

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

ower Chimes

Week of November 23, 2014

Issue 520

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

Dana H. Parrish Interim Director of Student Ministries

Ronda A. Lacy Director of Finance & Administration

Connie J. Shipley Administrative Assistant

Rose Flynn

Sammy D. Bryant

Custodian



A dvent is just around the corner. Name: ____



A LOOK AHEAD TO ADVENT

For the Four Sundays of Advent (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21), our Advent season sermons will be based on John 1:1-18 - and the incredible way that "The Word Became Flesh." Join us at 8:50 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. for worship.

The younger disciples of the church will be presenting The Christmas Scene Revisited, at the 8:50 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worships services. Come and let your soul soar with this media and musical presentation of the story of the birth of Christ featuring the First Pres. children.

Christian Education We hope you and your friends will Come To The Stable and to Bethlehem Square on Saturday night, December 13. Performances will be held at 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m.

> Join us on Christmas Eve for our Candlelight Services of Lessons and Carols. The **5:00 p.m.** service will include a children's story with a re-enactment of the nativity. The 9:00 p.m. service will include additional musical selections from our choir.

☆ ☆ **ADVENT DEVOTIONAL INFORMATION**

Our 2014 Advent Devotional, Reel Christmas Office Assistant – Discovering Christ or Religious Themes in Favorite Holiday Films is now available as a Director of Maintenance print version you can take home with you.

Ann M. Quessenberry You may also view the devotional online daily on our church website blog at http://www.firstpreswh.org/blog/ or our Facebook page starting the first Sunday of Advent, November 30. If you would like to receive the daily devotions via e-mail (the Advent Devotional will take the place of our staff devotionals during Advent), then please be sure to indicate below. Please fill out even if you already receive the current devotional.



n Advent Devotional November 30-December 25, 2014

E-mail address:

Church calendar

Sunday, November 23

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 2:00 p.m. Christmas Trees Go Up (Sanctuary)

Monday, November 24 10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl (MH) 1:30 p.m. Friendship Callers (MCR)

Tuesday, November 25 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR) 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH) 5:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Leaders (MH) 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers (MH)

Wednesday, November 26

Thursday, November 27 THANKSGIVING **Office Closed**

Friday, November 28 **Office Closed**

Saturday, November 29 2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen) 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)

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.

Remember in Prayer members

Doris Hill

Ed Houston

Ranell Hillman

Camille Howe

Toni Krieger

Ronda Lacy

Dorothy Johnson

Dena Lancashire

Spike & Jane Lucia

Dot Lenfestey

Elaine Maltese

Rita Marcacci

Gladys Meier

Matt McGaffigan

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 Kathy Girouard Marge Goodman Pete & Jean Harman Frances Heath

Military service Aaron Ashley

James E. Baker Ben Clark Deborah Clark Nathan Connor Tim Davis 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

Joan Murphy Nancy Neale Joe Oriani Kerbi Blake Stephanie Blanchard **Bob** Cameron Katheryn Christie & family **David Curtiss Debbie Donley** Al Ellis Debbie Greenarch Wayne Harrison Harper Hassett Pam Heath Jean Hehn Abigail Ising Linda Johnson Pete Kent Geoff Lewis Virginia Lynch Nan Mason **H** Miller Horacio & Maria Mottola Lettie Lane North Andrew Porter Cal Quessenberry **Bob Sammaro** Peggy Seigler David Smith & family Blain & Cynthia Thompson-McCaleb

Dee Palmore Judy Partain Al & Marjorie Porter Barbara Puckett Liz Purnell Barbara Roberts Mary Ellen Rowker Dave Ryan Dorothy Ryan Martha Seney Dean Shull Barbara A. Smith Carolyn Thompson Ed Threadgill Heidi Van Allen-Munoz Shirlev Turner Betty von Hahmann Anne Windham

