

Tower Chimes

*First Presbyterian Church
Of Winter Haven*



On Wednesday, April 28 and Sunday, May 2, our youth groups will be working in conjunction with Papa John's Pizza to raise money to help fund our youth ministry programs. On these two specific dates, Papa John's will be donating a portion of their sales to support our youth groups. Here is how it works: The Papa John's located on Cypress Gardens Blvd (near Publix & Bank of America) will donate 20% of the sale from anyone who places an order on April 28 or May 2 and mentions First Presbyterian Church. Orders can be made all day on the 28th and all day on the 2nd and it does not make any difference whether they are carry out or delivery, as long as First Pres is mentioned. The youth group members will be distributing coupons for \$3 off any order to be used on these days. Please feel free to ask our youth for a coupon when you see them. Also, a coupon will be mailed along with the Tower Chimes later in the month. If you would like more coupons for your place of employment or any other organization or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Director of Student Ministries Josh Peters, (863) 294-3121 or jpeters@firstpreswh.org. Every penny raised will help support our youth ministry by providing a safe place and program for youth to live out their faith. Thank you for all that you do to support the youth ministry and if you enjoy pizza, then we hope you'll join us for our pizza nights!



**THIS PAPA BUCK IS A \$3 OFF COUPON VALID TOWARDS PIZZA AT REGULAR MENU PRICE
PROCEEDS FROM THIS FUNDRAISER ON April 28th ARE DONATED TO First Presbyterian Church**

ing Money for projects isn't easy. That's why the Team Members of Papa John's Pizza want to make a dinner date with you! When you order Papa John's Pizza on fundraiser nights, not only will you be feeding your family a hot and nutritious meal, but you will also be helping your church raise money.

When placing your order on fundraiser nights, mention that you're ordering for your church and Papa John's will donate a portion of the proceeds to your church.

Papa John's 293-7500 Web Orders are welcome at www.papajohns.com
Type your church name in the delivery remarks to credit the fundraiser!

637 6th Street N.W., Winter Haven, FL 33881-4012 Phone:(863) 294-3121
Fax:(863) 294-1105 • E-mail: office@firstpreswh.org • Web Site: www.firstpreswh.org

**Spring has Sprung at First Presbyterian Church
Sunday School Classes 2010**

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 *The Triumphal Entry* during the 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 started a new book on Sunday, April 11, *The Will of God* by Leslie D. Weatherhead. Tragedy befalls and leaves us confused. Life doesn't turn out as we had planned. World events bring unspeakable horrors into the lives of innocent people. The unimaginable happens and we are left asking, "Why? Why did God let this happen? Why didn't God heal my loved one? Why did God give me these desires and no way to fulfill them?" Dr. Jim Threlkel and Mr. Glenn Thomas facilitate this class. The books are available for purchase for \$6. This class meets in 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. The 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. Come join us in the Edinburgh Annex for 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 is the book study led by Lori Grode. This class will focus on finding intimacy with God in the busyness of life and meets in CE Room 207. Books are available for purchase.

Wholeness Service Sunday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.—Services of wellness as an integral part of healing have a strong biblical heritage within the full life of the church and the local church. Anointing and the laying on of hands are acts closely related to the covenant of faithful love between God and Israel; between God and The Church. In scripture, monarchs are anointed, prophets commissioned, the Holy Spirit conferred, the sick healed, and the dead raised in acts of faith accompanied by anointing with oil, the laying on of hands, or touch in another form. The symbolism of touch is seen by the laying on of hands at confirmation and ordination in the life of our church. At our wellness service we will sing several hymns, we will offer prayers, we will read scripture, we will expound upon The Word, we will experience touch in the laying on of hands. Come to this service with expectation of a renewed faith, body and spirit. Or simply come to feel close to God our Creator.

Confirmation Retreat—The seven sixth-graders in our Confirmation Class, Emily Alexander, Emily Dunson, David Lawlor, Jonathan McDowell, Casey Cheatham, Hadley Owen, and Warren Girouard have been meeting each Wednesday afternoon since February with Dr. Negley to explore the church, the Bible, and their faith. In the final stretch of their preparation for joining the church, they will be spending twenty-four hours together on their Confirmation Retreat. Please pray for them on April 23-24 as they play and pray together, write their Statements of Faith, decorate the stoles that they will wear on Confirmation Sunday, and cook and serve supper at our Saturday Soup Kitchen.

Summer Vacation Bible School – *High Seas Expedition* will be held July 11-15 from 6:15 – 8:30 p.m. for all children ages three through fifth grade graduates. Mark your calendar for this exciting week of VBS festivities! Adults don't forget we'll need your help too as station leaders and crew leaders. More information to come soon!

Calling all expectant moms through preschool age moms – We are working on creating a Mommy & Me group. If you are interested in being part of this group, please e-mail Amy Smith at asmith@firstpreswh.org or call Amy at 294-3121.

If you have a small children's picnic table that you are no longer using and would like to donate it to the church, please contact Amy Smith at 294-3121. Thank you!

Kidz Summer Escape Program registration has begun. This six week long program meets every Tuesday and Wednesday for six weeks. The program starts on June 15 through Wednesday, July 21. Children ages three through kindergarten graduates are invited to participate. A donation of \$160 is asked for at the time of registration. Please call Amy Smith if you have any questions (294-3121).

