



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of February 7, 2016

Issue 571

130 Years of Ministry

SUPER BOWL OF CARING

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



Each year the youth collect soup cans and money to donate to a local food pantry and our very own soup kitchen. Super Bowl Sunday we have our own "Souper Bowl" of Caring. We will be collecting these items until February 7th. **February 7th** we will be playing our flag football game at **Polk State soccer fields at 2:00 p.m.** This game is fun to watch as the youth play against "The Geezers". We encourage you to come out to play or cheer us on and bring your donations with you.

Our soup can collection spot will be in McLeod Hall. Please help us raise money for the hungry in our community.

Author, Charles Martin said, "Indifference is the sin of this age." Let's not be indifferent to the suffering of those in need in our very own community.

"What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day, stay warm and eat well'-but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."

James 2:14-17



SHROVE TUESDAY IS ALMOST HERE

Reserve your spot now for Shrove Tuesday Survivor Challenge gathering on the island of McLeod Hall on **Tuesday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m.** Sign-up for delicious pancakes, sausage, and bacon prepared by Parson Larson and his dedicated crew of flapjack flippers.

During the evening several challenges await you. So pick your table team wisely and join us for a delightful feast before the fast! Reservations are due by Monday, February 8 at noon.

Please drop this tear off in the offering plate or call the church office at 294-3121.

Name _____ Number attending _____



Church calendar

Sunday, February 7

Souper Bowl Sunday

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-Adults
12:00 p.m. HSYG Music Rehearsal (GC)
2:00 p.m. Souper Bowl of Caring Game
(PSC Soccer field)

Monday, February 8

8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
10:00 a.m. Lydia Circle (MH)
12:00 p.m. Busy Moms of Faith (GR)
6:30 p.m. Christian Education (GR)

Tuesday, February 9

Shrove Tuesdays

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
5:30 p.m. Pancake Supper (MH)
6:00 p.m. Saturday Nite Live Planning (MH)
6:30 p.m. Personnel (MCR)

Wednesday, February 10

Ash Wednesday

8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
12:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds (MH)
3:00 p.m. Christ Kids (CE)
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (GC)
5:30 p.m. Christ Kids Ringers (CE)
5:30 p.m. MSYG (GC)
6:30 p.m. Worship
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, February 11

3:00 p.m. Membership (MCR)
5:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training (UR)
7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, February 12

8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)

Saturday, February 13

9:00 a.m. Stephen Minister Training (UR)
2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)



Robert Ferguson
Stephanie Gillie
Eddie Gray
David Knowles
Drew Stapor

Remember in Prayer

members

Roger & Marie Able	Camille Howe	Dorothy Ryan
Win Betrus	Jim Huff	Bob Sheffield
Millie Carrier	Dorothy Johnson	Barbara A. Smith
Helen Champlain	Joey Johnston	Barbara H. Smith
Mary Dukes	Dena Lancashire	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Jana & Mike Easterling	Steve Luxford	Carolyn Thompson
Bob Endres	Gladys Meier	Ed Threadgill
Jeanne Estes	Lynnis Mincey	Shirley Turner
Bill & Becky Everhart	Bev Morris	Mike Vibral
Lois Frakes	Joan Murphy	Gwen Waters
Marge Goodman	Randal Palmer	Nat West
Joyce Hayman	Ann Reddout	Lee Wilkinson
Frances Heath	Earle Roberts	Marie Williams
Doris Hill	Dave Ryan	

IN THE HOSPITAL: Anne Burch, Jerry Dugger, & Joe Oriani

Family and friends

Antonello family	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friends
Shelly Appleton	John & Marcia Eyclesheimer
Carlotta Bennett	Bethany Owen's friend
Reese Burdette	Dana & Denise Cole's cousin
Bob Conley	Marile Weeks' friend
Jerry Cooley	Susan Singleton's friend
Mike Copeland	Jackie Pinkney's cousin
John Doughty	Dena Lancashier's nephew
Al Ellis	Jim Threlkel's friend
Linda Fellows	David Fellow's mother
Raymond Fenstermaker	Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson
Bridgett Goins	Lisa Endres' friend
Morgan Griffith	Everhart & Donaldy's friend
Jean Hehn	Ellie Threlkel's friend
Chris & Tracey Johnston	Jeremiah & Jaleeann Johnston's family
Misty Jones	Lynn Oakley's friend
Pete Kent	Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
Lindsey Kneubuler	John & Marcia Eyclesheimer
Nan Mason	Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter
Sharon & Hoyt Maulden	Judy Winfree's sister-in-law
Dawn Mayo	Saturday Nite Live helper
Amity McGee	Bethany Owen's friend
Lettie Lane North	Jean Strang's sister
Luke Lockhart	Kathy & Bill Lockhart's grandson
David Richardson	Ellie & Jim Threlkel's friend
Anna Robinson	Punkin Smith's friend
Cash Sheaffer	Zan Dismuke's grandson
Bonnie Spires	Saturday Nite Live helper
Ann Steiner	Steve & Teresa Negley's friend
Jeannie & Ralph Weeks	Marile Weeks' brother & sister-in-law
Margaret Willson	Mary Marrs' mother
Marshall Wood	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Wallace Wood	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend

