



Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church
Marianna, Florida

January 8, 2013

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.

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JANUARY: A TWO-FACED MONTH

If you remember your Roman mythology, the month of January was named after the deity Janus, who was the god of doors, gates, beginnings, transitions. He was depicted as having two faces, one facing forward and one facing backward. He could see what was behind as well as what was ahead. The Romans had a god for everything, including their little household gods, the lares and penates. This was true of most ancient civilizations. What made the Old Testament people unique was their radical monotheism, their belief that there was but One God, the Lord God of Israel. We Christians are a part of that Judaeo-Christian tradition, and we, too, are radical monotheists in a world where people often bow down to idols, and worship many things.

January is the month of looking forward and looking backward, as we end one year and begin another. Businesses often take inventory in January. Yearend financial statements are prepared. We begin a new budget year. In the church, officers' terms expire, and new officers are installed, and begin their term of service. January is indeed a month of transitions.

I've come to realize that being an interim pastor is a job with two faces. One face is that of a pastor. I know how to do that, how to be that. The other is that of an interim, as one who is leading, assisting, a church through a time of transition. I've had the training to do that, and now I'm putting that training to work.

In December, your session voted to use the services of Holy Cow Consulting out of Columbus, Ohio to assist with the mission study and preparation for your next installed pastor. Holy Cow offers "better decisions in less time with more confidence." They come highly recommended by presbyteries, sessions, and interim pastors.

We will be using a survey called the Congregational Assessment Tool, abbreviated to CAT. I usually refer to it as "the CAT Scan". This survey is individual, private and confidential. It may be done on line or printed out and filled in. Its purpose is to determine the needs, perceptions, indeed the "profile" of the church, so that the Church Information Form that will be completed can be an accurate reflection of not only what First Presbyterian Church of Marianna, Florida is, but what it needs and desires in its next pastor.

To oversee the process, to “run” the CAT Scan, a team of church members will be needed. In the next few days, I’ll be asking some of you to serve on that team. We’ll need about five, maybe six people, who have computer skills, who love the Lord, who want to see the church move forward in the process of calling a new pastor.

If you’d like to volunteer, call me. My cell is 863/444-0716. If you’d like to learn more about Holy Cow Consulting, their website is www.holycowconsulting.com.

And yes, God can work through computers. I was a computer match with the church I served for 26 years until retirement!

In this time of transition and change, of beginnings and endings, I’m grateful that we worship the Lord God Almighty, who is revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord, and indwells us as the Holy Spirit. A triune God and not a two-faced deity.

New Sunday School Course

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

Commitment Forms and Time and Talent Sheets

STEWARDSHIP



If you have not returned your **Commitment Form for 2013**, please do so as soon as possible. Copies of the form and return envelopes are available on the table outside the fellowship hall, or from the church office during the week.

Ruling
Elders



Act of Ruling Elder Installation on January 13

At our Worship Service on Sunday, January 13th, we will share in the Act of Installation for our new Ruling Elders Kip Blighton, Chris Milton and Peggy Peacock, as they will be installed to office. Linda “Joy” Gilbert will be ordained and installed as a ruling elder in the near future, as she is recovering from back surgery.

Thanks to Retiring Ruling Elders

As our new Ruling Elders are installed to active service on our Church Session on January 13, we would like to thank those whose three years of service on our Session will conclude with the service that morning. Rotating off the Session from the Class of 2012 are Joy Lewis and Bryan Milton.

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,

January 13 Jesus’ Humility and Exaltation *Philippians 2:5-11*

January 20 Gaining in Jesus Christ *Philippians 3:7-11*

January 27 Stand Firm *Philippians 3:12-16*

February 3 The Supremacy of Jesus Christ *Colossians 1:15-20*

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.

Presbyterian Beliefs and Reformed Theology in the Fellowship hall taught by Rev. Dr. Ted Land

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.

Covered
Dish
Supper



Covered Dish Suppers have New Schedule

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee announces a new schedule for the **Covered Dish Suppers** beginning Wednesday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The covered dish suppers will be held weekly on Wednesday nights until further notice. Beginning Wednesday, January 16, you will also have the opportunity be part of the course on **Presbyterian beliefs and Reformed theology**, immediately following the covered dish supper from 7:01 till 7:45 p.m.

Wild Flowers Retreat Rescheduled

The Wildflowers Retreat has been rescheduled to Jan 25th and 26th. We will travel to Port St. Joe on Friday night and return home on Saturday night. We will be studying *A Modern Girl's Guide to Bible Study* by Jennifer Hatmaker. If you haven't purchased your book yet, you can find them on Amazon.com. Contact Merian Milton for more details. If you have questions about becoming a part of the Wildflower circle, please contact Merian Milton at merianmilton@embarqmail.com.

Montreat Luncheon



The **Sr. Hi Youth Group** and their parents invite everyone to join them next Sunday, January 13 for a luncheon in the fellowship hall after worship service. The donations from the luncheon will be used for their trip to the Montreat Youth Conference in June.

