



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of May 1, 2016

Issue 582

130 Years of Ministry

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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
Director of
Student Ministries

Lynn M. McCoy
Director of
Music Ministries

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



The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held this **Sunday, May 1, at 10:55 a.m.** in the sanctuary, to hear the report of the Nominating Committee for the election of Elders, Deacons, and members at large to the church-wide Nominating Committee. The following slate will be presented by the Nominating Committee:

ELDER (Class of 2019):

Rich Dobler, Karen King, Andy Ray, Tom Oldt, & Jane Ray.

DEACON (Class of 2019):

David Fellows, Corbin Hart, George Rowker, Jane West, & Ellen Zeller.

NOMINATING (Class of 2019):

Gene Aspy, Mike McGee, Jonathan Owen, Peggy Threlkel, & Heather Whitney.



COME SEE OUR FIRST "SPRING RING"

Please join us in the sanctuary on **May 1st at 4:00 p.m.** for our first annual, First Presbyterian, "Spring Ring" program featuring 5 bell choirs.

All three of our bell choirs will perform along with two guest choirs.

The finale will feature all five choirs along with organ and audience participation in an arrangement of Joyful, Joyful!

A reception will follow the program in McLeod Hall.



ALL CHURCH RETREAT REGISTRATION

Friends, the All Church Retreat is coming up very soon. We would love for you to join us for the weekend, **May 14 & 15**, or just the day on Saturday or Sunday. Registration forms are available in the Narthex and tells you all about the exciting weekend we have planned.



The theme this year is "The Same Power Lives in Us." Our Bible study time will focus on Romans Chapter 8. Dr. Negley and Amy McKee will lead the small group Bible study time. You will enjoy a weekend of canoeing, tubing, swimming, outdoor adventures, home cooked meals, fellowship, and so much more.

Please prayerfully consider attending this year. Contact Amy McKee with any questions at 294-3121 or amckee@firstpreswh.org. Registration deadline is May 2.

Church calendar

Sunday, May 1

- 8:50 a.m. Gathering Worship
- 9:45 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
- 12:00 p.m. Confirmation Reception (MH)
- 4:00 p.m. Spring Ring (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 p.m. HSYG Music Rehearsal (GC)
- 5:30 p.m. HSYG (GC)

Monday, May 2

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)

Tuesday, May 3

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
- 6:00 p.m. Saturday Nite Live Planning (MH)
- 6:30 p.m. Session (GR)

Wednesday, May 4

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 11:15 a.m. Preschool Music (CE)
- 3:00 p.m. Christ Kids (CR)
- 5:30 p.m. Christ Kids Ringers (MS)
- 5:30 p.m. Community Outreach (MCR)
- 5:30 p.m. MSYG (GC)
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, May 5

- 5:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training (FFR)
- 7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, May 6

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 6:30 p.m. Trivia Night (MH)

Saturday, May 7

- 2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
- 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)

Remember in Prayer

members

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Roger & Marie Able | Jim Huff | Barbara Roberts |
| Millie Carrier | Dorothy Johnson | Earle Roberts |
| Helen Champlain | Jeremiah & Jaleeann Johnston | Dorothy Ryan |
| Dannie Dougherty | Joey Johnston | Beverly Seagreaves |
| Jerry Dugger | Judy Kingham | Bob Sheffield |
| Jana & Mike Easterling | Dena Lancashire | Barbara A. Smith |
| Jeanne Estes | Spike Lucia | Barbara H. Smith |
| Bill Everhart | John Maltese | Argyle Stevens |
| Lois Frakes | Dick McCauley | Pam Tallent-Blackburn |
| Marge Goodman | Matthew McGaffigan | Carolyn Thompson |
| Pam & Courtney Gray | Lynn Mincey | Shirley Turner |
| Joyce Hayman | Joan Murphy | Gail Van Allen |
| Frances Heath | Ed Partridge | Nat West |
| Doris Hill | Norm Patrick | Lee Wilkinson |
| Camille Howe | Robert Ramseyer | Marie Williams |

