



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of December 21 & 28, 2014

Issue 524

128 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
Interim Director of
Student Ministries

Cheryce D. Harris
Interim Director of Choir

Lynn McCoy
Interim Organist

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Our Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services of
Lessons and Carols will be held
December 24, at 5 p.m.
(child/family friendly interactive)
and 9 p.m. in the sanctuary.



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Our Christmas Eve offering will be directed
toward medical missions around the globe.

The money collected at the two candlelight
services on December 24 will be divided
between 3 mobile medical clinics
sponsored by the Medical
Benevolence Foundation in Haiti,
Africa, and Asia, and
the Pena de Horeb Clinic operated
by Dr. Moreno in Honduras.



Church calendar

Sunday, December 21 4th Sunday of Advent 3 Cents-A-Meal

8:50 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. OJ Fellowship (MH)
9:45 a.m. Sunday School-Children & Youth
10:00 a.m. Sunday School-Adults
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:30 p.m. HSYG (SC)

Monday, December 22

8:45 a.m. MOM
10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl (MH)
1:30 p.m. Friendship Callers (MCR)

Tuesday, December 23

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

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 25 Christmas

1:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep
3:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen

Friday, December 26

9:00 a.m. Deliver Poissetias

Saturday, December 27

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



Sunday, December 28

8:50 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday After Christmas Breakfast (MH)
11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, December 29

Tuesday, December 30

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

Wednesday, December 31

Thursday, January 1 New Year's Day Office Closed

Friday, January 2

Saturday, January 3

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

Remember in Prayer

members

Maggie Beeland	Frances Heath	Al & Marjorie Porter
Win Betrus	Doris Hill	Barbara Puckett
R. Otis Bice, Jr.	Ranell Hillman	Liz Purnell
Guy Bostick	Ed Houston	Barbara Roberts
Lois Burrell	Camille Howe	Earle Roberts
Millie Carrier	Dorothy Johnson	Mary Ellen Rowker
Bob Carter	Toni Krieger	Dave Ryan
George & Sylvia Chambers	Dena Lancashire	Dorothy Ryan
Helen Champlain	Elaine Maltese	Martha Seney
Norma Conner	Rita Marcacci	Dean Shull
Don Dinger	Dick McCauley	Barbara A. Smith
Jerry Dugger	Matt McGaffigan	Carolyn Thompson
Jana Easterling	Gladys Meier	Ed Threadgill
Jeanne Estes	Heidi Van Allen-Munoz	Shirley Turner
Bill Everhart	Joan Murphy	Mike Vibral
Kathy Girouard	Nancy Neale	Betty von Hahmann
Marge Goodman	Joe Oriani	Anne Windham
Pete & Jean Harman	Dee Palmore	Penny Zwicker

Family and friends

Kerbi Blake	Al & Marjorie Porter's daughter
Stephanie Blanchard	John & Barbara Puckett's friend
Bob Cameron	Larry & Candy Marshall's friend
David Curtiss	Meredith Curtiss' stepson
Blake Danials	Jonathan Owen's friend
Debbie Donley	Marty Bentley's friend
Al Ellis	Jim Threlkel's friend
Raymond Fenstermaker	Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson
Harper Hassett	Marty & Bob Bentley's granddaughter
Jean Hehn	Ellie Threlkel's friend
Abigail Ising	Rick & Pat Reass' greatniece
Linda Johnson	Gale & Gwen Waters' friend
Pete Kent	Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
Ronda Lacy	Director of Finance & Business Administration
Geoff Lewis	David & Erin Emry's friend
Brenda Marshall	Jeri Stewart & Tom Oldt's friend
Nan Mason	Harvey & Mary Ann Snivley's daughter
Blain & Cynthia Thompson-McCaleb	Carolyn Thompson's daughter
Gary McClelland	Jeri Stewart & Tom Oldt's friend
JJ Miller	Rick & Pat Reass' friend
Lettie Lane North	Jean Strang's sister
LaDonna Owen	Jonathan Owen's aunt
Andrew Porter	Al & Marjorie Porter's grandson
Cal Quessenberry	Ann Quessenberry's husband
Bob Sammaro	Marcia Keplinger's friend
Peggy Seigler	Ellie Threlkel's friend
Miss Tiffany	The Swangos' friend

Please help us visit our hospitalized members!

