



# First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

October 2011

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

## Where Can You Serve?



My Friends,

How exciting it is to see so many people involved in service through FPC!

**The Church is at its best when we serve eagerly!** We express our devotion to Christ when

we serve. More than the fact that Jesus commands us to serve; it is, in reality, the key to real usefulness.

As someone once said, "If you have an opportunity to help others and don't do it, you are wasting your time on earth."

**The key to greatness is found in service.** Is it not true that the people we admire and look up to the most, whose lives challenge us to reach higher, are those who are busy serving, busy giving something of themselves to others?

**The key to personal happiness is found in service.** Service pulls you out of your preoccupation with self and focuses your time, interest, and talents on others who need you. It is in reaching out to them that you really find your purpose, your place, and your happiness.

**The key to community is found in service.** We need each other. One of the reasons this is a loving, warm-

hearted, happy church to be in is because you are busy, and getting busier, serving other people. Churches that are busy serving others never have time to be petty.

**Jesus said he came, not to be served, but to serve.** (Matthew 20:28) It is when you serve and share to build community, to help those who need you, to give of your life as Jesus commanded that you find who you really are as a child of God.

Know that you are in prayers as I am blessed to serve as your Interim Pastor,

Bruce Lancaster

Our very own Becca Gillespie will be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, October 16,

2011, at 5:30p.m. in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. We, as the church family, commend the years of work and study, the family sacrifice and financial commitment of the Gillespie family. And we celebrate with them what God has done to make this wonderful day a reality for all of us. Becca will be serving the Middleburg Presbyterian Church.





It's that time of year again. Time for the Shoebox Ministry of Operation Christmas Child! Get a box! Fill it! Pray for the child who will receive it! Bring it to church by Nov 6, with payment for the shipping costs. How easy! And what an impact it may have on a child who does not know Christ. This is a way to bring the love and the salvation of Jesus to needy children around the world.

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 school supplies, toys and hygiene items. Brochures listing items to include and to avoid will be available during coffee hour in JTH during October.

Last year, 8.2 million boxes were collected and delivered to children in 120 countries. From our own congregation, over 200 boxes were sent to Iraq.

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 [samaritanspurse.org/ezgive](http://samaritanspurse.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.

## MACs Gone WILD!!



On October 20<sup>th</sup> the MAC's (Mature Adult Christians over 55) will take a walk on the wild side as they

visit The Catty Shack, a preserve for big cats like Siberian tigers, lions, cougars, spotted and black leopards and more. The Catty Shack is located on the North side of Jacksonville on Starratt Rd. about 10 miles from Yulee.

We will car pool, leaving church about 10:45am. The one hour tour begins at 11:30 There is a golf cart tram available for those who may need it. We will then go to Olive Garden at River City Market Place for lunch. The cost for the tour is a \$10.00 donation and lunch is "dutch treat". Please call the church office to make your reservation by October 13<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.

## Habitat for Humanity House Building Seeks Volunteers



We have several members who regularly offer their time and effort to build affordable housing for others. Larry Melnick, a volunteer coordinator, has announced that the local Habitat organization will begin construction on a three bedroom home October 1st. On every Saturday and Wednesday thereafter, beginning at 8:30a.m., the work will continue at #518 13th Terrace. All the necessary tools are provided. Come, share and bless others! You may contact Larry at 415-5512 or [lmel72@bellsouth.net](mailto:lmel72@bellsouth.net).

## October Sanctuary Flowers

- Oct 2nd – Jim Shaw, Ann & Dan Kirby
- Oct 9th – Barbara Burton
- Oct 16th – Betty & Jim Long
- Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> – Susan Steger
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – Alice & Joel Payne



# Presbyterian Women's News

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

## FAIR TRADE MARKET

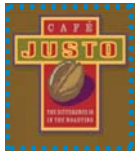
Saturday, October 8  
9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

In the Anchor  
&

Sunday, October 9  
Between services in  
Jim Thomas Fellowship Hall

**DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY!**

Handmade Gifts  
from Around the World



### Fall is Here...Circles Begin

Please choose the one that best suits your time and needs.

