



Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church
Marianna, Florida

September 2013

Located on the corner of Jefferson and Clinton Streets Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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SEPTEMBER SONG

Oh it's a long, long, while, from May to December, but the days grow short, when you reach September...

I can't help it. I think of that old song (75 this year) every year about this time. Whether you are old enough (like me) to remember Jimmy Durante's version, or whether Frank Sinatra or Willie Nelson sang the one you remember, the song reminds us that the days are growing shorter when we reach September.

September is always the start of a new program year in the church. We kick off Sunday School classes, with new lessons and new teachers. Our Women's Circles start new study books.

I guess we are in tune with the school year. Even though school starts in August, most of us recall school starting the day after Labor Day, and I well remember a fortuitous year when Labor Day fell on September 7, and we didn't start back to school until the 8th.

September is the time of the year when one can feel the seasons changing, not just the days growing shorter, but the humidity less, the sun not as scorching, the breeze cooler.

It is the start of football season. Forty years ago, I made the statement from the pulpit that there were two major religions in the South: football and Christianity. In that order. And no one has ever challenged that except to say that it isn't just the South!

September Song is written from the perspective of an older man reflecting on his youth. I think about it as someone entering the final quarter of his life.

I took a test that my wife, Polly sent me on the internet the other day, published by a life insurance company, to predict how long one will live. I felt pretty good about scoring 83 until I saw that she'd racked up a 98! But since her mother will be 97 in October, I suspect it is genetic!

Since I'm 66, that puts me well into the fourth quarter of my life, past Labor Day but not quite to Columbus Day. The first quarter, and a little more, was spent in school, learning how to do what I have spent my life doing. The next quarter was spent honing my craft, sharpening my skills, learning how to use the tools I'd been given. The third quarter was spent passing some of that wisdom on to others, and leading in the field where I was serving.

I thought the fourth quarter was going to be basking in the reflected glory, resting on my laurels, retiring.

God and First Presbyterian Church of Marianna, Florida have extended my third quarter!

I'm doing things I never dreamed I'd be doing at this point in my life!

And I want to tell you that I'm enjoying myself to the fullest.

The old Westminster Short Catechism asked the question "What is our chief end?" The answer was: "To glorify God, and enjoy God forever." My hope for my life, and the life of this church, is that we can glorify God, and enjoy God forever.



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,

September 1 God Creates *Psalm 104:5-9,24-30*

September 8 God's Image: Male and Female *Genesis 2:18-25*

September 15 Knowledge of Good and Evil *Genesis 3:8b-17*

September 22 An Everlasting Covenant *Genesis 9:8-17*

September 29 God Scatters the Peoples *Genesis 11:1-9*

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.

Our Daily Bread Available

Copies of *Our Daily Bread* for the months of September thru November are now available in the Narthex, on the table outside the fellowship hall or from the Church office. Please feel free to pick up a copy.



Youth-Led Worship

YOUTH-LED EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE TO DEBUT SEPTEMBER 15

When this year's Montreat delegation returned home, they came back eager to keep the fire, the spirit, that they felt in that mountain-top retreat center alive. They wanted to sing some of the songs, see some of the videos, do some of the things that they had done at Montreat. And not just on one Sunday. Every Sunday.

And so out of that youthful enthusiasm has come a new and exciting thing: an early and casual worship service, in the Fellowship Hall, at 8:30 on Sunday mornings.

If it says anything at all about how serious the youth are about this service, getting up to be at church at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning says it all!

Interim Pastor Ted Land will be preaching the sermon, which will not be the same as the sermon at the 11:00 a.m. service.

“The 8:30 service will be a time for folks who have things they want to do later in the day to come to worship first. It will also be a time for those who want to experience a different style of worship, a different approach to prayer, a different kind of music. It will take nothing away from the 11:00 a.m. service, but adds another opportunity to worship God. I envision people coming at 8:30 a.m., staying for Sunday School, and worshipping at 11 as well,” said Dr. Land.

The youth will be leading other parts of the service, and music will be eclectic. Some of the songs in the Book of Favorites that has been used in worship this summer will be featured.

Montreat Luncheons Resume in September

The Sr. HighYouth Group will be hosting their first of several Montreat Luncheons on Sunday, September 15 after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a fellowship meal. Proceeds from the luncheon are used by the Youth group for their annual trip to Montreat, N.C. in June 2014.



WEEKLY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM STARTS SEPTEMBER 15

It is being called Wild Wonderful Wednesday. It will be fun. It will be a time of learning, of play, of after-school refreshment and it will be every Wednesday, until about 5:15. Volunteers are still needed, and sign-up sheets will be in the Sunday bulletins.

And bus service is available! The Number 6 bus will drop off children from both elementary schools at the corner of Broad and Madison, where responsible adults will accompany them to the church playground. Fun, games, and food will be followed by "The One Room Sunday School."

Yes, Sunday School on Wednesday! If you have grandchildren or children 3-11, this is the place for them to be on Wednesday! And if you have neighbors with children who need to meet Jesus, this is a great place to do it!

