



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of April 10, 2016

Issue 579

130 Years of Ministry

COMING ATTRACTION:

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

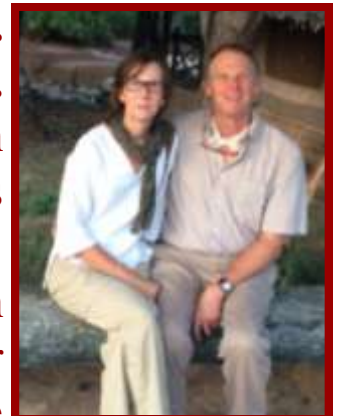
Connie J. Shipley
Administrative Assistant

Rose Flynn
Office Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant
Director of Maintenance

Ann M. Quessenberry
Custodian

A son of our congregation, **Rev. Dr. Fred Foy Strang and his wife Dr. Cecily Strang**, will be our guests on **Sunday, April 10**. They will tell us about their special mission project: **The Training Center for Massai church leaders in Kenya and Tanzania**. Our church has made a gift to help with the construction of this new facility.



Fred Foy will be preaching here that Sunday and he and Cecily will be sharing a presentation of their current ministry projects at a special assembly during the Sunday School hour at 10 a.m. We are excited about their visit. You will not want to miss hearing what God is doing through them for the Massai, with our help, for God's glory and the expansion of His kingdom!



Church calendar

Sunday, April 10

- 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 with The Strangs-Adults & Youth (MH)
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Reception for the Strangs
- 4:30 p.m. HSYG Music Rehearsal (GC)
- 5:30 p.m. HSYG (GC)

Monday, April 11

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 10:00 a.m. Lydia Circle (MH)
- 6:30 a.m. Christian Education (GR)

Tuesday, April 12

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
- 5:30 p.m. Personnel (MCR)

Wednesday, April 13

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 11:15 a.m. Preschool Music (CE)
- 12:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds (MH)
- 3:00 p.m. Christ Kids (CR)
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (GC)
- 5:30 p.m. Christ Kids Ringers (MS)
- 5:30 p.m. MSYG (GC)
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, April 14

- 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (UR)
- 5:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training (FFR)
- 7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, April 15

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)

Saturday, April 16

- 9:00 a.m. Stephen Minister Training (UR)
- 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 & Marie Able | Dorothy Johnson | Dorothy Ryan |
| Millie Carrier | Joey Johnston | Bob Sheffield |
| Helen Champlain | Judy Kingham | Barbara A. Smith |
| Dannie Dougherty | Dena Lancashire | Barbara H. Smith |
| Jerry Dugger | Spike Lucia | Dale Smith |
| Jana & Mike Easterling | John Maltese | Pam Tallent-Blackburn |
| Bill Everhart | Carole Marotti | Carolyn Thompson |
| Jeanne Estes | Dick McCauley | Suzann Threadgill |
| Bill Everhart | Matthew McGaffigan | Ted Threadgill |
| Lois Frakes | Lynnis Mincey | Shirley Turner |
| Marge Goodman | Joan Murphy | Gail Van Allen |
| Joyce Hayman | Ed Partridge | Mike Vibrat |
| Frances Heath | Norm Patrick | Nat West |
| Doris Hill | Robert Ramseyer | Lee Wilkinson |
| Camille Howe | Barbara Roberts | Marie Williams |
| Jim Huff | Earle Roberts | Retha Wright |

Relatives & Friends

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Antonello family | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friends |
| Carlotta Bennett | Bethany Owen's friend |
| Chuck Bishop | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend |
| Reese Burdette | Dana Cole's cousin |
| Lynda Burke | Shirley Hines' friend |
| Jerry Cooley | Susan Singleton's friend |
| John Doughty | Dena Lancashire's nephew |
| Christine Douglas | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Sara Dubinski | Andy & Linda Stavres' friend |
| Al Ellis | Jim Threlkel's friend |
| Raymond Fenstermaker | Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson |
| Terrell & Teresa Griffin | T. Michael & Charlie Stavres' friends |
| Jean Hehn | Ellie Threlkel's friend |
| Sidney Hilliard | Tilly Montney's mother |
| Pete Kent | Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew |
| Nan Mason | Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter |
| Amity McGee | Bethany Owen's friend |
| Judy Pheil | Carole Marotti's friend |
| Anna Robinson | Punkin Smith's friend |
| Alvin Ruppel | Shirley Hines' friend |
| Colonel Sites | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Tamara Sobczak | Rose Flynn's niece |
| Tommy Thompson | T. Michael & Charlie Stavres' friend |
| Kristy Turner | Rick & Pat Reass' granddaughter |
| Kurt Vahle | Gale & Gwen Waters' friend |
| Marshall Wood | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend |



Robert Ferguson
Stephanie Gillie
Eddie Gray
David Knowles

John Marotti
KaitLin Marotti-Pitts
Ashton Pitts
Drew Stapor



CALLING ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS!