#### Tuesday, October 11

- 10:00a LAFF, Home of Linda Laine

#### Wednesday, October 12

- 10:00a Martha, Home of Velma Jacobs
- 6:15p Lydia, Church-Faith Cafe
- 6:15p Hannah, Church-Faith & Friends

#### Thursday, October 13

- 9:30a Ruth, Home of Nancy Inboden
- 1:30p Elizabeth, Church parlor
- 12:30p Esther, Home of Shirley Owens

### GATHERING 2012

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FERNANDINA BEACH, FL



"FISHERS OF WOMEN"

"BLESSINGS BY THE SEA"

### Wanted !!!!

#### 2 Golf Carts

The Presbyterian Women are looking for Golf Carts that can be used to transport ladies at our Prebyterian Womens Gathering on January 28,2012. If you have a Golf Cart that the women could use for that day please contact Marilyn Showalter 261 4885.



We are also looking for a Trailer that could transport a couple of golf carts. If you have a trailer that we can use please respond to the number

**Prayer Shawls** Monday, Oct 3 9:30 a.m. JTH  
Friday, Oct 21 9:30 a.m. JTH

### Lunch Bunch

Watch the Sunday bulletin for the date and place of October's Lunch Bunch. Come, join the fun and fellowship!



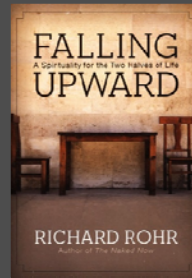
Thank you, **Linda Johns**, for a wonderful first lesson to the Beatitudes study at the PW Fall Kickoff.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CHURCH LIBRARY MONTH

What are You READING?

Pat Knerr

"Safely Home" by Randy Alcorn, about Chinese house churches, is eye-opening & gut-wrenching. "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom, about a rabbi & a pastor is beautiful. "The Traveler's Gift" by Andy Andrews; he says there are 7 decisions we must make to be successful. I was intrigued with "The Centurion's Wife" which deals with what it might have been like to become a believer shortly after the death & resurrection of our Lord.



**BOOK BOX LUNCH**  
**Chew & Review**  
**With Dr. John Ragsdale**  
 Tuesday  
 October 18  
 11:30a-1:30p in Jim Thomas Hall

Dr. John Ragsdale

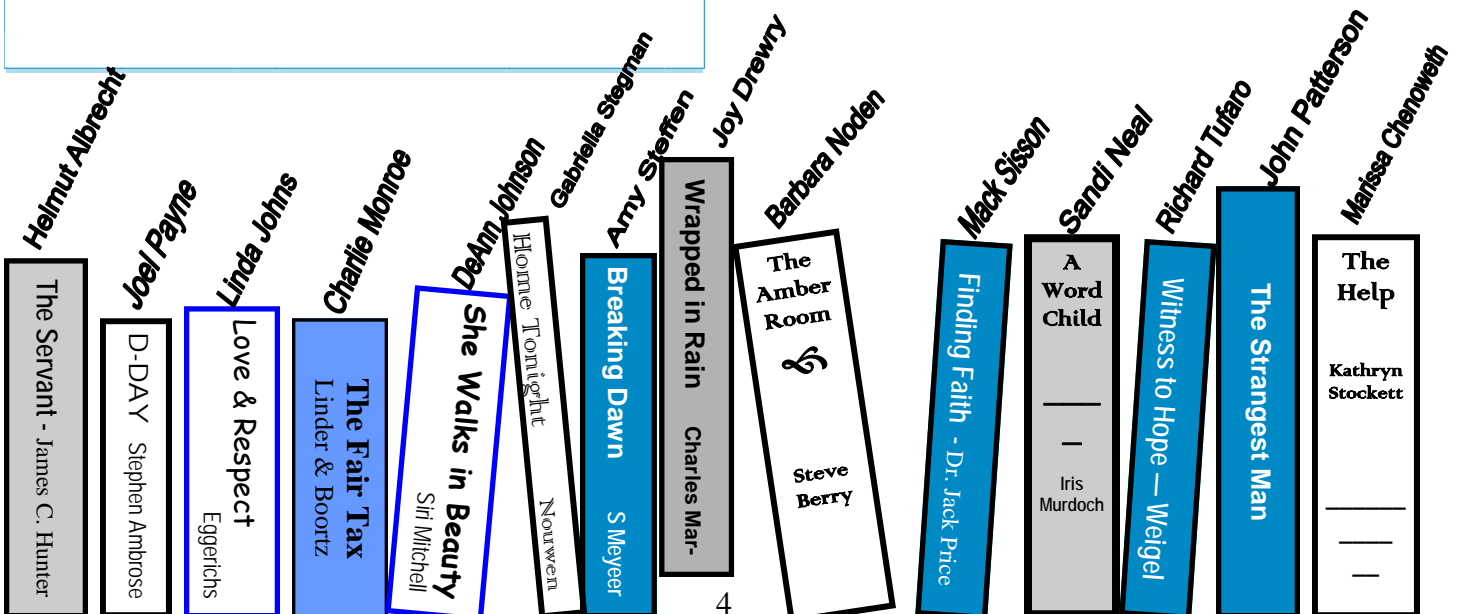
Mission Coordinator for Missional Leadership, St. Augustine Presbytery will facilitate the book discussion of Richard Rohr's Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life. Dr. Ragsdale leads the Presbytery Book Club that meets at several churches through out our Presbytery.



