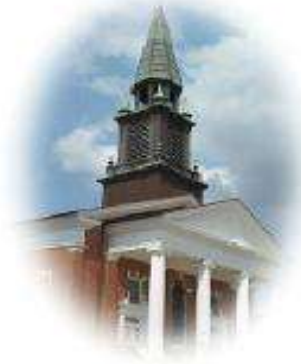


Tower Chimes

First Presbyterian Church

of Winter Haven Florida



January 3, 2010

Issue 304

123 Years of Ministry

Many Thanks for a Christmas Day Blessing

On December 25, 2009 at our sixth annual Christmas Day meal, over 125 hungry guests were treated to their fill of turkey, gravy, ham, green bean casserole, corn, mashed potatoes, bread and desserts. Twenty of our church families cooked turkeys or hams at home and brought them to the feast. Another dozen families made green bean casseroles at home and delivered them in time for the meal. Around 40 volunteers (church members, friends and new comers from the community), donated their time between 1:30 and 5:30 p.m. to cook, serve, entertain and host our guests. The deacons had purchased gifts for children, blankets, and McDonald's gift certificates for all of the diners. One family in the congregation had also prepared backpacks filled with gifts that were given to the 25 children who came to eat with their families.

Thanks to all who helped us share God's love with so many people this Christmas!



Church Calendar

Sunday, January 3

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Bell Ensemble
9:45 a.m. Sunday school
11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, January 4

8:30 a.m. M.O.M.
10:00 a.m. Quilters (MH)
7:00 p.m. Worship/Music (MCR)

Tuesday, January 5

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

Wednesday, January 6

8:30 p.m. M.O.M.
3:30 p.m. Christ Kids (CE)
5:30 p.m. MSYG
6:10 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Women's Beth Moore Study
7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, January 8

8:30 a.m. M. O. M.
6:30 p.m. Movie/Game Night

Saturday, January 9

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

Annual Reports Due A.S.A.P.



We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Marj Whitmer Howe, Buddie Daniel and family upon the death of her husband Rich on December 25, 2009, and our sympathy to Mary Hosier and family upon the death of her husband Harold, also on December 25, 2009. The Hosiers were friends of the congregation before they moved to Maryland in 2007.

Our Morning out Mom Program is looking for a new caretaker on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. We want to thank Angela Scamehorn for her faithful service, she has accepted full time employment and we wish her the very best. Should you be interested in helping with our program, please contact Amy Smith at 294-3121.

Bag Lunch & Soup Kitchen Week of 12/20/09

Bag Lunches Given Out 190
Fed at the Soup Kitchen 115
Christmas Day Soup Kitchen 125

Debriefing and Review of "*Twas the Night before the First Christmas*"

On Tuesday, January 19, at 5 p.m. in the back portion of McLeod Hall, there will be a meeting to debrief and review *'Twas the Night before the First Christmas*, our Living Nativity Scene 2009. All chairpersons and coordinators are asked to attend. If you cannot be present, kindly write out your review, identify problem areas and offer suggestions for improvement or e-mail these to Alan at aharvey@firstpreswh.org. We look forward to this time to review and to make plans for next year's event. Thank you!

Youth Schedule

January 3 HSYG No Youth Group (Winter Break)
January 6 MSYG 5:30—7:30 p.m. Student Center
January 10 HSYG 5:30—9:30 p.m. Student Center (Ice Skating in Orlando)
January 13 MSYG 5:30—7:30 p.m. Service Project (Bag Lunch Ministry)
January 17 HSYG 5:30—7:30 p.m. Student Center (Talent show prep)

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

Remember in Prayer

Hospital:

Grayce McNamara-WH
Charlie Chilton-WH
Marcia Keplinger-WH

In Need of Your Prayers:

Anna Marie Barton
Barbara Bissett
Ann Burch
Britt Family
George & Sylvia Chambers
Geraldine Chilton
Alice Colgrove
Buddie Daniel
Eunice Dishman
Jerry Dugger
Helen Dunaway
Twila Forsyth
Bob Gerber
Helen Gross
Mary Hosier
Mary Pat Harding
Al & Ann Hays

Dick Kingham
Al Kersbergen
Bob Lindstrom
Janice Maranda
Jerry Maranda
Kathryn Marshall
Joan Murphy
Jean Parks
Judy Partain
Dee Palmore
Marguerite Sowards
Bert Schulz
Andy Stavres
Myrtice Stolz
Hazel Thomas
Sandra Turley
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)
Jon Gardner (Gary & Pat Gardner's grandson)
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)
Art McNamara (Nancy Shaw's brother)
Effie Newberg (Larry Albright's mother-in-law)
Jim Reynolds (Max & Betty von Hahmann's friend)
Edna Haynes Scarborough (Phyllis Gilbert'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 Dabler	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	Chris Turner
Keaton Thompson		

Mark your calendars for the Annual All Church Retreat at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center. 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.

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

Adult Sunday School Classes

The Perspectives Class will continue their discussion on *Who is Jesus* by Marcus Borg. Dr. Jim Threlkel and Mr. Glenn Thomas facilitate this class. Feel free to drop in 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.

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World written by Joanna Weaver will be the book study led by Lori Grode beginning on Sunday, January 10. The class will focus on finding intimacy with God in our busy lives. Books will be available for purchase. This class meets in CE 207.

