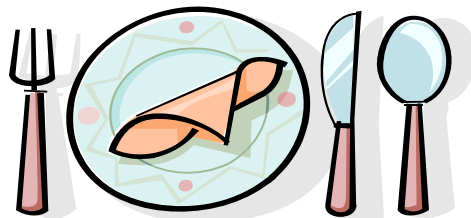


**McThanks**



## 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." Matt 25: 39 "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



Since this is the month of Thanksgiving the Interfaith Dinner Network would like to send out a harvest full of thank yous. In October the Youth Group Committee happily started on their monthly preparation of dinners, and the Esther Circle hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday dinner. Our FPC Praise Band has been at the dinners to give thanks to the Lord and raise our spirits. We know that we have some angels in our church who donate to the IDN periodically, and we also have those who buy our cookbooks, ornaments and note cards. And last but not least we have all the volunteers that have signed up to help, those that have prepared dinner, donated food, served, manned the sign in desk and cleaned up. A huge, huge, thank you to you all. You have made a great contribution to the needy in our community and without all of you from our church and those from the other churches our Interfaith Dinners would not have been successful.

In October one of the scheduled entities in charge of a Friday night dinner was unable to host on their night. As we know God will provide. Memorial United Methodist had food from Wednesday night supper and some of the Methodist ladies took the dinner to Hope House and set it up and got food ready. Celeste and Carl Amos from St. Michaels volunteered to organize volunteers and members from St. Peters, Macedonia, Five Points Baptist. First Baptist, Prince of Peace Lutheran and First Presbyterian showed up to help. 84 people were served and 23 were children. It turned out to be a lovely night.

It is getting close to Christmas and The Presbyterian Women are selling Cookbooks, ornaments and note cards as a fundraiser for the IDN. You may contact the office if you are interested in purchasing these items. 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.

Look for new editions in the Ann Thomas Resource Library including a CD audiobook of Mitch Albom's *have a little faith*, unabridged and read by the author. Too lazy to read? Multi task-drive and let the author read to you! There are new children's books as well!



Check it Out!!

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING  
SERVICE  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 7P.M.  
PRINCE OF PEACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ATLANTIC AVENUE**



**SPONSORED BY THE  
MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE**

# Presbyterian Women's News

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

## November Circle Meetings

### Tuesday, November 8

10:00 a.m. LAFF Home of Linda Laine

### Wednesday, November 9

10:00 a.m. Martha Church—Parlor  
6:15 p.m. Lydia Church—Faith Cafe  
6:15 p.m. Hannah Church—Faith & Friends

### Thursday, November 10

9:30 a.m. Ruth Home of Karen McFadyen  
10:00 a.m. Elizabeth Church—Parlor  
12:30 p.m. Esther Home of Peggy McCarroll



All women of the church are 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!!

## Dates to Remember

### Prayer Shawls

Monday, November 7 9:30 a.m. Jim Thomas Fellowship Hall  
Friday, November 16 9:30 a.m. Jim Thomas Fellowship Hall

## Fair Trade Market 2011

Presbyterian Women had a wonderful Fair Trade Market again this year. Grand total of over \$9700 to International Missions!! Thanks to everyone who planned, worked, shopped—helped in any way. With your support, the market was so very successful, and many impoverished people are being given a hand up to a better way of life. Praise God!



## Program Next Door:

"Taking Care of Business" sponsored by Interfaith Health Ministry (IHM) will be held at Memorial United Methodist Church Saturday November 19th in Maxwell Hall from 9 am to 1 pm. Speakers, including Chaplain Jim Tip-pins, Community Hospice and Oxley-Heard and others, will help participants to plan and share with their families decisions/wishes regarding serious illnesses, advanced age and end of life issues. Pre-registration is encouraged at 261-5769.



## Christmas Memories Cards of the Congregation



Sheets of 11" X 17" poster board will be available at the Info booth in JTH . Pick up a sheet for your family this month and make a Christmas Card with your family. It may be trimmed to any shape (tree, star, ornament, stocking) you like, but try to retain as much of the size as possible so that your card will be visible for viewing from a distance of about six feet.

Cover your card with Christmas Wishes, memories and family pictures. You may use any medium: paint, markers, crayons, paper, fabric, stickers and other embellishments. Be bold, creative and colorful! Completed Christmas Cards may be returned to the church office or info booth in JTH on the First Sunday of Advent.

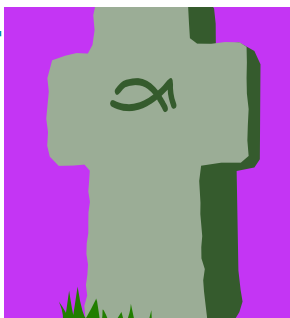
Congregational Christmas Cards will be hung/displayed in the windows of the ANCHOR as a gift to our community thru out Advent as a witness to our faith and celebration of the Savior's birth! Let's say **Merry Christmas** in a **big** way!!