IN THE HOSPITAL: Anamarie Coffman & Retha Wright

Relatives & Friends

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Antonello family | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friends |
| Carlotta Bennett | Bethany Owen's friend |
| Chuck Bishop | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend |
| Reese Burdette | Dana Cole's cousin |
| Lynda Burke | Shirley Hines' friend |
| Jerry Cooley | Susan Singleton's friend |
| Kay Cunningham | Gale Waters' aunt |
| John Doughty | Dena Lancashire's nephew |
| Christine Douglas | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Sara Dubinski | Andy & Linda Staveres' friend |
| Al Ellis | Jim Threlkel's friend |
| Raymond Fenstermaker | Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson |
| Terrell & Teresa Griffin | T. Michael & Charlie Stavres' friends |
| Jean Hehn | Ellie Threlkel's friend |
| Sidney Hilliard | Tilly Montney's mother |
| Pete Kent | Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew |
| Barbara Lawhon | Bob Sheffield's sister-in-law |
| Nan Mason | Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter |
| Amity McGee | Bethany Owen's friend |
| Danae Nations | Bill Everhart's, niece |
| Judy Pheil | Carole Marotti's friend |
| Anna Robinson | Punkin Smith's friend |
| Alvin Ruppel | Shirley Hines' friend |
| Colonel Sites | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Tamara Sobczak | Rose Flynn's niece |
| Tommy Thompson | T. Michael & Charlie Stavres' friend |
| Kristy Turner | Rick & Pat Reass' daughter |
| Kurt Vahle | Gale & Gwen Waters' friend |
| Mary Ann Valentine | Rose Flynn's friend |
| Marshall Wood | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend |



- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Robert Ferguson | John Marotti |
| Stephanie Gillie | KaitLin Marotti-Pitts |
| Eddie Gray | Ashton Pitts |
| David Knowles | Drew Stapor |

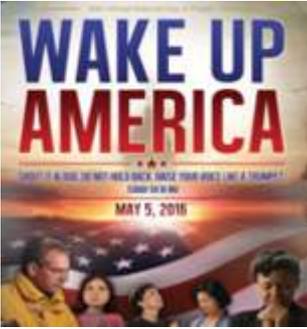


*May God
Grant you Comfort
and Peace*

*Our sincerest
sympathy goes to
Agnes Harland
in the death of
her husband,
Ted Harland
who died
Thursday, April 14,
2016.*

*Our deepest
sympathy goes to
Phil Kenner,
in the death of
his wife,
Sally Kenner
who died
Saturday, April 16,
2016.*

MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST



You are invited to join City of Winter Haven Mayor (and First Presbyterian Church Member) Brad Dantzler for a morning of nourishment, fellowship, and quiet reflection with area clergy and community members **Thursday, May 5, 2016, at 7:30 a.m.**

Please join us at the Chain O' Lakes Complex, (South Entrance - Poolside Room) 210 Cypress Gardens Blvd. SW, Winter Haven.

Dr. Steve Negley has been invited to deliver the morning message.

Tickets are \$15 (MENU: French toast, biscuits & gravy, ham, sausage, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs, coffee, and orange juice)

Please contact City Clerk Vanessa Castillo at 863-291-5627 or vcastillo@mywinterhaven.com for tickets (available in City Hall, 451 Third St. NW) or more information Please get your tickets by April 28.



COME TO THE WATERS...

the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2015-2016, is a rich exploration of water stories in both testaments. "Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the scriptures on water nourish our souls." Join one of the Circles for interesting lessons and Christian fellowship.

Lydia Circle is the **second Monday of the month.**
The next meeting will be at 10:30 a.m., May 9, 2016.

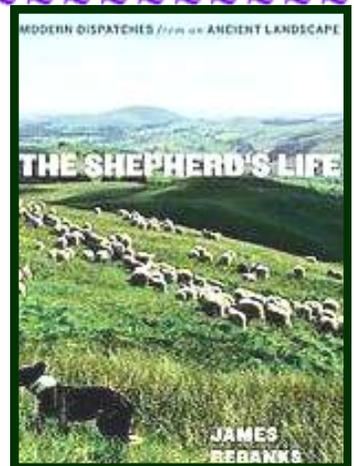
Joy Circle has completed their bible study for the year.

OUR NEXT OM, OM BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB IS GETTING CLOSE

Our **Odd Month, Odd (3rd) Monday Book Discussion Club** will meet again on **May 16 at 3:00 p.m.**

We will have some light refreshments and will discuss James Rebanks book, *The Shepherd's Life*.

Please call the church office at 294-3121 if you plan to attend. Copies of this title have been ordered and should be in our library soon. You may also contact Jonathan Owen by seeing him on Sunday, calling him at 318-9944, or e-mailing him at jonathan.owen.cu2r@statefarm.com about ordering a personal copy.



REGISTRATION FOR KIDZ SUMMER ESCAPE IS ON!!!