Games and Movie Night resumes in January

Games and Movie night resumes again on Saturday night, January 18 at 6:30 in the fellowship hall. We're still playing games, but we'll play a family movie to boot.

Remember to bring a snack to share and your favorite game.



Memorials and Gifts

Appreciation is extended to all who faithfully continue to support the work of our church with gifts over and above their contributions to our annual budget. During the past month we have received the following gifts:

1835 Endowment Fund in memory Jeannette Vickery

1835 Endowment Fund in honor of Bill and Jean Boyenton, Jack and Peggy Peacock, Gina Stuart, Jack and Dru Brown, Macky Gortemoller, David and Rosemary Hand Battle and Jacob Stafford

Memorials in memory of John Lewis and Jeannette Vickery

Food Pantry in memory of Hazel Hoff

Gifts to the 1835 Endowment Fund were given by Jacob Gunter, Jim and Mary Ann Gibbs and Richard and Betty Joyce Hand

If you would like to make an honorarium or memorial gift to the 1835 Endowment Fund, you will find **Gold Envelopes** on the back of the pews in the sanctuary, or you may request an envelope from the office by phone at 850-526-2430, or email firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net



Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering 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. As of Sunday, January 6, \$ 287.32 has been received for this offering. Additional contributions may still be made with checks to the First Presbyterian Church and designated “Christmas Joy Offering” throughout the month of January.

Do you have a talent for writing?

The **Evangelism and Fellowship visitation ministry** is seeking your talent and ability to write cards and make follow-up calls to church members, visitors and those on the prayer list. Contact Kip, Jackie or Carol for more information.



Food Pantry News

The Mission & Service Committee would like to thank everyone who has helped with the Food Pantry in any way!!!! This is truly a special ministry, and we are all blessed by being a part of it. Some give money when the Food Pantry Offering is taken up, some bring food, pick up food, help with deliveries or help in a number of different ways in the pantry itself. If you haven't yet been there to help on a Wednesday morning or with a delivery, join us and receive a wonderful blessing!!! Think about it and let any member of the committee know or let the church office know. Again, our deepest gratitude to everyone!!!!

Mission & Service Committee

Mary Ann Gibbs, Chairman

Our **Food Pantry Offering** for January will be received on **Sunday, January 20**. During the month of December our food pantry served 345 families consisting of the following age groups 325(0-18), 375 (19-59) and 185 (60+) for a total of 885 individuals.

If you would like to help with our food pantry ministry, please contact Mary Ann Gibbs at 482-2188 or e-mail: jimgibbsfl@embarqmail.com, or Valerie Marlow at the church office, 526-2430, or firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net for more information.

Volunteers Bagging and Serving in the pantry during the month of January are:

January 16th Matt Brickler, Bill Boyenton, Cindy Morgan, Marianne Lonsinger, Mary Ann Gibbs and Louise Pumphrey

January 23rd Bob Pitman, Matt Brickler, Ron and Willie Mae Goold and Marianne Lonsinger

January 30th Bill Boyenton, Matt Brickler, Cindy Morgan, Mary Ann Gibbs and Marianne Lonsinger.

We are in need of volunteers who can lift up to 40 pounds on USDA delivery days. The next delivery day is Thursday, January 17 at approximately 10:30 a.m. for about 2 hours. Please call the office at 526-2430 if you can help.

As a recipient of USDA food to distribute through our food pantry, this institution is an equal opportunity provider, and required to meet all of the guidelines approved for such an agency and USDA commodities recipient.



Our Prayer Calendar: Joy Gilbert, Piper Montana Smith (niece of Polly Land), Carolyn Land Page (niece of Ted Land), and Ron Wierman (requested by Bud and Mary Wierman).

On-Going Prayer Concerns: Adam Stafford (nephew of Barry Stafford), 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.

January

RULING ELDER OF THE MONTH

Betty Joyce Hand

Church Session

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Gina Stuart 526-2298
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Scott Yant 526-9108
scottandcindyant@yahoo.com

Happy Birthday Wishes To:

Bobby Skipper	Jan. 3
Laurie Ward	Jan. 3
Gracis Wallace	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
Kerri Loving	Jan. 17
Matt Brickler	Jan. 17
Amanda Yant	Jan. 19
Gretchen Schulz	Jan. 21
Helen Taylor	Jan. 21
Ouida Morris	Jan. 22
Hunter Daffin Jr.	Jan. 24
Anna Beth Milton	Jan. 25
Doris Irwin	Jan. 26
Lisa Nowell	Jan. 27
Louise Pumphrey	Jan. 27
Lou Roberts	Jan. 27
Dale Eade	Jan. 29
Carolena Payne	Jan. 30

Flowers for the next few weeks are provided by:

January 13 Larry and Hazel Nelson
January 20 Bill and Susie Stevens
January 27 Jason and LuAnne Law



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

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