

Tower Chimes

First Presbyterian Church

of Winter Haven Florida



November 29, 2009

Issue 299

123 Years of Ministry

First Sunday in Advent

The First Sunday of Advent is November 29. Advent is the four week period, including Sundays prior to Christmas as the church prepares to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and as we renew our waiting for the second coming of our Savior and Lord. It is a time of great expectation and hope. The liturgical color for Advent is purple signifying that we are in a time of preparation. The pastors will wear purple stoles and the purple paraments will be in place.

This year we have an Advent banner gracing our sanctuary. The banner was designed by Pam Baker and constructed by Pam and members of her workshop during the Festival of Church Artisans in August. The banner is three-dimensional and has 3 purple, 1 rose and 1 white candle nestled in a wreath with the candles symbolizing hope, peace, joy, love and Christ. It also has a book which opens and includes a scripture verse to go along with the theme and four candles for Sundays in Advent and the white candle for Christmas Eve. The banner will be placed on the pulpit side of the sanctuary.

In the narthex you will find an evergreen tree adorned with counted cross stitch Chrismons. The patterns were redrawn by Nancy Dobler, who led the Counted Cross Stitch Chrismons Workshop also during the Festival of Church Artisans. The Chrismons were made by a number of women in this congregation. A Chrismon is a monogram of Christ, or something symbolic of Christ, e.g. a crown acknowledging the lordship of Christ, a butterfly signifying the resurrection, various crosses, the dove signifying the Holy Spirit, or a symbol for the Trinity or the Church. We will dedicate these artistic expressions on the First Sunday in Advent, as this will be the first time they will be seen in the sanctuary and narthex. We thank all of the artisans who gave their time and used their talents to make the banner and the Chrismons to heighten our celebrations of Advent and Christmas.

For a number of years it has been the tradition of this congregation to mark the beginning of this season of the church year with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We will once again share the Lord's Supper as church officers serve the bread and cup by passing trays. Let us prepare our hearts before coming to the Lord's Table.

Welcome New Members

The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Kline (Barbara) Roberts
3005 Pine Valley Drive
Winter Haven, FL 33881

Mr. & Mrs. Orrin (Ellen) Champlain
541 Terranova Circle
Winter Haven, FL 33884

Mr. & Mrs. Michael (Jennifer) Vibrall
3311 Eagle's Trace
Winter Haven, FL 33884



Church Calendar**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)

Monday, November 30

8:30 a.m. M.O.M.
9:00 a.m. Decorate Church
12:00 a.m. PW Luncheon (MH)

Tuesday, December 1

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, (MCR)
12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
3:00 p.m. Holiday Book Rev. (MH)
6:00 p.m. SNL Planning (GR)

Wednesday, December 2

8:30 a.m. M.O.M.
11:30 a.m. Advent Study (MH)
3:30 p.m. Christ Kids
5:30 p.m. MSYG (sc)
6:10 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
6:30 p.m. Advent Study (MH)
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, December 3

7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells

Friday, December 4

8:30 a.m. M.O.M.

Saturday, December 5

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

Sunday, December 6**Second Sunday in Advent**

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Bell Ensemble
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Study of History (GR)
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:30 p.m. SHYG, (SC)

**Bag Lunch & Soup Kitchen
Week of
11/15/09**

Bag Lunches Given Out 290
Fed at the Soup Kitchen 174

Ecophones: Thank you for your generous support of the youth recycling fundraiser! The following is a list of the items that we can recycle for the fundraiser. All **CELL PHONES, LAPTOP COMPUTERS, DIGITAL CAMERAS, IPODS, and INKJET CARTRIDGES** (the cartridges that fit in the palm of your hand). Donation boxes are located in McLeod Hall and the Student Center. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

Advent 2009 to Epiphany 2010 Devotional Booklets are available and are in McLeod Hall. 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 next meeting is Monday, December 28 at 11:30 a.m. at the Olive Garden restaurant. Dutch treat. Please bring a friend. Call Dick and Doris Hill at 292-9762 to make reservations.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

A Christmas celebration Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m. All choirs and recorders will perform an old fashioned sing-a-long in the sanctuary. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in McLeod Hall. No reservation required. Come one, come all!

Remember in PrayerIn Need of Your Prayers:

Anna Marie Barton
Barbara Bissett
Britt Family
George & Sylvia Chambers
Geraldine Chilton
Alice Colgrove
Rich & Buddie Daniel
Eunice Dishman
Helen Dunaway
Twila Forsyth
Bob Gerber
Helen Gross
Harold & Mary Hosier
Mary Pat Harding
Al & Ann Hays
Marj Howe
Esther Huehn
Betty Johnson
Al Kersbergen

Dick Kingham
Bob Lindstrom
Janice Maranda
Jerry Maranda
Grayce McNamara
Kathy Marshall
Joan Murphy
Jean Parks
Judy Partain
Jackie Pinckney
Dee Palmore
Marguerite Sowards
Bert Schulz
Myrtice Stolz
Barbara Sweeney
Hazel Thomas
Sandra Turley
Ann Wilford

Friends & Relatives:

Avie Calkman
Dorothy Commons
Gavin Dean
Robert Franklin
Nancy Gains
Jon Gardner
Barbara Grimes
Mary Sue Harvey
Marvin and Margriet Hogeboom
Fernando Huentes
Joanne Iewns
A.J. Kayntma
Amy Kok
Sicco Kuiper
Frances Lilly
Pat Marshall