A gourmet box lunch catered by Old South Yankee is \$8.00 per person. A limited number of books are available at \$12. Please register in the church office for this special event celebrating National Church Library Month. Registration deadline is October 14th. Questions? contact Sandi Neal, church librarian @ skneal@aol.com.

Pastor Bruce's just read and reading:

- [Unbroken](#) by Laura Hillenbrand
- [Red on Red](#) by Ed Conlon
- [The Word that Redescribes the World: The Bible and Discipleship](#) by Walter Breuggemann
- [Friending: Real Relationships in a Virtual World](#) by Lynne Baab
- [Scripture and the Authority of God](#) by N.T. Wright
- [How Firm a Foundation: A Gift of Jewish Wisdom](#) by Rabbi Yechiel



## October Library News



October is a wonderful time to become acquainted with your church library. During the month of October, the FPC library will be open for tours every Sunday between services so that you may become acquainted with this wonderful resource.

As mentioned in the August library column, 2011 celebrates the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible. In keeping with that celebration, a new biography of James Stuart (King James I) has been added to the library. [Majestie, the King Behind the King James Bible](#) by David Teems is the very readable and entertaining look at the life of James – from the time prior to his birth when his mother, Mary Queen of Scots, was held captive in her chambers by her husband, Lord Darnley, with a gun pointed at her pregnant stomach, through his childhood as King James VI of Scotland and on to his unlikely ascension to the throne in England as King James I. (Sounds confusing, doesn't it?)

James Stuart was a study in paradox, one who waddled through life, "sideways and crablike", intellectually astute but at times bawdy and vulgar. Colorful, witty and at times bawdy, "only James could have given us the great book that he did". Of greatest interest is the appointment of the panels that did the actual work of translation, the leaders of each group and the deadline imposed by James for completion. This wonderful book is not only informative but a great joy to read. Teems has captured life and times of 17<sup>th</sup> C. England and Scotland with great charm and wit.

Check it out!

In the Garden of Beasts

Doc Burgess

Heaven is For Real

Gail Niedemhofer

Sun Stand Still

Furtik

Doris Davis

Finding God in the Questions

Dr. Timothy Johnson

Shirley Owens

Nothing to Lose, Everything to Gain

Barbara Ross



## Mission News

Our **2 Cents a Meal** collection has reached \$791.65, and is still growing! The funds will be used to fight hunger, and the 25% of the final total which stays in our community will be forwarded to the new Soup Train initiative. With donations like ours from First Presbyterian Church, a Soup Train recipient can be provided with 2 meals each week for only \$104 for the year! Many thanks for sharing your coins with those who really need them.

