



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of February 22, 2015

Issue 531

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

Cheryce D. Harris
Interim Choir Director

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

THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.



Ash Wednesday was the official start of the season of Lent (a forty day period of self-examination as Christians move with Jesus toward the cross and Easter.) We will mark the First Sunday of Lent on Sunday, February 22, by celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at both the 8:50 a.m. Gathering, and the 11:00 a.m. Later Morning Worship Service. Prepare yourself to come to Christ's Table as a first step in this year's Lenten journey.

During the season of Lent, Dr. Negley and Dr. Harvey will be preaching through the Gospel According to John. As the weeks unfold, we will focus on Jesus as the object of our faith (John 1:19-4:54); witness Christ's conflict with unbelievers (John, chapters 5-12); enjoy Jesus' fellowship with his followers (John, chapters 13-17); and remember His death, resurrection, and events which followed (John, chapters 18-21). Bring your Bible, and join us each week in worship as we experience again the life-changing power of Christ's presence.



TOWER CHIMES DELIVERY CHANGES

Those of you receiving the Tower Chimes by mail have probably noticed it being delivered later than normal, usually the Monday or Tuesday after the issue date. It now takes the Postal Service longer to process our mail which, in turn, takes longer getting to you. Starting with this issue, we are adjusting the Tower Chimes mailing date so that we may get it to you by the issue date. This will be a trail and error period, so your patience is appreciated.

This is also a great time to remind you that if you receive the Tower Chimes by e-mail, you will get it sooner and save the church money. Please send your e-mail address to office@firstpreswh.org.



SNAIL MAIL

Church calendar

Sunday, February 22

1st Sunday in Lent

Communion

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, February 23

9:00 a.m. Mom
10:00 a.m. 10-2 Lunch Bunch
10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl (MH)
1:30 a.m. Friendship Callers (MCR)

Tuesday, February 24

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
5:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Leaders (MH)
6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers (MH)

Wednesday, February 25

8:45 a.m. MOM
3:00 p.m. Christ Kids
5:15 p.m. Confirmation (SC)
5:30 p.m. MSYG (SC)
5:30 p.m. Community Outreach (MCR)
6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 26

7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells

Friday, February 27

8:45 a.m. MOM

Saturday, February 28

7:30 a.m. Stated Presbytery Mtg (Clearwater)
12:00 p.m. HSYG Strawberry Festival/Concert
2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)



Our Christian sympathy goes to Tom Berrell & Rossanne Gorsky Upon the death of their sister/niece, Diane Berrell Borders, who died on January 23, 2015.



Remember in Prayer

members

Win Betrus
R. Otis Bice, Jr.
Guy Bostick
Lois Burrell
Millie Carrier
George & Sylvia Chambers
Helen Champlain
Norma Conner
Don Dinger
Jerry Dugger
Jana Easterling
Jeanne Estes
Bill Everhart
Kathy Girouard
Marge Goodman
Pete & Jean Harman
Frances Heath
Doris Hill

Ed Houston
Camille Howe
Dorothy Johnson
Toni Krieger
Dena Lancashire
Steve Luxford
Elaine Maltese
Rita Marcacci
Anne McCauley
Bob McClew
Gladys Meier
Heidi Van Allen-Munoz
Joan Murphy
Nancy Neale
Joe Oriani
Dee Palmore
Al & Marjorie Porter
Liz Purnell

Earle Roberts
Mary Ellen Rowker
Dave Ryan
Dorothy Ryan
Helene Schulz
Martha Seney
Dean Shull
Barbara A. Smith
Barbara Sweeney
Carolyn Thompson
Ed Threadgill
Penn Tucker
Shirley Turner
Mike Vibral
Anne Windham
Penny Zwicker

In the hospital: Betty von Hahmann

Family and friends

Kris Sackett-Busse
Margaret Carswell
Marilyn Dorsey
Al Ellis
Cecily Faenza
Raymond Fenstermaker
Jean Hehn
Abigail Ising
Pete Kent
Geoff Lewis
Lynda & Rick Lewis
Nan Mason
Sharon Massey
Lynnis Mincey
Blain & Cynthia Thompson-McCaleb
Leslie O'Neal
LaDonna Owen
Loucilla Patty
Cal Quessenberry
Cash Schaeffer
Peggy Seigler
Neil Spector
Jackie Williams
Richard & Jocelyn Wilson