Rose Carr's friend
(John Bader's mother)
(Walt & Barb Irwin's grandson)
(Paul & Marilyn Sherer's brother)
(Jane Lucia's daughter)
Gary & Pat Gardner's grandson
(Lois Frakes' friend)
(Alan Harvey's mother)
(Linda Dinger's family)
(Pastor in Suapa Honduras)
(Gene Aspy's friend)
(Lois Frakes' friend)
(Dick & Nancy Shaw's daughter)
(Linda Dinger's family)
(Gloria Allen's mother)
(Larry & Candy Marshall's sister-in-law)
(Kathy Michaels' daughter)
(Nancy Shaw's brother)
(Barbara Crowder's cousin)
(Diane Repass' cousin)
(Lynn Baker's friend)
(Diane Repass' aunt)
(Len Porter's brother)
(Bob Hines' friend)
(Gale Waters' friend)
(Betty Johnson's friend)
(Carol Anne Golden's friend)
(Judy Winfree's mom)
(Rick & Pat Reass' granddaughter)
(Susan Wales' friend)
(Roxanne McCann's mother)
(John Bader's friend)
(Lee & Pam Wilkinson's son)

Art McNamara
Laurie Miller
Carol Nicholson
Andrew Patrick
Emily Pinnell
Ross Porter
Dana Richardson
B.J. Robertson
Joan Russell
Bill Shockley
Ann Tullis
Scarlett Turner
Anne Vega
Charlene Verworm
Brian White
Dustin Wilkinson

In Military Service:

Eddie Gray
Jacob Spence
Leah (Doty) Fuscia
Sean Harp
James E. Baker
Chris Hagen

Michael Dobler
Derek Shelton
Adam McPhail
Daniel Harp
Jarrett Abbott
Bridgette Thompson
Ryan Beissinger
Adam Bass
David Knowles
Brian Parrish
Aaron Ashley

Prayer List Reminder: At the beginning of each month, the prayer list will be updated to reflect the current needs. If you have a prayer need, please fill out the Prayer Request form, which you will find in the Narthex or church office, and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. The names will be included on the current Prayer List in Tower Chimes. The list will be updated the first of each month. You must renew requests to be included in the following month.

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.

Youth Schedule

November 29:	HSYG	5:30-7:30 p.m.	"Hands & Feet Service Project" (wear work clothes)
December 2:	MSYG	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Student Center
December 6:	HSYG	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Student Center
December 9:	MSYG	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Student Center

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

SEASONED WITH CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SALT & PEPPER, TOO!

The Comfort Food Preparation Workers of the Congregational Care Committee were busy making Chicken and Broccoli and Lasagna Casseroles on Thursday afternoon November 19. Mary Dukes, Julia Parker, Judie Tucker, Shirley Turner and Nancy Williamson prepared eighteen casseroles to be stored in the freezer and ready to be delivered to persons following a hospitalization or at the time of grief. Of course, KP duty includes washing up too. We thank these dedicated volunteers who provide these comfort food casseroles, which the pastoral staff delivers.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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

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Summer months and holidays published bi-weekly

Church dated material, please deliver by 11/28/09

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2009 OUTSTANDING OLDER ADULT AWARD RECIPIENTS

On Sunday November 22, 2009, at the eleven o'clock worship service Jim and Betty Jo Gray were presented with a certificate recognizing them as the Outstanding Older Adults for 2009. Jim and Betty Jo have been members of First Presbyterian Church for more than fifty years. Jim has served as a deacon and he and Betty Jo have served as elders. He has served on the Finance and Long Range Planning Committees and as an usher. Betty Jo has taught Sunday school to children, the Bethel Bible Study, and served on the Christian Education, Christian Education Search, Columbarium, Nominating, Pastor Search, Personnel and Administration, and Memorial Garden Committees. Their names have been added to the engraved plaque, which hangs in McLeod Hall. Congratulations Betty Jo and Jim!



The Living Nativity Scene rolling sign up board is in the Narthex. Please sign up to fill a role 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 sign up 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 at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.

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 Jacob Dantzler, a member of our congregation, describes the experience:**

It all began when we had to get up at an inconceivable hour! We were all ready to head to the airport we said our goodbyes to our loved ones. The flight there was great, until the landing... It seemed like a three year old was trying to land a jumbo jet on a flight simulator. He flew us through the mountains and then it felt like he just dropped us on the runway.

When we were down there we got to our hotel in Nacaome. On the first day of work we laid the foundation of an addition of a church. The look on the faces of the children and even the adults when we got there and started working was unbelievable. The first day was the one day that I could play soccer. At one point I think there were three balls at once on the little field. It was a complete madhouse!

The second day we did the same thing. The third I was very sick. It was not a good time! The fourth day was the last day of working. But we had to cut the day short because there were problems in Tegucigalpa. Luckily they stopped striking on Friday and they didn't do it on Saturday.

Friday at the Valley of the Angels, I bought some souvenirs and walked with my personal guide Alex Rodas (one of our guides). Saturday we got up early again for the flight home. At the airport in Tegucigalpa we stopped by the little McDonalds to grab a bite to eat. I got a Big-Mac, which was the first (somewhat) American food that we had the whole week.

The flight home was great and this time there was a smooth landing. Customs down in Miami is very hectic. It took about an hour and a half to get everyone to clear customs. It was near dark when we got home. I got to recount on the whole week with my family. I loved going to Honduras, and I definitely will go back year after year.

And thank you to the people here at First Presbyterian Church who sponsored the trip. We were able to touch lives in Honduras and I know lives were touched by those of us who went.



