



Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church
Marianna, Florida

December 20, 2012

Located on the corner of Jefferson and Clinton Streets

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 – 5:00
Friday 8:00 – 3:00

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Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

Published Semi-Monthly Volume 12 Number 20

SOMETHINGS OLD AND SOMETHING NEW AND DIFFERENT

I'm writing this the morning after the Children's Christmas Pageant. Is there anything cuter, more endearing, more evocative of the season, than seeing little children dressed up as angels and shepherds and wise men and Mary and Joseph and donkeys and cows? This year, we had a live baby Jesus for the children's program, and little Jacob Stafford played his part to perfection.

The Living Nativity is tomorrow evening as I write these words. I'm playing a wise man, thanks to Charlotte Hunter tailoring an XXL T costume. It has been a lot of years since I've participated in a Living Nativity. We did it at the first two churches I served, but not since, and it brings back a lot of memories of good times and good friends.

Isn't that what Christmas is about, memories?

We remember Christmases past, and we remember the story of Christmas anew. We'll tell the story again on Christmas Eve, first for the children and then for everyone, at 5 and 6:30.

Father Norman Bray, of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, has invited me to participate in a special service on December 23, at St. Luke's, at 6 PM. It is a service called The Longest Night. Sometimes it is known as a Blue Christmas Service. I participated in one several years ago when I was working part-time with Hospice of Southwest Florida.

The Longest Night of the year is the winter solstice, so we really should have the service on the 21st, but the 23rd is close enough, and Sunday is a good time for a service.

This service is for those who have experienced loss, grief, sorrow. It is for those who will be alone or lonely at Christmas. It is for those for whom Christmas is a reminder of loss to death or divorce, or for those whose family and loved ones may be far away.

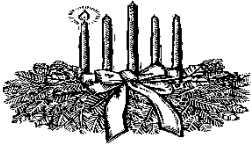
We will sing hymns, read scriptures, light candles, hang ornaments that have special meaning on a tree, but it will not be a service of celebration or joy, but of comfort and hope.

Perhaps this service will meet a need for you. Perhaps you know someone who needs this service. All are welcome, and if you know someone who needs comfort and hope in this holy season, invite them, no, bring them. All who are there will be blest.

And blessings to all who read these words,

Your interim pastor, *Ted Land*

Christmas Eve Services



Everyone is invited to share in our Christmas Eve Service on Monday December 24.

At 5 p.m. there will be a Christmas Eve Service for Children and their Families with children of

all ages having an opportunity to participate in the telling of the Christmas story.

At 6:30 p.m. our traditional Christmas Eve Service will centered on the theme of “Good News and Great Joy” The service will include the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and will conclude with Candle Lighting, and the singing of the carol, “Silent Night.” This service will be preceded by special Christmas Organ Music played by Stanley Littleton.

Many congregations in the Marianna area do not hold services on Christmas Eve, so please invite family members and friends from the community to participate in one or both of these services with you. Childcare will not be provided for either of these Christmas Eve services.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 23. This offering will be used by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as it is divided equally between the Board of Pensions, to offer supplemental retirement income, and medical insurance for retired ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families, and the Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges of our denomination.

Church Office Closed for Christmas and New Year’s



The Church Office will be closed for Christmas and New Year’s beginning Monday, December 24, and will re-open on Wednesday, January 2. Interim Pastor, Ted Land will be available for pastoral care and emergencies during this time. He may be reached on his cell phone at 863-444-0716.



The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who supports our Church. The 2013 Stewardship campaign came to an end and the Session adopted a \$210,177 expense budget. Your continued giving of financial support, time, and talents make the Missions of First Presbyterian Church possible.

Please remember that all contributions that you want recorded for the year 2012 must be dated **December 31, 2012** and either brought to the church, or be postmarked by December 31. You may drop an envelope through the mail slot in the front door of the office.

Women's Circle Meetings



All ladies are invited to participate in one or more of the following circle meetings on Monday, January 7.