The tightening of HIPAA regulations has meant that we have missed visiting some of our members during their hospital stay. If you are a member or a friend of this congregation, or you have a family member admitted to any hospital, please call the church office and let the pastors know.

Thank you for helping us stay in touch with the congregation.

Military service

Aaron Ashley	Sean Harp
James E. Baker	Coree Jones
Ben Clark	Terry Jones, Jr.
Deborah Clark	Jackie Jung
Nathan Connor	David Knowles
Tim Davis	Timothy Lee
Zach Drum	John Marotti
Leah (Doty) Fuscina	Kaitlin Marotti
Eddie Gray	Adam McPhail
Beau Gresham	Andrew Stapor
Chris Hagen	Keaton Thompson
Daniel Harp	Jacob van Zandt



CHRISTMAS DAY SOUP KITCHEN

We are planning to share another wonderful Christmas Day meal for those in our area who are hungry. The dinner menu will include: turkey and gravy, ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, corn, cranberry sauce, bread, pie, cake, and Christmas cookies. From 1:30–3:15 p.m. we will be cooking side dishes, carving meat, cutting bread and desserts in the main church kitchen, and setting up the 737 building and tables for the meal. We will serve from 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to

- Bake a ham or turkey at home, and bring it to the main kitchen by 2:30 p.m. on Christmas Day (the hams and turkeys can be picked up at the church on Sunday, December 21)
- Make a large green bean casserole, disposable baking pans can be picked up at the church on Sunday, December 21.
- Help with cooking and food and building prep. from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Day
- Help serve the Christmas meal and clean up 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. on Christmas day.

If you would like to help with any of these portions of the Christmas Day Soup Kitchen meal, please sign up in McLeod Hall and plan to join us for this wonderful Christmas tradition here at First Pres.

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT!!!



Cedarkirk A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Our All Church Retreat, *God Speaks Your Love Language*, will be held **February 7 & 8** at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center. Members and friends of First Presbyterian Church are invited to join us for both days or just one day of Bible study, fellowship, enjoying the great outdoors, and a relaxing time away.

Registration forms are located around the church or you may e-mail Amy McKee at (amckee@firstpreswh.org or call 294-3121). The registration deadline is January 20.

We are looking forward to a wonderful retreat this year!

3 CENTS-A-MEAL THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

We will collect the **3 Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering** during worship Services **THIS SUNDAY.**

This offering is divided between our Soup Kitchen/Bag Lunch Ministry, Beth-El Farm-workers Ministry, and Honduras.

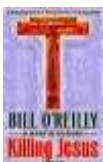


POINSETTIA DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Extend the Christmas spirit by taking poinsettias to our elderly and shut-ins. Come to the church on **Friday, December 26 after 10 a.m.** to take the plants to as many people as you would like. Need more info? Call Ray Larson @ 294-3121.

COMING IN 2015: OM, OM BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB

Plans are underway for an **Odd Month, Odd (3rd) Monday Book Discussion Club** to meet for the first time on **Monday, January 19** in the Upper Room. We will have some light refreshments and we will discuss Jan Karon's new book, *Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good*.



On **March 16** we will discuss Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard's book, *Killing Jesus*.

Currently only the afternoon session at **3:00 p.m.** is viable. Please contact Alan immediately at the church (294-3121) to express your interest and to indicate your time preference and plans to attend. Three copies of the titles are now available for checkout in the library. You may contact Jonathan Owen about ordering a personal copy.