Dick & Nancy Shaw's friend
John & Barbara Puckett's friend
Carol Carter's sister
Jim Threlkel's friend
Helen Champlain's niece
Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson
Ellie Threlkel's friend
Rick & Pat Reass' great-niece
Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
David & Erin Emry's friend
Jonathan Owen's friends
Harvey & Mary Ann Snivley's daughter
Marile Weeks' friend
Judy Winfree's friend
Carolyn Thompson's daughter
Les & Alison O'Neal's niece
Jonathan Owen's aunt
Bob Endres' mother
Ann Quessenberry's husband
Zan Dismuke's grandson
Ellie Threlkel's friend
Tom Oldt & Jeri Stewart's friend
Jeff Bowen's friend
Nell Speer's brother



Military service

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

10 TO 2 LUNCH BUNCH GOES TO MARGARITAVILLE

Join other members and friends of First Pres for a weekday lunch outing.

We will:

- Meet at the church at **10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 23.**
- Take the church bus to Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville Restaurant at Universal City Walk in Orlando
- Enjoy a leisurely meal and fellowship (the Cheeseburger in Paradise is hard to beat, unless it's by the seafood)
- Have you back at the church by 2:00 p.m.
- All it costs is the price of your own lunch.



To make your reservation, call the church office at 294-3121 by Sunday, February 22, 8:00 p.m.
Please leave a voice mail if no one answers.

HSYG IS GOING TO THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL & CONCERT



Saturday, February 28th our high school youth group will be going to the Strawberry Festival for the day. We will end our day watching Mercy Me in concert. The fee for entrance to the festival is \$10.00 plus money for food you might want to purchase for the day. We will meet at the youth house at 11:00 a.m. to leave and head over to Plant City. We can ride the bus over and walk around for a bit before the concert begins. The plan is to head home after the concert. Email Dana at dparrish@firstpreswh.org if you plan on going.

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 **March 5 and 19, April 2, 16, and 30 at 9 - 11 a.m.** in the Edinburgh Annex. For more information and to request a workbook, please email Lia Gray at uncpair@gmail.com or call her at 318-1541

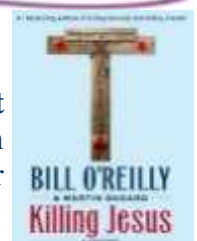


PLAYGROUND PICNIC IS BACK

Playground Picnic will be held after church on **Sunday, March 8.** Join us for "Sandwich" Sunday where we will provide all of the fixin's for a delicious sandwich. Donations are accepted. Please let Amy McKee know if you will join us around 12:15 in the Geneva Room on Sunday, March 8 (294-3121 or amckee@firstpreswh.org). After lunch, you can extend your fellowship time to the Playground.

SAVE THE DATE: OM, OM BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB

Our **Odd Month, Odd (3rd) Monday Book Discussion Club** will meet again on **March 16 at 3:00 p.m.** We will have some light refreshments and will discuss Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard's book, *Killing Jesus*. If you were at the January book review and indicated your intention to attend, there is no need to call the office.



Please call the church office at 294-3121 if you plan to attend. Copies of this title are now available for checkout in the library. You may contact Jonathan Owen about ordering a personal copy.

Generosity Shows in our Christian Education Programs

Every week we offer Sunday School classes for children, youth, and adults. The preschool children have their very own class, while the elementary aged children experience the workshop rotation model. The Youth of the church meet in the Student Center for their class while the adults have three different classes to choose from. The children and youth meet from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. while the adults meet from 10-10:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

On Wednesday afternoons we offer our Christ Kids program for children ages four through fifth grade. We have around 30 children attend this program. On Wednesday evenings the Middle School youth meet from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. in the Student Center. On Sunday evenings, the High School youth meet from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center.



Our Morning out Mom program runs year round on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. for children walking through age 3.

During the summer we offer Kidz Summer Escape which is a six week long program, meeting 2 days a week for children ages three through kindergarten graduates. We also offer our Vacation Bible School program every summer for children ages four through fifth grade graduates. The dates this year are June 14-18, 2015 from 6:15-8:30 p.m. The theme will be ***Everest - Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power.***



Once a year, all church members and friends are invited to attend the All Church Retreat at Cedarkirk. This is a Saturday and Sunday event where we have group Bible study, fellowship, outdoor fun, and a wonderful time together sharing in God's love.

Every Fall we have the Fall Fest the Wednesday before Halloween to celebrate with our church family. The children of the church dress up and play games during this event.

The Tuesday before Lent begins, we come together for Shrove Tuesday, our pancake supper and celebration.