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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THANK YOU!



A BIG thank you to everyone who supported the Flamingo Fundraiser!
With your support, the youth raised \$735.00. This money will defray some of the costs of the summer trips to Montreat, NC and The Great Escape in Ocala.
Thank you for your generosity and for supporting the youth ministry of our church.

Come and See What God is Doing...

In Proclaiming the Good news on Bright Sunday!



It was the spring of 1983 that Columbia Theological Seminary's Choir was reorganized and the piece we prepared and presented for Chapel was *Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo* by Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz © 1970. Being a member of the choir, I remembered that service and after Christmas as the wheels were turning for ideas of what we might do for Bright Sunday 2010 that event came to mind. I thought it would be great for us to present this popular style cantata for our annual second Sunday of Easter celebration. It would allow us to expand the base of involvement and participation, which I recognized as being a goal for this year.

The first challenge I faced was securing the music and time was quickly passing. It was not readily available and our copies were secured from England, as the composition is an import. Larry Albright and the Chancel Choir quickly got on board and began rehearsing in February. While the music was simple, two parts; it was deceptively challenging as key and time signatures change quickly. Squire Smith was quickly recruited to play bass guitar. The Doty family agreed to become our percussionists. The musical component was coming together although there were several rehearsals ahead.

The Chancel Bells under the direction of Tom Coffman played *Hymn of Promise*, which has been a hymn for Bright Sunday worship since the celebration began twelve years ago. So, for our closing hymn we were able to sing *God of the Sparrow*, which went so well with our Biblical text. Though instrumental this year, *Hymn of Promise* was truly beautiful.

Compared to previous years, the number of participants had already increased more than forty-fold. I knew that if this cantata was to be more than just a musical presentation we needed to symbolize the animals coming into the ark. It was then that I thought of the children, but costuming was a concern. How do we make the children look like animals? Fortunately as I perused a catalog, I saw animal masks and caps. I thought they would look great and give just the right impression. By adding the children and chaperones, Amy Smith, Leah Britt and Teresa Renney, we added twenty to twenty-five more.

Recognizing that we wanted the rain simulated, I enlisted the help of Josh Peters and our Middle School and High School Youth to be our "rain makers, wind blowers, and flood dryer uppers." Emily Alexander, Will Butz, Tia Campaletti, Casey Cheatham, Callie Clinch, Madison Fellows, Courtney Gray, Jonathan McDowell, Megan McDowell, Hadley Owen, and Mele Souza filled these roles. With them the count went up by twelve.

As they have done in the past, Gene Aspy, Judy Kingham and Jane Ray prepared the crosses by covering them with fern ready to receive your contribution of flowers. Keith Ray once again distributed the butterflies to those releasing them as they went out onto the crosswalk.

The idea for the costuming came to me after viewing a video of the production. The choir, youth and children would be attired in tie dyed shirts. With Angie Arnold as Expert Tie Dyer, we tie dyed many shirts the color of the rainbow with the help of Amy Smith, Dana Parrish, Tina Groetsch, Leah Britt, Jennifer Boyce, and Aurelie Koller. I knew that we needed a prop for the ark, but I knew that it needed to be of the minimalist style. I designed an ark using PVC pipes, wood, foam board and fabric with consultation from and/or construction of Mary Ellen Porter, Douglas Harvey and Sam Bryant. The floodwater was a blue fluid fabric with seafoam tulle pulled together by Mary Ellen Porter. Wanting a rainbow to pop up, I secured a large rainbow helium filled balloon, which was set into the sky from behind the ark's roof by releasing a clothes' pin holding the ribbon. Peggy Davis and Sam Bryant assisted with decorating the sanctuary after Steve Negley, Sam Bryant and I removed or rearranged the furniture in the chancel area.



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Peggy Davis assembled and filled the 450 "Noah's Ark" favor boxes and filled them with the "40 Days at Sea" rations (animal crackers, goldfish crackers, gummy fruit, pretzels and teddy grahams). She also provided the beautiful butterfly cookies on the reception table. I mixed the Noah's Ark Flood Water Punch. Lynn Baker, Peggy and Larry Davis, Barbara Crowder, Sam Bryant and Clara Nell Dantzler prepared for and presided at the reception.

The beautiful arrangement of flowers on the chancel was given by Cheryl and Howard Beckert in memory of loved ones. She graciously offered to provide flowers that would fit in with the theme for the day. I designed the rainbow arrangement and the florist transformed my design on paper into a colorful striking display.

Bright Sunday Bulletin Covers were submitted by: Madison Britt, Adam Frost, Eric Grode, Robert Grode, Dillon Powell, Jackson Parrish, and Claire Young, with the winning entries being drawn by: Kaylie Arnold, Tatum Threadgill, Cameron Badnell and Madison Grode. This year their designs were reproduced in full color. Michelle Morgan, Nancy Shaw, and Marie Williams prepared the bulletins. Squire Smith has been a great audio and video engineer. Sam Bryant helped with the setup.

I believe that we achieved the goal of involving more people in Bright Sunday this year so that this church can really claim it as our own. I am grateful to the Worship and Music Committee for their encouragement and support. I also thank all who invested their time and talents in this service and for all who came and were inspired as we worshiped God. Your financial gifts to the church and your support make Bright Sunday happen. Thanks again to one and all and I hope I have not left anyone out!

Blessings+

Alan