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
From your staff at
First Presbyterian Church*



Youth Ministry

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT DATES

There will be no High School Youth Group **Sunday, December 28.**

Middle School Youth Group will be going paintballing **Saturday, January 10.**

Arrival time for this outing is to be announced.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

School is back in session, and so are our Wednesday afternoon meetings for the First Pres Middle School Youth. All young people in grades 6, 7, and 8 are invited to join us on **Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.** in the First Pres. Student Center (711 Sixth Street NW). There will be **FOOD** (supper is provided) **FELLOWSHIP** (the 737 building is open for basketball, four square, carpet ball, and general hanging out with friends) **FUN, FAITH, AND FRIENDS** (we have a great group of adults who will help you and your friends explore the Christian faith and learn more about loving and serving God.) We wrap up at 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend and be sure to attend.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

All 9th thru 12th grade young people are encouraged to join our High School Youth. The group meets on **Sunday nights, from 5:30p.m.–7:30 p.m.** in the Student Center, 711 Sixth Street NW.

WHAT WILL YOU FIND? Supper with your friends, time to catch up with your friends, some games and laughs with your friends, bible study and Christian service with your friends.

GENEROSITY SHOWS IN THE WORK OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven operates with a unified church budget, as the ministry that we conduct through all our program areas falls under a single church budget (managed by the Session), which is supported by the tithes and offerings of our members and friends. As we move into a new year (our 129th year of ministry), the Session is in the process of seeing how the generosity of our members and friends will enable and enhance our ministry.

Our ministry plans for 2015 are reflected in the proposed operating budget.

Dream Budget for 2015

Benevolences:

World Mission in Presbytery (Honduras), Synod, and General Assembly	\$	34,300
Presbytery of Tampa Bay Per Capita (Shared operating expenses)	\$	24,898
Deacon's Fund (Local Mission)	\$	24,802
Congregational Care	\$	1,000
Stephen Ministry	\$	2,000
International Mission (Strangs)	\$	<u>3,000</u>
Subtotal Benevolence	\$	90,000

Personnel:

Pastoral Staff (salaries and benefits)	\$	238,091
Program Staff (salaries and benefits)	\$	186,618
Support Staff (salaries)	\$	223,130
Nursery Staff (salaries)	\$	15,750
Worker's Comp Insurance, Employer Payroll Taxes	\$	33,600
Controlled Disbursements	\$	<u>25,211</u>
Subtotal Personnel	\$	722,400

Office/Administrative

Printing, Postage, Supplies	\$	21,100
Phones, Equipment, Misc	\$	<u>13,900</u>
Subtotal Office/Administrative	\$	35,000
Properties Buildings and Grounds	\$	27,000
Utilities	\$	37,000
Insurance	\$	81,000
Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance/Other	\$	<u>12,000</u>
Subtotal Properties	\$	157,000

Dream Budget for 2015, continued

Program Committees	
Christian Education	\$ 5,900
Youth Ministry	\$ 7,000
Worship and Music	\$ 6,000
Other Committees	\$ 17,840
Subtotal Committees	\$ <u>36,740</u>

Total needed to fully fund First Presbyterian Church's ministry in 2015: \$ 1,041,140

We hope that generosity will show in our combined giving toward our 2015 operating budget. Please let the Session know of your plans for generous giving by returning the "estimate of generosity" card that was mailed to you, or that you will find in the pew on Sunday. Thanks for helping us show God's love in all that we do as a church of Jesus Christ.



As we move into 2015, our generosity will show in ministry as each of us takes part in walking as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
Thanks for helping us show God's love in all that we do.

