

# Tower Chimes

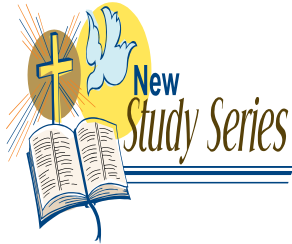
## First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven Florida



Newsletter Title

November 22, 2009

123 Years of Ministry



### A Preview of a Coming Attraction: An Advent Study

The pastors and staff have chosen to do a four week Bible Study for Advent using Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as a text with allusions to many scripture passages. Wednesday is the day chosen for the study and sessions will be held on Wednesdays December 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

### Mark Your Calendars for the Holiday Book Review



On Tuesday, December 1 at 3 p.m. a Holiday Book Review will be held in the back of McLeod Hall. Two of the books Dr. Harvey will be reviewing are titles that first appeared last year and they are: *The Man Who Invented Christmas* by Les Standiford and *The Christmas Sweater* by Glenn Beck. Standiford is the director of the Creative Writing Program at Florida International University in Miami. Beck is the host of his own primetime television show on CNN Headline News. Coffee or tea and dessert will be served. Plan to join us for this afternoon program which may kindle within you a desire to read these books or to give one as a gift.



**The Living Nativity Scene** rolling sign up board is in the Narthex. Please sign up to fill a roll as a nativity scene character, or to help with costumes, construction, hospitality, (serving food, greeting, serving as a tour guide), or traffic control. Also, there is a signup sheet if you are willing to provide cookies, apple juice, or hot cocoa mix (in bulk rather than envelopes). The living nativity is December 19 and 20.

**Church Calendar****Sunday, November 22**  
**3 Penny Partner**

8:30 a.m. Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Bell Ensemble  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Worship  
 12:00 p.m. Blood Pressure (EA)  
 5:30 p.m. SHYG, (SC)

**Monday, November 23**

8:30 a.m. M.O.M.  
 10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl (MH)  
 11:30 a.m. Prime Timers (MH)  
 1:30 p.m. Friendship Caller (MCR)

**Tuesday, November 24**

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, (MCR)  
 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)

**Wednesday, November 25**

6:10 p.m. Chancel Bells, (MS)

**Thursday, November 26**

Thanksgiving—Office Closed

**Friday, November 27**

Office Closed

**Saturday, November 28**

2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep.,  
 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen, 737 Bldg

**Sunday, November 29****First Sunday in Advent**  
**Communion**

8:30 a.m. Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Bell Ensemble  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Worship  
 5:30 p.m. SHYG, (SC)

**Bag Lunch & Soup Kitchen**  
**Week of**  
**10/26/09**

Bag Lunches Given Out 246  
 Fed at the Soup Kitchen 130

**Youth Holds Dog and Car Wash**

The middle and high school youth of our church wanted to help a local family during a medical crisis and they proposed a "Dog and Car Wash".

Thanks to the hard work of the youth and their adult sponsors, and the dirty cars and dogs and the generosity of our congregation, the youth raised over \$900 for the cause and delivered their gift to the appreciative family.

Thanks everyone, for a great expression of love!

**Advent 2009** to Epiphany 2010 Devotional Booklets will be available beginning on Sunday, November 22. If you reserved your devotional booklet, please mark off your name and take your devotional out of the box marked **RESERVED**. If you did not reserve a booklet ahead of time, please take a booklet out of the non-reserved box or sign your name on the sign up sheet to reserve your own Advent Devotional. Thank you!

**Presbyterian Women**  
**in Action**

One of the three PW offerings classified as "Second-mile Giving" during the year is the **THANK OFFERING**, begun by the organization in 1888. It is used for a number of smaller projects. Forty percent goes for health ministries. Our annual Thank Offering will be collected at the November 30 luncheon at 12:00 p.m. in McLeod Hall. Rev. Greg Shaw of First Christian Church will be our speaker. The topic is "Building on Our Stories." Please bring a friend and a covered dish of your favorite recipe.