YOUR GIFTS PACKAGE FOR STEPHEN MINISTRY

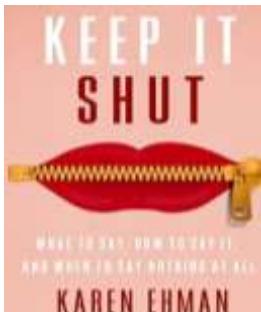
Faith, mercy, teaching the faith, encouragement, or knowing: Do one or more of these gifts describe you? If so, check out Stephen Ministry, our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry.

Please contact Pat Reass at 206-9914 or Mary Marrs at 662-4647 today to find out more about what you can do for the Lord.



FOUR WEEKS OF WISDOM SERMON SERIES

For two more weeks, Drs. Harvey and Negley will be preaching from the Wisdom Literature of the Bible, found in the Old Testament books of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs. Dr. Negley will be preaching this Sunday from Job..



NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday women's Bible study group will begin a new study starting on **Thursday, February 4 at 9 a.m.** in the Upper Room titled *Keep It Shut: What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Say Nothing at All* by Karen Ehman. Come for discussion, Bible study, and amazing fellowship with the women of First Presbyterian. Friends and neighbors are always welcome as well. Books can be purchased for around \$11. Please contact Lia Gray for more information at 318-1541 or uncpair@gmail.com. This group typically meets every other Thursday in the upper room.

COME TO THE WATERS...

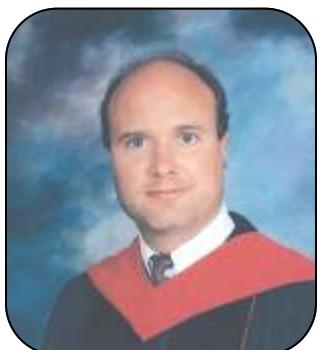
the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2015-2016, is a rich exploration of water stories in both testaments. "Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the scriptures on water nourish our souls." Join one of the Circles for interesting lessons and Christian fellowship.

Lydia Circle is the **second Monday of the month. The next meeting will be February 8, 2016.**

Joy Circle is the **third Tuesday; next meeting, February 16, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.** at Carol Carter's.



LET'S CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF MINISTRY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. STEVE NEGLEY

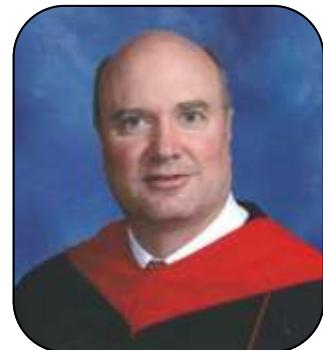


THEN

February 15, 1996 marked the return of former Associate Pastor Steven R. Negley as the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven welcomed him to the position of Senior Pastor/Head of Staff.

That was twenty years ago!

On Sunday, February 21, 2016, we would like to celebrate these years at a reception honoring Steve and Teresa. The reception will follow the eleven o'clock service in McLeod Hall. A basket will be available to collect your best wishes and any remembrances you may wish to share with Steve.



NOW

We are grateful to God for these twenty years and we look forward to more years of his faithful leadership and service. In the meantime, it is time to party so come and join us for punch and refreshments.

PAPER CUTTING



The paper cutting group met again on Monday, January 18th and completed the first layer of the Lenten banners. We will meet again on **Thursday, March 3rd at 6:00 p.m.** to cut the next layer of banner. If you would like to join us and try the art of paper cut, please call Lynn (294-3121) and we will have supplies for you to start your own project.



