



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of December 14, 2014

Issue 523

128 Years of Ministry

Dr. Steven R. Negley
Senior Pastor

Dr. C. Alan Harvey
Associate Pastor

Dr. Raymond M. Larson
Minister of Visitation

Dr. James G. Manor
Parish Associate

Amy L. McKee
Director of
Christian Education

Dana H. Parrish
Interim Director of
Student Ministries

Cheryce D. Harris
Interim Director of Choir

Lynn McCoy
Interim Organist

Ronda A. Lacy
Director of Finance &
Administration

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative Assistant

Rose Flynn
Office Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant
Director of Maintenance

Ann M. Quessenberry
Custodian

“COME TO THE STABLE and to BETHLEHEM SQUARE “

This Saturday, December 13, 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.



An exciting nativity under the stars, including live:

A “heavenly choir” with accompaniment played by Nat West, Squire Smith and Susie Riggs, a beautifully costumed cast of all ages - angels, shepherds, the three kings and most importantly – the Holy Family, a donkey for Mary and a small flock of sheep - guests can pet the animals after the presentation.

**Between performances guests are invited to join the
cast and villagers in Bethlehem Square for:**

a tasting of the “food of Bethlehem”, live dulcimer music, to meet the costumed cast and villagers, and sign the village census to receive an original handcrafted tree ornament.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**Our Christmas Eve Candlelight
Services of Lessons and Carols
will be held **December 24, at 5 p.m.**
(child/family friendly interactive)
and **9 p.m.** in the sanctuary.**



Church calendar

Sunday, December 14 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:50 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. OJ Fellowship (MH)
9:45 a.m. Sunday School-Children & Youth
10:00 a.m. Sunday School-Adults
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:30 p.m. HSYG (SC)

Monday, December 15

8:45 a.m. MOM
6:15 p.m. Worship & Music (UR)

Tuesday, December 16

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
9:30 a.m. Joy Circle (Off-site)
12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
12:00 p.m. Finance (UR)
6:30 p.m. Deacons (GR)

Wednesday, December 17

8:45 a.m. MOM
3:00 p.m. Christ Kids
5:30 p.m. MSYG (SC)
6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 18

7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells

Friday, December 19

8:45 a.m. MOM

Saturday, December 20

9:00 a.m. Poinsettias Arranged
2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)
7:00 p.m. Saturday Nite Live (MH)

Remember in Prayer

members

Maggie Beeland
Win Betrus
R. Otis Bice, Jr.
Guy Bostick
Lois Burrell
Millie Carrier
Bob Carter
George & Sylvia Chambers
Helen Champlain
Norma Conner
Don Dinger
Jerry Dugger
Jana Easterling
Jeanne Estes
Bill Everhart
Kathy Girouard
Marge Goodman
Pete & Jean Harman

Frances Heath
Doris Hill
Ranell Hillman
Ed Houston
Camille Howe
Dorothy Johnson
Toni Krieger
Ronda Lacy
Dena Lancashire
Dot Lenfestey
Elaine Maltese
Rita Marcacci
Dick McCauley
Matt McGaffigan
Gladys Meier
Heidi Van Allen-Munoz
Joan Murphy
Nancy Neale

Joe Oriani
Dee Palmore
Al & Marjorie Porter
Barbara Puckett
Liz Purnell
Barbara Roberts
Earle Roberts
Mary Ellen Rowker
Dave Ryan
Dorothy Ryan
Martha Seney
Dean Shull
Barbara A. Smith
Carolyn Thompson
Ed Threadgill
Shirley Turner
Betty von Hahmann
Anne Windham

Military service

Aaron Ashley
James E. Baker
Ben Clark
Deborah Clark
Nathan Connor
Tim Davis
Zach Drum
Leah (Doty) Fuscia
Eddie Gray
Beau Gresham
Chris Hagen
Daniel Harp
Sean Harp
Coree Jones
Terry Jones, Jr.
Jackie Jung
David Knowles
Timothy Lee
John Marotti
Kaitlin Marotti
Adam McPhail
Andrew Stapor
Keaton Thompson
Jacob van Zandt

