



www.firstpreswh.org

Inside this issue:

Church Calendar Prayer List 2

Church Information 2

Church Opportunities 2

Worship Christian Ed Youth Ministries 3

Our Purpose Information 4

Honduras Insert 5

Honduras Insert 6

Tower Chimes

First Presbyterian Church Of Winter Haven Florida

Issue 290

September 27, 2009

Come and See—Taste—and Hear About Mission Honduras 2009

As a thank you to all who prayed and paid for our trip, our 2009 Honduras Mission Team will be cooking and serving a congregational luncheon on Sunday, October 4 (World Communion Sunday). Please plan to join us in McLeod Hall at 12:15 p.m. for chicken and rice, tortillas, plantains, refried beans, and flan. There will be a Mission Show and Tell at each table (hosted by one of our 29 “2009 missionaries”). And the whole group will tell about our most recent Mission Honduras experience, with the help of a video and multi-media show captured and edited by mission team member Pam Baker. Mark you calendars and come and celebrate this wonderful mission partnership!



Living Nativity

Child Actors and Actresses Wanted

This year the Living Nativity Scene will be a play within a play. Dr. Harvey has written a new script entitled, “*‘Twas the Night before the First Christmas*”. While in the past all of the narration and singing have been pre-recorded, this year’s production will have some live speaking parts. We are looking for two boys and two girls, ages 5-9, to audition for the roles of Nicholas and Noelle. One boy and one girl will be “on stage” Saturday night and the others on Sunday night, December 19 and 20, respectively. Auditions will be held on Sunday, October 4 at 1:30 p.m. in the Movie Center (CE202) of the Christian Education Building. If your child is interested, please contact Dr. Harvey for the portion of the script and other material needed for preparing for the audition. Casting for “Nativity Scene” characters will begin at the Fall Festival on Wednesday, October 28.

637 6th Street N.W., Winter Haven, FL 33881-4012

Phone:(863) 294-3121 Fax:(863) 294-1105 E-mail:office@firstpreswh.org Web Site:www.firstpreswh.org

Church Calendar

Sunday, September 27

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. BP Screening, Annex
5:30 p.m. SHYG, Bowling

Monday, September 28

8:30 a.m. MOM
10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl, MH
1:30 p.m. Friendship Callers, MCR
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts, CE101
6:30 p.m. CE Meeting, GR

Tuesday, September 29

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, MCR
12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship, MH
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon, GR

Wednesday, September 30

8:30 a.m. MOM
3:30 p.m. Christ Kids
5:30 p.m. MSYG, Bowling
6:10 p.m. Chancel Bells, MS
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, MS

Thursday, October 1

7:30 a.m. Presbytery of Tampa Bay
9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Annex
7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells, MS
7:00 p.m. Overeaters, CE 103
8:00 p.m. Bell Ensemble, MS

Friday, October 2

8:30 a.m. MOM

Saturday, October 3

2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen, Prep
4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen, 737
6:00 p.m. Honduras Meal Prep, Kitchen

Bag Lunch & Soup Kitchen Week of 9/14/09

232 Bag Lunches Given Out
105 Fed at the Soup Kitchen

Generous Orthodoxy Study

There's still time to join our Generous Orthodoxy book study. Dr. Negley will be leading the monthly study on the second Tuesday night of each month (6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.). For October, the group will discuss chapter 2 (Jesus and God B) and chapter 3 (Would Jesus Be a Christian?) of Brian McLaren's book. If you would like to be a part of the discussion, read ahead and join us in October.

Thank You

A NEW LOOK

Ann McLeod recently had the wing chair, an occasional chair, desk chair and all of the table chairs in the Edinburgh Room reupholstered. She has also donated pictures of Scotland and Scottish things to add to the ambiance of the room. We are grateful for Ann's generosity as her gifts have added to the beauty of our church's parlor. **Thank you again, Ann!** Members and friends will also notice that the draperies have been removed to let the sun's light shine through the beautiful stained glass windows of the room.



Book Discussion Group

On Tuesday evening, October 13 at 7:00 p.m. you are invited to come to the back of McLeod Hall for a discussion of Garrison Keillor's latest book, *Life among the Lutherans*. Dr. Harvey will lead the review and question/answer session. Coffee and dessert will be served. Those planning to attend are encouraged to pay particular attention to the character, Pastor David Ingqvist and to activities within the church. The book is now available for check out from the Price Library. You also, most likely, may check it out through the Polk County Library Cooperative or purchase it online or in area bookstores.



