



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of January 11, 2015

Issue 525

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
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

SERMON SERIES: FAITHFUL LIVING IN THE HUNDRED ACRE WOOD

Many of us, younger and older, are familiar with the fictional “Hundred Acre Wood” and its inhabitants. Just the mention of Christopher Robin, Winnie the Pooh and his stuffed furry friends brings to our minds an array of characters and some very distinctive character traits. Last Sunday, Dr. Harvey and Dr. Negley started looking at scripture through the influences of Pooh, Tigger, Eeyore, Kanga, and others in the Hundred Acre Wood to help us all consider faithful living in the place we all call home.



If you would like to share your interest and identification with these inspiring little friends, you are invited to bring your Pooh characters with you on specific Sundays.

This Sunday, January 11 , bring your Tigger with you to church.

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT!!!

The All Church Retreat is quickly approaching. The dates are **February 7 & 8** at Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center. Everyone will enjoy this time away either for one day only or both days. We will have group Bible study, fellowship, games, outdoor fun, & so much more. This is a great time for all ages.



Please let Amy McKee know by **January 20** if you plan on attending or have questions (294-3121 or amckee@firstpreswh.org).

We are looking forward to a wonderful retreat this year!

IMPORTANT DATE FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Please check your calendars for Montreat **July 19-25**.

Dana will need a firm confirmation by **January 20** to register for the trip.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JOIN US FOR FAMILY NIGHT AT CHICK-FIL-A

We will have First Pres Family Night on Friday,
January 23 from 6:30-8 p.m. at
Chick-fil-a on Cypress Gardens Blvd.

Please let Amy McKee know if you will be joining us (294-3121 or amckee@firstpreswh.org).



Church calendar

Sunday, January 11

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, January 12

8:45 a.m. MOM
 10:00 a.m. Lydia Circle (MH)
 6:30 p.m. Christian Education (GR)

Tuesday, January 13

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
 5:15 p.m. Personnel (MCR)
 7:00 p.m. Called Session (GR)

Wednesday, January 14

8:45 a.m. MOM
 12:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds (MH)
 3:00 p.m. Christ Kids
 5:30 p.m. MSYG (SC)
 6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 15

7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells

Friday, January 16

8:45 a.m. MOM

Saturday, January 17

2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)
 7:00 p.m. Saturday Nite Live (MH)

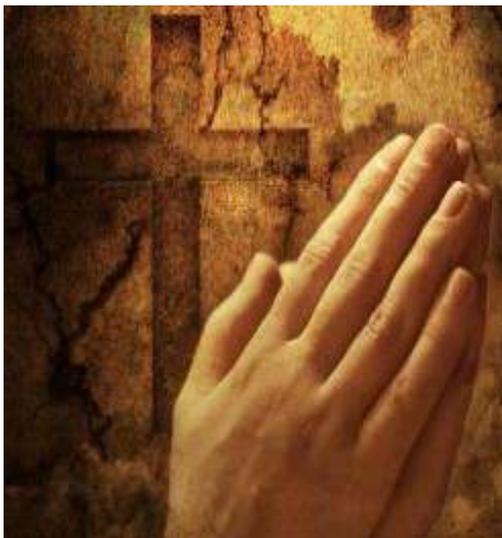
Remember in Prayer

members

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

Family and friends

Kris Sackett-Busse	Dick & Nancy Shaw's friend
Al Ellis	Jim Threlkel's friend
Cecily Faenza	Helen Champlain's niece
Raymond Fenstermaker	Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson
Donna Furtivo	Robert Donaldy's friend
Jean Hehn	Ellie Threlkel's friend
Abigail Ising	Rick & Pat Reass' greatniece
Pete Kent	Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
Ronda Lacy	Director of Finance & Business Administration
Geoff Lewis	David & Erin Emry's friend
Lynda & Rick Lewis	Jonathan Owen'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
LaDonna Owen	Jonathan Owen's aunt
Loucilla Patty	Bob Endres' mother
Cal Quessenberry	Ann Quessenberry's husband
Jake Reddout	Morris Reddout's son
Peggy Seigler	Ellie Threlkel's friend
Jackie Williams	Jeff Bowen's co-worker



Lord hear
 our prayers.



