



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of November 22, 2015

Issue 562

129 Years of Ministry

Dr. Steven R. Negley
Senior Pastor

Dr. C. Alan Harvey
Associate Pastor

Dr. Raymond M. Larson
Minister of Visitation

Dr. James G. Manor
Parish Associate

Amy L. McKee
Director of
Christian Education

Dana H. Parrish
Director of
Student Ministries

Lynn M. McCoy
Director of
Music Ministries

Ronda A. Lacy
Director of Finance &
Administration

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative Assistant

Rose Flynn
Office Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant
Director of Maintenance

Ann M. Quessenberry
Custodian



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We will be putting the Christmas trees up in the Sanctuary on **November 22nd at 2:00 p.m.**

If you can join us, we would appreciate any and all help. We look forward to seeing you.

SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2015!

BE IN MCLEOD HALL AT 4 P.M.

FOR THE ST. NICHOLAS DAY JINGLE JAVA JAM!

If you remember having fun at The Madrigal Feast we did for several years, then you will love this event!

Round tables will fill the decorated McLeod Hall and you will be treated to a wonderful dessert and coffee or hot cocoa and cookies for the young ones. Children, youth and adults will present a musical program featuring choral, bell and other instrumental selections of sacred and secular songs of the season. Everyone can participate as we join together to sing the popular and much requested *“Twelve Days of Christmas.”*



Donations will be gladly accepted to defray the cost. Reservations are needed to accommodate food and seating, please complete the tear off form and place it in the offering plate or call the church office at 294-3121. Nursery services will be provided if needed. We look forward to seeing you for this special holiday event. Thank you!

Jingle Java Jam Reservation

I/We have saved the date, now please save me/us a seat.

Name: _____

of Adult(s): _____ #of Child(ren): _____

Check here if nursery services will be needed: _____

How many children?: _____



Church calendar

Sunday, November 22

8:50 a.m. Gathering Worship
 9:45 a.m. OJ Fellowship (MH)
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School-Children & Youth
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School-Adult
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 2:00 p.m. Christmas Trees Go Up (Sanctuary)
 4:30 p.m. Youth Group Music Rehearsal (GS)
 5:30 p.m. HSYG (GC)

Monday, November 23

8:45 a.m. MOM
 10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl (MH)

Tuesday, November 24

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

Wednesday, November 25

Thursday, November 26

THANKSGIVING
 Office Closed

Friday, November 27

Office Closed

Saturday, November 28

2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)

2016 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



“Toyland’ – Remembering Favorite Childhood Toys Received at Christmas” was the theme approved by the Session for the 2016 Advent Devotional, which we hope will extend to Epiphany (January 6, 2016).

What was your favorite childhood toy received at Christmas? Raggedy Ann and Andy Dolls? A bicycle? CandyLand, Clue, Life, Monopoly or Operation games? An Easy Bake Oven? A Tickle Me Elmo? A GI Joe? A baseball and glove or a football? Barbie and Ken dolls? In two or three paragraphs tell us about your favorite childhood toy received at Christmas, who brought it or gave it to you, your excitement, etc. Then as in previous years, we will add scripture and a brief prayer.

If you are willing to write for this devotional, then please sign up in the narthex. While there be sure and pick up your copy of the 2015 Advent Devotional, *The Story of the Nativity and the Stories of Our Nativities.*



Remember in Prayer

members

Roger Able	Doris Hill	Ann Reddout
Win Betrus	Camille Howe	Earle Roberts
Millie Carrier	Jim Huff	Dave Ryan
Orrin & Helen Champlain	Dorothy Johnson	Dorothy Ryan
Norma Conner	Joey Johnston	Barbara A. Smith
Jerry Dugger	Dena Lancashire	Barbara H. Smith
Mary Dukes	Steve Luxford	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Jana & Mike Easterling	Gladys Meier	Chuck Tate
Bob Endres	Lynnis Mincey	Carolyn Thompson
Jeanne Estes	Jim Morris	Ed Threadgill
Bill & Becky Everhart	Joan Murphy	Shirley Turner
Marge Goodman	Randal Palmer	Gwen Waters
Frances Heath	Barbara Puckett	Lee Wilkinson