We offer Family Nights and Playground Picnics once a month during the school year. We gather together either in McLeod Hall, The Geneva Room, or off-site for a time of food and fellowship.

There is always something going on in the life of the church relating to Christian Education. Please make sure you follow our weekly happenings in the bulletin, Tower Chimes or on our website, www.firstpreswh.org for all of our exciting events.

Throughout the year there are a variety of Christian Education programs and events everyone is invited to take part in. Thanks to members and friends generosity, we are able to fund these programs and with amazing volunteers, we are able to run these programs. We thank you for your support, prayers, and resources!



WE HAD A GREAT WEEKEND AT THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT

...God Speaks Your Love Language during the weekend of February 7 & 8. Thirty two folks joined us for an incredible weekend of Christian fellowship, Bible study, laughter, outdoor fun, and so much more. We had a great time with the rock climbing wall and archery this year. As always, folks enjoyed spending time together and growing in God's love.

We are already counting down the days until our next All Church Retreat (**May 14 & 15, 2016**).

Please enjoy some of the pictures from the weekend.



STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE CARE-GIVERS, GOD IS THE CURE-GIVER

The role of a Stephen Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing.



If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. (It's confidential too!) Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with or calling **Barbara Perkins** at 956-1138. Or talk with one of our other Stephen Minister Leaders: **Alan Harvey, Ray Larson, Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, Pat Reass, or Jean Strang**. You can also use one of the three Request Form Boxes (pictured right) located in the Centennial Room, narthex, and balcony hallway.

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

THE PRAYER CHAIN IS BEING REACTIVATED

- The Prayer Chain was a ministry of the Congregational Care Committee.
- This ministry functioned as a prayer request was made known, calls were made to the Prayer Chain members, who would remember the person(s) and the situation(s) in their prayers.
- The Prayer Chain is being reactivated by the Congregational Care Committee.
- Jane Ray has volunteered to serve as the Coordinator and we currently have five team leaders.



If you would like to be involved in this important ministry of prayer, please call Alan at the Church Office (294-3121). Volunteers will be added to the teams and once the teams are assembled we should be ready to receive and respond to prayer requests. The goal is to have this ministry ready to begin no later than **March 1**.

DID YOU TAKE PICTURES OF COME TO THE STABLE AND TO BETHLEHEM SQUARE?

WOULD YOU SHARE THEM WITH US?

THIS IS THE BEST WE HAVE AT THIS TIME.



Circumstances unforeseen and technical difficulties prevented us from getting a photographic record of this event. If you have some pictures that you are willing to share we would greatly appreciate having copies. You may e-mail these to the office: cshipley@firstpreswh.org. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

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.



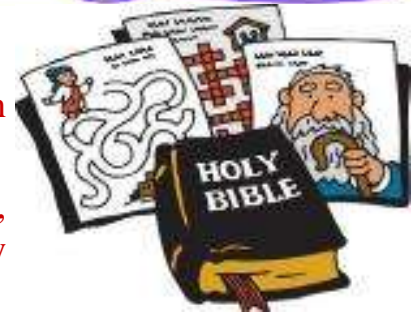
At **11:00 a.m.**, you are invited to attend our later morning worship. This service is held in the sanctuary with music and responses regularly led by our chancel choir and accompanied by organ and piano. In the tradition of our church, cultivated over the last few decades, a full liturgy gives the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

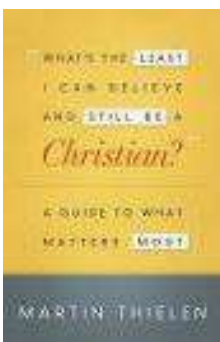
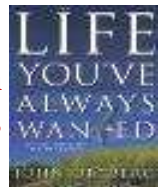
Children ages three and four gather in Room 108 for their own Sunday School time of crafts, snack, Bible lesson, and fun.

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade will rotate through Art, Science, Cooking, Storytelling, Computer, and Movies on Sunday mornings. The current theme is "*Joshua Leads the People*".



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.



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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 2/20/15.

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LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONALS

“The Music of Our Souls”

Based on scripture and the songs and hymns that inspire us.



Each week of lent, program staff members will choose a hymn or contemporary Christian song and write a devotional based on that song. Included will be a portion of the lyrics & a selection of scripture. Maybe you will be inspired to listen to the song and discover something new..

These devotionals will begin on
Monday, February 16 (the week of Ash Wednesday).