Circle 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the church parlor

Lunch Bunch Circle at 11:30 a.m. at Betty Joyce Hand

Circle 2 at 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall

The Good News Women will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 14, 2013 at the home of Betty Blighton (4590 Forest Park Drive). They will be continuing their study of world religions. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Join us for Sunday School



Enjoy cookies, juices, hot chocolate and coffee every Sunday prior to Sunday school, from 9:15 until 9:45. Whether you are new to Marianna or a life-long member, gather for a time of fellowship, make new friendships and to ask about our Church.

There are classes for all age groups between 9:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. including three classes for Adults.

The Adults in the parlor will be studying,

December 23 "Live in the Light" John 1:1-5; Ephesians 5:1-2,6-14

December 30 "Christ's Love for the Church" Ephesians 5:21—6:4

January 6 "Proclaiming Christ" Philippians 1:15-26

Upstairs the Adult Class in Room 4 will be studying the texts to be used in our worship service and the Adult class in Room 2 will be praying the texts to be used in our Worship Service.



WHAT DO WE PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE?

Interim Pastor Ted Land will be teaching a course starting January 13 on basic Presbyterian beliefs and Reformed theology.

The class was prompted by a comment he made about us Presbyterians need to know the difference between Predestination and the Providence of God.

That question and others will be asked and answered as we look at the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. during the months of January and February.

The course will be offered on Sunday morning, from 9:46 until 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. It will be repeated (maybe by video) on Wednesday evenings from 7:01 until 7:45. That class will probably be in the Parlor.

The outline for the course looks like this:

Lesson I: John Calvin and Reformed Theology: An Overview

Lesson II: The Nicene Creed: The Philioque Controversy Resolved

Lesson III: The Apostles Creed: Who are “the quick”? Why did Jesus descend into hell? Are we really “catholic”?

Lesson IV: The Scots Confession: John Knox and the Queens and Kings of Scotland

Lesson V: The Heidelberg Confession: The Student Prince was a Presbyterian?

Lesson VI: The Second Helvetic Confession: Where is Helvetia? And what happened to the First?

Lesson VII: The Westminster Confession: King James Rules!

Lesson VIII: The Shorter Catechism: People actually memorized this!

Lesson IX: The Larger Catechism: The ignored masterpiece.

Lesson X: The Theological Declaration of Barmen: The Confession of 20th Century Martyrs

Lesson XI: The Confession of 1967: Reconciliation in troubled times.

Lesson XII: A Brief Statement of Faith: what the church believed today (or at least 20 years ago)



Poinsettias

Poinsettias Gracing the Sanctuary Are Given to the Glory of God by

- Joe and Ginny Busby in memory of Peg Westmoreland and in honor of Joe and Elta Busby
- Daun and Christine Crews in memory of their parents
- Jim and MaryAnn Gibbs in honor of our precious children and their families
- Lina “Joy” Gilbert in memory of Blanche Ellen “Sally” Roos
- Guy and Ginger Green in memory of their parents and in honor of their children and grandchildren
- Robert and Beverly Hinson in memory of their parents Rudolph and Earline Hinson and Clyde Granger and in honor of Emmy Granger
- Joy Hinton in memory of Edward Hinton and Leon and Magdalene Land
- Don and Charlotte Hunter in memory of their parents
- Doris Irwin
- Ted and Polly Land in memory of our loved ones
- Alex and Joy Lewis in memory of their parents Alex and Jean Lewis and Merritt and Mae Blighton
- Barbara Lewis in memory of James A. Lewis
- Dan and Donna McGehee in memory of the McGehee, Aymonds, Lewis and Daniel families who have served this Church
- Nancy McMullin in memory of her parents and grandparents
- Ernie and Fran McNeill in memory of Fran’s parents Rudolph and Marilyn Bilik