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) Fuscia	Kaitlin Marotti
Eddie Gray	Adam McPhail
Beau Gresham	Andrew Stapor
Chris Hagen	Keaton Thompson
Daniel Harp	Jacob van Zandt

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.

AND NOW THE CREDITS!

Reel Christmas: Discovering Christ or Religious Themes in Favorite Holiday Films, this year's Advent Devotional, included an introduction entitled, "Let's go to the movies!" It is interesting that once the final frame of the film is shown in theaters most people are eager to get out the doors and to be on their way. Sometimes a handful of people stay behind the movie, though, it is not yet complete and it will not be so until the credits are shown. Watching most any film and especially those of epic proportions reminds us just how many people are involved in a cinematic adventure. It is amazing how many people work to get one film to the screen (from the idea or story to the final cut of the film)!



The same can be said of what we experienced this Advent and Christmas seasons as there were so many people involved in our different projects. Though almost all of them, except taking the decorations down, are complete, the credits need to be seen. If we included names, most certainly someone would be accidentally omitted. To avoid this faux pas, we will express our sincere appreciation to all of those individuals who were involved in any aspect of the following projects: contributing to *Reel Christmas*; putting up the Christmas trees and wreaths; leading us in the Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Ritual; rehearsing and presenting us with beautiful anthems and sounds of the season; working behind the

scenes or in front of the camera for *The Christmas Scene Revisited*; decorating the sanctuary with garlands, poinsettias, and candles; working behind the scenes and on stage for *Come to the Stable and to Bethlehem Square*; serving as readers for the **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**; setting out, lighting, and extinguishing our luminaries; preparing food for and serving at the **Christmas Day Soup Kitchen**; preparing and serving the **After Christmas Breakfast**; delivering poinsettias to shut-ins; and supporting with your gifts our Christmas Eve Offering for Medical Benevolences.

While not a cast of thousands have been involved, we have surely seen the participation of hundreds! All we have done to observe and celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons could not have been done without your support ... through financial gifts and donations, through the giving of your time and talents, and through being there for one another ... for us! **Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR

The new 2015 Flower Calendar is posted.

New with this calendar is space to sign up for placing flowers in the narthex on a given Sunday, when the sanctuary flowers for your desired date have already been selected by someone else.

Never given sanctuary or narthex flowers before and wonder what to do?

Follow these simple instructions:

1. Sign your name on the calendar for the date you wish to give flowers. If the sanctuary spot has already been selected, then you can choose to have your floral arrangement in the narthex for the same date.
2. Complete this step by giving your phone number and identifying your florist.
3. If giving sanctuary flowers and you would like to use the church's brass urn, please ask Ann or Sam for the glass liner and deliver it to your florist or ask the florist to pick it up at the church.
4. Place an order for flowers from your preferred florist.
5. Call Connie at the church office (294-3121) no later than Wednesday prior to your chosen date and inform her as to how you wish for the acknowledgment of flowers to read in the bulletin.
6. Request that the florist deliver the flowers to the church by noon on Saturday and have them include a name on the arrangement so that we know by whom they are given and where they are to be placed.

Any other questions, please call Alan or Connie. **Thank you!**



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	\$	<u>90,000</u>

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	\$	<u>722,400</u>

Office/Administrative

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

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 today. You may also feel free to fill out this pledge form and return to the office. 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.**

First Presbyterian Church
Estimate of Generosity for 2015

Last Name _____ First Name(s) _____ Envelope # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

In gratitude for God’s love, I/we make the following ***estimate of generous support*** of the church, its local mission and commitment to Presbytery, synod and general assembly:
(The amount of this ***estimate*** may be increased or decreased if your circumstances change.)

\$ _____ : Per Week Per Month Per Year

I/we want contribution envelopes: Yes No

*For where your treasure is
there will your heart be also.*
Matt 6:21

Signature _____



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

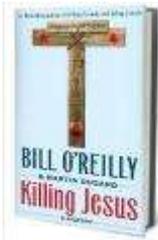


Our annual Talent Show is literally right around the corner! It will be held Sunday, **January 25 at 5:00**. If you have a special talent to share and would like to participate, please contact Dana at dparrish@firstpreswh.org or the church office at 294-3121.