Missions has many opportunities for you to volunteer for activities, including the **Salvation Army Christmas Kettle, Operation Christmas Child, Cold Night Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life**, and a **Mission Trip on May 13-19, 2012 to Tuscaloosa, AL**. You may sign up for these ministries between services in our fellowship hall.

**God's Gift Shop** will allow you to purchase alternative Christmas gifts from among our mission projects, either on our church website (coming soon) or from a member of the Mission Committee between services on December 4 or December 11. Highlighted this year at the gift shop will be Habitat for Humanity, Shop with Cops, Soup Train, South American Mission, and the Haitian Goat Project. For those of us who are richly blessed, the Christmas season becomes so much more Christ like when we share our blessings with others.



## FALL 1st CAFÉ Fellowship & Discipleship

### 1<sup>st</sup> CAFÉ FALL Dinners @ 5:30p.m.

- October 5 - Oktoberfest
- October 12 - Beef Stroganoff
- October 19 - Mexican Fiesta
- October 26 - Chicken Divan

#### Weekly Dinner Rates

(with reservations)

Adults/Youth -- \$7.00 each  
Children -- \$3.50 each (5-11)  
(4 and under—No charge)  
Family Rate -- \$20.00

#### RESERVATIONS

Reservations may be made on a weekly basis by phoning the church office (261-3837) no later than **Tuesday** at 4:30pm. Or sign up each week for the following Wednesday Dinner and between services on Sundays. Walk-ins without reservations will be charged \$1.00 more per meal. The family rate without reservations will be \$22.00.

**6:15p.m. –7:15p.m.**

#### Living in the Temple

Healthy Living—Interfaith Health Network  
Dr. Buddy Drewry,  
Tim & Andra DeViese  
**October 5, 12, & 19**

#### Something Old, Something New

Join Worship Arts Associate, Kevin Crainshaw from St. Johns Presbyterian Church, as he weaves tradition and the present together  
**October 26**

#### The Faith Book Club Discussion Group

Led by Sandi Neal  
Unbroken By Laura Hillenbrand  
**October 5, 12, 19 & 26**

**Adult Choir @ 6:00p.m.**

### *Out of the Saltshaker!*

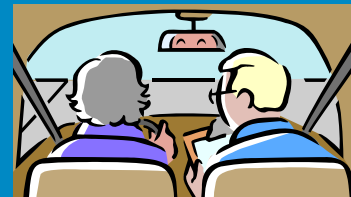
The first 2 Sundays in October the Saltshakers Adult Sunday School class will continue a study of the Bible with the DVD "**Why 66? The Canon of Scripture**". Why are there only 66 books in the Protestant Bible? What about the New Testament apocryphal books? Christian apologist Brian Edwards traces the story of the Hebrew Scripture, the Old Testament, and the writing and acceptance of the books of the New Testament.



Following that we will consider for several weeks "**A Christian and Muslim Debate: Is the New Testament That We Possess Today Inspired?**" According to Muslim apologist Shabir Ally, there is sound evidence the New Testament is not entirely correct as we know it today. James White holds to the firm position of its inerrancy. We will gain a greater appreciation for God's Word and learn how to defend it by viewing this classic debate. Please join us on Sundays at 10 am in our classroom in Jim Thomas Hall. All are welcome.

**MOM,ME** meets every Wednesday in Noah's Place for Moms, Dads, Babes & Toddlers. Come and enjoy safe play time, networking and friendship.

The final **AARP** driver safety class for this year will be offered on October 24 and 25 in Jim Thomas Hall. Update



your driver skills and save on your insurance. The cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for others. Class size is limited so call 261-3837 to register. Rev. Bert Swearingen will be teaching the class.