Family and friends

Al & Marjorie Porter's daughter John & Barbara Puckett's friend Larry & Candy Marshall's friend Penn Tucker's friends Meredith Curtiss' stepson Marty Bentley's friend Jim Threlkel's friend Polly Wilson's friend Penn Tucker's friend Marty & Bob Bentley's granddaughter Jan & Keith Ray's friend Ellie Threlkel's friend Rick &Pat Reass' greatniece Gale & Gwen Waters' friend Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew David & Erin Emry's friend Lynn Oakley's friend Harvey & Mary Ann Snivley's daughter Rick & Pat Reass' friend Margaret Braun's friends Jean Strang's sister Al & Marjorie Porter's grandson Ann Quessenberry's husband Marcia Keplinger's friend Ellie Threlkel's friend Penn Tucker's friends Carolyn Thompson's daughter The Swangos' friend Matthew Gray's father



Miss Tiffanv

Gary Webb

The 2014 Advent Devotionals (hard copies) are ready to be picked up in the narthex and McLeod Hall and will be available through computers on the church's web site beginning the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014.

On Tuesday, November 4, 2015, the Session approved the theme for the 2015 Advent Devotional: *"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!**

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 p.m.** and an evening session at 7 **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 you a personal copy. If we have good attendance and interest for these sessions, then titles for September and November will be added to the list above.

PRIME TIMERS DECEMBERLUNCHEON Calling all Prime Timers (our friends and members age 55+)

Come and join us for food and fellowship at our December gathering. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 8, in McLeod Hall.

We will then head to Ruby Tuesday for fellowship and lunch. All it will cost is the price of your own meal.

Call Carol Switalski at 845-5416 or the church office at 294-3121 to reserve your space at the table!

CALLING ALL VETERANS!



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 below form and putting it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Name: Branch of Service:

Rank: Dates of Service or War (e.g. Korean, Desert Storm, etc.):

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.



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. SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 WANTER this discussion filled class. Members of the class take part in leading the discussion each week.



WHAT'S THE LEAST CAN DITTENT AND STILL BE W Christian? MATTERS MOST

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 topic is: Mastering the Basics in I John. This eight-week study will take the class on a journey through a little book (I John) tucked near the back of the New Testament. Long before C.S. Lewis and his look at "Mere" Christianity, a writer named John was putting pen to papyrus and helping early Christians explore the essential elements of their faith. Addressing a congregation where faith and practice had taken some wrong turns, John shared the good news of how things could move in the right direction. Bring your Bible and be prepared to explore how we can walk in the Light and walk in love; test the spirits and be aware of antichrists; live as children of God who love one another; and revel in how God's love inspires our love.



Walk in the Light **Mastering** the **Basics in I John.**

GENEROSITY SHOWS IN OUR MINISTRY



What we are able to do together as Christ's church here is a demonstration of the generosity of Christ's followers. Our generous giving makes a difference in our individual lives as Christians, and our life together as a church.

United Methodist Bishop Robert Schnase has written a book of devotionals entitled <u>Practicing</u> <u>Extravagant Generosity</u>, <u>Daily Readings on the Grace of Giving</u>. His words are thought provoking:

"Giving helps us become what God wants us to be. Giving is not merely about the church's need for money but about the Christian's need to grow in generosity. Generosity is a fruit of the Spirit, a sign of our spiritual growth. God uses our giving to change the world for God's purposes, and God uses our giving to reconfigure our lives and to change us!"

As we have celebrated the generosity of our congregation this year, we have seen how God's purposes are being accomplished in mission and ministry, and how we are being changed as we grow in faithfulness and discipleship.

As a fellow Christian, Robert Schnase has wrestled with biblical concept of tithing (giving ten percent of God's blessings to us back to God's work in the world.) He sees a connection between tithing and generous giving.