January

B irthdays

1/1	Orrin Champlain Jim Francis Adam Frost Kathy Girouard Caitlin Seney	1/9	Loretta Traviss 1/10	Rob Baker Annette Chilton Michael Premuto Christine Stevens Carol Switalski	1/18	Sug Zowarka 1/19	Connor Clinch Robert Grode, III Kim Salomon Taylor Thompson
1/2	Vet Ashby Joan Carruth Erin Cranmer Heather Whitney	1/11	John Adams Trey Braswell Chad Pearson Charlie Reineke Adam Snively	1/20	Sarah Jorgensen Jenny Kellet James Morris 1/21	Emma Cornejo John Reineke 1/22	Janet Paxton Martin Paxton
1/3	Allison Burke Shawn Swango	1/12	George Dunham Candy Marshall Carley Rabern	1/24	Bob Beale Samuel Garner	1/25	Kyle Bentley Dorothy Johnson
1/4	Ally Britt Meredith Curtiss Jana Easterlin	1/13	Jackie Dugger Brent Parrish Kay Weeks Phyllis White	1/26	Gloria Allen Bud Shinn Retha Wright 1/27	Callie Clinch Ava Frost Aaron Lock	
1/5	Megan Kennedy Norma Martin	1/14	Brooke Dismuke May Kimbrell Donna Sherrard	1/28	Jay Tackett Devin Thompson Gale Waters		
1/6	Philip Batista Susan Braswell Suzanne Cole Rick Dantzler Betty Shinn Betty Stephens	1/15	Katie Sparr Jessica Strang	1/29	Kathy Deloach 1/30	Bob Grode Thomas Negley	
1/7	Dianne Dougherty Mary Firment Jon Griffin Amanda Olmert Lisa Snyder	1/16	Meredith Clem Elaine Maltese	1/31	Nicholas Jax Elizabeth Purnell		
1/8	Shauna Gann Rob Helmick Nanette Rodgers Rebecca Wilson	1/17	Nicole Gainey Jackie Lawn				
1/9	Elizabeth Duce	1/18	Becky Irvin Ethelyn Line Marilyn Riggs Ed Smith Taylor Threadgill				

A nniversaries

1/1	Robert & Marilyn Sheffield	1/26	Argyle & Christine Stevens
1/5	Jay & Lia Gray	1/29	Jay & Trisha Dugger
1/21	Matt & Sharon McGaffigan	1/30	Robert & Marjorie Crittenden Scott and Becky Irvin John and Meg Strang
1/25	George & Sylvia Chambers		
1/26	Bill & Maxie Adams		

THE THEME FOR THE 2015 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL IS “THE NATIVITY STORY AND THE STORIES OF OUR NATIVITIES”

As many of you know Dr. Negley has collected a number of Nativity sets over the years. Most likely many of you have Nativity sets as well. Not all of these will contain many pieces, although some of you may own very elaborate Nativity sets. Some might just feature the Virgin Mary and Christ Child while others may be of the Holy Family. Some might include the shepherds, the Wise Men and an angel, while others might also include other people of the village of Bethlehem and animals. The Nativity scene may appear on a Christmas tree ornament or be a one piece carving, sculpture or music box. Others may have the scenes painted on a gourd or sand dollar or the scene might be woven in fabric or needlepointed on canvas. They may be quite colorful or monochromatic. They may be made of delicate china or durable felt

Like we did with favorite Christmas tree ornaments several years ago, we would like to get photographs of one of your favorite Nativities. If you have an elaborate or large Nativity set, then Alan could come to your home at your convenience to take the photograph. If you own a smaller more portable Nativity set, then we would appreciate it if you could bring the Nativity scene or set to the church office to be photographed.

We would then ask you to write a couple of paragraphs telling us about the Nativity scene or set. Information you might include:

- Was the Nativity scene or set made by a loved one or maybe you made it in Sunday school or Vacation Bible School?
- Of what material(s) is your Nativity scene or set made?
- Was it a gift to you or a family heirloom you inherited?
- How long have you owned the Nativity scene or set?
- Did you purchase this Nativity scene or set while on vacation (for example, in Africa, the Holy Land or Europe)?
- Is it a small painted plastic version (often sold in dime stores)? Was it your first Nativity and therefore dear to your heart? Inexpensive though it was, it helped you learn the story of God’s great gift of love to the world.
- Does the Nativity scene or set have a special place to be displayed in your home during the holiday?
- Do you keep the Nativity scene or set out all year long to remind you of Christmas?
- Who sets up the Nativity set and are the characters always placed in the same position?
- Do you traditionally read the story of Jesus’ birth while gathered around the Nativity set?
- Other information or stories you are willing to share as to why this particular Nativity scene or set is precious to you.