Since music is booked before and after your middle school meeting time on Wednesdays, you are invited to join the Youth Music group. If you play an instrument, sing, or would like to try something new like a drum or mallet instrument please join us during our practice time on **Sundays at 4:30 p.m.** and our praise time during the second Sunday 11:00 worship service. If you would like to learn to play the ukulele or guitar please contact Lynn McCoy at 294-3121.

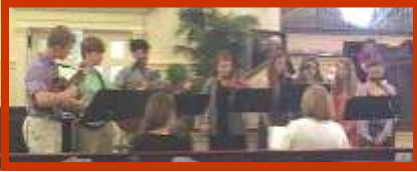
NURSERY HELP NEEDED

We are in need of a few extra "volunteers" or "subs" for our Sunday morning Nursery program and Morning out Mom Program. The Sunday morning nursery program runs from 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on Sunday mornings in the Education Building. We provide care for children three and younger during this time. Our Morning out Mom program meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. Children walking through age three participate in this program. If you are interested in helping out with either of these programs, you will have to complete the Protection Policy Training and background check. Please contact Amy McKee at 294-3121 for more information.



OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE! THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 10

I would like to take this time to thank all the children and youth who have been participating in our second Sunday music worship. What a joy it is to work with your children! A special thank you to the parents for getting your children to practice on Wednesdays and/or Sundays and for putting our second Sunday 11:00 a.m. worship service as a priority on your calendar.



We will continue our second Sunday through the summer. If you have family visiting, please invite the children to join us during Sunday School for practice. Youth practices on Sunday afternoon at 4:30. We'd love to have new singers and players!

Joyfully, *Lynn McCoy*

SEE OUR JAZZBYTERIANS PLAY

The Jazzbyterians will be performing at St. John's Methodist Church on Cypress Gardens Boulevard on **Sunday, April 17th at 2:30 p.m.** in their sanctuary. There will be a free will offering to benefit our First Pres. music program. Come and enjoy an afternoon of some of our favorite tunes!



BEAUTIFYING WORK DAY



The Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Youth Group will sponsor a workday at our church **Wednesday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m.** The goal is to weed and spread mulch throughout our church's grounds and flower beds. Youth and adults working together is our goal. This is a good way to get to know one another while beautifying our church property.

Buildings and Grounds will provide hot dogs, chips, and beverages.

We would love for you to plan to join us on this work day. Hope to see you there.

COME SEE OUR FIRST "SPRING RING"

Please join us in the sanctuary on **May 1st at 4:00 p.m.** for our first annual, First Presbyterian, "Spring Ring" program featuring 5 bell choirs. All three of our bell choirs will perform along with two guest choirs. The finale will feature all five choirs along with organ and audience participation in an arrangement of Joyful, Joyful! A reception will follow the program in McLeod Hall.



GET YOUR RAYS TICKET BEFORE THEY SELL OUT FOR...



Come join fellow Presbyterian members for the 5th Annual Presbytery Group Day with the Rays. The Rays will play The Toronto Blue Jays, **Friday, April 29!** Game begins 7:10 p.m. We will leave Winter Haven no later than **4:00 p.m.** The church bus will be full at 15 fans.

The tickets are Lower Reserved Seats. Price for ticket is \$30 (up to \$60.00 value.) *Price includes a Rays Hat that can be picked up by showing ticket at the Redemption Center between Gate 3 and the 1st Base Food Court until the 5th inning.

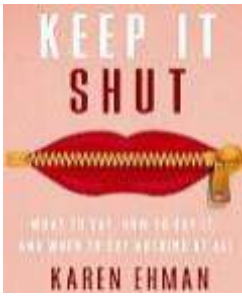


Deadline to purchase is WEDNESDAY, April 13.

