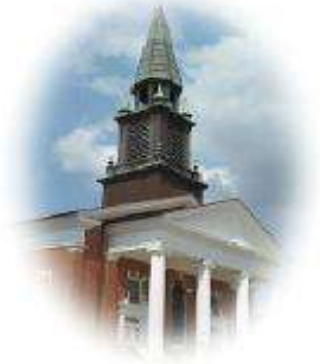


Tower Chimes

First Presbyterian Church

of Winter Haven Florida



January 24, 2010

Issue 307

124 Years of Ministry

Talent Show

January 31, 2010 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in McLeod Hall

The Middle School and Senior High Youth will be hosting this year's talent show. Head cook Roxanne McCann will be preparing a wonderful dinner and Master of Ceremonies Todd Dantzler will lead the show that features a wonderful list of very talented people from our very own congregation. It will be an exciting evening of fellowship as we celebrate the different gifts God has given us. We would be honored by your presence so please join us.

This all church event is a fundraiser for our youth programs and there is no cost to attend but any donations will be thankfully accepted.



Church Calendar

Sunday, January 24

8:30 a.m. Worship
 9:30 a.m. Bell Ensemble (MS)
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 12:00 p.m. BP Screening (EA)
 5:30 p.m. HSYG (SC)
 5:30 p.m. COCO/Session (MH)
 7:00 p.m. Joint Mtg Deacons & Eld (MH)

Monday, January 25

8:30 a.m. M.O.M.
 10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl (MH)

Tuesday, January 26

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, (MCR)
 9:00 a.m. Prime Timers (Off Site)
 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
 12:00 p.m. Finance (UR)
 6:30 p.m. Gen Orth Book Study (MSL)
 6:30 p.m. Deacons (GR)

Wednesday, January 27

8:30 a.m. M.O.M.
 9:00 a.m. Stephen Minister Training (UR)
 3:30 p.m. Christ Kids (CE)
 5:30 p.m. MSYG (SC)
 6:10 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, January 28

5:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training (UR)
 7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, January 29

8:30 a.m. M. O. M.
 7:00 p.m. Pine Wood Derby Set Up (MH)

Saturday, January 30

7:00 a.m. Pine Wood Derby (MH)
 2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep
 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)

Sunday, January 31

8:30 a.m. Worship
 9:30 a.m. Bell Ensemble (MS)
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:55 a.m. Congregational Meeting (Sanct)
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 5:30 p.m. All Church Talent Show (MH)

Bag Lunch & Soup Kitchen Week of 1/11/10

Bag Lunches Given Out - 301
 Fed at the Soup Kitchen - 94

Prime Timers meet Tuesday, January 26 at 8:00 a.m. for the Circle Bar "B" Reserve Tram Tour. The tram will depart at 9:00 a.m. The first 25 who made their reservation will ride the tram. Call Dick and Doris Hill at 292-9762 to make reservations. A box lunch will be provided.

FIRST FACTS

Lori Grode completed the Disney Half Marathon in subfreezing temperatures and sleet on January 9. **Congratulations Lori!**

Sign up Now 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 *Healthy, Happy, and Holy Mind, Body, and Spirit*. The retreat provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know others from First Pres as well as enjoy a relaxing weekend where all of our meals are provided. If you cannot come for the entire weekend, please join us for the day on Saturday. Registration flyers are now available in the Narthex or on the church website. Please see Amy Smith for more information. Registration forms are available in the narthex or on the church website

Remember in Prayer

Winter Haven Hospital:

Buddie Daniel, Marcia Keplinger

In Need of Your Prayers:

Anna Marie Barton	Al & Ann Hays
Barbara Bissett	Dick Kingham
Ann Burch	Bob Lindstrom
Millie Carrier	Janice Maranda
George & Sylvia Chambers	Jerry Maranda
Orin Champlain	Kathryn Marshall
Geraldine Chilton	Joan Murphy
Alice Colgrove	Jean Parks
Buddie Daniel	Judy Paltain
Eunice Dishman	Dee Palmore
Jerry Dugger	Marguerite Sowards
Helen Dunaway	Andy Stavres
Twila Forsyth	Hazel Thomas
Bob Gerber	Sandra Turley
Helen Gross	Max von Hahmann
Mary Hosier	Ann Wilford
Mary Pat Harding	

Friends & Relatives:

Dan Ahern	(Susan Singleton's friend)
Kerbi Blake	(Al and Marjorie Porter's daughter)
Betty Dixon	(Gale & Gwen Waters friend)
Beau Florence	(Bob & Marilyn Sheffield's friend)
David Fry	(Lois Frakes' nephew)
Jon Gardner	(Gary & Pat Gardner's grandson)
Barbara Grimes	(Lois Frakes' friend)
Ben Jordon	(Carol Anne Golden's friend)
A. J. Kaynatma	(Lois Frakes' friend)
John Mann	(Bob Hine's friend)
Art McNamara	(Nancy Shaw's brother)
Linda Partlow	(Bob & Marilyn Sheffield's cousin)
Marilyn Pletcher	(Merry Stewart Borowski's friend)
Mickki Reass	(Rick Reass' mother)
Dana Richardson	(Bob Hine's friend)
Edna Haynes Scarborough	(Phyllis Gilbert's friend)
Scarlett Turner & family	(Rick & Pat Reass' granddaughter)
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) 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	Rocco DePrimo	

Meeting of the College of Ordained Church Officers (COCO)

All members of our congregation who are ordained church officers—whether ordained as an elder or deacon here, or in any Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation—are invited to join us for supper on Sunday, January 24, 5:30 p.m. in McLeod Hall. We hope this gathering will help us celebrate the ministry that we share as ordained leaders in Christ's church.

