

# *Tower Chimes*

## *First Presbyterian Church*

### *of Winter Haven Florida*



December 20, 2009

Issue 302

123 Years of Ministry

Announcing the Premiere and Closing Night's Performances of:

## "'Twas the Night before the First Christmas"

by The Rev. Dr. C. Alan Harvey

**First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, Florida's Living Nativity Scene has a cast and crew of many including live animals with the talents of:**

**Judy Denlinger and Merry Stewart-Borowski in the role of "Grandmother"  
Sean Ivey as "Nicholas" and Caitlyn Seney as "Nikki"  
and Lindsey Ivey and Hanley Renney as "Noelle"**

**The play will be presented on Saturday and Sunday evenings December 19 and 20, 2009, at 6 and 7 o'clock.**

**This year's production is a "play within a play" as the grandmother tells a story she has written for her grandchildren entitled, "'Twas the Night before the First Christmas." The story is in verse as is Clement C. Moore's "*'Twas the Night before Christmas*" and it is interspersed with carols performed by the Chancel Choir and Children's Choirs of the church. You will have the opportunity to join in singing. Once again there will be tours of the church and a holiday reception in McLeod Hall following each performance. Please come and invite neighbors and friends to join you for this special event.**



### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Come and join in hearing and singing the story of Christmas.

At 5:00 p.m. our Chancel Choir, Bell Ensemble, children, and lay readers from the congregation will lead us in worship. A nursery is provided for the service.

At 9:00 p.m. our Chancel Choir, Bell Ensemble, and lay readers from the congregation will lead us in worship.

**Church Calendar****Sunday, December 20  
Fourth Sunday in Advent  
3 Penny Partners**

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)  
6:00 p.m. LNS  
7:00 p.m. LNS

**Monday, December 21**

8:30 a.m. M.O.M.  
10:00 a.m. Poinsettia Delivery (MH)

**Tuesday, December 22**

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

**Wednesday, December 23**

11:30 a.m. Advent Study (GR)  
6:10 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)  
6:30 p.m. Advent Study (GR)  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

**Thursday, December 24****Office Closed at Noon**

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

**Friday, December 25****Christmas Day****Office Closed**

1:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep  
3:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737 Bldg.)

**Saturday, December 26**

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

**Sunday, December 27**

8:30 a.m. Blood Mobile  
8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:15 a.m. After Christmas Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Bell Ensemble  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. Blood Pressure Screen (EA)

**Bag Lunch & Soup Kitchen  
Week of  
12/05/09**

Bag Lunches Given Out 267  
Fed at the Soup Kitchen 113

**Three Penny**

**Partners** will be collecting the 3 Cents-a-Meal hunger offering during the worship service November 15.

Please bring your home collections to go toward our Soup Kitchen/Bag Lunch Ministry, Beth-El Farm-workers Ministry, and Honduras.

**Poinsettia Delivery**

Again, this year, we invite members to help deliver our beautiful Christmas flowers to those who are not able to come to church. We have scheduled two dates for delivery. The first will be Monday, December 21 at 10:00 a.m. and the second delivery will be Monday, December 28 at 10:00 a.m. You may pick up the poinsettias in McLeod Hall along with the address and note pads.

**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 if the box is empty to reserve your own Advent Devotional. Thank you!

**Reminder**—If you haven't turned in your *Estimate of Giving* (pledge card) for 2010, please do so as soon as possible.

**Prime Timers** meet next on 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.

**Remember in Prayer****Hospital:**

Norma Conner-Winter Haven  
Kathryn Marshall-Winter Haven  
Lisa Snyder-Winter Haven  
Dick Kingham-Lakeland Regional Medical Center

**In Need of Your Prayers:**

Anna Marie Barton	Betty Johnson
Barbara Bissett	Al Kersbergen
Ann Burch	Bob Lindstrom
Britt Family	Janice Maranda
George & Sylvia Chambers	Jerry Maranda
Geraldine Chilton	Grayce McNamara
Alice Colgrove	Joan Murphy
Rich & Buddie Daniel	Jean Parks
Eunice Dishman	Judy Partain
Helen Dunaway	Jackie Pinckney
Twila Forsyth	Dee Palmore
Bob Gerber	Marguerite Sowards
Betty Jo Gray	Bert Schulz
Helen Gross	Myrtice Stolz
Harold & Mary Hosier	Barbara Sweeney
Mary Pat Harding	Hazel Thomas
Al & Ann Hays	Sandra Turley
Marj Howe	Ann Wilford

