



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of December 13, 2015

Issue 565

129 Years of Ministry

Make **FIRST PRES** your **FIRST CHOICE** for Celebrating Advent in 2015

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

During the Season of Advent, our church family is focusing on those who were present to celebrate the birth of Christ. The **Advent daily devotions**, which have been written by members of our congregation and staff, will feature stories about special nativity sets that help us to re-tell the story of the birth of our Savior.

The **sermons for the Sundays of Advent** will take a detailed look at different nativity characters each week:

The **Wise Men** on the Third Sunday in Advent: **December 13**

The **Holy Family** on the Fourth Sunday in Advent: **December 20**

On **Saturday night, December 12**, our church members will help the holy night and the town of Bethlehem come to life with **Come to the Stable and to Bethlehem Square** (our indoor and outdoor living re-creation of the people and the place of Christ's birth.)

The season will reach its climax on **Christmas Eve, December 24**, and our **Candlelight Services of Lessons and Carols**. The **5:00 p.m.** service will include children's choirs, and a children's story with a re-enactment of the nativity. The **9:00 p.m.** service will feature additional musical selections from our choir.

We hope you, your family and friends, will make **FIRST PRES** your **FIRST CHOICE** for sharing the Good News of Christ's birth this Advent and Christmas season.



COME TO THE STABLE and to BETHLEHEM SQUARE

Saturday, December 12, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Rain date is Sunday, December 13, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.



An exciting nativity under the stars, including live:

A "heavenly choir" with accompaniment played by our church musicians, a beautifully costumed cast of all ages - angels, shepherds, the three kings and most importantly - the Holy Family, a donkey for Mary and a small flock of sheep. Guests can pet the animals after the presentation.

Between performances guests are invited to join the cast and villagers in Bethlehem Square for:

a tasting of the "food of Bethlehem", enjoy live music, meet the costumed cast and villagers, and sign the Bethlehem census scroll to receive a special memento of the event.

BE SURE TO INVITE FRIENDS TO ATTEND!



Church calendar

Sunday, December 13

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 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. Disney's Candlelight Processional Rehearsal (MS)
- 4:30 p.m. HSYG Music Rehearsal (GC)
- 5:30 p.m. HSYG (GC)

Monday, December 14

- 8:45 a.m. MOM
- 10:30 a.m. Lydia Circle (Off-site)
- 5:30 p.m. Nominating (MCR)
- 6:15 p.m. Worship & Music (UR)
- 6:30 p.m. Christian Education (GR)

Tuesday, December 15

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 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, December 16

- 8:45 a.m. MOM
- 11:30 a.m. PrimeTimers Christmas Luncheon (MH)
- 2:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women Bible Study Leaders (MCR)
- 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)
- 8:00 p.m. Disney's Candlelight Processional Rehearsal (MS)

Thursday, December 17

- 7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, December 18

- 8:45 a.m. MOM

Saturday, December 19

- 9:00 a.m. Poinsettias Arranged (Sanctuary)
- 2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
- 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)
- 7:00 p.m. Saturday Night Live (MH)



Our Christian sympathy goes to Wiley & Sara Koon, Beth Koon, and James Koon, in the death of their son & brother, Wiley Koon, Jr., who died on November 29, 2015.

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 |
| 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 | Joe Oriani | Gwen Waters |
| Frances Heath | Randal Palmer | Lee Wilkinson |
| Doris Hill | Ann Reddout | |

Family and friends

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jerry Cooley | Susan Singleton's friend |
| Al Ellis | Jim Threlkel's friend |
| Raymond Fenstermaker | Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson |
| Bill Gregory | Barbara Puckett's friend |
| Jean Hehn | Ellie Threlkel's friend |
| Julia Hildebrand | Rick & Pat Reass' friend |
| Pete Kent | Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew |
| Tam Keys | Bethany Owen's mother |
| Nan Mason | Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter |
| Mary Lou Knapp | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| David Richardson | Ellie & Jim Threlkel friend |
| Anthony Shepherd | Saturday Nite Live friend |
| Jimmy & Amanda Sites | Lynn Oakley's friends |
| David Sumner | Bethany Owen's brother-in-law |
| Rick Tyler | Rick & Pat Reass' friend |
| Marshall Wood | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend |



- Robert Ferguson
- Stephanie Gillie
- Eddie Gray
- David Knowles
- Drew Stapor

STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING CLASS TO BEGIN IN FEBRUARY

You have seen the ministry of our Stephen Ministers. Have you thought that perhaps you would like to participate in this ministry? Your opportunity to do so has arrived. The next Stephen Series training class will begin on **Thursday, February 4, 2016**. If you would like to participate in this training and in this ministry, call Pat Reass at 206-9914 or Mary Marrs at 662-4647.



BUSY MOM OF FAITH WILL RESUME IN JANUARY.