To come root the Rays on, call 294-3121, fill out this form and drop in offering plate with your check, or bring to church office.

Name: _____ # Of Tickets: _____

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The Thursday women's Bible study group is at 9 a.m. in the Upper Room. The study is 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 \$10. Please contact Lia Gray for more information at 318-1541 or uncpair@gmail.com.

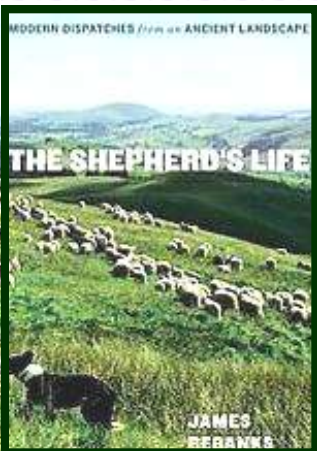
April 14 is our next meeting date.

ALL CHURCH RETREAT REGISTRATION

The All Church Retreat will be **May 14 and 15** at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center. This weekend is for all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. You are welcome to join us on Saturday and Sunday or just one of those days.

The theme this year is, *"The Same Power Lives in Us"* and we will focus on Romans Chapter 8 during the weekend. All ages are welcome to join in fellowship, fun, delicious food, and outdoor adventures. Please register by **Monday, May 2**. Brochures are NOW available.

Please contact Amy McKee at 294-3121 for more information.



START READING FOR OUR NEXT OM, OM BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB

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

We will have some light refreshments and will discuss James Rebanks book, *The Shepherd's Life*.

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.

VBS REGISTRATION IS HERE

Friends, Vacation Bible School – *Cave Quest* will be here before we know it. The dates are **June 20-23 from 6:15-8:30 p.m.** All children ages 3 through fifth grade graduates are invited to attend. Gear up for an over-the-top underground adventure! Ground kids in the rock-solid foundation of God's love, a love that takes us through life's dark times. We also need volunteers for the week. Please prayerfully consider this enriching event of helping children grow in their faith. Contact Amy McKee at 294-3121 for more information. You can register online at: <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/cavequestfpc2016>.



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 April 11, 2016.

Joy Circle is the **third Tuesday.**

The next meeting will be April 19, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at Carol Carter's.

Making *FIRST PRES* Your *FIRST CHOICE* for World Mission as We *WATCH THE “SMILE PILE” GROW*

Recently, in a Time with Younger Disciples” Dr. Negley poured out the contents on what he called a “bag of smiles” onto the floor. The children at that service grinned from ear to ear as they sorted through the small stuffed animals and bouncy balls. The story that day was about how our Mission Team hoped to share smiles (and stuffed animals and balls) with the children in the churches in Honduras as we work with them this summer.

One of the children (a two year old) who had come down to that children’s sermon, went home and worked with his mother on what he called his own SMILE PILE. The next Sunday, he brought a bag of stuffed animals from his smile pile to share with children in Honduras.

On that same Sunday (one week following the children’s sermon) a man in our congregation, who had gone through his collection of Beanie Babies brought in nearly 30 of his treasured toys to share with the little ones we will visit this summer in the villages of Honduras.

That same day, one week after hearing about our plans of sharing smiles with Honduran children, a couple in the church brought in several bags of stuffed animals (totaling over 80) that they had gone out and bought at Dollar Tree.



Within two weeks of hearing about our plan, a church member stopped by to add a bag of 100 small play balls to the pile. (She said that when she saw them in Wal-Mart, she just had to get them to donate.)

Each week – and almost each day since, people have stopped by the church office with their donations of stuffed animals and balls.

THE SMILE PILE IS GROWING!

While we have been tucking these treasures away as they arrive, we will bring all of them which have been donated so far to the front of the sanctuary on **Sunday, April 10. Each successive Sunday in April, we invite you to help the SMILE PILE GROW.**

Our 23 member mission team will be working in three churches, and visiting the pediatric ward of one hospital during our week-long summer mission. We will be blessed to interact with hundreds of children in each location. Through your generosity to the **SMILE PILE**, we will be sharing God’s love and a stuffed animal or bouncy ball with every child we meet.



REGISTRATION FOR KIDZ SUMMER ESCAPE IS ON!!!