Even if you don't have a talent you would like to share, we would love it if you would join us for an evening of fellowship and fun! Please call the office to make a reservation.

COMING IN 2015: OM, OM BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB

Our **Odd Month, Odd (3rd) Monday Book Discussion Club** is about to start. We will meet for the first time on **Monday, January 19** in the Upper Room at **3:00 p.m.** 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*.

Please contact Alan at the church (294-3121) to express your interest. Three copies of the titles are now available for checkout in the library. You may contact Jonathan Owen about ordering a personal copy.



SATURDAY SOUP KITCHEN HELP NEEDED



As we move into the new year, we are feeding about 100 people a week at our Saturday Soup Kitchen. This decade-old ministry continues to be a blessing to our guests who have each had their bellies filled and to the teams of volunteers who gather to cook and serve a meal in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The cooks arrive at 2:00 p.m. to cook and prepare the building, and then serve from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Head cooks are needed for **January 17 & 31**. Helpers are welcome each week.

Please contact the church office at 294-3121 or sign up on the board in McLeod Hall if you are willing to help.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

It is that time of year when we begin collecting soup cans for our Souper Bowl of Caring. The Souper Bowl of Caring helps our youth and that of youth across the country form a strong connection to their communities and be the hands and feet of Christ by helping their neighbors in need.

We will be collecting soup cans until Super Bowl Sunday, **February 1**. On this day our youth will play their very own "Souper Bowl" against the "Geezers". You can bring the soup cans to church with you Sunday or Mon-Thursday 8:00-5:00 and Friday 8:00-2:00 throughout the month of January and drop them off in McLeod Hall. There will be a box marked Souper Bowl of Caring. Just drop them in the box and Dana will take care of the rest. Each year November and December are high traffic months for soup kitchens around the country with February being the next highest month. What a great way to kick off the new year, helping others. Please prayerfully consider donating to this amazing cause. God calls us to be his hands and feet here on earth in many different forms. This is one simple way we can do our part to further God's kingdom.



And don't forget the "youth vs geezers" flag football game at **2:00 p.m. on February 1** at the Polk State College soccer fields.

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!

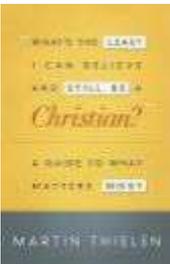
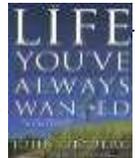
Children ages three and four gather in Room 108 for their own Sunday School time of crafts, snack, Bible lesson, and fun.

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.



Need a ride to church?



IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR THOSE NEEDING A RIDE TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS!

For anyone seeking a ride using our angel van service on Sundays, please call the church office at 294-3121 on

Friday by 12 p.m. to make those arrangements.

It is necessary to call each week you need a ride.

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 1/9/15.

Non-profit Org.
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Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 304 bag lunches the week of 12/29/14.

We gave out a total of 1316 bag lunches in December.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 90 people on 12/3/14.

We fed at total of 425 people in December.

CALLING ALL PRIMETIMERS.

(Members and friends of our church who are in the 55 and up age group.)

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our next luncheon:

Monday, January 26, 2015, 11:30 am – 1:00 p.m.

Meet in McLeod hall for fellowship, food, and a wonderful program.

Please call Carol Switalski at 845-5416 or the church office at 294-3121 to reserve your seat at the table.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



What good is your Faith? James forces us to face the implications of faith. Be inspired to put your faith into action in practical ways as you get to know both the man and the Book of James. Join Beth Moore as she explores such concepts as joy, hardship, faith, wisdom, single-mindedness, the tongue, humility, prayer, and more.

This interactive study features seven sessions of personal, daily assignments and eight group sessions with video. There are multiple levels of participation available. The dates for this study are **January 22, February 5 and 19, March 5 and 19, April 2, 16, and 30 at 9 - 11 a.m.**

For more information and to request a workbook,
please email Lia Gray at uncpair@gmail.com or call her at 863.318.1541