- Dennis and Carol Maxson in memory of their grandson Braden Maxson Errol Grant
- John and Alma Milton in memory of the Wandeck family
- Toni Nowell in memory of Dr. Rex Nowell
- Jane Powell, wife and daughters Lane Prinz, Kim Donofro and Kelly Parmer in memory of Robert C. Powell
- Bobra Palmer, Bob Pitman, Alyne Farrell, Jennifer Farrell, Carlton-Jane Beck, Lleyton Beck and Tycen Beck in memory of Alyne McQuagge Pitman
- Lou and Kathy Roberts in memory of Jake and Bonnie Peacock, Mildred Roberts, Emma Rossman and in honor of Louis Roberts
- Larry and Jackie Spivey in honor of their children/grandchildren Tom, Brianna and Kendall, Abney and Brian, Fran and Austin Spivey
- Tom and Joan Stadskev in memory of Frank and Wilma Bylsma (parents of Joan Stadskev) and Otto Stadskev (father of Tom Stadskev)
- Frankie Stewart and the Owens Family in memory of Betty and Robert Linton, Linda Linton and Wayne Stewart
- Tom and Lou Wilkinson
- Joanne W. Wynn in memory of Milton G. Wynn, Sr.
- In memory of John L. McFarlin, Jr.
- In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Sidney A. Daffin
- In memory of Ralph H. Daffin
- In memory of John S. Lewis

Congratulations To

Several folks in our church family who have recently received special honors and recognition, and we would be remiss not to acknowledge them.

.....Valerie Marlow has completed the process to be certified as a Church Administrator, and will be so recognized at the January meeting of the Presbytery of Florida. As a certified Church Administrator, Valerie has the right to attend presbytery meetings, with voice and no vote.

.....John Milton V has been elected as President of the Board of Directors of Westminster Retirement Communities. Westminster Retirement Communities provides the highest quality retirement facilities in the state of Florida, and is an agency related to the Presbyteries in Florida of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Westminster Oaks in Tallahassee is one of the “flagships” of the Westminster Retirement fleet.

.....Jack Homoney has been approved by the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Florida for service in the First Presbyterian Church of Chipley. Jack has been filling the pulpit there for some time, and will be moderating future meetings of the Session as well as providing limited pastoral care coverage. Jack will also have the privilege of the floor at Presbytery meetings.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Extends our sincere Thanks

.....to all who participated in and supported the Live Nativity. This event is dependent upon many people and we appreciate everyone's help.

..... to the skillful efforts of Matt Brickler, we have a new stable this year that we will be able to use not only for the Live Nativity but also for the manger scene during the Advent season for many years to come.

.....On Sunday, December 16 a group of twelve people went to sing Christmas carols and deliver Christmas arrangements made by Mary Lu Andreu to some of our shut-ins. The shut-ins really appreciated our visit and it was also a very rewarding experience for the carolers.

Please think about joining us next year – this year you missed a wonderful rendition of “O Holy Night”. Thanks to all the carolers and Mary Lu.



JuBELLees Resume Practice

The JuBELLees handbell choir will resume practice on Wednesday, January 2 at 5:30 p.m. They will be cleaning the bells and also plan to enjoy their annual Christmas Party to “RING in the New Year!” Anyone interested in joining the handbell choir can contact Charlotte Hunter at 482-0097 or e-mail at rosebellhunter@aol.com.



December 23: Coffee/Juice Fellowship 9:30 am
Sunday School 9:45 am – Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Christmas Joy Offering

December 24: Christmas Eve Services - Office Closed
Children and Families Service at 5:00 p.m. followed by
Special Christmas Music by Stanley Littleton
Traditional Service at 6:30 p.m.

December 25: Christmas Day ---- Office Closed

December 26: Office Closed
Food Pantry open 9 to 11:00 a.m.
Choir practice at 5:15 p.m.

December 27: Office Closed

December 28: Office Closed
Ladies Exercise at 9:00 a.m.

December 30: Coffee/Juice Fellowship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 am – Worship at 11:00 a.m.

December 31: Office Closed
Ladies Exercise at 9:00 a.m.