"The practice of tithing provides a concrete way for us to take the words 'God is Lord of my life,' and put them into practice. Our commitment becomes tangible; our giving becomes a way of putting God first, an outward sign of an inner spiritual alignment. Tithing provides a consistent and universal baseline, a theologically and biblically faithful standard, that is nominal enough to allow people of nearly any income to meet without imposing great hardship and yet large enough to stretch us and cause us to do the necessary recording of our priorities that spiritually reconfigures our values. Tithing challenges us to ask ourselves, Is my giving generous? Or merely expedient? Do I give for practical reasons to help the church, or for spiritual reasons to nourish my spirit? ...Does the giving I now practice help me develop a Christ-like heart?"

As we look to the year 2015, all of us are invited to consider how our generosity will help us and Christ's church thrive. Here's what we plan to do with the generous gifts given to Christ's work:

Generosity Shows in our Church Operating Budget - Dream Budget for 2015

Benevolences:			
World Mission in Presbytery (Hondu	ras), 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)		\$	3,000
	Subtotal Benevolence	\$	90,000
Personnel:			
Pastoral Staff (salaries and benefits)		\$	238,091
Program Staff (salaries and benefits)		Ŝ	186,618
Support Staff (salaries)		\$	223,130
Nursery Staff (salaries)		\$	15,750
Worker's Comp Insurance, Employer	Pavroll Taxes	\$	33,600
Controlled Disbursements	,	\$	25,211
	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	\$	12,000
	Subtotal Properties	\$	57,000
Program Committees			
Christian Education		\$	5,900
Youth Ministry		\$	7,000
Worship and Music		\$	6,000
Other Committees		\$	<u>17,840</u>
	Subtotal Committees	\$	36,740
Total generosity need to fully fund			
First Presbyterian Church's ministry in 2015:		\$ <u>1,041,140</u>	
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We will be putting the Christmas trees up in the Sanctuary THIS SUNDAY, November 23rd at 2:00 p.m.

If you can join us, we would appreciate any and all help. We look forward to seeing you.



SATURDAY SOUP KITCHEN SIGN-UP SHEET IS POSTED IN McLEOD HALL



Dates in 2014 that we still have open for head cooks and helpers are: **December 13, & 27.**

The 2015 calendar is also ready. Please sign up for dates when you or your group would like to serve as Head Cook or Helpers. Thank you!

FRIENDSHIP CALLERS

We have need of some who would like to become a little more involved in the life and ministry of our church. You are invited to look into becoming a Friendship Caller: you do not need any special talent or the giving of a lot of your time to this vital ministry. You need the gift of wanting to lift another who is lonely and/or cannot get out on their own.

Please call Ray, or one of our present Friendship Callers: Bill Allen, Orrin & Helen Champlain, Ed & Joan Houston, Joey Johnston, Phyllis Legg, Les & Alison O'Neal, Kline Roberts. We have many friends and members who would love to welcome your visit.



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 (<u>amckee@firstpreswh.org</u> or call 294-3121). The registration deadline is January 20.

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God speaks your love language.

We are looking forward to a wonderful retreat this year!

ADVENT MUSICAL CELEBRATION-CHILDREN'S PRACTICE



The children from Sunday School as well as our Wednesday afternoon Christ Kids program have been practicing for our Advent Musical Celebration which they will present at both services on Sunday, December 7. Please make sure your child is at Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings or Christ Kids (3:00-5:30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons) if they would like to learn all of the songs for our December 7 musical presentation.

FIRST PRES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT DATES

MSYG will work the soup kitchen November 22.

No HSYG November 23

No MSYG November 26

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.

SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR

The new 2015 Flower Calendar is posted.

New with this calendar 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!

First Presbyterian Church 637 6th Street, NW Winter Haven, FL 33881 863-294-3121 FAX 863-294-1105 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 11/21/14.

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Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 300 bag lunches the week of 11/10/14.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 85 people on 11/15/14

Return Service Requested



COME TO THE STABLE and to BETHLEHEM SQUARE ONLY 3 1/2 WEEKS UNTIL DECEMBER 13 AND COUNTING DOWN.



There are still roles to be filled, food to be bought, the nativity scene to be setup, and McLeod Hall to be made into Bethlehem Square.





















