



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of December 20, 2015

Issue 566

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

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

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.

December 20, the Fourth Sunday of Advent sermon will take a detailed look at the **Holy Family**.

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.



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.



Church calendar

Sunday, December 20 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 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. Receive New Members (ER)
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 12:00 p.m. New Member Reception (MH)
 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 21

8:45 a.m. MOM

Tuesday, December 22

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

Wednesday, December 23

8:45 a.m. MOM
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)
 8:00 p.m. Disney's Candlelight Processional Rehearsal (MS)

Thursday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Candlelight Services (Sanctuary)
 9:00 p.m. Candlelight Services (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 25

CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED

1:30 p.m. Christmas Day Soup Kitchen Prep
 3:30 p.m. Christmas Day Soup Kitchen
 3:00 p.m. Choir to Candlelight Processional (Epcot)

Saturday, December 26

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

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	Nat West
Doris Hill	Ann Reddout	Lee Wilkinson

Family and friends

Carlotta Bennett	Bethany Owen's friend
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
Mary Lou Knapp	Lynn Oakley's friend
Nan Mason	Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter
Amity McGee	Bethany Owen's friend
David Richardson	Ellie & Jim Threlkel friend
Anthony Shepherd	Saturday Nite Live friend
Jimmy & Amanda Sites	Lynn Oakley's friends
Ann Steiner	Steve & Teresa Negley's friend
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.



Christmas +BLESSINGS+

BUSY MOMS OF FAITH WILL RESUME IN JANUARY.



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

3 CENTS-A-MEAL THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

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.

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 20th at 2:00 p.m.**; **December 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.

POINSETTIA DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Extend the Christmas spirit by taking poinsettias to our elderly and shut-ins. Come to the church on **Friday, December 27 after 10 a.m.** to take the plants to as many people as you would like. Need more info?

Call Ray Larson @ 294-3121.



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

IMPORTANT ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER

Please remember that annual reports are due to the church office by **Friday, January 15, 2016**. Please e-mail to office@firstpreswh.org.



AFTER CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 9:30 A.M.

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

Please contact the church office at 294-3121, office@firstpreswh.org, or complete this form and drop in offering plate to let us know you are coming.

Name: _____ Adults: _____ Children: _____



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	\$18,000
Subtotal Committees	\$37,000

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.



First Presbyterian Church *Estimate of Generosity for 2016*

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

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.



THANK YOU FOR SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE TO A CHILD IN NEED IN THIS CHRISTMAS

The youth want to thank you all for your donations for our toy drive. Our church never ceases to amaze us with its generosity. Fundraiser after fundraiser, toy drive and canned food collection, you all come through in support of our youth and the people of this community. Thank you doesn't express clearly enough our gratitude for your donations this Christmas season.

St. Nicholas' Day Jingle Java Jam was a great success...

and Lynn and I were overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response to this holiday offering! There are so many people to thank that if we listed names, we would inadvertently omit one or some. To avoid this error we do thank those who assisted with set up, kitchen preparation, serving tables, and clean up and those who sang, played, prepared the programs, participated in any way in the entertainment and staffed the nursery. We had a great time and we hope you did too! Thanks again, ever so much. *Alan*



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.

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 developing a deep relationship with Christ come and join us. We would love to have you!

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

Join Howard Beckert starting on Sunday, January 10 for 6 weeks of *Faith-Based Family Finances*. This intriguing class will cover such topics as: Stewardship, Common Sense Financial Principles, Budgeting, Freedom From Debt, and Passing It On Before You Pass On. This class is meant for adults of all ages and stages of life. We will meet from **10-10:45 a.m. in Room 207** for discussion each week. Bring your friends and your questions. This is sure to be a very beneficial class for all. We look forward to you all joining us starting on January 10, 2016.

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.



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 12/11/15.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 294 bag lunches the week of 12/07/15.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 90 people on 12/12/15.

Return Service Requested

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 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.