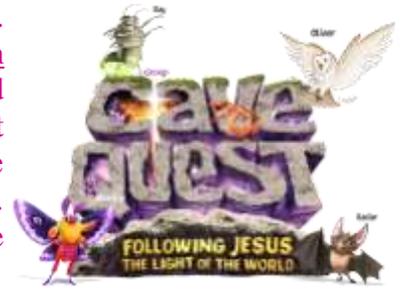
Kidz Summer Escape will be held **June 14 – July 21 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.** This program is for children ages three through kindergarten graduates.

Registration is open now. A \$50 "reserve my spot" is due at registration with the final \$120 due on June 14. Everyday your child will enjoy a special craft that goes along with the theme for the week, recreation, snack, and lots of summertime fun.

Please contact Amy McKee for more information (294-3121). Registration ends May 5.

VBS REGISTRATION IS HERE

Friends, Vacation Bible School – *Cave Quest* will be here before we know it. The dates are **June 20-23 from 6:15-8:30 p.m.** All children ages 3 through fifth grade graduates are invited to attend. Gear up for an over-the-top underground adventure! Ground kids in the rock-solid foundation of God’s love, a love that takes us through life’s dark times. We also need volunteers for the week. Please prayerfully consider this enriching event of helping children grow in their faith. Contact Amy McKee at 294-3121 for more information. You can register online at: <https://www.groupvbsspro.com/vbs/ez/cavequestfpc2016>.



STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING IS ALMOST DONE



Our Stephen Minister training class will wrap up soon. We ask you to keep our Stephen Minister trainees in your prayers as they nurture their gifts and acquire new skills so that they can bring Christ’s love and care to hurting people on behalf of our congregation. Also pray for our Stephen Leaders who have guided them through their training.

AND REMEMBER, IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS HELP...

connect with one of our Stephen Ministers, by calling **Pat Reass at 206-9914**, or talk with one of our other Stephen Minister Leaders: **Alan Harvey, Ray Larson, Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, Les O’Neal, Barbara Perkins, or Jean Strang**. You can also use one of the three Request Form Boxes located in the Centennial Room, narthex, and balcony hallway.

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR

Our 2016 Flower Calendar has the following open dates:
May 15, 22, & 29; June 5 & 26; July 3, 17, & 31; August 14 & 28; September 25; October 2, 9, & 16; November 27; December 4 & 11.

There is space to sign up for placing flowers in the narthex on a given Sunday, when the sanctuary flowers for your desired date have already been selected by someone else.

Never given sanctuary or narthex flowers before and wonder what to do?

Follow these simple instructions:

1. Sign your name on the calendar for the date you wish to give flowers. If the sanctuary spot has already been selected, then you can choose to have your floral arrangement in the narthex for the same date.
2. Complete this step by giving your phone number and identifying your florist.
3. If giving sanctuary flowers and you would like to use the church’s brass urn, please ask Ann or Sam for the glass liner and deliver it to your florist or ask the florist to pick it up at the church.
4. Place an order for flowers from your preferred florist.
5. Call Connie at the church office (294-3121) no later than Wednesday prior to your chosen date and inform her as to how you wish for the acknowledgment of flowers to read in the bulletin.
6. Request that the florist deliver the flowers to the church by noon on Saturday and have them include a name on the arrangement so that we know by whom they are given and where they are to be placed.

Any other questions, please call Alan or Connie. Thank you!



Making FIRST PRES Your FIRST CHOICE for Confirmation

There is only one childhood story told about our Lord in the Bible, the story of the boy Jesus at age 12 discussing faith in the Temple. (Luke 2:41-52) This snapshot from Jesus' earthly life has stood as an invitation for generations to set aside some time at around that age to explore the faith as his followers. Our church annually invites our sixth graders to do just that, in an experience called Confirmation.

On each Wednesday afternoon from mid-January through the end of April, several of our church's sixth and seventh grade Youth – Preston Allen, Kaylie Arnold, Tristan Barthel, Ally Britt, Caden Kok, Mia McCann, Katie Nepute, and Jake Tackett met with our pastor, Dr. Negley, Director of Student Ministries Dana Parrsih, and church member Connie Shipley, for an exploration of faith. Early on, each young person was presented a new Bible from the congregation of First Presbyterian Church. These compact, hardcover New International Version student Bibles contain a wealth of study aids suited for believers of this age. Two weeks of our Confirmation training was spent “shaking hands with the Bible.”