Be sure to check the bulletin and Tower Chimes for dates.



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

Children and Youth will be sharing their musical talents during the **11 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 13.**

DISNEY CANDLELIGHT PROCESSIONAL

If you will be at Epcot on Christmas Day you have the opportunity to enjoy a group of singers from the church who will be performing at the 6:45 and 8:15 Candlelight Processional.



For those members participating in the Candlelight Processional, please see Lynn if you have not yet signed a release form. We will have Candlelight review practice on the following dates: **December 13th, and 20th at 2:00 p.m.;** **December 16th and 23rd at 8:00 p.m.** Please see Lynn immediately if you do not have music or recordings!

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 20)
- Make a large green bean casserole (disposable baking pans can be picked up at the church on Sunday, December 20)
- 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.

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA

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: \$ _____



Making *FIRST PRES* Your *FIRST CHOICE* for Giving Your First Fruits to God in 2016

First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven operates with a unified church budget. This means that the ministry that we conduct through all our program areas falls under a single church budget, which is supported by the tithes and offerings of our members and friends. **Every person** who generously gives of their first fruits in support of this budget **is a partner in everything** that we do (from preaching to teaching, to the care of our own children in the nursery and the children in Honduras through international mission.)

In our 2016 operating budget, the extent to which we generously share resources so that the church can be the church is revealed.

Dream Budget for 2016

Benevolences:

World Mission in Presbytery (Honduras), Synod, and General Assembly	\$34,000
Presbytery of Tampa Bay Per Capita (Shared operating expenses)	\$25,000
Deacon's Fund (Local Mission)	\$25,000
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)	\$240,000
Program Staff (salaries and benefits)	\$188,000
Support Staff (salaries)	\$225,000
Nursery Staff (salaries)	\$ 16,000
Worker's Comp Insurance, Employer Payroll Taxes	\$ 34,000
Controlled Disbursements	\$ <u>25,000</u>
Subtotal Personnel	\$728,000

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 2016, continued

Program Committees	
Christian Education	\$ 6,000
Youth Ministry	\$ 7,000
Worship and Music	\$ 6,000
Other Committees	<u>\$18,000</u>
Subtotal Committees	<u>\$37,000</u>

Total needed to fully fund First Presbyterian Church's ministry in 2016: \$1,047,000

A unified church budget is all about partnership, as each member of the church shares as a partner in the overall ministry of the church. (No one person can take sole credit for the sharing of faith or the works of charity, leaving someone else responsible for the sidewalks and sewer lines.) Each time any of us drops a dollar in the plate, we have helped every area of ministry.



As we move into 2016, our generosity will show in ministry as each of us takes part in walking as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making FIRST PRES our FIRST CHOICE for sharing our first fruits. Thanks for helping us show God's love in all that we do.

COME TO THE WATERS...



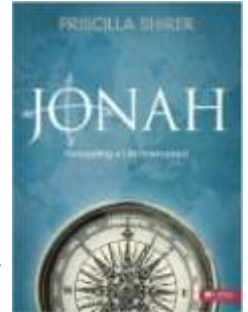
the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2015-2016, will be a rich exploration of water stories in both testaments. "Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the scriptures on water nourish our souls." Join one of the Circles for interesting lessons and Christian fellowship.

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.

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.



We will return after the holidays:
Thursdays, 9 - 11 a.m. January 7 & 21.
Contact Lia Gray to reserve your study booklet at:
Uncpair@gmail.com or 318-1541.

2016 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL ~ PLEASE HAVE YOUR STORY AND PICTURE SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 31, 2016

'Toyland' – Remembering Favorite Childhood Toys Received at Christmas is the theme for the 2016 Advent Devotional, which we hope will extend to Epiphany (January 6, 2017).

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*.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR OUR 2016 CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PORTRAIT SITTING



THERE ARE THREE CONVENIENT WAYS TO SIGN UP:

- * Sign up online on the church website at firstpreswh.org.
- * Sign up on our Facebook page.
- * Sign up before and after church in the narthex.



Please sign up ASAP to lock in your preferred date. Plan to be here for about 1 hour.



The photography sessions are here at the church on:

Dec 28	1:00 pm – 8:00 pm.
Dec 29	1:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Jan 14	1:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Jan 15	1:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Jan 16	10:00 am – 5:00 pm



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

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

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

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.

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.



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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 12/11/15.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 272 bag lunches the week of 11/30/15.

We gave out a total of 1,216 bag lunches in November.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 80 people on 12/5/15.

We fed at total of 410 people in November.

Return Service Requested

«Mailing Name»

«Address 1»

«Address 2»

«City» «State» «Zip»

PRIMETIMERS, RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 14 FOR THE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Please join us at 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 us
office@firstpreswh.org or fill out the form below.



PRIMETIMERS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON RESERVATION

We will collect the money the day of the luncheon.

Name: _____ Number attending: _____