We are planning an evening of fine food and Christian fellowship as we all get to know other ordained church leaders. Our agenda will include celebrating our newly ordained officers—those ordained and installed at the worship services January 10—sharing stories of our own ordination and a glimpse into the ministry we share at First Presbyterian Church. We will adjourn the COCO gathering by 7:00 p.m.

COCO Reservations

Please help us prepare accordingly by making a reservation to attend by calling the church office @ 294-3121 Thanks!

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

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 *Daniel in the Lions' Den* 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* by Marcus Borg. Dr. Jim Threlkel and Mr. Glenn Thomas facilitate this class. Please 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. This class will focus on finding intimacy with God in our busyness of life, January 10—February 28. Books will be available for purchase. This class meets in CE 207.

A Generous Orthodoxy study group will resume Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mary Spencer Reference Library. We will cover chapters 5, 6, and 7.

First Presbyterian's Annual Shrove Tuesday Celebration will be held on Tuesday evening, February 16.

Prayer Shawl Knitters, sponsored by Presbyterian Women, meet Monday, January 25 at 10:30 a.m. in McLeod Hall. Please bring names of prospective shawl recipients who might receive comfort from these gifts of love and busy fingers. (Recipients need not be members of this congregation)

The Session has called for the annual congregational meeting Sunday, January 31 at 10:55 a.m. in the sanctuary. The business will include annual review of the pastors' terms of call and a proposed change in the date of election of officers.

Youth Schedule

January 24	HSYG	5:30—7:30 p.m.	Student Center (Service Project for Prime Timers)
January 27	MSYG	5:30—7:30 p.m.	Student Center
January 31	HSYG	5:30—7:30 p.m.	Talent Show (McLeod Hall)
January 31	MSYG	5:30—7:30 p.m.	Talent Show (McLeod Hall)
February 3	MSYG	5:30—7:30 p.m.	Student Center
February 7	HSYG	2:00—4:00 p.m.	Souper Bowl of Caring

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

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 01/23/2010

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Are You Ready For Some Football?

On Sunday February 7, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop your donation in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 7. Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. And our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Later that day, from 2-4 p.m., we will celebrate with the annual adults vs. youth flag football game at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Please contact Josh Peters with any questions at 294-3121 or jpeters@firstpreswh.org.



Come and see what God is doing

through our Saturday Soup Kitchen Ministry

Jesus, in chapter 25 of Matthew's gospel (Matthew 25:31-46), gives the church a part of its mission statement as he tells the parable of the sheep and the goats. "I was hungry," the Lord says in this parable, "and you gave me something to eat." Those instructions from our Lord to His disciples formed the basis for our church's Saturday Soup Kitchen.

Over five years ago— our congregation realized that where The Mission and Salvation Army provided a hot meal to the needy in Winter Haven Monday through Friday, and First Church of the Nazarene held a breakfast each Sunday morning for the homeless in our area, there was no place in our town where people could find a meal on Saturday. Since that time, we have hosted the hungry in Winter Haven to a delicious hot meal each Saturday evening (4p.m.-5p.m.). This weekly "gift of food to the least of these" is now averaging over one hundred diners each and every Saturday. And God is blessing this work.



A portion of every tithe and offering to our church is placed in the Deacon's Fund. The Deacons allocate some of these resources to purchase the food for the Saturday Meals. Our church also uses one third of the Three Cents a Meal Hunger Offering (the local penny) to help fund our Saturday Soup Kitchen and our Bag Lunch Ministry.

Volunteers form the heart of this ministry. Over the past year, well over 100 different members of our congregation have met at 2 p.m. in the main church kitchen to prepare the various Saturday Meals. Our Middle School and High School Youth and their families staff the Saturday Soup Kitchen every six weeks.



Groups from other local churches have also cooked and served here on Saturdays. This fall, Grace Lutheran Church named our Saturday Soup Kitchen as one local recipient of funds from their Chili Supper Fundraiser. They have recently presented the First Pres. Saturday Soup Kitchen with a check in the amount of \$1200 for the purchase of food for five Saturdays! And Grace Lutheran volunteers staffed the Soup Kitchen this past Saturday.

In addition, Our Christian friends from Beymer Memorial United Methodist, First Presbyterian Haines City, and St. John's United Methodist have also brought food, funds, and labor to keep this outreach of love active.

As a part of an Eagle Scout Project by church member Bo Snivley, the boys in Boy Scout Troop 121 provide hygiene kits which are distributed weekly to our soup kitchen guests. And during the recent cold spell, volunteers on several Saturdays gave away hundreds of jackets, caps, and blankets to those who were leaving after a hot meal to spend the night on the streets.

If you feel that God is calling you to "feed the hungry", you are welcome to sign up in McLeod Hall on the Deacon's bulletin board. Come and share your talents in the Saturday Soup Kitchen.