## Christmas Family Night

Sunday, November 27th at 5:30p  
Advent Worship in the Sanctuary  
Followed by Turkey\* Soup Supper in Jim Thomas Hall,  
Decorating the Tree, Christmas Carolers & crafts



\*Contribute your remaining turkey to our end of leftovers soup!  
Drop turkeys (no husbands or kids) off at JTH on Saturday between 9 & 11a.m.



## COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Good News! All of the materials for construction of the columbarium have been ordered and the steel enforced niche banks (walls) are in production. It is planned the everything will arrive on site around Thanksgiving That would mean that construction and completion would take place in December and the landscaping would be completed in January.

All of the memorial benches have been purchased and now the opportunity avails itself for the purchase of memorial plaques for the Tribute Tower as well as, of course, the most important reason for the Columbarium - the purchase of your niche - to be included in the continuing mission and ministry of your church.

There will be an informational table in JTH Hall on Sunday mornings to answer any questions you may have.  
The Columbarium Committee

## God's Gift Shop

Once again, you can shop simply and easily for the special people on your Christmas list! God's Gift Shop will be open on Sunday, December 4, and Sunday, December 11, in JTH. Featured this year are three local organizations and two international missions.

- Locally, ***Soup Train*** is a project to see that all of the 60 shut-ins in the county who are on the waiting list for Meals on Wheels, will receive at least two prepared meals a week;.
- ***Habitat for Humanity*** needs donations to provide materials for homes for county residents living in substandard housing, and which are being constructed by local people with help from members of our church; .
- ***Shop With Cops***, a mission project of Don Monahan to see that children in low income families are given funds to shop for Christmas in partnership with a local police officer.
- Internationally, donations may be made ***to La Gonâve Goat Project in Haiti***, a project of member Claire Barry, which works to make a family on the little Caribbean island self-sustaining with their goat(s), and the ***South American Mission*** work of the DeLilles to provide housing with running water to families in Recife, Brazil.

If you prefer to shop at home, in December, you will be able to go to the newly designed church website, [www.1stpres-fb.com](http://www.1stpres-fb.com) , and shop at **God's Gift Shop on line**. The same five missions will be featured on line and at the church. Just don't miss the opportunity to make your Christmas richer by sharing with someone, somewhere who really needs your gift.



**RELAY FOR LIFE** will be held on **Saturday, November 5, at Yulee High School**. The theme of the 2011 **RELAY** is *Jump, Jive, and Stay Alive!* Come join us as

we jump, jive, and walk the track in honor and memory of our loved ones...AND, enjoy fellowship and supper together. Also, cancer survivors will be honored at **RELAY** and will walk the first lap. To support the team, Relay Cookies and luminary forms are available in the Social Hall between services and at 1<sup>st</sup> Café. Call James Johnson for details, 225-2687.

**Ring the Bell!** Thank you to the many of you who volunteered to ring the **Salvation Army's** bell during the Christmas season. Our church members will be stationed at the red kettle on Centre Street, in the small park next to the coffee shop. There are times to ring the bell still available, so if you are interested in helping in this ministry, please stop by our sign up board in Jim Thomas Hall—look for the red kettle!



***Cold Night Shelter*** is getting ready for the winter season. When the nights are cold (40<sup>o</sup> or below), those without homes or heat are welcomed at Cold Night Shelter, being held again this year at the local Church of Christ. First Pres will be serving on Thursday nights. Thank you to those of you who have volunteered in the past and those who will be ministering this year. Chairs and Rich Lang and Gene Sovereign welcome all who want to help!



**1<sup>st</sup> CAFÉ FALL SERIES**

**Fellowship** - gather around the table with friends and families at 5:30p.m.

**November 2**

Stuffed pork chops  
Potatoes au gratin  
Applesauce  
Braised green cabbage  
Garden salad  
Rolls  
Cherry Crisp



**November 9 – Thanksgiving meal**

Turkey breast w/dressing & gravy  
Baked sweet potatoes  
Green beans almandine  
Congealed cranberry salad  
Pumpkin pie

**November 16**

Fettuccine w/ marinara or alfredo sauce  
Italian sausage  
Garden Salad  
Garlic bread  
Spumoni ice cream

**Discipleship:**

**November 2 & 9**

Promiseland or Bust!  
Pastor Doug will present a beautiful and revealing PBS video with Bruce Feiler

**November 16**

Addresses of the Homeless  
Formerly homeless: Melanie Riley

**Did You Know?????**

We have 6 piano students on Wednesdays at First Presbyterian? And only one of them is a girl!

Lili Lauer not only teaches piano, but also offers voice lessons and is directing our preschool(3, 4 & 5 year olds) and elementary (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades) Children's Choirs?