January 1: Happy New Year! Office Closed

January 2: Food Pantry open 9 to 11:00 a.m.
Choir practice at 5:15 p.m.
JuBELLees Christmas Party and practice at 5:30 p.m.

January 4: Ladies Exercise at 9:00 a.m.

January 6: Coffee/Juice Fellowship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 am – Worship at 11:00 a.m.

January 7: Circle 1 at 10:30 in the parlor
Lunch Bunch Circle at 11:30 a.m. at Betty Joyce Hand
Circle 2 at 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall

The Good News Women at 7 p.m. at Betty Blighton

January 8: Christian Education Committee at 5:00 p.m.
Autism Support Group at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall



Our Prayer Calendar Joy Gilbert, Piper Montana Smith (niece of Polly Land), Carolyn Land Page (niece of Ted Land), Louise Hoy, Ernest McNeill (father of Ernie McNeill), Bill Nelson (brother of Larry Nelson), Don Morris, Destry Burch (nephew of Mary Bevis Schmidt), Carolyn Baxter (requested by Cindy Morgan), Ken Rogers (requested by Deborah Mathewuse), Becky Williams, Myra Ettenborough (requested by Mary Skipper), Tom Dozier (requested by Larry and Jackie Spivey) and L. J. Pittman (requested by Mary Ann Gibbs)

On-Going Prayer Concerns: Adam Stafford (nephew of Barry Stafford), Brad Southerland (father of Cindy Eade), Barbara Black (requested by Nancy McMullin), Inez Crawford (cousin of Frankie Stewart), Harold Pumphrey (son of Louise Pumphrey) and Carolyn Baxter (requested by Cindy Morgan),

Homebound Members and Friends:

Jackie Parramore
Jessie Stuart
Eileen Drew

Marianna Health & Rehabilitation Center:

Christine Crews
Lottie Fite

Signature Health At the Courtyard

Raynell Morris (mother of Don Morris)
Bert Andrews
Ilene Culpepper

Homebound Members and Friends Out of Town:

Eloise Turner – Gainesville
Isabel Keaton – Tallahassee
Bennie Fowler – Youngstown
Julia Holmes – Mobile, Ala

Serving in the Military:

Ian Kowalczyk (son of Richard & Nancy Kowalczyk) on the USS Nimitz
Wayne Busby
Jake Vickery (Grandson of Jeannette Vickery) in Afghanistan
Gordon Blighton (brother of Kip Blighton) at Norfolk Naval Station
Steven and Drew Blighton (Brothers of Kip Blighton) at Ft. Bliss, Texas

Prayer Calendar Policy: An individual's name will be placed on the Prayer Calendar (in the Bulletin and in the Newsletter) if: 1) an individual requests his or her own name be placed on the list, or 2) a family member of the individual makes the request, or 3) a non-family member makes the request with the knowledge and approval of the individual. Names of individuals will be included on the Prayer Calendar for a four week period.



RULING ELDER
OF THE MONTH

Ernest McNeill

Church Session

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Jane Powell	Dec. 21
Virginia Watford	Dec. 22
Don Hunter	Dec. 23
Hunter Hutton	Dec. 29
Meghan Austin	Dec. 31
Bobby Skipper	Jan. 3
Laurie Ward	Jan. 3
Chaseton Owens	Jan. 4
Carley Smith	Jan. 4
Charlotte Hunter	Jan. 5
Jim Gibbs	Jan. 6
Ginger Green	Jan. 7
Kathy Milton	Jan. 7
Suzanne Owens	Jan. 9
Lee Shook	Jan. 11
Adrian Alvarez	Jan. 12
Larry Nelson	Jan. 13
Shannon Sims	Jan. 13



Poinsettias will be gracing the
Sanctuary during the Advent and
Christmas Seasons.

First Presbyterian Church
4437 Clinton Street
Marianna, Florida 32446-3436

Non-Profit Organization
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(Except "Temporarily Away")