**Prime Timers**

The next meeting will be November 23. A catered lunch will be served (\$6.50 per person) and Lucy Teeter has arranged a program on Heifer International. Please call Dick and Doris Hill at 293-9762 to make a reservation.

**Remember in Prayer**HospitalIn Need of Your Prayers:

Richard Ashby	Betty Johnson
Anna Marie Barton	Al Kersbergen
Barbara Bissett	Dick Kingham
Britt Family	Bob Lindstrom
George & Sylvia Chambers	Janice Maranda
Geraldine Chilton	Jerry Maranda
Peggy Chun	Grayce McNamara
Sondra Cole	Kathy Marshall
Alice Colgrove	Joan Murphy
Rich & Buddie Daniel	Jean Parks
Eunice Dishman	Judy Partain
Helen Dunaway	Jackie Pinckney
Hue Folkard	Dee Palmore
Twila Forsyth	Dave & Bonnie Ryan
Bob Gerber	Glendora Schuldt
Helen Gross	Marguerite Sowards
Harold & Mary Hosier	Bert Schulz
Esther Hueln	Myrtice Stolz
Mary Pat Harding	Hazel Thomas
Al & Ann Hays	Sandra Turley
Marj Howe	Ann Wilford

Friends & Relatives:

Avie Calkman	Rose Carr's friend
Dorothy Commons	(John Bader's mother)
Gavin Dean	(Walt & Barb Irwin's Grandson)
Robert Franklin	(Paul & Marilyn Sherer's brother)
Nancy Gains	(Jane Lucia's daughter)
Jon Gardner	Gary & Pat Gardner's grandson
Barbara Grimes	(Lois Frakes' friend)
Mary Sue Harvey	(Alan Harvey's mother)
Marvin and Margriet Hogeboom	(Linda Dinger's family)
Fernando Huentes	(Pastor in Suapa Honduras)
Joanne Lewns	(Gene Aspy's friend)
A.J. Kayntma	(Lois Frakes' friend)
Amy Kok	(Dick & Nancy Shaw's daughter)
Sicco Kuiper	(Linda Dinger's family)
Frances Lilly	(Gloria Allen's mother)
Pat Marshall	(Larry & Candy Marshall's sister-in-law)
	(Kathy Michaels' daughter)
Art McNamara	(Nancy Shaw's brother)
Laurie Miller	(Barbara Crowder's cousin)
Carol Nicholson	(Diane Repass' cousin)
Andrew Patrick	(Lynn Baker's friend)
Emily Pinnell	(Diane Repass' aunt)
Ross Porter	(Len Porter's brother)
Dana Richardson	(Bob Hines' friend)
B.J. Robertson	(Gale Waters' friend)
Anna Robinson	(Punkin Smith's 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)
Brian White	(John Bader's friend)
Dustin Wilkinson	(Lee & Pam Wilkinson's son)

In Military Service:

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

## 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 for their fabulous Sunday School time filled with singing, crafts, and a Bible Story.

**Children in kindergarten through fifth grade** will focus on *Creation* 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 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.

**Beginning on Sunday, December 6**, you have the opportunity to join discussion leader Bob Hubbard in a **study of the history, literature, and religion of ancient Israel and early Judaism** as presented in the pages of the **Old Testament**. This will not be your typical Bible study class! It will center around a lecture series presented on DVD by Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Although this is a college level course, Dr. Levine has a delightful and very down-to-earth teaching style that anyone will be able to understand and learn from. This class will run for 24 weeks, through May 23, 2010. Each lecture lasts about 30 minutes and will be followed by class discussion or question time. The DVD will be started PROMPTLY at 9:55 a.m., so please be in your seats by then, with your seatbelts fastened, so you don’t miss any of the scenery on this fascinating and eye-opening journey through the pages of Part One of the world’s best-selling book. Advance preparation for the class is not required, but you might want to re-read Chapter 1 of Genesis before the first class.