First Pres hosts a playgroup for Moms, Dads, babies and toddlers that meets every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11a.m. in Noah's Place?

Our elementary through Youth Sunday school classes are meeting in repurposed spaces in the Youth Center?

Our Praise Band is open to members of all ages?

We have 2 baby changing stations, one in the restroom off of the Library and also in the Ladies room in the ANCHOR.

The chancel choir welcomes everyone who enjoys singing? There is no audition, no formal training required, only a love to sing.

There are 2 adult leaders in every Sunday school class for children and Youth?

You have an opportunity to feed the hungry every Sunday through your gift of non perishable food items placed in the Barnabas shopping cart?

The Sanctuary is open for Prayer every Wednesday from 11:30-12:30?

Plans to renovate the Education Wing are being looked at?

We now have a Sunday School class for Two year olds?

There is strong support and interest in purchasing a church bus?

There are 2 women's circles that now meet at night following 1<sup>st</sup> Café?

First Presbyterian is home to Teen CBS (Community Bible Study) every Monday night during the school year?

Did you know that your church is alive with the sound of music and laughter and the hum of activity created by children, youth and families?



## Update from the DeLille's Work in Brazil

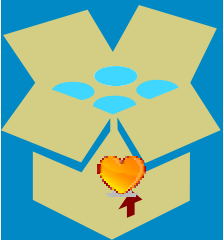
Twenty-three years ago a young married couple began attending First Presbyterian Church, Fernandina Beach. That young couple became active members of the church enjoyed serving in Sunday school, choir, youth group, committees, elder and deacon.

It has been seventeen years since we lived in Fernandina Beach and although the church has changed over the years, it is still a very special place for us. We are very grateful for the years we were at First Pres, the friends we made and church family that taught us how to joyfully serve within the church. Because it's not about us, it's about a God that uses His children to impact others. It's about the Sally Ericksens who say come and join the Elisabeth Circle or would you be interested in an Experiencing God Bible study? It's the Brenda Wall's who say I know you are new members, but would you mind giving out bulletins at the 11:00 service or the Mr. Jim's who say come help me dig footers for the new building or the Conrad's who ask, would you work with the youth or why don't you go on a mission trip and there are many others.

Our Christian foundation as young married adults was so greatly impacted by the love and actions of this church family that it's very much a part of who we are and what we do today on the mission field. We want the church to know that you all are very much a part of this mission work here in Brazil. The ministry here is an extension of the work of First Presbyterian church. It is also important that each member grows spiritually and is encouraging to each other to be a part of God's work. It's about letting God use you in all ways, big and small, because you will not only grow spiritually in the process but you may never know how you might be helping someone else grow in their Christian faith at the same time. Thank you for being a wonderful church family, impacting our lives over the years and your continued love and support in ministry.

Craig and Mary DeLille. Gennifer and Shelby  
Micah 6:8

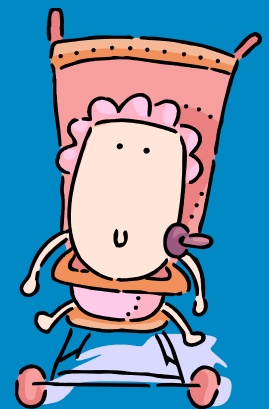
### New Mission Opportunity

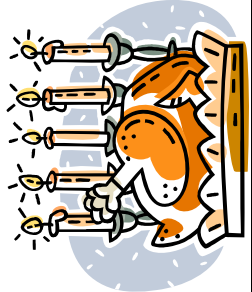


The *Boxes of Love* project is all about the children in Mutomo, Kenya. Many of them are orphans who lost their parents to AIDS. Some of the children are also infected with HIV, and all of them are poor and undernourished, due to drought, inflation and lack of food. Kate and Rudy Miller, missionaries in Kenya, have begun a Children's Home and School and an opportunity to support the children through Boxes of Love. A \$60 donation provides a child with a mattress, a blanket, a jacket, a backpack, shoes and socks, and a month's food! Pastor Doug has visited this mission project in Kenya and supports the Millers in their ambitious efforts. Donations may be made at any time, with a check to First Pres, earmarked for Boxes of Love.

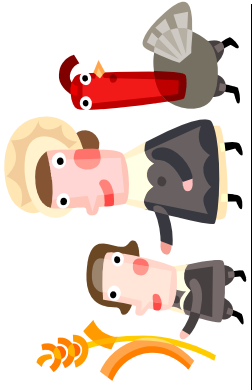
### MOM,ME Playgroup



for moms or dads, babies and toddlers meets every Wednesday throughout the year 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 & Preschool 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 year, 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.