Family and friends

Jerry Cooley	Susan Singleton's friend
Jim Daniels & family	Jonathan Owen's friends
Al Ellis	Jim Threlkel's friend
Families in distress	
Raymond Fenstermaker	Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson
Jean Hehn	Ellie Threlkel's friend
Vicki Kaufman	Amy Speer's mother
Pete Kent	Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
Nan Mason	Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter
Letti Lane North	Jean Strang's sister
David Richardson	Ellie & Jim Threlkel friend
Anthony Shepherd	Saturday Nite Live friend
Jimmy & Amanda Sites	Lynn Oakley's friends
Chet Spires	Saturday Nite Live friend
Rick Tyler	Rick & Pat Reass' friend
Marshall Wood	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend



Robert Ferguson
 Stephanie Gillie
 Eddie Gray
 David Knowles
 Drew Stapor

COME TO THE STABLE and BETHLEHEM SQUARE

ONLY 3 WEEKS UNTIL DECEMBER 12 AND COUNTING DOWN.



There are still roles to be filled, food to be bought, the nativity scene to be setup, and McLeod Hall to be made into Bethlehem Square.

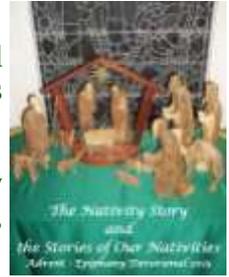
CHECK THE BOARDS IN THE NARTHEX TO SEE IF THERE SOMETHING THERE YOU CAN DO AND PLEASE, SIGNUP.

THANK YOU!

THE NATIVITY STORY AND THE STORIES OF OUR NATIVITIES

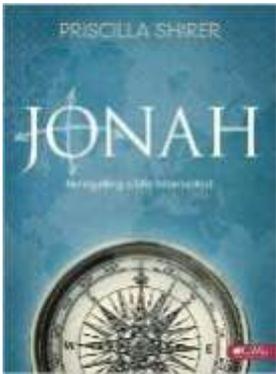
Advent through Epiphany 2015 Devotional booklets are available **NOW**. The devotions will also be available on our website and Facebook page as well as through daily e-mails beginning November 29, 2015.

If you would like to be added to the daily staff e-mail devotions and Advent/Epiphany devotions go to our website at <http://www.firstpreswh.org/resources/e-mail-subscriptions>, click on "Sign up for The Devotional" fill in your email information.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted by Priscilla Shirer



What do we do when God interrupts our lives? Many times, like Jonah, we run! In this 7-session Bible study, Priscilla redefines interruption and shows that interruption is actually God's invitation to do something beyond our wildest dreams. When Jonah was willing to allow God to interrupt his life, the result was revival in an entire city. The cost of this book is \$12.77.

Meeting dates are:

Thursdays, 9 - 11 a.m. December 3, January 7 & 21.

Contact Lia Gray to reserve your study booklet at:
Unepair@gmail.com or 318-1541.

COME TO THE WATERS...

the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2015-2016, will be a rich exploration of water stories in both testaments. "Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the scriptures on water nourish our souls." Join one of the Circles for interesting lessons and Christian fellowship.



Lydia Circle is the **second Monday of the month. The December 14 meeting will meet at 11:00 a.m.** at the home of Nancy Brooks. If you wish to ride the bus, meet at the church at **10:30 a.m.** This will be our annual potluck Christmas luncheon and lesson four (4) of our Bible study.

Joy Circle is the **third Tuesday; next meeting, December 15 at 9:30 a.m.** at Carol Carter's.