#### Survivor: Cedarkirk

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”** - Philippians 4:4-7

The Middle School Youth Group attended the Middle School Youth Retreat at Cedarkirk Camp and conference center on Nov. 7th-8th. The youth enjoyed an event-filled, “Survivor Themed” retreat that was centered on Philippians 4:4-7. Students were encouraged to take practical steps towards guarding their hearts and minds and becoming Christ imitators as they share the Good News of the Gospel in an ever changing world. Roughly 170 youth from churches through the Presbytery of Tampa Bay attended this event. Our group enjoyed a great weekend of food, fellowship, and enjoyed all of the wonderful facilities that Cedarkirk has to offer. Thank you for supporting this ministry!



### Youth Schedule

November 22:	HSYG	No Youth Group	Thanksgiving Break
November 25:	MSYG	No Youth Group	Thanksgiving Break
November 29:	HSYG	5:30-7:30 p.m.	<b>“Hands &amp; Feet Service Project” (wear work clothes)</b>

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Peters at [jpeters@firstpreswh.org](mailto:jpeters@firstpreswh.org) or 232-7337.

## Adult Sunday School Classes

**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. Feel free to drop in this fall even if you didn’t participate last year. This class meets in the Geneva Room.

**Focus on the Liturgical Year-Holy Days & Holidays—** Join Dr. Negley and Dr. Harvey in an adult Sunday School exploration of the biblical basis behind many of our church celebrations. The group will progress week to week discussing the background and current traditions involved at Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Ash Wednesday, All Saints Day, and more. This class meets in the back of McLeod Hall.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
637 6th Street NW  
Winter Haven, F33881  
Phone: 863-294-3121  
E-mail: office@firstpreswh.org

### 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 11/05/09

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### First Facts

On Sunday, November 8 our own Amy Smith was the keynote speaker at the Middle School Cedarkirk Retreat. Amy's message was the perfect ending to a great retreat as she encouraged students not to be anxious about situations in their lives, but to approach the Lord in prayer and to allow the peace of God to guard their hearts and minds. Amy did an excellent job of sharing a relevant message, and leading an engaging worship service to over 170 middle school youth and adults from churches gathered from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay!



### ??? ONE THOUSAND POUNDS ???

Overwhelmed is such an over used word but it does reflect the feelings we have at your generosity. The contributions of beans and rice we have already received is astounding. I am certain we will reach our goal in two weeks. Keep 'em coming.

Also, a special thanks to Mrs. Parker at the Northgate Publix for ordering extra beans and rice for us and putting them conveniently in a bin at the front. Publix is more than a store; it's a member of our community.

## 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 Morris Reddout a member of our congregation,** describes the experience:

What is so rare as a day in June? How about a week in Honduras? My feet were itching to wander, so I signed up to visit Honduras, again. The first thing I discovered was a new airport WOW! When I landed, I looked out the window and the outer half of the wing was NOT hanging over a 4-lane highway. The facilities were definitely those of an international airport. I wondered what other improvements had occurred in my 4 year absence. **I regret to say, I didn't notice any. The McArthur Hotel was the same, and we followed the same routine for day one.**

On leaving Tegus, we found a wonderful 2-lane highway for several miles. It was something I had not experienced before. The fascinating thing was that Hondurans have the ability to turn a 2-lane into a 3-lane road. Up hill or down hill – on curves they just zoom along. One motorcyclist passed us using the space between the two solid lines as his line. **I admired Alex's and Noel's patience and ability at keeping our caravan together.**