Remember in Prayer

In Need of Your Prayers:

Richard Ashby	Bob Lindstrom
Anna Marie Barton	Janice Maranda
Barbara Bissett	Jerry Maranda
Geraldine Chilton	Grayce McNamara
Peggy Chun	Kathy Marshall
Sondra Cole	Joan Murphy
Rich & Buddie Daniel	Jeane Parks
Eunice Dishman	Judy Partain
Helen Dunaway	Jackie Pinckney
Dawn Fellows	Dee Palmore
Helen Gross	Rick Reass
Marge Goodman	Dave & Bonnie Ryan
Marilyn Hearn	Marguerite Sowards
Harold and Mary Hosier	LaFoye Schuldt
Esther Huehn	Bert Schulz
Mary Pat Harding	Myrtice Stolz
Ann & Al Hays	Hazel Thomas
Marj Howe	Shirley Thompson
Betty Johnson	Ben Tucker
Dick Kingham	Sandra Turley
Jared Lockhart	Ann Wilford
Jim Lammer	

Friends & Relatives:

Brenda Chandler	(Carol Anne Golden's friend)
Charles Crews	(Phyllis Gilbert's friend)
Jon Gardner	(Gary & Pat Gardner's grandson)
Barbara Greathouse	(Michelle Morgan's mother)
Barbara Grimes	(Lois Frakes' friend)
Faye Harris	(Kay Gray's friend)
Fernando Huentes	(Pastor in Suapa Honduras)
Joanne Iewns	(Gene Aspy's friend)
Jim Joiner	(Carol Anne Golden's friend)
A.J. Kayntma	(Lois Frakes' friend)
Frances Lilly	(Gloria Allen's mother)
Dick Madaus	(Dale Smith's friend)
Pat Marshall	(Larry & Candy Marshall's sister-in-law)
	(Kathy Michaels' daughter)
Laurie Miller	(Barbara Crowder's cousin)
Andrew Patrick	(Lynn Baker's friend)
Don Price	(former pastor)
B. J. Robertson	(Gale Water's friend)
Dana Richardson	(Bob Hines' friend)
Joan Russell	(Betty Johnson's friend)
Bill Shockley	(Carol Anne Golden's friend)
Ann Tullis	(Judy Winfree's mom)
Scarlett Turner	(Rick & Pat Reass' granddaughter)
Anne Vega	(Susan Wales' friend)
Charlene Verworn	(Roxanne McCann's mother)
Carol and Harvey White	(Gary Gardner's sister and brother-in-law)

In Military Service:

Eddie Gray	Michael Dobler	Ryan Beissinger
Jacob Spence	Derek Shelton	Adam Bass
Leah (Doty) Fuscina	Adam McPhail	David Knowles
Sean Harp	Daniel Harp	Brian Parrish
James E. Baker	Jarrett Abbott	Aaron Ashley
Chris Hagen		

Attention Family Members of Military Personnel and College Students

As you know the Congregational Care Committee has tried to establish and maintain contact with military personnel and college students of our members. With the frequency of changes in physical addresses and in an effort to maintain more efficient and effective contact with them, we would like to request their e-mail addresses. Please call Alan with this information or e-mail him at aharvey@firstpreswh.org. We will be collecting this information until October 18 at which time we will compile our new list. If you want us to communicate with military personnel, please give us your name, their name and their relationship to you and their e-mail address. Thank you!

Worship, Christian Education and Youth Ministries

Fall Sunday School

Fall Sunday School at First Presbyterian 9:45 a.m. – It's the place to be!

Preschool Children will meet in CE108 at 9:45 a.m. for their fabulous Sunday School time filled with singing, crafts, and a Bible Story.

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade will *Dig into the Bible* this Fall with their Workshop Rotation. During this six week lesson, children will be able to experience the Bible story through computers, art, science, storytelling, cooking, and movies.

Middle School and High School Youth meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Student Center as they share in discussions that focus on the major events and teachings in Jesus' life. Both groups meet together for a time of prayer and fellowship and then break into two separate groups for sharing. These classes are taught by a rotation of volunteers from our congregation.

Adult Fall Sunday School

The Perspectives Class will continue their discussion on Who is Jesus/Who was Jesus by Marcus Borg. Dr. Jim Threlkel and Mr. Glenn Thomas facilitate this class. Please meet in Geneva Room.

First Pres 101 will be led by Dr. Steve Negley and Dr. Alan Harvey. This class will focus on the history of First Presbyterian, history of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., mission, ministry, and enjoy a church tour. All are welcome to attend. This class meets in the rear of McLeod Hall.