Kidz Summer Escape will be held **June 14 – July 21 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.** This program is for children ages three through kindergarten graduates. Registration is open now. A \$50 “reserve my spot” is due at registration with the final \$120 due on June 14. Everyday your child will enjoy a special craft that goes along with the theme for the week, recreation, snack, and lots of summertime fun. Please contact Amy McKee for more information (294-3121). Registration ends May 5.

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.

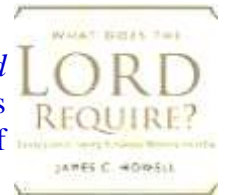
During the next six weeks, the **Elementary aged students** will focus on Making Choices through Art, Science, Cooking, Storytelling, Games, and Library time during the Workshop Rotation.



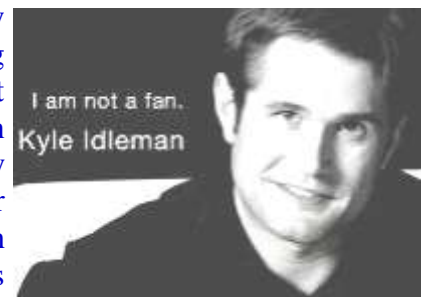
Middle school and High school youth meet every Sunday morning in The Golden Center for Sunday School from 9:45-10:45. During this time we meet and have fun and eat good food while learning about and growing in our faith in Christ. Come join us.

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.



Presenting a new small group study from City on a Hill Productions. Twenty times in the New Testament, Jesus issued a compelling and challenging invitation to Follow Him. He’s not interested in mere fans. He doesn’t want enthusiastic admirers. He wants Completely Committed Followers. Based on the engaging approach of Kyle Idleman, this one-of-a-kind small group study examines what it means to deny one’s self and truly follow Jesus. Join us for **“Not a Fan;”** six DVD sessions with discussion in Room 207 of the Christian Education building. The class will be facilitated by Gannon Olmert. This class will meet **April 17 – May 22.**



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!



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!

THIS IS WHAT OUR STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINEES ARE LEARNING



Our Stephen Minister training class has begun. We ask you to keep our Stephen Minister trainees in your prayers as they nurture their gifts and acquire new skills so that they can bring Christ's love and care to hurting people on behalf of our congregation. Also pray for our Stephen Leaders who will guide them through their training.

Here is what our Stephen Ministers are learning currently:

Bringing the Caring Relationship to a Close: Stephen Ministry relationships go on until the crisis is past, the need for care is diminished (not necessarily completely over), and the care receiver is able to cope on his or her own. In this session our Stephen Ministers explore how to know when it is time to bring closure to a caring relationship—and how to do so in a healthy way.

Supervision: A Key to Quality Christian Care: Stephen Ministers receive monthly supervision once they begin providing care. Supervision ensures that Stephen Ministers provide the best care possible, yet is done in a way that keeps the identity of the care receiver and details of his or her situation confidential. This Stephen Ministry Small Group Peer Supervision, provides support, encouragement, and accountability to one another in their Stephen Ministry.

AND REMEMBER, IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS HELP...

connect with one of our Stephen Ministers, by calling **Pat Reass at 206-9914**, or talk with one of our other Stephen Minister Leaders: **Alan Harvey, Ray Larson, Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, Les O'Neal, Barbara Perkins, or Jean Strang**. You can also use one of the three Request Form Boxes located in the Centennial Room, narthex, and balcony hallway.



Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

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 4/8/16.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 273 bag lunches the week of 3/28/16.

We gave out 1154 bag lunches in March.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 75 people on 4/2/16

We fed 326 people in March.

YOUTH FLAMINGO FUNDRAISER 2016

It's that time of year again when our youth flock yards with a flamboyance of flamingos to raise money for our summer youth trips. Each trip is \$400-\$415. These summer trips allow our youth to grow in their faith and get to know Jesus on a deeper level. These trips are a priceless experience and one that we hope all can enjoy regardless of the cost.

If you are interested in having a friend's yard flocked you can purchase a flamboyance of flamingos for \$20 OR you can buy insurance to make sure that your yard is NOT flocked for \$40. Some have purchased a double flocking for \$40. All donations are welcomed and very much appreciated.

Call Dana in the office (294-3121) with names and addresses of yards you want to have flocked. We will also be collecting money and names in the Narthex after church each week until April 3.