**Visiting Moropocay reminded me of an Elvis hit, "All Shook Up."** Yes, the road was one of the roughest I've ever ridden on. Thanks to Dave, we safely reached our destination. As the elder statesman of the group, they relegated me to use my professional skill of reading the scale upside down. There was only one individual whose weight was over 115 lbs. I looked up at a little fellow and read the Calvin Klein tag on his pocket and realized we were working in an affluent neighborhood. One of the men asked me to weigh one of his blocks. I imagine he wanted to know how many tons he was moving. Its weight was a little over 23 lbs. I wish you could see the small hammer they were using to break rocks. Where there is a will, there is a way. A couple of days later, someone found a **place to buy a maul which I'm sure made the work a great deal easier.**

The next day we visited Las Crucitas. Due to a communication error no one was awaiting our arrival. We left things in the little church and split our forces. The construction group went over the hill to Moropocay while the rest of us went back to Nacaome where we painted the inside and outside of the church. We returned to Nacaome the following day to conduct the clinic.

That was one hot day. Even with a couple of fans circulating the air, I was wringing wet. I discovered that the people there weighed on the average about 26 lbs. more than their rural neighbors. What amazed me were the **ones who stopped on their way out to thank me. I didn't feel that I had actually contributed that much to the program.** Yet, I realized every little bit helps. I just admired their happy faces in the midst of so much need. Of course, I recall my younger years and since everyone was poor we just worked to survive. What shocked me years later was to discover I grew up in the upper reaches of Appalachia. We simply ignored the rest of the country and went on the best we could with the joy of living as these Hondurans are doing.

At our last stop we had some public facility and two nurses to assist which made my job easier. There was a quick trip to a store for plastic bags to hold the medicine. A little rain shower forced many indoors. I tried to make friends with a little girl in line who was holding a woolly lamb, but she was so protective of her new toy. I prayed that as she grew up, she would learn to love the Lamb of God as well as cling to Him as tightly.

**I'd like to thank the church for allowing me the privilege of retuning to Honduras to work with the people there. It was good to see some old friends and become acquainted with new ones. I'd also like to thank the young people who helped me at various times along the way. The big question is - will I be able to return in two years?**



*Blessed to Be a Blessing*

## STEWARDSHIP—2010

First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven operates with a unified church budget. This means the ministry which we conduct through all our program areas falls under a single church budget, which is supported by the tithes and offerings of our members and friends. Every person who gives in support of this budget is a partner in everything we do, from preaching to teaching, to the care of our own children in the nursery and the children in Honduras through international missions.

The beauty of a unified budget rests in the fact that the Session makes decisions of overall significance, so that each area of ministry can function without the constant concern of how to raise funds for items which are common to and crucial for the overall life of Christ's church here (e.g., the *worship and music area* can stay focused on God-directed worship inspiring music, rather than trying to pay the utilities so that there will be lights and air-conditioning on Sundays, to raise money to maintain instruments, or take bulletins out for printing. The *youth program* can focus on ministry with and for young people, rather than having to raise money for the salary of the youth director, or pitching a tent each week for a meeting place, etc.)

In our 2010 operating budget, the extent to which we share resources so that the church can be the church, is revealed. Facilities, operations and maintenance represents a significant portion of our budget. That means that providing space for all that we do, insuring that space, and appropriately maintaining the space so that we can all share in ministry here. Personnel costs, covering the expenses associated with employing over a dozen full and part time staff members, accounts for the major portion of our annual budget. The costs for materials and administration in different program areas of our ministry are also reflected in our operating budget. And our budget is rounded out (or maybe we should say started) with our mission and benevolence dollars. Ten percent of gifts to our church are immediately directed outside of our walls in mission.

A unified church budget is all about partnership, as each member of the church shares as a partner in the overall ministry of the church. (No one person can take sole credit for the sharing of faith or the works of charity, leaving someone else responsible for the sidewalks and sewer lines). Each time any of us drops a dollar in the plate, we have helped every area of ministry.

As we study the proposed budget for First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven for 2010, and make our prayerful commitment to support this ministry with our time, talents, and material treasures, we are providing a place and a program where God is praised and served...

Budget is available in the church office