Please call Alan at the church 294-3121 to inform him of your willingness to participate. We will begin taking photographs as soon as possible after Thanksgiving. I will be happy to come out to your home and take the photograph if that is more convenient.

With the photographs and the two paragraph narrative, we will have a great start towards the 2015 Advent Devotional. We have discovered that this project succeeds by working on it almost a year in advance. As in the past, scripture verses and a prayer will be added to accompany your contributions. **Thanks!**





SUNDAY 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.

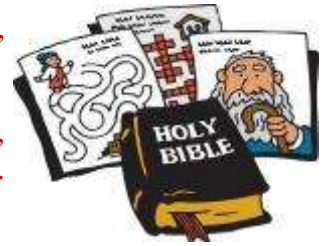
At **11:00 a.m.**, you are invited to attend our later morning worship. This service is held in the sanctuary with music and responses regularly led by our chancel choir and accompanied by organ and piano. In the tradition of our church, cultivated over the last few decades, a full liturgy gives the 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!

CONNECT With Us at Sunday School!

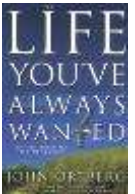
Children ages three and four gather in Room 108 for their own Sunday School time of crafts, snack, Bible lesson, and fun.

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade will rotate through Art, Science, Cooking, Storytelling, Computer, and Movies on Sunday mornings. The theme changes every 6 weeks. On October 26 they begin the Good News rotation.



The Youth of the church, those in Middle School and High School, are invited to come hang out in the Student Center from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. We have a variety of volunteers who will lead this engaging class filled with faith-building, friendship, fun, food, and great times.

Connect - Grow - Thrive meets in Room 207. The class has been studying the book, *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People* by John Ortberg. All are invited to join in this discussion filled class. Members of the class take part in leading the discussion each week.



The Perspectives Class meets in the Geneva Room and is facilitated by Dr. Jim Threlkel and Glenn Thomas. They are focusing on Martin Thielen's book, *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be A Christian?* Everyone is invited to join in this thought-provoking discussion time. Pastor and author, Martin Thielen, has compiled a list of ten things people need to believe and ten things they don't, in order to be a Christian. This lively and engaging book will be a help to seekers as well as a comfort to believers who may find themselves questioning some of the assumptions they grew up with.

Dr. Steve Negley's class meets in the back of McLeod Hall. The new topic is *Unlocking the Parables from a First Century Middle-Eastern Perspective*. Bring your bible and be prepared to explore how the stories Jesus told can speak to us today.



GOT JEANS TOO TIGHT OR TOO BIG?

Got A Sweatshirt You Don't Need or One With a Design You Don't Like?



How about considering donating these items in childrens' sizes through adults' sizes to the Soup Kitchen. **While the Soup Kitchen is primarily a feeding ministry of our church**, we do like to assist with warm clothing for the winter for our needy guests. As you are cleaning out your chest of drawers or closets and as you run across these items you wish to discard or no longer need or use, please bring them to the church and we will put them to good use.

Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church
637 6th Street, NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881
863-294-3121
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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 12/19/14.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 326 bag lunches the week of 12/8/14.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 93 people on 12/13/14

Return Service Requested

«Mailing Name»

«Address 1»

«Address 2»

«City» «State» «Zip»

AFTER CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 9:30-10:30 A.M.



On the Menu: Sausage Biscuits;
Ham, Cheese, & Egg Biscuits;
Scalloped Apples; Assorted Donuts
and Pastries; Cereal and Milk;
Juice and Coffee.

Please complete below to let us
know you are coming.

Name: _____ Adults: _____ Children: _____