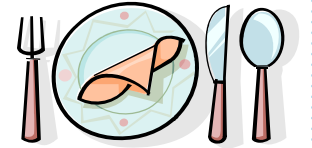
### Wednesday Prayer Time

At the request of several members to have a regular time of gathering for prayer, Associate Pastor Doug Ganyo will initiate an every Wednesday 11:30 am to 12:30 pm prayer time in the sanctuary October 2nd. "Remembering" and "mentioning" others in prayer was a common practice in the New Testament church as we can see in: Romans 1:9, Ephesians 1:16 and I Thessalonians 1:2. As the early church began, as recorded in Acts 2:42 and in Acts 16:16, followers of Jesus were regularly meeting for the express purpose of prayer. This was in the tradition of the Bible's prayer book the Psalms, which reveals a regular seeking of the Lord, "Answer me when I call O God..."(Psalm 4:1).

As people gather in our worship space prayer helps and requests will be displayed and available. You will be invited to add your prayer concerns to those of others. Let us remember the teaching of Jesus that too often we have not because we do not ask, as he taught in Luke 11:9, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." We will also continue to offer the Service of Wholeness and Healing on 1st Thursdays at noon in the sanctuary.

### Interfaith Dinner Network

*"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



The number of guests attending the dinners continues to grow. This month the numbers seem to be in the 90s. First Presbyterian has added another day to serve each month. The youth committee will be sponsoring those days. We are so thankful that this group could take over one of the IDN free days in the month. Thanks to the Deacons who served dinner in September and thanks to the volunteers that served dinner on September 8th that was an added day for our church. If you would like to participate in the Interfaith Dinners you may contact Marilyn Showalter at 261 4885 or [showalte@bellsouth.net](mailto:showalte@bellsouth.net).

The Presbyterian Women sell 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.

Ugly Tie Contestants line up for an official portrait before judging by Ministry Fair goes ended!



There were 21 proud tie owners strutting their awful ties for the crowd.

## Associate Pastor Doug Ganyo Reports on "Fellowship" Event

On August 25-26, along with approximately 2,000 others, representing over 800 churches, I attended the gathering of the Fellowship of Presbyterians in Minneapolis, Mn. After years of debate and numerous votes on who should be ordained as elder or minister in a PC (USA) church, a new movement began in January of this year with a half-dozen pastors presenting a "white paper" lamenting "theological error and biblical drift". Then in May it was announced that enough Presbyteries had affirmed a General Assembly vote to change the constitution to make it possible to ordain those with a different sexual lifestyle, as long as they could affirm the traditional ordination vows.

Also by May, over 550 Presbyterian pastors and elders had signed on as "supporters" of the Fellowship. They called for "drastic intervention" and welcomed others to join them in Minneapolis to begin "something new, characterized by Passions and Values". Having seen and heard their passion, I agree with the pundit who said this was a group "seeking a solution, not a separation". The folks I talked to, around several table meetings, were seeking ways to uphold Christian and Biblical standards within the PC (USA).

Pastors from several Presbyterian churches took the stage to respond not only to the change in ordination standards; but also to address a "differing understanding of scripture", "Biblical authority", the "centrality of Christ", "creeping universalism" and "moral integrity". They see "islands of hope" in the denomination but long for a "united theological core", a renewed "nurturing of leadership" in local congregations, a greater "passion for mission and evangelism" and a commitment to "growing the church".

A renewal agenda will be presented for churches to respond to at a planned gathering in Orlando, FL in January of 2012. Admitting "it will be messy", leaders of the "Fellowship" presented four "tiers" as options for supporters of the movement:

1. Remain in the PC (USA) as an association and seek transformation;
2. Dividing existing Presbyteries and/or forming "Union" Presbyteries;
3. Creating separate Committees on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry;
4. Creation of a "new Reformed body" either within or outside of the PC (USA).

In my estimation most of these churches are not ready to abandon the denomination. In fact, the tone of the conference was uplifting, exciting, forward-looking and hopeful. Personally, I will continue to serve within the PC (USA) and welcome all efforts of renewal. I believe we are Reformed and always reforming in Christ.