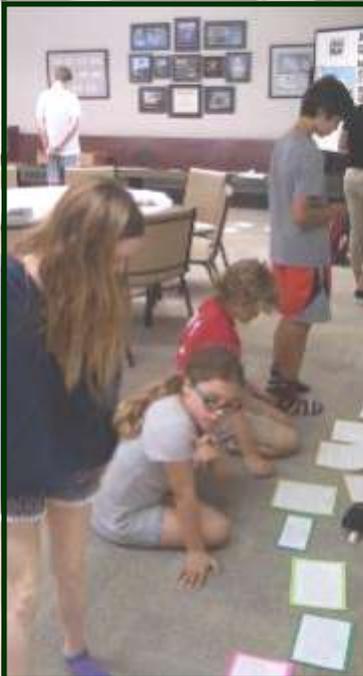
As our months of meetings unfolded, we discussed the Christian year, the history of the Christian church and the PC(USA), worship, and personal faith. We also conducted a historical scavenger hunt around the church property, and discussed our church's confessions as we studied some banners and climbed to our church's secret hiding place. We made stoles that help express our faith in symbols. (Our thanks go out to Dana Elmore, who has sewn these beautiful stoles again this year for our confirmands.) The young people selected six symbols with which to adorn these. They will wear their stoles on **May 1, Confirmation Sunday**.

One of our Confirmation hi-lights was our Retreat. From 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 1 to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, our group along with Steve, Connie, and Dana were marvelously busy. After climbing the steeple, we started work on writing individual statements of faith. Each confirmand was invited to respond in writing to the prompt “To me God is ...” (You can view these statements of faith on the bulletin board in McLeod Hall.)

The confirmation retreat also included an early morning trip to Publix where we shopped for food for the Saturday Soup Kitchen. For the last four hours of the 24 hour retreat, families of the confirmands joined us as we prepared and served the meal for our Saturday Soup Kitchen.

Finally, on April 27, our young people were invited to share a meal with the elders of the church. The conversation that night revolved around what we believe. The Session members read the statements of faith, and then joined them in responding to the questions which form the basis for membership in our church: Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior? Do you trust Him? Do you intend to be His disciple, to obey His Word, and to show his love?

This faith journey for our young people is made possible by the offerings and tithes that the members of our congregation give in support of Christ's work in our church. From the Bibles that we present to our confirmands, to the maintenance for our Student Center building where we met each week, and the salary that allows Mrs. Parrish and Dr. Negley to focus so much attention and faith on our sixth and seventh grade youth, our church provides a wonderful basis for these blossoming young adults to claim the faith that will lead them in their lives. We thank God for the parents and the young people who have made First Pres their First Choice first choice for the part of the Christian faith journey known as Confirmation.



Officers-Elect and Nominating Committee Bios

DEACONS

DAVID FELLOWS was born in Groton, Connecticut in 1963. His father moved the family to New York after getting out of the Navy before settling in Georgia in 1976. David graduated from Mount Vernon Christian school in 1981. It was there that he accepted Jesus Christ as his savior. David served in the U.S. Army as an infantryman from June 85 – May 92. He got out as a Staff Sergeant following the 1st Gulf War to attend the University of West Alabama. David earned a B.S. in Sociology with a minor in Political Science and Masters of Science in Continuing Education before moving to Florida to work for Florida Southern College in the Department of Student Life. David has been a teacher for the past 15 year. He is currently employed by Florida Virtual School as a Middle School Social Science instructor. David has two daughters, Madison and TJ.

CORBIN HART is a young professional who was born in Winter Haven. He attended All Saints' Academy for high school while he grew into the church through being active in the youth group and the respective planning committee. After high school, Corbin studied Entrepreneurship and Family Business at the Auburn University Raymond J. Herbert College of Business. During his time there, Corbin founded the Auburn University Fly Fishing Club to bring people together and further the sport. After graduating in 2015 with honors, he returned to Winter Haven to pursue entrepreneurship and is currently working with his family business, Andy Thornal Company. God, family, and business are passions of Corbin's along with an overwhelming love of the outdoors.

GEORGE ROWKER was born in Syracuse, NY and moved to Winter Haven when he was five years old. This is when he started attending First Presbyterian. He served in the United States Army from 1999-2003 at which time he returned to Florida to attend St. Petersburg College and received his degree in mortuary affairs. His daughter, Riley, was born in 2005, and he married his wife, Krysti, in 2015. He is currently working as a funeral director at Ott-Laughlin Funeral Home. He volunteers at First Presbyterian, Vacation Bible School, and the Special Olympics.

JANE WEST: Jane West was reared in San Antonio, Texas, where she spent her first 22 years in the same family home and a Lutheran congregation. She attended Trinity University (in SAT) where she received a B.A. in Science and Math and a MRS. when she married Nat who was attending Trinity grad school in Hospital Administration. Nat and Jane have 2 children (Shane & Kalen) and 2 grandchildren (Kade and Carley). Jane's mom (Sug) is also a member of First Pres. Jane has lived in WH from 1972-1981 and returned in 1996. She looks forward to finding a way to be of service to our Lord as a Deacon at First Pres.