IT IS THAT TIME ~ POINSETTIA ORDER FOR 2015

Poinsettias are a yearly tradition to decorate the church on Christmas, "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one or friend. This year the poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on **December 20**.

Please fill out the order form below. The cost per plant is **\$11** and checks, marked "poinsettia fund", should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Place the order form and check in the offering plate, mail it, or take it to the church office by **Monday, December 14**.

A complete listing will be available
Sunday, December 20.

IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Donor(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia after the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

_____ I would like my poinsettia delivered to a shut-in.

Number of plants ordered: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



PRIMETIMERS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON RESERVATION

We will collect the money the day of the luncheon.

Name: _____ Number attending: _____

PRIMETIMERS

Mark your calendars for the Primetimers Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 16, 11:30 a.m. in McLeod Hall

The program staff and pastors will be preparing and serving a lunch (\$8.00) which will include: Chicken in Cream, Green Beans, Rolls, and Holiday Desserts. There will be food, fellowship, and a Christmas Carol Sing-Along. Please contact the church office at 294-3121, e-mail, office@firstpreswh.org or fill out the form below.



NEW PICTORIALS ARE COMING!

We will start scheduling portrait sittings next **Sunday, November 22** in the narthex. Watch for detailed information coming next week.

Sitting dates: December 28 & 29, and January 14, 15, & 16.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Ed & Judy Partridge
200 Island Way
Winter Haven, FL
33884-3608
863-324-3792



JoBee Hazlett
775 Ilakee Ave.
Lake Alfred, FL
33850-3219
863-956-2715

FALL 2015 SUNDAY SCHOOL

FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, (9:45 A.M.) & ADULTS (10 A.M.)

A Nursery is available for children 2 and younger during the 8:50 Gathering, Sunday School hour, and 11 a.m. worship service.

Children ages three through fifth grade will meet in the new children's music room, Room 103 of the Education Building from **9:45 - 10 a.m.** with Ms. Lynn.

Preschool Children will meet in Room 108 for a morning of crafts, snacks, Bible stories, and playtime with their preschool friends.

Elementary aged children will enjoy the Workshop Rotation this Fall with Science, Movies, Art, Cooking, Storytelling, Games, and Library time!!



Middle school and High school youth meet every Sunday morning in The Golden Center for Sunday School from **9:45 - 10:45 a.m.** During this time we meet and have fun and eat good food while learning about and growing in our faith in Christ. Come join us.



WE HAVE SEVERAL OPTIONS FOR ADULTS TO ENJOY THIS FALL

Please join **Lia & Jay Gray** as they facilitate Andy Stanley's series titled, *Staying In Love*. This class will meet in Room 207 of the CE building from **November 1 – November 22**. Please join us for one Sunday or all four Sundays. We all know what's required to fall in love. A pulse. Falling in love is easy. But staying there? That's something else entirely. Come connect and engage with us during this lively discussion on marriage.



The Perspectives Class will start a new series on the book—*What Does the Lord Require? Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly*, by James C. Howell. This class is facilitated by Dr. Jim Threlkel & Glenn Thomas and meets in the Geneva Room.

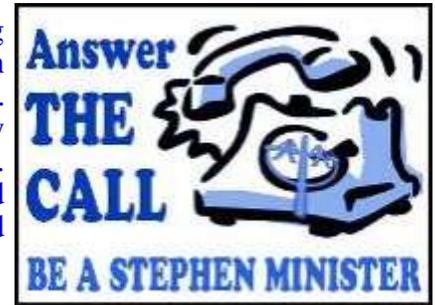
Dr. Negley will lead **Faith as a Verb** - Chapter 11 of the Biblical book of Hebrews shows snapshot after snapshot of faith in action. Join us as we use this one chapter, and the rich list of heroes and heroines of our faith, as our starting point for weekly conversations about how we live faithful lives as God's people. This class meets in the back of McLeod Hall.