A SATURDAY SOUP KITCHEN STORY

I don't like to pray out loud. I am not good at it. I stumble and stammer and stretch the borders of my brain for words that might seem befitting for whatever the circumstance. Yesterday, I was helping my friends in the soup kitchen, and as the only First Pres. church member there that day, I had the task of praying before the meal. Being the try-hard that I am, I consulted Google to get some examples of what would work for a blessing for people who may be homeless, depressed, lonely, sick or poor, on a night where the temperature was forecasted to dip to 35 degrees (channel your best Alan Harvey, Amy). How can you make a prayer sound happy and positive when you know what kind of miserable night many of these people are about to have? So I plowed my way through a prayer asking God to watch over those who may be cold, to keep hearts from hardening when tough times are upon us, and to use the food before us to warm and nourish our bodies. I had no idea how my prayers were going to be realized.

When I arrived to the church, I was relieved to see that a faithful church volunteer had delivered the mountain of bread and desserts that a local Publix donates each and every Saturday. Thank you!

Ten minutes into our food preparation, the front doorbell rang and another church member arrived with dozens of beautiful gourmet cupcakes from Maggie-T's. She was so gracious and happy to share with those who don't have the luxury of such a decadent treat. They were thoroughly enjoyed!

About a half hour later, my phone rang and Connie Shipley (church member and church staff member) was on the other end. She took time out of her day to come and deliver two bags of hats that Lynn Lasseter had crocheted. Connie had given one out earlier in the week in the church office and it was touching later on to see him coming in wearing it. They obviously are being put to good use! Lynn made these lovely hats by hand for those whose heads needed warmth and Connie made sure they were being distributed.

We had many Boy Scouts and their parents on hand this day to butter bread, open cans, warm green beans, and ready the 737 building for service. Our head cook for the day was Mason Hooker, a Life Scout, who is getting ready to aim for the rank of Eagle Scout. He and his mother planned the meal and recruited the volunteers. These boys could have spent their Saturday playing, reading, gaming, or doing whatever young teenage boys like to do on a weekend, but they all chose to come and prepare a meal for those who needed a warm, nourishing meal and a cup of hot chocolate.

Once we began serving, a familiar face caught my eye! It was church member Judy Winfree. She had pulled her car up to the gate. In it was a generous stack of warm clothes that she and Bobby had after cleaning up at their hunting camp. Our soup kitchen guests were so excited to receive nice warm clothes. As you might expect, they were all distributed in a hot minute! The Winfrees had them to give and the inspiration to share them with those who needed warm clean clothes in this blustery cold weather.

Friday, the day before the soup kitchen when the weather forecast was looking grim, Dr. Negley called to let me know that they had over a hundred blankets in the 737 building ready to be distributed. He explained that Barbara's School of Dance has a blanket drive they do every year that was originally started by church member Paige Butz. We also have dozens of blankets collected by our very generous congregation. Clearly, we were ready for helping people who were cold. The responsibility of being the "blanket queen of the day" though was slightly daunting. I know what it is like when our guests see things being given away, and most all want to be in on the receiving. Cautiously, I went around and asked if there was anyone who was sleeping outside or who just needed a warm blanket. I was completely expecting to be bombarded. Instead, something unexpected seem to be happening. Many who told me that they were indeed sleeping in the cold said that they were okay and to give it to someone else who needed it more. Um, who needs a new blanket more than someone sleeping on the ground? As I sit in my warm home, this is still blowing my mind. Some people were enthusiastically thankful, some shared stories about their situation, some graciously refused a blanket, and some quietly took one with either brief words of appreciation or a nod of the head. In all, about thirty blankets were given out.

I am always a bit surprised when someone decides to talk to me and share some of their life story. If you want to see something bizarre, you can make me cry in five seconds just by asking me to tell you one! One man this past week shared a story of his own mission to evangelize and spread the love of Jesus. Another man was almost not willing to take a blanket because he already had one. I convinced him he needed two to be warm this cold night, and he obliged after confessing that his was still wet from the rain. One young lady almost cried when I gave her a blanket and pair of jeans she shyly asked if we might have. I could tell by the bags and fishing pole that her and her friend carried that were living somewhere outside. Another lady was so tickled with her new hat that her eyes lit up when she put it on! We have so many angels at our church who volunteer often in the soup kitchen and truly know some of the people who come. I wonder if they cry too if I ask them to tell me one? Back to the point. In the end, to the best of my knowledge, everyone was very happy with the meal and had a belly full of decent hot food. That is our main mission after all.

The way that these events flowed was like it was orchestrated from above. Publix, the church volunteers who deliver Publix bakery items, the Boy Scouts and their parents, and Maggie-T's, Connie Shipley, Lynn Lasseter, Dr. Negley, Barbara's School of Dance, the church congregation, and the Winfrees all played a role. Amy McKee told me these events were all "God winks!" This week in particular was an amazing example of a community. Philanthropy.com listed Lakeland/Winter Haven as being the #1 most generous city in the state of Florida. It's true. Google it. Probably the nicest of these nice people are First Presbyterians...just sayin'.