ELLEN ZELLER was born in Tuscaloosa, AL, graduated from Shorter College, and lived in GA until moving to Lakeland and Winter Haven. Her main interests revolved around church and school activities with their four children. She has served as deacon and elder in the Presbyterian Church. Ellen returned to teaching and taught elementary music in Polk County Schools. Hobbies include gardening and traveling with children and grandchildren. Her husband, Jim, is retired from a family restaurant business and is active in the Anglican Church and Meals on Wheels. She feel very privileged to be a member of this church with such a vibrant, caring congregation.

ELDERS

RICHARD DOBLER was born in Peru, Indiana and earned a B.S. degree from Indiana State University in Elementary Education. He married his wife, Nancy, in 1968 and following service in the United States Marine Corps and earning a M.S. degree in Elementary School Administration at Kearney State College in Nebraska, moved with his family back to Winter Haven and joined First Presbyterian Church in 1972. Richard worked as an elementary school principal in Polk County for 29 years and earned an Educational Specialist degree from Florida Atlantic University. He has served as a Deacon and Elder and has had the privilege of watching his children and two of his grandchildren grow up in our church. He currently is a member of the Memorial Garden Committee.

KAREN KING was born in Winter Haven Hospital in 1972, and has remained a Winter Haven resident since then. She is the daughter of Jim and Ann King, who are also members of First Presbyterian Church. She earned her B.A. degree from the University of South Florida and has worked for the Department of Corrections for twenty years. She joined First Presbyterian Church with her parents in 2006 and has enjoyed going on a Honduras Mission Trip, along with volunteering for Saturday Night Live for the past six years. Karen is honored to be nominated for session, and will pray everyday that God will help her in this, along with all other endeavors.

TOM OLDT was born in Michigan and came to Florida as a toddler. The Oldts joined First Presbyterian Church in 1947 and Tom's earliest memories include being tended to in the nursery (now the chapel) by church women who became like second mothers. He became a Cub Scout and then a Boy Scout with Troop 121, earning his Eagle at age 15, and was active in the church's youth group during high school. At the University of South Florida, from which he graduated, Tom participated in the Methodist Student Union. During the Vietnam War he served in the U.S. Navy. After college he worked as a research librarian at The Washington Post, covered Congress as a writer for The Energy Daily, was a reporter for the St. Petersburg Times and a reporter and later a columnist for The Ledger. In a short second career he taught history, economics and government at Winter Haven High. For the past 21 years he has served as a registered representative and general securities principal in the investment business, and sits as an arbitrator for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Tom serves on several community boards, including the Humane Society and the Florida Bar Foundation. He and his wife Jeri were married by Steve a year ago in April. A former choir member, Tom joined the previous Honduras mission trip. He is honored to be nominated as an Elder and looks forward to being of service.

JANE RAY was born in Baton Rouge, LA and lived there until her junior year in high school. After her father retired from Standard Oil, they moved to Pensacola, Florida. She finished high school and went to Florida State where she received a B.S. degree in Fashion Merchandizing. She met her late husband, "Scoot Roberts" and they were married in 1961 and moved to Winter Haven. Mike, Tim, and Carol Jane were added to the family. They joined First Presbyterian in the late 70's. Due to a long standing bout with cancer, Scoot passed away in 1985. Jane went to work with Keith Ray for Savannah Foods in 1985. The office was in downtown Winter Haven until it was closed in 1995. Jane and Keith were married by Drs. Steve Negley and Jim Manor in 1997, with their six children in attendance. Seven grandchildren have been added to the family. Jane has previously served as both a Deacon and an Elder. She was an active Stephen Minister for three years and member of the search committee for the Music Director. Presently she is a member of the Chancel Choir, Co-Chairman of the Sanctuary Committee, and a member of Worship and Music and Congregational Care committees. In 2015, the Rays were chosen as Outstanding Older Adults. It is a blessing to be asked to serve God and this congregation once again.

KEITH A. "ANDY" RAY was born and raised in Winter Haven. He grew up attending Parkland Baptist Church with his family and was baptized there when he was about 10 years old. His family moved their church membership to First Presbyterian Church when he was about 14 years old. Andy received an Associate in Arts from Polk Community College, a Bachelor of Science in Criminology from The Florida State University, and a Master of Public Administration from Troy University. He retired at the rank of captain from the Polk County Sheriff's Office in 2012 and is currently serving as the deputy chief of police at the Auburndale Police Department. First Presbyterian has been a hugely important part of Andy's life, and his family's life, for many years and for many reasons. He has served as both Deacon and Elder and is excited for the opportunity to serve again.