Kerbi Blake
Stephanie Blanchard
Bob Cameron
David Curtiss
Debbie Donley
Al Ellis
Raymond Fenstermaker
Harper Hassett
Jean Hehn
Abigail Ising
Linda Johnson
Pete Kent
Geoff Lewis
Brenda Marshal
Nan Mason
Gary McClelland
JJ Miller
Lettie Lane North
LaDonna Owen
Andrew Porter
Cal Quessenberry
Bob Sammaro
Peggy Seigler
Miss Tiffany
Blain & Cynthia Thompson-McCaleb

Family and friends

Al & Marjorie Porter's daughter
John & Barbara Puckett's friend
Larry & Candy Marshall's friend
Meredith Curtiss' stepson
Marty Bentley's friend
Jim Threlkel's friend
Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson
Marty & Bob Bentley's granddaughter
Ellie Threlkel's friend
Rick & Pat Reass' greatniece
Gale & Gwen Waters' friend
Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
David & Erin Emry's friend
Jeri Stewart & Tom Oldt's friend
Harvey & Mary Ann Snivley's daughter
Jeri Stewart & Tom Oldt's friend
Rick & Pat Reass' friend
Jean Strang's sister
Jonathan Owen's aunt
Al & Marjorie Porter's grandson
Ann Quessenberry's husband
Marcia Keplinger's friend
Ellie Threlkel's friend
The Swangos' friend
Carolyn Thompson's daughter

Please help us visit our hospitalized members!

The tightening of HIPAA regulations has meant that we have missed visiting some of our members during their hospital stay. If you are a member or a friend of this congregation, or you have a family member admitted to any hospital, please call the church office and let the pastors know.

**Thank you for helping us stay
in touch with the congregation.**



*Our Christian
sympathy goes Warren
Partain whose mother,
Judy Partain ,
died on Tuesday,
December 2, 2014.*



COMING IN 2015: OM, OM BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB



Plans are underway for an **Odd Month, Odd (3rd) Monday Book Discussion Club** to meet for the first time on **Monday, January 19** in the Upper Room. We will have some light refreshments and we will discuss Jan Karon's new book, *Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good*.

On **March 16** we will discuss Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard's book, *Killing Jesus*.

On **May 18** we will discuss Sharon Peters' book, *Trusting Calvin: How a Dog Healed a Holocaust Survivor's Heart*.

On **July 20** we will discuss Deborah Salomon's book, *American Mirror: The Life and Art of Norman Rockwell*.

If these events attract enough interest, we will offer an afternoon session at **3:00 p.m.** and an evening session at **7:00 p.m.** A minimum of eight persons will be needed to warrant offering both times. Please contact Alan at the church (294-3121) to express your interest and to indicate your time preference to attend. Plans are underway to get at least two copies of the titles to have available for checkout in the library and you may contact Jonathan Owen about ordering a personal copy. If we have good attendance and interest for these

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT!!!



Our All Church Retreat, *God Speaks Your Love Language*, will be held **February 7 & 8** at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center.

Members and friends of First Presbyterian Church are invited to join us for both days or just one day of Bible study, fellowship, enjoying the great outdoors, and a relaxing time away.

Registration forms are located around the church or you may e-mail Amy McKee at (amckee@firstpreswh.org or call 294-3121). The registration deadline is January 20.

We are looking forward to a wonderful retreat this year!

LAST CALL FOR VETERAN INFORMATION!

Veterans Day 2014 has come and gone. The names submitted to us were included in the Prayers of the People on Sunday, November 9. We realize that our list of veterans was incomplete and so we still want to solicit this information from those who have served our country.

We are still compiling a record of all of our church members/ friends who are veterans or currently serving in our armed forces. Please help us by e-mailing to office@firstpreswh.org, calling the church office at 294-3121, or completing the form below and putting it in the offering plate.

Thank you!

Name: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

DOS or War (e.g. Korean, Desert Storm, etc.): _____



**First Pres
Wants Your**

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR THOSE NEEDING A RIDE TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS!

For anyone seeking a ride using our angel van service on Sundays, please call the church office at 294-3121 on Friday by 12 p.m. to make those arrangements.

It is necessary to call each week you need a ride.