The things I was praying for that day were answered. Let this be a reminder for us all to keep the less fortunate in our prayers and to always thank God for our blessings. Can you even imagine one day without a roof, hot water, a soft bed, heat, or...gasp...hot coffee!!!! I can't! You've probably heard or read Christ's words many times: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35. I'm not great at knowing exactly how to interpret the Bible, but I can't think of a better way in my life to try and humbly fulfill this.

In the coming weeks ahead, I hope you will prayerfully consider serving in our soup kitchen. There is a bulletin board downstairs in McLeod Hall labeled, "Deacon Board," that has a sign up sheet. If you've never done it before, I promise that it won't be easy, but I also promise you'll have a shift in your perspective and hopefully in your heart. Sometimes it is a lot of fun, sometimes it's hard work, or hot, or cold. But every time it's an experience that allows you to serve God's people. This past week was a combo of fun, hard work, and cold, but to have the opportunity to see His hand at work right here in Winter Haven was awesome.

Blessings,
Amy Powell



CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST PRES



The 10 to 2 Lunch Bunch will be heading out on **Monday, February 29** to Hollerbach's Willow Tree Café in Sanford.

With a little further to travel, and the possibility of a little longer wait – we will have a special time. We will leave the church at **9:00 a.m.** and return at 3:30 p.m.

While there, we will enjoy table fellowship with your Christian friends and fabulous German food (various versions of schnitzel, bratwurst, weisswurst, hungarian goulash, potato pancakes, riesen brazen, sweet red cabbage, salads ,and more.) All you need to pay for is your lunch. Call (294-3121) or email the church office to reserve your seat on the church bus or van.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Children ages three through fifth grade will meet in the 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 with Science, Movies, Art, Cooking, Storytelling, Games, and Library time!! Special prizes will be offered all year long for attendance. This first 2016 Rotation will be: People Who Made a Difference.



Middle school and High school youth meet every Sunday morning in The Golden Center for Sunday School from 9:45-10:45. 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.

Adults Class Options (10-10:45 a.m.)

The Perspectives Class will continue their discussion on the book - *What Does the Lord Require? Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly*, by James C. Howell. This class is led by Dr. Jim Threlkel and Mr. Glenn Thomas and meets in the Geneva Room, Room 106 of the CE Building.



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.

What began as a series of 'talks' on the radio by the devout Christian layman and brilliant college professor C. S. Lewis, has become a foundational book for many millions of Christ's followers over the years. "Ever since I became a Christian I have thought that the best, perhaps the only, service I could do for my unbelieving neighbors was to explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times." So Lewis begins this literary journey. Our class will read (five to ten pages a week) and reflect on Lewis' **Mere Christianity (What One Must Believe to be a Christian)**. If you have read this work before, come and share what elements in our faith has touched your heart and soul. If you have not had the opportunity, join with us for the first time as we explore topics such as The Three Parts of Morality, Christian Marriage, Forgiveness, Faith, Hope, Charity, Obstinate Toy Soldiers, Nice People or New Men, from the fertile and faithful perspective of C.S. Lewis. Dr. Negley will lead the class which meets in the back section of McLeod Hall.

COME WORSHIP WITH US

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!



**Join the
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!

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

- * Sign up online on the church website at firstpreswh.org.
- * Sign up on our Facebook page.

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



March photography sessions have been added:

- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| March 10 | 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm |
| March 11 | 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm |
| March 12 | 10:00 am – 5:00 pm |



All families will receive a \$10 coupon the day of their scheduled photography, plus if you donate a food item, or cash for our food ministry the day of your photo session, you will receive another \$5.00 coupon (one per household) towards your portrait order.

All individuals and families sitting for a portrait receive a free portrait. Regular attenders and winter residents are encouraged to have their photos taken.

First Presbyterian Church
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Winter Haven, FL 33881
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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 2/5/16.

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 352 bag lunches the week of 1/25/16.
We gave out 1347 Bag lunches in January.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 129 people on 1/30/16
We fed 482 people in January.

ASH WEDNESDAY

In the service outlined for Ash Wednesday in the Book of Common worship, the pastor is invited to make this statement:



Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover (Easter) we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our lives in this holy mystery. We begin this season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and mark the penitence of this community.

We hope you will join your friends in Christ at our Ash Wednesday service, on February 10 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. You will hear the Word proclaimed, and have the opportunity to be marked with ashes as you begin your own Lenten journey to the empty cross.