# November 2011



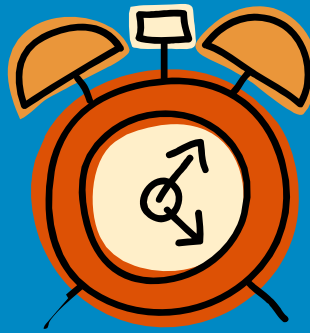
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 6 9:50a New Member Orientation 10:50 Congregational Mtg. 6:30 SNL	7 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry 4p CE meeting 5:30p Teen CBS	1 10a Handbells 4p Member Care 5p Mission/Personnel 6:30 Stephen Ministry Class III 7p Youth	2 9:30 MOM,ME 11:30 - 12:30 - Sanctuary Open for Prayer 4p Worship 5:30 1st Café 6:00 Choir	3 Noon Wholeness/Healing Service	4 Veteran's Day OFFICE CLOSED	5 RELAY FOR LIFE
13 9:50a New Member Orientation Noon Evangelism Mtg. 6:30 SNL	14 5:30p Teen CBS	8 9:30a Staff Meeting 10a Handbells 6p Property	9 9:30 MOM,ME 11:30 - 12:30 - Sanctuary Open for Prayer 5:30 1st Café 6:00 Choir	10 5p Stephen Ministry Class 1	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 Church Work Day
20 <b>Communion</b> <b>Youth Sunday</b> 9:50a New Member Orientation	21 5:30p Teen CBS	15 10a Handbells 4p Finance 5:45 Diaconate 6:30 Stephen Ministry Class III 7p Session	16 9 Ministerial All. 9:30 MOM,ME 11:30 - 12:30 - Sanctuary Open for Prayer 5:30 1st Café 6:00 Choir	17 11:30 MACs BBQ Lunch 6p Stephen Ministry Class III	18 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry	19 8a <b>Men's Prayer Breakfast</b>
27 First Sunday of Advent 5:30p Family Christmas Night-Worship, Dinner, and Decorating	28 5:30p Teen CBS	22 9:30a Staff Meeting 10a Handbells 7p Community Thanksgiving Service - Lutheran Church	23 9:30 MOM,ME 11:30 - 12:30 - Sanctuary Open for Prayer	24 <b>Thanksgiving</b> OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 Turkey Drop 9-11a- JTH 
27 First Sunday of Advent 5:30p Family Christmas Night-Worship, Dinner, and Decorating	28 5:30p Teen CBS	29 9:30a Staff Meeting 10a Handbells	30 9:30 MOM,ME Noon Advent Service	<b>SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES</b> 8:30a Early Morning Worship 9:30a Coffee Break 9:50a Sunday School 11a Traditional Worship		

## Flower Calendar

- Nov 6<sup>th</sup> – Nancy Sturges
- Nov 13<sup>th</sup> – Ruth Reader in memory of her husband, Claude
- Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – DeAnn and Richard Johnson in honor of their anniversary
- Nov 27<sup>th</sup> – Barbara and Mac Noden in honor of the anniversary



**Daylight Savings Time  
Ends on November 6th.**

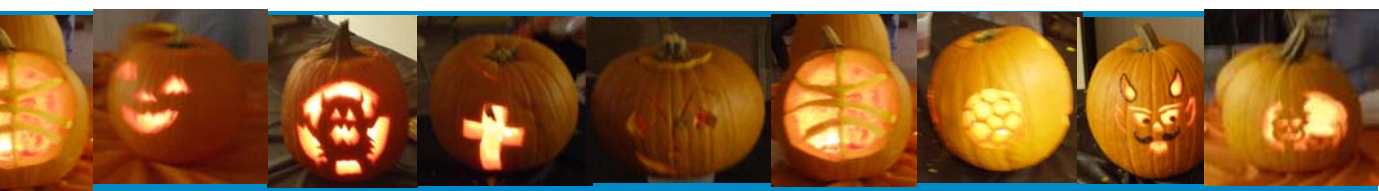


**Fall back to  
sleep for  
an extra  
hour!**

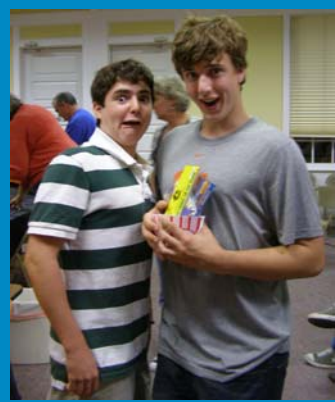
**"So the churches were strengthened in faith and increased in numbers daily."  
Acts 16:5**

# Keeping Up with the Youth

Don't miss Youth Sunday on November 20. The Youth of the congregation will lead both Worship services and serve communion.  
The Youth continue to volunteer at Hope House and will serve on November 8?



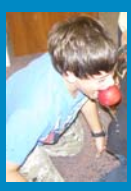
Youth and their families attended a Fall Festival hosted by the Youth Committee on October 23rd.



Hayride

Pumpkin Carving Winners

Pumpkin Carving



Apple Bobbing