**Friends & Relatives:**

Brenda Chandler	(Carol Anne Golden's friend)
Dorothy Commons	(John Bader's mother)
Allison DeSalvatore	(Mary Ellen Porter's friend)
Robert Franklin	(Paul & Marilyn Sherer's brother)
David Fry	(Lois Frake's nephew)
Barbara Grimes	(Lois Frake's friend)
Bill Johnson	(Kim Lockhart's father)
A. J. Kaynatma	(Lois Frake's friend)
Ben Lancashire	(Dena Lancashire's brother-in-law)
Dick Madaus	(Carol Anne Golden's friend)
Effie Newberg	(Larry Albright's mother-in-law)
Jimmy Pettit	(Carol Anne Golden's friend)
Jim Reynolds	(Max & Betty von Hahmann's friend)
Sarah Voisard	(Mary Ellen Porter's friend)
Ebbie Wampler	(Punkin Smith's friend)
White Family	(John Bader's friend)
Dustin Wilkinson	(Lee & Pam Wilkinson's son)
Jan Wilson	(Mary Ellen Rowker & Jane Whitney's cousin)

**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	Bridgette Thompson	Chris Turner

Sunday After Christmas Breakfast Reservation  
December 27, 2009; 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Menu: Scrambled eggs, bacon, grits, biscuits, and fruit cup

**Children's menu:** Cereals and donuts

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# ATTENDING: ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

## Walking in a Winter Wonderland at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

**Preschool Children** - will meet in Room 108 for their fabulous Sunday school time filled with singing, crafts, and a Bible story.

**Children in kindergarten through fifth grade** - will focus on *The Gift of Jesus* this winter 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** - will 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.

## 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.

**Ancient Israel and Early Judaism** - 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. in the Edinburg Annex, 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.

**The weekly Advent Bible Study** focusing on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as a text with allusions to scripture passages began on Wednesday, December 2. The study continues on Wednesday, December 9, 16, and 23 at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Geneva Room and you are most welcome to join us for any of these sessions, even if you missed the earlier sessions. For this week's lesson, please read Stave Three—The Second of the Three Spirits, and Wednesday, December 23 will focus on Stave Four—The Last of the Spirits. We look forward to celebrating the Advent season together during this study.

### Youth Schedule

December 20	HSYG	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Living Nativity
December 23	NO YOUTH GROUP		
December 27	NO YOUTH GROUP		
December 30	NO YOUTH GROUP		

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

**Our Wednesday afternoon** Christ Kids Program will not meet on Wednesday, December 23 or 30. We will resume on Wednesday, January 6.

**Mark your calendars** for the Annual All Church Retreat at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center. This year, come enjoy the sights, sounds, and refreshing outdoors at Cedarkirk, February 5-7, 2010. The theme this year is *Holy Mind, Body, and Spirit*. More information to come soon.

**Once again** we plan to share Christ's love with our community through our **SOUP KITCHEN CHRISTMAS DINNER**. We hope to open the doors of our 737 Recreation and Community Service building from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Christmas afternoon (Friday, December 25) to feed anyone who would enjoy a Christmas meal. (In the past we have seen between 100 and 150 hungry people enjoy our food and fellowship.)

There are many ways to help:

- Cook a turkey or ham at home
- Make a green bean casserole at home
- Help with final food prep Christmas Day
- Help with serving and clean up Christmas Day

The turkeys and hams will be available in the church kitchen on Sunday, December 20. If you are willing to help in any of these areas, please sign up on the Deacon's bulletin board in 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 12/19/09

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**AT LAST** the beans and rice are on the way. Thanks to Warren Glenn, Sam Bryant, Will Butz, Corbin Hart, Tom Mulrooney, and Gary Solomon for their help in loading over 2,000 pounds of red beans and rice into the truck supplied by Plantain Products. As always we can count on the generosity of the congregation of First Presbyterian to come through when it counts.



**The Blood Mobile will be in the parking lot Sunday, December 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please give so others may live.**

### DID YOU KNOW

- Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
- More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day.
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood.



# *Come and See What God is Doing*

## **This December at First Presbyterian**

### **Advent Sunday Worship**

November 29—First Sunday in Advent  
December 6—Second Sunday in Advent  
December 13—Third Sunday in Advent  
December 20—Fourth Sunday in Advent  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.



### **Advent Weekday Bible Study**

Wednesday, December 2  
Wednesday, December 9  
Wednesday, December 16  
Wednesday, December 23  
11:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.  
in the Geneva Room

### **The Festival Music Series**

A Christmas celebration of carols  
Sunday, December 13  
4:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary



## Living Nativity Scene

Saturday, December 19 at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.  
South Parking Area



## Christmas Eve

“Candlelight Service of Lessons  
& Carols”  
December 24, 5:00 and 9:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
Sanctuary

## All Church Breakfast

Sunday, December 27  
9:15—10:00 a.m.  
McLeod Hall