CHRISTMAS DAY SOUP KITCHEN



We are planning to share another wonderful Christmas Day meal for those in our area who are hungry. The dinner menu will include: turkey and gravy, ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, corn, cranberry sauce, bread, pie, cake, and Christmas cookies. From 1:30–3:15 p.m. we will be cooking side dishes, carving meat, cutting bread and desserts in the main church kitchen, and setting up the 737 building and tables for the meal. We will serve from 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to

- Bake a ham or turkey at home, and bring it to the main kitchen by 2:30 p.m. on Christmas Day (the hams and turkeys can be picked up at the church on Sunday, December 21)
- Make a large green bean casserole (disposable baking pans can be picked up at the church on Sunday, December 21)
- Help with cooking and food and building prep. from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Day
- Help serve the Christmas meal and clean up 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. on Christmas day.

If you would like to help with any of these portions of the Christmas Day Soup Kitchen meal, please sign up in McLeod Hall and plan to join us for this wonderful Christmas tradition here at First Pres.

POINSETTIA DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Extend the Christmas spirit by taking poinsettias to our elderly and shut-ins. Come to the church on **Friday, December 26 after 10 a.m.** to take the plants to as many people as you would like. Need more info? Call Ray Larson @ 294-3121.



AFTER CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 9:30-10:30 A.M.

On the Menu: Sausage Biscuits, Ham, Cheese and Egg Biscuits, Scalloped Apples, Assorted Donuts and Pastries, Cereal and Milk, Juice and Coffee

Please complete the tear off to let us know you are coming.

Name: _____

Adults: _____ Children: _____

GOT JEANS TOO TIGHT OR TOO BIG?

Got A Sweatshirt You Don't Need or One With a Design You Don't Like?

How about considering donating these items in childrens' sizes through adults' sizes to the Soup Kitchen.

While the Soup Kitchen is primarily a feeding ministry of our church, we do like to assist with warm clothing for the winter for our needy guests.



As you are cleaning out your chest of drawers or closets and as you run across these items you wish to discard or no longer need or use, please bring them to the church and we will put them to good use.

Thank you!

GENEROSITY SHOWS as we MOVE INTO A NEW YEAR

First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven operates with a unified church budget. This means that the ministry that we conduct through all our program areas falls under a single church budget (managed by the Session), which is supported by the tithes and offerings of our members and friends. As we move into a new year, the Session is in the process of seeing how the generosity of our members and friends will enable and enhance our ministry.

Our ministry plans for 2015 are reflected in the proposed operating budget.

Dream Budget for 2015

Benevolences:

World Mission in Presbytery (Honduras), Synod, and General Assembly	\$ 34,300
Presbytery of Tampa Bay Per Capita (Shared operating expenses)	\$ 24,898
Deacon's Fund (Local Mission)	\$ 24,802
Congregational Care	\$ 1,000
Stephen Ministry	\$ 2,000
International Mission (Strangs)	\$ <u>3,000</u>
Subtotal Benevolence	\$ 90,000

Personnel:

Pastoral Staff (salaries and benefits)	\$ 238,091
Program Staff (salaries and benefits)	\$ 186,618
Support Staff (salaries)	\$ 223,130
Nursery Staff (salaries)	\$ 15,750
Worker's Comp Insurance, Employer Payroll Taxes	\$ 33,600
Controlled Disbursements	\$ <u>25,211</u>
Subtotal Personnel	\$ 722,400

Office/Administrative

Printing, Postage, Supplies	\$ 21,100
Phones, Equipment, Misc	\$ <u>13,900</u>
Subtotal Office/Administrative	\$ 35,000
Properties Buildings and Grounds	\$ 27,000
Utilities	\$ 37,000
Insurance	\$ 81,000
Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance/Other	\$ <u>12,000</u>
Subtotal Properties	\$ 157,000

Dream Budget for 2015, continued

Program Committees

Christian Education	\$ 5,900
Youth Ministry	\$ 7,000
Worship and Music	\$ 6,000
Other Committees	\$ 17,840
Subtotal Committees	\$ <u>36,740</u>

Total needed to fully fund First Presbyterian Church's ministry in 2015: \$ 1,041,140

We hope that generosity will show in our combined giving toward our 2015 operating budget. Please let the Session know of your plans for generous giving by returning the "estimate of generosity" card that was mailed to you, or that you will find in the pew on Sunday. Thanks for helping us show God's love in all that we do as a church of Jesus Christ.