NOMINATING

GENE ASPY was born in South Florida and grew up in Hollywood. His grandparents were Hollywood pioneers, coming in 1923 to help build the city. After high school he went to Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, North Carolina. After graduation, Gene found a teaching position on Amelia Island and remained there for 22 years. He moved to Winter Haven in 1987 and became a member of First Presbyterian Church. He was first ordained a Deacon and then an Elder. He didn't imagine the plans God had in store for him then. Before his retirement, the pastor asked if he would like to go to Honduras on a mission trip. Gene agreed, and thus began a love relationship between him and the people of Honduras. Now that he's retired, he is busy with the International Mission Partnership Committee of Tampa Bay Presbytery, coordinating our covenant relationship with the Presbytery of Honduras. Also, he spends a great deal of time trying to raise money for scholarships for Honduran young people. His other passion is on the Board of Directors of Presbyterian Homes and Housing Foundation. Their mission is affordable housing for senior citizens. They offer only housing, no medical care or meals. There are 19 facilities with three in Lakeland. If you are in Lakeland and want to see one of those facilities check out Lakeland Presbyterian Apartments, on Florida Avenue and Lake Morton Drive. You can't miss it. It's the tallest building in Lakeland.

MIKE MCGEE grew up in Central New York State and graduated from the State University of New York at Brockport. He moved to Winter Haven in 1989 and worked at Florida's Natural in Lake Wales until his retirement in 2015. He has two daughters and four grandchildren in Florida, as well as one daughter and three grandchildren in Missouri. Mike joined First Presbyterian and married Amy Lindsay in 2004. He served as a Deacon from 2013 thru 2015. He currently serves on the Hospitality and Nominating Committee.

JONATHAN OWEN: Jonathan was born in Charlottesville, Va., but moved to Florida after the third grade. He lived in Winter Haven for four years before moving to the Ft. Lauderdale area. Jonathan graduated from the University of Florida where he majored in English with a minor in Business Administration. He began working with State Farm Insurance after graduation and has worked there for over 25 years. Since moving back to Winter Haven in 1998, he and his wife Bethany have been active with the Winter Haven Public Library and volunteering at their daughters' schools. Jonathan is the chair of the city board of directors for the Winter Haven Public Library and is a past president of the Friends of the Library. He is a current Elder and former Deacon at First Presbyterian, is very active with the High School youth group, and he and Bethany run the church's three libraries. Jonathan is also a member of the World Mission Committee and will be returning to Honduras this summer for mission work. He is current chair of the Personnel Committee and Clerk of Session. In his spare time, Jonathan likes to read, travel with his family, and ride his motorcycle.

MARGARET "PEGGY" THRELKEL has attended First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven since her family joined in the 1970's. She has been involved in many facets of the Christian Education Program (Sunday School leader, youth group volunteer, Christ Kids teacher, Vacation Bible School leader). Peggy has served as an Elder, Chair of the Christian Education Committee, and on two Christian Education Search committees. Peggy has been actively involved in the Junior League of Greater Winter Haven and is the Executive Director at Girls Incorporated of Winter Haven. Peggy appreciates the support of her family and church family. "I am blessed and honored to be asked to serve on the Nominating Committee."

HEATHER WHITNEY was born and raised in Winter Haven. She began attending First Presbyterian Church (FPC) with her mother during her early childhood. Heather remembers singing in the children's choir and performing as an amoeba in a musical production where Dr. McLeod played God. In 1986 she was a confirmand which culminated in her becoming a member of the church and being baptized. Heather was active in both the junior and senior high youth groups at FPC and assisted with Vacation Bible School (VBS). Immediately following high school, she attended what was then called Polk Community College (PCC) and is now Polk State College (PSC). Heather continued her education and graduated with a BS in Mathematics from Florida Southern College (FSC). As a college graduation present from her mom, she participated in a month long course of study in England that allowed her to visit Scotland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, and France. Upon returning to the States, Heather was hired by Watkins Motor Lines (WML) as a computer programmer. WML was purchased by FedEx in 2006. In the summer of 2009, she was a member of the Honduras mission team from FPC. After being a developer for 17 years, Heather transitioned into a business applications analyst (BAA) role in 2014. She considers it an honor and a privilege to be asked to further serve FPC.