Meanwhile, simultaneous with the "Fellowship", another group of Presbyterians calling their association "Next Church" will be meeting in Dallas, TX in February 2012. They will also seek renewal but entirely within the PC (USA).

On October 9th at 10 am I will be in the Anchor to present a few slides from the Conference, give an update and answer any questions. Everyone is welcome.



Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's event to raise cancer awareness and funds to fight this disease, will be held **Saturday, November 5**. James Johnson is captaining the 1<sup>st</sup> Pres team this year. Call James, 225-2687, to be a part of this event either by walking or donating in honor or memory of someone you know who has been affected by this disease. You could even provide some food for the team, Pray for a cure and those who suffer now.

# Keeping Up with the Youth



On September 9th, Janna Rainey and Forrest Foxworth took the youth to Rock the Universe in Orlando where they listened to Christian rock music. Don't

forget to ask them about their experience!

A Family Ski Trip is in the works for this winter. We'll be taking a group to Maggie Valley, NC for MLK weekend (Jan 13-16). If you are interested in attending, please mark your calendar and speak to Forrest.

On October 13, the youth will serve dinner at Hope House.



## Youth and Families Fall Festival

Youth and their families are invited to a Fall Festival on Sunday, October 23rd from 5 to 6:30.

Enjoy this time of fellowship and food with other parents and youth.

Chili and fixings will be provided by the Youth Committee.

We will carve pumpkins, bob for apples, and other Fall activities.



### WHERE'S THE BUS?

We don't have one, but we need one for youth, children, mission, evangelism, etc., etc. In this photo, the youth were stranded for a couple of hours waiting for a rental bus for their summer mission trip. We are gathering the costs for a 15-



passenger bus. More information to follow.



## Tent Revival Coming to Nassau County October 9-12

The "Lordship of Jesus Christ" in our lives will be the focus of the "Nassau County Crusades for Christ-Tent Revival" to be held October 9-12, 2011 on a football field near New Life Baptist Church, at the intersection of SR 200 and Blackrock Road.



The Rev. Dr. Neil Helton, pastor at Amelia Baptist Church, has presented the Crusades to the Ministerial Association asking for their support. Area evangelist Bill Boseman will be giving the nightly messages and Gary Tomlinson will be leading an Interdenominational Choir. Our Evangelism Committee supports this ministry and encourages our members to participate in whatever way God leads.

The Crusades begin on Sunday October 9th at 6 pm (Crusades on October 10, 11 and 12 will begin at 7pm). The Crusades will be held in a large white tent provided entirely by Joe H. Anderson Jr, founder of Anderson Columbia Construction, which works throughout the Southeastern USA.

This is an interdenominational ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. It is hoped that different churches will come together to celebrate Christ and worship him together. We are asking God to bring revival and renewal among believers as well as share the good news about Christ with seekers. We are all in constant need of renewal of our faith.

Our part in this ministry can include: inviting a friend to come, offering our gifts/talents in serving, attending nightly and giving to the "love offerings".

- To join the prayer team you may call pastor Brian Crane at 904-521-3479.
- To serve as usher/greeter please call Curtis Cantrell at 904-859-1859.
- Musical volunteers should contact Matt Gingery at 904-321-6280.
- The Parking Lot Team is led by Willie Brunetti who may be reached at 904-261-9527.
- Decision Counselors will be trained and guided by David Drake, who may be reached at 904-225-5941.
- Pastor Doug Ganyo will answer any questions you may have about this event.

To help prepare for the Crusades, Chris McKinney will organize a volunteer tent set-up team to work October 1st from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Then the Tent Team will dismantle the tent October 15th beginning at 7:30 am.

Please be in prayer for the hearts and minds of people to be open to the moving of the Holy Spirit to commit and re-commit their lives under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Pray also that Evangelist Bill Boseman will be blessed to be a blessing to many others who come. Join the choir and sing under the direction of Gary Tomlinson. Please do bring a friend!



Communications Committee wins BEST BOOTH at Ministry Fair 2011



Congratulations, Pastor Bruce!  
You do indeed own the ugliest tie we've every seen!

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