As we move into 2015, our generosity will show in ministry as each of us takes part in walking as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
Thanks for helping us show God's love in all that we do.

THE THEME FOR THE 2015 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL IS “THE NATIVITY STORY AND THE STORIES OF OUR NATIVITIES”

As many of you know Dr. Negley has collected a number of Nativity sets over the years. Most likely many of you have Nativity sets as well. Not all of these will contain many pieces, although some of you may own very elaborate Nativity sets. Some might just feature the Virgin Mary and Christ Child while others may be of the Holy Family. Some might include the shepherds, the Wise Men and an angel, while others might also include other people of the village of Bethlehem and animals. The Nativity scene may appear on a Christmas tree ornament or be a one piece carving, sculpture or music box. Others may have the scenes painted on a gourd or sand dollar or the scene might be woven in fabric or needlepointed on canvas. They may be quite colorful or monochromatic. They may be made of delicate china or durable felt

Like we did with favorite Christmas tree ornaments several years ago, we would like to get photographs of one of your favorite Nativities. If you have an elaborate or large Nativity set, then Alan could come to your home at your convenience to take the photograph. If you own a smaller more portable Nativity set, then we would appreciate it if you could bring the Nativity scene or set to the church office to be photographed.

We would then ask you to write a couple of paragraphs telling us about the Nativity scene or set. Information you might include:

- Was the Nativity scene or set made by a loved one or maybe you made it in Sunday school or Vacation Bible School?
- Of what material(s) is your Nativity scene or set made?
- Was it a gift to you or a family heirloom you inherited?
- How long have you owned the Nativity scene or set?
- Did you purchase this Nativity scene or set while on vacation (for example, in Africa, the Holy Land or Europe)?
- Is it a small painted plastic version (often sold in dime stores)? Was it your first Nativity and therefore dear to your heart? Inexpensive though it was, it helped you learn the story of God's great gift of love to the world.
- Does the Nativity scene or set have a special place to be displayed in your home during the holiday?
- Do you keep the Nativity scene or set out all year long to remind you of Christmas?
- Who sets up the Nativity set and are the characters always placed in the same position?
- Do you traditionally read the story of Jesus' birth while gathered around the Nativity set?
- Other information or stories you are willing to share as to why this particular Nativity scene or set is precious to you.

Please call Alan at the church 294-3121 to inform him of your willingness to participate. We will begin taking photographs as soon as possible after Thanksgiving. I will be happy to come out to your home and take the photograph if that is more convenient.

With the photographs and the two paragraph narrative, we will have a great start towards the 2015 Advent Devotional. We have discovered that this project succeeds by working on it almost a year in advance. As in the past, scripture verses and a prayer will be added to accompany your contributions. **Thanks!**





MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT DATES

Youth Live Nativity performance is **December 13th at 8:30 p.m.** We are still in need of you to sign up.
Be here by 8:00 p.m. Rehearsal for this event is **December 10th at 5:30 p.m.** Dinner will be provided.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

School is back in session, and so are our Wednesday afternoon meetings for the First Pres Middle School Youth. All young people in grades 6, 7, and 8 are invited to join us on **Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.** in the First Pres. Student Center (711 Sixth Street NW). There will be FOOD (supper is provided) FELLOWSHIP (the 737 building is open for basketball, four square, carpet ball, and general hanging out with friends) FUN, FAITH, AND FRIENDS (we have a great group of adults who will help you and your friends explore the Christian faith and learn more about loving and serving God.) We wrap up at 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend and be sure to attend.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

All 9th thru 12th grade young people are encouraged to join our High School Youth. The group meets on **Sunday nights, from 5:30p.m.–7:30 p.m.** in the Student Center, 711 Sixth Street NW.

WHAT WILL YOU FIND? Supper with your friends, time to catch up with your friends, some games and laughs with your friends, bible study and Christian service with your friends.

Come out each Sunday and make some new friends in Christ at our High School Youth.