MAY

BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Sara Hanks James Koon Sean Lawlor Marjorie Porter Punkin Smith Bo Snively	5/9	Elizabeth Stewart Ellen Zeller	5/22	Ethan Endres Chalsey Lockhart Laura Powell Bonnie Walter Callie Weeks
5/2	Lydia Badnell Lois Frakes Warren Savant Alexander Wales	5/10	Jamie Ann Doty	5/24	Larry Marshall Tony Premuto Jim Vobornik Kelly Wilder
5/3	Michele Berger	5/10	Dean Jackson Jan Wales	5/25	Alison Batista Stan Wagy
5/4	Tristan Barthel Nancy Ann Fox	5/11	Derek Kelley Laura Sparr	5/26	CarLee Marchetti Ashley Premuto Keith Ray Scott Turner Randy Von Hahmann, Jr.
5/5	Peggy Alloway Nicholas Elmore Maggie Hankin Audrey Kelley Ray Larson Joseph Lawlor Jeri Stewart-Oldt Barbara Tackett Eloise Virgara	5/13	Yolanda Dyer Cheryce Harris Ryan Irvin	5/27	Lynda Coppini Tonya Thompson Joe Volpe
5/6	Lana Groetsch Patrick Lockwood Don Martin	5/14	Cindy Chilton Robert Chilton Pat Lincoski Meredith Lockwood	5/28	Jennifer MacDonald Garren Olmert
5/7	Mary Ellen Beale Mark Bostick Hannah Dantzler Lilly Duce	5/15	Linda Dinger Kelli Ivey Brad Salomon Martha Seney Sally Upfield	5/29	Jason Bentley Connor Keplinger Mia McCann Joan McCollough Richard Montney, Jr.
5/8	Laura Anne Fitzgerald	5/16	Harry Denlinger	5/30	Frank Endres Michael Lawlor Nancy Neale Dillon Powell
5/9	Carly Stine George Butz Thomas Griffis	5/17	Steven Adams Jacob Linn Kial Irvin	5/31	Kris Dunham Andy Ray Nancy Shaw
		5/18	Cathy Bentley Shea Irvin		
		5/19	Courtney Massam		
		5/20	Tatum Threadgill Erik Saterbo		
		5/21	Porter Summers Brett Swango		
		5/22	Bill Allen		

ANNIVERSARIES

5/1	Bob & Maggie Helmick	5/14	John & Karen Clarke	5/25	Weegie & Cathy Bentley Robert & Annette Chilton Charles & Brenda Darte Aaron & Lindsay Thibodaux
5/3	Dale & Melody Johnson Keith & Jane Ray	5/17	Lee & Pam Wilkinson	5/27	Justin & Nicki Hoagland
5/6	Christopher & Heidi Hook	5/20	Peter & Lynda Coppini Shawn & Cori Swango	5/30	Joe & Louise Volpe
5/7	Robert & Chelle Doyel Jerry & Jackie Dugger	5/21	Jon & Amy Powell	5/31	David & Amanda Nicholson Bob & Julie Wilson
5/12	David & Stephany Alexander Brad & Kim Salomon	5/22	Patrick & Steffen Bentley		
		5/23	Chuck & Ellen Tate		
		5/24	Paul & Bo Palo		

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Children ages three through fifth grade will meet in the children's music room, Room 103 of the Education Building from 9:45 - 10 a.m. with Ms. Lynn.

Preschool Children will meet in Room 108 for a morning of crafts, snacks, Bible stories, and playtime with their preschool friends.

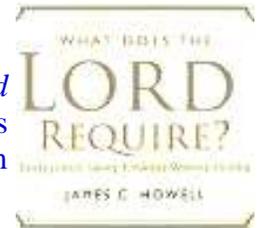
During the next six weeks, the **Elementary aged students** will focus on Making Choices through Art, Science, Cooking, Storytelling, Games, and Library time during the Workshop Rotation.



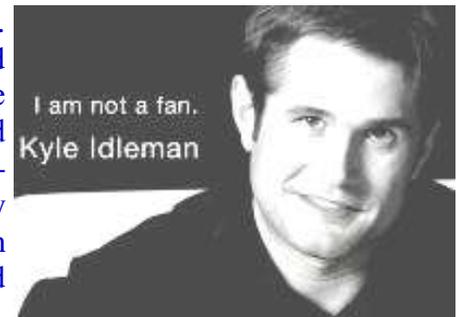
Middle school and High school youth meet every Sunday morning in The Golden Center for Sunday School from 9:45-10:45. During this time we meet and have fun and eat good food while learning about and growing in our faith in Christ. Come join us.