Rally Day Thank You



Special thanks to our fabulous cooks who helped create a spectacular breakfast at our Rally Day Celebration. Thank you to Keith Ray, Andy and Kasey Ray, Jerry Dugger, Larry Davis, Jim Lammer, Mal

Boland, and Roy Williamson for sharing their time and talents.

Thank you also to Mary Ellen Rowker for the fabulous table decorations.



The Youth Rocked the Universe



On Friday September 11, eight youth and four adults from our congregation traveled to Universal Studios in Orlando for a time of fellowship, music, rides, and fun.

The group attended Universal Studios "Rock the Universe" event. This event featured some of the top names in contemporary Christian music as songs were performed by Jeremy Camp, Switchfoot, and The David Crowder Band just to name a few.



Everyone had a great time riding the rides and listening to some great Christian music. In some way every penny given to First Presbyterian Church helps us provide a safe place and program for our youth. Thank you for all that you do to contribute to this

ministry as events like this would not be possible without you!

Youth Bowling

Just a reminder that the High School and Middle School youth groups will be going bowling at the end of the month! High Schoolers will be bowling together at Cypress Lanes on Sunday, September 27 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Please meet at the Student Center and bring some friends! Cost is \$10.

Middle Schoolers will be bowling on Wednesday, September 30 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Recreation Station in Lake Wales. Please meet at the Student Center by 5:30 p.m. and bring some friends, cost for this event is \$10.

PARENTS please make sure your students turn in a signed copy of the "Youth Group Consent and Approval Form". If you need another one they are available online at www.firstpreswh.org just click on the youth link and download it. Also, if you are an approved volunteer and would like to help chaperone this event please contact Josh at (863) 232-7337 or jpeters@firstpreswh.org. Thank you for all you do!

Youth Calendar

September 27: SHYG 5:30-7:30 p.m., Bowling
September 30: MSYG 5:30-7:30 p.m., Bowling

If you have any questions please contact Josh Peters at jpeters@firstpreswh.org or (863) 232-7337.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

637 6th Street NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881

Phone: 863-294-3121
E-mail:
office@firstpreswh.org

The 1st Pres. Connection Board in McLeod Hall is noticeably barren! You are invited to post notices on the bulletin board to inform the congregation if you are having a yard sale, if you are wanting to give a possession away, if you have services you are willing to provide, if you are in need of community service hours, if you are looking for work, etc. Each notice is to have the member or friend's name, phone number and the date the notice was placed on the board. Ordinarily notices will be removed after two weeks of having been posted. Those wishing to leave a long-standing notice on the board need to speak to Dr. Harvey or Barbara Crowder, Chair of the Membership Development Committee. This bulletin board is to facilitate and bolster communication within the congregation.

Our Purpose

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 9/25/09

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Advent Devotional—Reserve Your Copy Now!

The 2009 Advent Devotional is going to be unlike any we have previously done! The cover and the three page appendix will be in full color! This may be a keepsake issue for many of you. Especially as we are under some tight budgetary restrictions this year, we want to be good stewards of our resources. Sometimes we have many copies of the Advent devotionals left over and with the cost of paper, color printing and distinctive assembling, we want to avoid that situation this year. ***We want everyone who wants a copy to have one as well as those who may visit with us during the holiday season!*** Printing of the devotionals will begin in the next couple of weeks so please call the church office 294-3121 to reserve a copy. Thanks for your cooperation!

Will There Be Any OJ?

Orange Juice Fellowship is a time of light refreshments and fellowship (from 9:30-9:45 a.m.) when those coming from early worship and those coming to Sunday School meet in McLeod Hall. Volunteers staff OJ Fellowship and they are asked to provide two to three gallons of orange juice and snacks (usually mini-doughnuts, doughnut holes, coffeecake, cookies, pastries, pretzels, cheese crackers, Chex Mix or any combination thereof). We usually try to have something sweet and something salty. Sometimes people have added fresh fruit, cheese cubes, mini quiches, etc. Ann Reynolds sets up the table, prepares the coffee and has the punch bowl set out on the table. The hosts/hostesses put out the napkins, cups and food items and preside at the serving table and replenish items as may be needed. If you would be willing to volunteer to staff OJ Fellowship, please sign up on the small bulletin board to the left of the coffee urns in McLeod Hall. If you have any questions about this ministry, please speak to Dr. Harvey or Ann Reynolds.