POINSETTIA ORDER FOR 2014

Poinsettias are a yearly tradition to decorate the church on Christmas, “in honor of” or “in memory of” a loved one or friend. This year the poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on December 21. Please fill out the order form below. The cost per plant is \$11 and checks, marked “poinsettia fund”, should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church.

Place the order form and check in the offering plate, mail it, or take it to the church office by **Monday, December 15.**

A complete listing will be available Sunday, December 21.

IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Donor(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia after the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

_____ I would like my poinsettia delivered to a shut-in.

Number of plants ordered: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$_____



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



At **8:50 a.m.**, members and friends of First Presbyterian Church are invited to attend The Gathering. This service is held in the sanctuary. The piano is the primary instrument for leading in congregational music with a variety of instruments adding special touches from week to week. The prayers in worship and the flow of the service help the congregation gather in God's love. The Gathering ordinarily lasts 50 minutes and will conclude with the Benediction at 9:40 a.m.

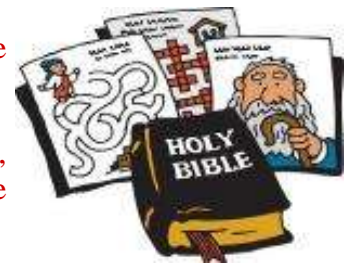
At **11:00 a.m.**, you are invited to attend our later morning worship. This service is held in the sanctuary with music and responses regularly led by our chancel choir and accompanied by organ and piano. In the tradition of our church, cultivated over the last few decades, a full liturgy gives the congregation opportunities for spiritual enrichment and the sense of God's love and grace. This worship service ordinarily lasts one hour and concludes with the Benediction at 12:00 p.m.

We hope you will join us in worship, study, and fellowship!

CONNECT With Us at Sunday School!

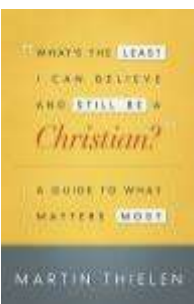
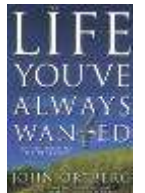
Children ages three and four gather in Room 108 for their own Sunday School time of crafts, snack, Bible lesson, and fun.

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade will rotate through Art, Science, Cooking, Storytelling, Computer, and Movies on Sunday mornings. The theme changes every 6 weeks. On October 26 they begin the Good News rotation.



The Youth of the church, those in Middle School and High School, are invited to come hang out in the Student Center from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. We have a variety of volunteers who will lead this engaging class filled with faith-building, friendship, fun, food, and great times.

Connect - Grow - Thrive meets in Room 207. The class has been studying the book, *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People* by John Ortberg. All are invited to join in this discussion filled class. Members of the class take part in leading the discussion each week.



The Perspectives Class meets in the Geneva Room and is facilitated by Dr. Jim Threlkel and Glenn Thomas. They are focusing on Martin Thielen's book, *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be A Christian?* Everyone is invited to join in this thought-provoking discussion time. Pastor and author, Martin Thielen, has compiled a list of ten things people need to believe and ten things they don't, in order to be a Christian. This lively and engaging book will be a help to seekers as well as a comfort to believers who may find themselves questioning some of the assumptions they grew up with.

Dr. Steve Negley's class meets in the back of McLeod Hall. The new topic is *Unlocking the Parables from a First Century Middle-Eastern Perspective*. Bring your bible and be prepared to explore how the stories Jesus told can speak to us today.



First Presbyterian Church
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www.firstpreswh.org
office@firstpreswh.org

Our Purpose Statement

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven exists to show God's kingdom to the world as we...

Share the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ

Develop and nurture God's children into disciples

Provide a place and a program for praising God

Live our lives according to the Word, guided by the Spirit

Commit to justice for all God's people.

Adopted by Session, 2003

This newsletter is published weekly.
Summer months and holidays published bi-weekly.
Church dated material, please deliver by 12/12/14.

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 270 bag lunches the week of 12/1/14.

Return Service Requested

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1162
Lakeland, FL

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 95 people on 12/6/14

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Our Christmas Eve offering will be directed toward medical missions around the globe.

The money collected at the two candlelight services on December 24 will be divided between 3 mobile medical clinics sponsored by the Medical Benevolence Foundation in Haiti, Africa, and Asia, and medical mission in Honduras.