Starting on **Sunday, November 29**, take a journey with us on the road to Bethlehem as we follow **Adam Hamilton's The Journey** curriculum during the 4 Sundays of Advent. Amy McKee will lead this video/discussion class which will meet in Room 207 of the Education building. Join us for one Sunday or all four, come as often as you are able.

GET TOGETHER WITH OUR STEPHEN MINISTRY TEAM

Some activities are better done alone, like brushing your teeth or playing solitaire. Some activities are better and more satisfying when you work with others. Stephen Ministry is one of those get-it-done-together ministries. Stephen Ministers meet regularly with another person to provide care. They also meet with other Stephen Ministers to support and encourage one another. Stephen Leaders provide training and supervision. When Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers work together, God accomplishes wonderful things! Is God calling you to get together with this team? Details coming soon.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

At **8:50 a.m.**, members and friends of First Presbyterian Church are invited to attend The Gathering. This service is held in the sanctuary. The piano is the primary instrument for leading in congregational music with a variety of instruments adding special touches from week to week. The prayers in worship and the flow of the service help the congregation gather in God's love. The Gathering ordinarily lasts 50 minutes and will conclude with the Benediction at 9:40 a.m.



At **11:00 a.m.**, you are invited to attend our later morning worship. This service is held in the sanctuary with music and responses regularly led by our chancel choir and accompanied by organ and piano. In the tradition of our church, cultivated over the last few decades, a full liturgy gives the congregation opportunities for spiritual enrichment and the sense of God's love and grace. This worship service ordinarily lasts one hour and concludes with the Benediction at 12:00 p.m.

We hope you will join us in worship, study, and fellowship!

YOUTH GROUP MEALS



Each week when we meet for Wednesday night middle school youth and Sunday night high school youth group we share a meal. It is an essential part of our ministry here at First Pres. Jesus dined with many and it is a time to break bread and share fellowship. Sometimes the best conversations begin around the table.



If you are interested in preparing a meal in the new Golden Center kitchen for our youth or are interested in donating to our youth fund to help purchase these meals please contact Dana at dparrish@firstpreswh.org or call the office at 863-294-3121.



If you are a middle or high school student we would love for you to join us for youth group each week in our new and improved youth house, The Golden Center. **Middle School Youth Group** meets each Wednesday night from 5:30-7:30 and **High School Youth Group** meets each Sunday night from 5:30-7:30. During this time we spend time together sharing meals, growing in Christ, playing games, and having LOTS of fun!

Once a month we will meet outside the Golden Center to be the hands and feet of Jesus to help people in our community. We have laid sod for Habitat for Humanity, worked in our soup kitchen feeding the homeless, and bagged countless bag lunches for our bag lunch ministry. These are just a few ways we are the hands and feet of Jesus.

Sometimes we get together simply to have fun. We have been to the corn maze in the dark, Fun Spot, pool parties, camp outs, paint balling and so much more. If you are looking to connect with young people your age while developing a deep relationship with Christ come and join us. We would love to have you!

First Presbyterian Church
637 6th Street, NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881
863-294-3121
FAX 863-294-1105
www.firstpreswh.org
office@firstpreswh.org

Our Purpose Statement

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 11/20/15.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 264 bag lunches the week of 11/9/15.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 102 people on 11/14/15.

YOUTH TOY DRIVE

Our middle and high school youth are sponsoring a toy drive through the Salvation Army and Beth-el for Christmas. We know that a big part, maybe the biggest part, of being a follower of Jesus Christ is being His hands and feet here on earth. This is one small way that we can love God's people. Please join with us in collecting toys for children for Christmas.

The youth will have bins in Mcleod Hall to collect any toys you would like to donate. If you would like to help us collect these toys please be sure that they are new toys of any age group. We are stressing all age groups not wanting to focus on one age over another. We will be collecting these toys through Friday, December 11. The church office closes at 2:00 on Friday so we will be collecting until 2:00 that day.



Thank you for supporting our youth and helping us be the Hands and Feet of Jesus.