Mission Honduras 2009 — In Their Own Words

From June 20-27, 2009, our congregation sponsored a 29-member mission team to the country of Honduras. This group was our church's sixth week-long mission adventure over the past 11 years, in partnership with the churches in the Presbytery of Honduras and the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. The generous support of our congregation has made this continuing ministry possible. God is doing marvelous things in the lives of our members and our Honduran Christian brothers and sisters. **Here's how** Josh Peters, our Youth Director, describes the experience:

Shaped By Their Stories

by Josh Peters



Before our summer mission trip to Honduras, I was having a discussion with my wife Kim. We were talking about the upcoming trip and we both questioned whether or not sending a group of 29 people, all of our stuff, the cost of travel and food, was the most economical and effective mission. **Couldn't we just write a check to these people? Wouldn't it** be more effective to send one or two people with lots of money? I wanted to go to see the country and experience new things and share in the love of God in Honduras, but it just seemed that maybe there was a better way. Little did I know what God had in store. (The space I have here will not do justice to what I experienced this summer, but I have chosen a couple stories that God used to forever change my heart.)

Alexander Rodas. Alex is the son of Pastor Juan Rodas who visited our congregation a couple of years ago. Alex and I are at very similar stages in our lives. He is married and just celebrated the birth of his first child about a month before we got there. I was able to ride with Alex, **Jared Lockhart, Chalsey Martin, and Jacob "Jacob"** Dantzler for most of the week. Chalsey translated between our vehicle and Alex. One day we were discussing how there was no hot water in the showers at the hotels we were staying in. I remembered earlier that morning thinking that a hot shower sure would have been a great addition to my day, after all I was pretty cold from having the air conditioner running all night. As we were talking Alex politely began to chuckle and then spoke in Spanish to Chalsey. She told us that at his house he has access to water three days a week. His water was rationed and his family only had three days each week where they could get it. We sat in silence and I felt a pit forming in my stomach as I imagined what it would be like to have my son Jordan be one month old and having to worry about whether or



not I could provide him with clean water...it was too much to bear. I said the only thing that seemed appropriate for thinking and acting so selfishly in front of our Honduran friend, "I'm so sorry." He looked at me and said, "No, no, no." He then told Chalsey that he was very lucky to have water three times per week as there are some in his country who only have access to clean water once every 15 days! I sat speechless as I realized how silly it must seem to worry about the temperature of the water when you only have access to it once every 15 days. That

night I prayed and asked God to help me see.



The boy from church. When we would set up a medical brigade at a church, people would come from all over to be seen by the doctors. There are a lot of children that accumulate and one part of our mission was to provide fun activities for these children to participate in. One day I worked outside of the medical brigade at the church in Nacaome playing games with the children. We showed up with a couple of soccer balls and a Frisbee and went to it. The Honduran kids love soccer and they played and played and played. There were many little ones who stayed all day out in the hot sun playing their hearts out. We made goals out of rocks that we piled up and we played all day. Later that night

we returned to that church for the evening service and some of the children that were there earlier that day came to church. There was one little boy, whose name I never learned, who came and sat near us at church. All service long he would whisper, “cinco” and then something in Spanish that I didn’t understand. Over and over again he whispered this and kept fiddling with his shorts. I thought for sure he had five of something in his pockets that he wanted to show me. He continued what he was saying and would look up at me and just smile. After the service I found a translator and asked the little boy what he had been trying to tell me all service. The translator said, “he was telling you that his shorts have five

pockets.” Earlier that day, someone from our group had given this little boy a new pair of shorts that had five pockets. He had never owned an article of clothing that had that many pockets before and he was so excited about his new shorts. Five empty pockets had made that little boy’s day. God help me see.



When I returned home I began telling these and other stories and listening to how God had worked in the lives of all who went. I pray we don’t stop telling these stories anytime soon. Through these stories we remember how great our God is, how much He loves all people, how He is calling us to live, and how we are one in Christ. The Psalmist wrote, “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.” (Psalm 139:7-10) God is God. The world shouts of His glory. I realized that God didn’t need Josh Peters to go to Honduras to build anything; God really didn’t need me to bring anything. God sent me to Honduras to have my heart changed.

God sent the people and places of Honduras on a mission trip to our lives.

I sense that God will continue to do great things through this relationship between us and our Honduran friends. We have some amazing brothers and sisters in Christ that live in Honduras.

We have been given much and much is required of us. Couldn’t we just send money? Do we really need to go? Is it important that we make trips like these? My prayer is that we all search our hearts and answer that question as best we can. What is God calling us to be?

Thank you, members and friends of First Pres., for the prayerful and generous support of Mission Honduras.