January 6: A Special Treat For Our Advent Bible Study Participants and Others

During the month of December we did a four part study on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. On January 6 the participants are invited back and any others are welcome to join us for a screening of two film versions of *A Christmas Carol*. Both sessions will be upstairs in the Christian Education Building with one in the Movie Center and the other across the hall in the Story Telling Center. Many had the opportunity to view George C. Scott and Patrick Stewart in film versions that were televised over the holidays, so the two options we will be offering are: the 1951 film *A Christmas Carol* with Alastair Sim (86 mins) and the 1970 musical *Scrooge* with Albert Finney (114 mins). Both are distinctively British films. **The films will be shown on Wednesday January 6 beginning promptly at 11:30 a.m. and at 6 p.m.** You are invited to bring a bag lunch or supper and come view a film version, ready to note differences in what Dickens wrote and the screen adaptations. **Tea and scones will be provided.**

Movie/Game Night will meet on Friday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. in McLeod Hall. For the New Year, bring a new family with you to join in the fellowship this evening provides. Please bring a covered dish to share and come celebrate the New Year with your friends from First Presbyterian.



A heartfelt Thank You to:
Scott and Diany Blanton,
Warren Glenn, Jacob Dantzler,
Todd Dantzler, Jim Lammer
and Will Butz for putting the
Christmas trees up and to all of
those who helped fluff.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Winter Haven, F33881
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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

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Summer months and holidays published bi-weekly

Church dated material, please deliver by 01/02/2010

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Middle School Youth Group

Recently, the middle school youth group traveled to the home of John and Tracy Scheck for a meeting. All of the youth were treated to dinner and a movie complete with popcorn and candy. This evening was a great time of fellowship for our youth. We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to the Scheck family for their hospitality and for making this such a special event. Thank you for supporting the youth ministries of First Presbyterian Church!



On January 31, 2010 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the Middle School and Senior High Youth and families will host a **Talent Show**. The evening will feature a dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by the show. Master of Ceremonies Todd Dantzler will lead our show, featuring a wonderful list of very talented people from our very own congregation. We anticipate an exciting evening of fellowship as we celebrate the different gifts God has given us. This all church event is a fundraiser for our youth programs and there is no cost to attend, but donations will be thankfully accepted. We would be honored by your presence. Please join us January 31, 2010 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in McLeod Hall. If you have ANY questions, please contact Josh Peters at jpeters@firstpreswh.org or (863) 232-7337. Thank you!

Let's Hear It For The After Christmas Breakfast Crew!

We do thank **Head Cook Larry Davis** and his helpers **Jerry Dugger, Jim Lammer, Andy Ray, Mike Vibral, Roy Williamson and Bob Winfree** who prepared a wonderful After Christmas Breakfast on Sunday December 27. Over 100 people took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy a tasty breakfast and table fellowship in McLeod Hall. We are grateful for this great crew and for their willingness and work to feed us so well!



Thank You

HUNDREDS OF "THANK YOU"S TO ALL WHO PLAYED ANY PART IN THE SUCCESS OF

"'Twas the Night before the First Christmas." We thank those who donated cookies, apple juice and hot cocoa mix. We thank those who served as tour guides. We thank the Doty family, (Jim, Sally, Jamie and Jason) for caring for and transporting the animals and serving as our carolers. We thank those who filled roles in the Nativity cast at one or more of the four shows. We thank Tina and John Bader for securing the loan of hay and transporting it from and returning it to the supplier. We thank Mary Ann Knowles who took on the task of costuming coordinator and all who assisted in the area of costuming. We thank Squire Smith who recorded, mixed and refined the soundtrack and served as sound engineer both nights. We thank Rich Dobler for serving as our traffic coordinator and all those who assisted in directing traffic. We thank Mike Seney who made the panels for the set, who designed the doors to convert the stable into a house, who rigged the star-lights into the scenery, and who worked along with volunteer John Berry to do lighting both nights. We thank those who greeted guests. We thank those who prepared hot chocolate and wassail, who arranged the tables, and who served the cookies and other snacks under the leadership of Tina Bader. We thank Amy Powell for painting 40 feet of scenery and transforming 20 feet of blank panels into Shepherds' Field and 20 feet into the little town of Bethlehem. We thank Henry Braun for sealing the scenery to protect it for years to come. We thank the children and Chancel Choir members for recording our soundtrack of five carols. We thank Larry Albright and Teresa Negley for providing musical accompaniment for the recording. We thank Lindsay Tannahill for serving as our casting director and recruiting coordinator. We thank Mary Ann Koon for her work with publicity. We thank our construction crew of Henry Braun, Kevin Britt, Rob Frost, Warren Glenn, Jonathan Owen and Dave Tannahill for posthole digging, building the stable, hanging doors and covering the frame with burlap. We thank Pete Snively for tending the campfire. We thank Kevin Britt for securing our sandbags. We thank Jean Tannahill for taking photographs and Robert Volpe for serving as our videographer. We thank Karen Siegel for serving as our overall Director once again. We thank all those who assisted with set up and clean up in any way, offering special thanks to Josh Peters and the HSYG for their help on Sunday evening. We thank our actors Judy Denlinger, Sean and Lindsey Ivey, Hanley Renney, Caitlyn Seney and Merry Stewart Borowski. We also thank the children's parents who saw that they were at rehearsals and who worked with them to help them learn their lines. We thank Michelle Morgan for printing and folding programs. We thank our young soloists for the "The Friendly Beast:" Lindsay Ivey, Sadie Owen, Christian Miller, and Madison Grode. We thank Sam Bryant and Ann Reynolds for assistance with various tasks. We thank all of you who came to view this production. (We thank Steve Negley for welcoming and general support of the project.) We thank the Irvin family for donating palm fronds. Now, I know that is at least 100 "Thank You's" and if by chance, I have absentmindedly omitted anyone, please complete the following: *Thank you, _____ for _____.* *Your contribution and work helped to make our Living Nativity Scene 2009 a great success! "God bless you!" Sincerely, Alan*

