



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of November 15, 2015

Issue 561

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

THE NATIVITY STORY AND THE STORIES OF OUR NATIVITIES



Advent through Epiphany 2015
Devotional booklets will be available
starting on **Sunday, November 15**. The
devotions will also be available on our
website and Facebook page as well as
through daily e-mails.

Please call the church office if you would like to be added to the
daily staff e-mail devotions and Advent/Epiphany devotions.



OM, OM BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB IS GETTING CLOSER

Our Odd Month, Odd (3rd) Monday Book Discussion Club will
meet again on **November 16 at 3:00 p.m.**

We will have some light refreshments and
will discuss Carlo Devito's book, *Inventing
Scrooge*.

Please call the church office at 294-3121 if
you plan to attend. Copies of this title have
been ordered and should be in our library
soon. You may also contact Jonathan Owen
by seeing him on Sunday, calling him at 318-
9944, or e-mailing him at
jonathan.owen.cu2r@statefarm.com about
ordering a personal copy.



Church calendar

Sunday, November 15

3 Cents-a-Meal

- 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
- 10:30 a.m. Session-Receive New Members (ER)
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 12:00 p.m. New Member Reception (MH)
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Group Music Rehearsal (GS)
- 5:30 p.m. HSYG (GC)

Monday, November 16

- 8:45 a.m. MOM
- 6:15 p.m. Worship & Music (UR)

Tuesday, November 17

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 9:30 a.m. Joy Circle (Off-site)
- 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
- 12:00 p.m. Finance (UR)
- 6:30 p.m. Deacons (GR)

Wednesday, November 18

- 8:45 a.m. MOM
- 12:00 p.m. Busy Moms of Faith (GR)
- 3:00 p.m. Christ Kids (CE)
- 5:00 p.m. Memorial Garden (MCR)
- 5:30 p.m. MSYG (GC)
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, November 19

- 9:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (UR)
- 3:00 p.m. Presbytery Meeting (Tampa)
- 7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, November 20

- 8:45 a.m. MOM

Saturday, November 21

- 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

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

IN THE HOSPITAL: Jaleeann Johnston
Family and friends

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Peyton Battilla | Hadley Owen's friend |
| Christine & Emily | Beverly Seagreave's daughter & granddaughter |
| Jerry Cooley | Susan Singleton's friend |
| Jim Daniels & family | Jonathan Owen's friends |
| John Doughty | Dena Lancashire's nephew |
| 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 |
| Mary Lou Knapp | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Letti Lane North | Jean Strang's sister |
| Nan Mason | Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter |
| J. David Richardson | Ellie & Jim Threlkel friends |
| 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 |



Robert Ferguson
Stephanie Gillie
Eddie Gray
David Knowles
Drew Stapor

COME TO THE STABLE and to BETHLEHEM SQUARE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
NATIVITY PERFORMANCES

at 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.

After each Nativity performance-enjoy food, musical entertainment, & meet the actors, village elders & shopkeepers in BETHLEHEM SQUARE.

Casting of performers and musicians is still on-going.

We have the costumes, just bring your talent. No experience required. Sign up in the Narthex.

Performing isn't really your thing?

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

BUY FOOD for the shops in BETHLEHEM SQUARE

BAKE delicious breads for the VILLAGE BAKERY

HELP IN THE KITCHEN preparing fruit, cheese, etc.



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.



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.



Making *FIRST PRES* Your *FIRST CHOICE* for Your First Fruits in 2016

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 the Session, 2003

This purpose statement, which was adopted by the Session of our church in 2003, still helps us define and describe what we do together at First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven. Over the past few weeks, in sermon, bulletins, and newsletters we have been celebrating what happens when each of us make *FIRST PRES* our *FIRST CHOICE* for...

WORSHIP



CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



GROWTH IN FAITH THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, ADULTS



LOCAL MISSION



GLOBAL MISSION



Many of us have chosen to make First Presbyterian Church our spiritual home as we have found a place where we are:

Disciples of Jesus

Biblically focused

A Caring, Compassionate, Community of Faith which celebrates the gifts of women, men, youth and children

People who stress the Good News of God's Grace and Love

To be able to share our message with the world, we all need to consider **MAKING FIRST PRES. OUR FIRST CHOICE** for bringing our **FIRST FRUITS** to God.

In the next week, the friends and members of First Pres. will be receiving an invitation in the mail to consider sharing their **FIRST FRUITS** with God through our ministry here at **FIRST PRES.**

First Presbyterian Church <i>Estimate of Generosity for 2016</i>		
Last Name	First Name(s)	Envelope #
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
In gratitude for God's love, I/we make the following <i>estimate of generous support</i> of the church, its local mission and commitment to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly: (The amount of this <i>estimate</i> may be increased or decreased if your circumstances change.)		
\$ _____ : Per Week <input type="checkbox"/> Per Month <input type="checkbox"/> Per Year <input type="checkbox"/>		
I/we want contribution envelopes: Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>		
<i>For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.</i> Matt 6:21		_____ Signature

Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to invest your **FIRST FRUITS** in the kingdom.

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.

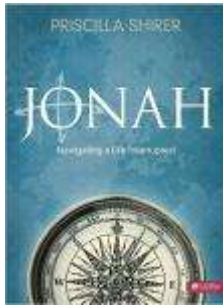
Joy Circle is the **third Tuesday; next meeting, November 17 at 9:30 a.m.** at Carol Carter's.

Lydia Circle is the **second Monday; next meeting, December 14 at 10 a.m.** in McLeod Hall.



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., November 19, December 3, January 7 & 21.

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

NEW DEVOTIONAL GATHERING FOR MOMS



On **Wednesdays from 12 noon till 1 p.m.** all moms of the church and community are invited to join us for **Busy Moms of Faith**, a Devotional Gathering which will meet in

the Geneva Room, located in the Christian Education building. Come by during your lunch hour or however long you can join us to share your weekly joys, sorrows, celebrations, adventures and brief devotional time.

All moms are invited to attend this **FREE** program. We look forward to seeing you all there. Please call Amy McKee if you have any questions (863) 294-3121 or e-mail amckee@firstpreswh.org.

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?: _____



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.



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.

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!



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 10/30/15.

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Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 319 bag lunches the week of 11/02/15.

We gave out a total of 1501 bag lunches in October.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 78 people on 11/07/15.

We fed at total of 415 people in October.

Return Service Requested

«Mailing Name»

«Address 1»

«Address 2»

«City» «State» «Zip»



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.

Holiday Helpers