Adults Class Options (10-10:45 a.m.)

The Perspectives Class will continue their discussion on the book - *What Does the Lord Require? Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly*, by James C. Howell. This class is led by Dr. Jim Threlkel and Mr. Glenn Thomas and meets in the Geneva Room, Room 106 of the CE Building.



Presenting a new small group study from City on a Hill Productions. Twenty times in the New Testament, Jesus issued a compelling and challenging invitation to Follow Him. He's not interested in mere fans. He doesn't want enthusiastic admirers. He wants Completely Committed Followers. Based on the engaging approach of Kyle Idleman, this one-of-a-kind small group study examines what it means to deny one's self and truly follow Jesus. Join us for **"Not a Fan;"** six DVD sessions with discussion in Room 207 of the Christian Education building. The class will be facilitated by Gannon Olmert. This class will meet **April 17 – May 22.**



What began as a series of 'talks' on the radio by the devout Christian layman and brilliant college professor C. S. Lewis, has become a foundational book for many millions of Christ's followers over the years. "Ever since I became a Christian I have thought that the best, perhaps the only, service I could do for my unbelieving neighbors was to explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times." So Lewis begins this literary journey. Our class will read (five to ten pages a week) and reflect on Lewis' **Mere Christianity (What One Must Believe to be a Christian)**. If you have read this work before, come and share what elements in our faith has touched your heart and soul. If you have not had the opportunity, join with us for the first time as we explore topics such as The Three Parts of Morality, Christian Marriage, Forgiveness, Faith, Hope, Charity, Obstinate Toy Soldiers, Nice People or New Men, from the fertile and faithful perspective of C.S. Lewis. Dr. Negley will lead the class which meets in the back section of McLeod Hall.

Join us for Sunday School!

COME WORSHIP WITH US

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!



If you are a middle or high school student we would love for you to join us for youth group each week in our new and improved youth house, The Golden Center. **Middle School Youth Group** meets each Wednesday night from 5:30-7:30 and **High School Youth Group** meets each Sunday night from 5:30-7:30. During this time we spend time together sharing meals, growing in Christ, playing games, and having LOTS of fun!

Once a month we will meet outside the Golden Center to be the hands and feet of Jesus to help people in our community. We have laid sod for Habitat for Humanity, worked in our soup kitchen feeding the homeless, and bagged countless bag lunches for our bag lunch ministry. These are just a few ways we are the hands and feet of Jesus.

Sometimes we get together simply to have fun. We have been to the corn maze in the dark, Fun Spot, pool parties, camp outs, paint balling and so much more. If you are looking to connect with young people your age while developing a deep relationship with Christ come and join us. We would love to have you!

ANGELS CARE CENTER OF ELOISE- Angel Collection Box Needs

There is an ongoing need for the following items to give out at the Angels Care Center. Please leave items in the Angel Collection Box in McLeod Hall. Thank YOU, and God Bless!!!

First Aid Kits: washcloths, band-aids, wet wipes, small soaps, small antibacterial soap, Q-tips, small packets of antibiotic ointment, etc.

Children's "Jesus Kits": coloring sheets with Biblical themes, crayons, scripture/song cards (simple and short for children), small books, stickers, etc.

Toiletry Kits: shampoo, soap, deodorant, razors, feminine products, combs, washcloths, hand gel, lotion, toothbrush and toothpaste, small samples from hotel/motels, etc.

Miscellaneous: zip lock bags (gallon, quart and snack size).



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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 4/29/16.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 268 bag lunches the week of 4/18/16.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 94 people on 4/23/16

PLEASE JOIN US FOR TRIVIA NIGHT

Calling all trivia buffs! Do you love food, fun, AND trivia? Then we have a perfect night for you. **Friday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m.** our youth will be hosting a trivia night fundraiser. Entrance to this evening of fun will be a donation at the door. Mark your calendars, bring an empty stomach, all of your trivia knowledge, and get ready for some fun!



Fundraisers are an essential part of youth ministry. They help offset some of the cost of our summer youth trips. These trips are fantastic ways to grow in Christ and give the youth an opportunity to grow closer to each other. All the proceeds will go directly to our youth ministry here at the church. Please consider participating in this fun filled evening.

We will need to know how many mouths to feed and how many teams to plan for. Please contact the church office at 294-3121, office@firstpreswh.org, or fill out this tear-off and drop in offering plate to let us know if you will be there.

If you feel led to sponsor one of our youth for a scholarship for summer trips please contact Dana at the church office.

TRIVIA RESERVATION DUE BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

Name: _____ # Adults: _____ # Children: _____