Game night resumes on Saturday, September 7th



Game night will resume on Saturday, September 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a game and/or a snack along with your family and friends. We'll play until the fun is over or the snacks are exhausted, whichever occurs first. For more information contact Kip Blighton or Bob Pittman.

Pals Luncheons Back by Popular Demand

The September Pals Luncheon will be on Tuesday, September 17 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be catered by the Dove Academy of Graceville under the supervision of Charlotte Hunter. Reservations are required. Please call the Church office by 10:00 am on Monday, September 16 at 526-2430, or e-mail firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net. You may also write your reservation on one of the cards in the Church pews on Sunday mornings.



Dogwood

Acres

Retreat Center and Summer Camp



Einstein Camps at Dogwood Acres

Asperger's syndrome, also called Asperger's disorder, is a type of pervasive developmental disorder (PDD). PDDs are a group of conditions that involve delays in the development of many basic skills, most notably the ability to socialize with others, to communicate, and to use imagination. The symptoms of Asperger's syndrome vary and can range from mild to severe.

We have chosen the name Einstein Camps because many historians believe that Albert Einstein had Asperger's and many children within the Asperger's community take great pride in this knowledge.

The Einstein Camps at Dogwood Acres are a large help with many of the difficulties that most children and teens with Asperger's face. Through our specialized programming Dogwood Acres helps to build social skills, independence, and spirituality, and also helps these individuals have fun with other kids who understand the disorder, and who share the same difficulties. Our skilled staff, along with our partnership with Gulf Coast School for Autism, help these children and teens enjoy their summer camp experience and, for many of the children who come, enjoy their first time away from home.

Dogwood Acres started these camps back in 2011 because of the strong need in this area and we are still only 1 of 3 camps in the entire SE region of the US that offers overnight camps for children and youth with Asperger's. We are also expanding our Einstein programs to include children with high-functioning autism and Down Syndrome. Research has found that children with Down Syndrome demonstrate very similar mental characteristics to children with high-functioning autism, but unfortunately there are no social services available to assist these children with their mental capabilities. This past summer we opened our doors to our first child with Down Syndrome and it was an inspiring success! His mother cried when she saw video footage of her son laughing and participating in activities in a way she had never seen him before.

Because of generous supporters we have been able to offer these camps for \$1,500 - \$2,000 less than the other 2 camps in the region. Many families with an autistic child or a child with Down Syndrome are burdened with medical bills and the costs of special services, so we also offer full scholarships to any family who cannot afford to send their child to these life changing camps.

No child should ever be denied this opportunity due to money. Our Einstein camps are growing and our outreach is extending into Georgia and Alabama, so more support is needed to keep the costs of this vital ministry low for the families and to help us maintain a high level of programming for these special kids.

For more information please contact our director, Kevin Veldhuisen at 850-535-2695.

The **Mission and Service Committee** will be dedicating 25% of the proceeds from the **PEACEMAKING OFFERING** to the Einstein Camp the first Sunday in October.



Women's Gathering a great success!!!

Fifty-one women gathered on Monday, August 26 and enjoyed a great meal and fellowship together. Sliced ham was furnished by the Christian Education Committee and circle members furnished delicious dishes to go with the ham. The

Fellowship Hall was decorated with begonias, colorful napkins and place mats.

Dr. Land gave the invocation. After the meal, the women got together with other members in their circle and planned their upcoming year (September 2013 through May 2014). Study books were distributed to members of Circles 1, 2, and The Lunch Bunch. The Wild Flowers and Good News Women will decide on their study material. All ladies are invited to participate in one or more of the following circle meetings on Monday, September 9.

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

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

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

Wildflowers on Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Amanda Hinson



PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA TO MEET IN MARIANNA ON SEPTEMBER 10

From Monticello in the east to Pensacola in the west, from Panama City, Tallahassee, Blountstown, Wewahitchka, from churches large and small, the Presbytery of Florida will gather here for its Summer Meeting on the second Tuesday of September.

A corps of volunteers, under the able direction of Betty Joyce Hand, is preparing to welcome, park, register, feed, and otherwise host up to 120 guests of this special day.

A Presbytery meeting happens quarterly, and is a combination business meeting, family reunion, and celebration of God's goodness, mercy and grace.

Highlights of the day will include Worship and Communion at 9:15, with Hugh Hamilton, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pensacola, providing leadership. Our own Lou Wilkinson will be playing the organ music for the service.

Ruling Elder John Lown is Moderator of Presbytery for this year, and Ruling Elder Jeannie Dixon serves as Stated Clerk.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM TO HIGHLIGHT JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS ON SEPTEMBER 11

When is the Jewish New Year? What is the holiest day of the year to the Jews?

Have you ever heard a ram's horn blown like a trumpet? What is the difference between a shofar and a chauffeur?

All of these questions and more will be answered when Ruling Elder Joy Gilbert presents a Wednesday evening program on September 11, following the pot-luck supper. A talented musician, Joy will demonstrate how the ram's horn trumpet is played to call people to worship and prayer, and will discuss the significance of the Jewish High Holy Days not only for the Old Testament people, but for Christians today.

Plan to come for supper at 6:30, and stay for the program. Bring a covered dish, a hearty appetite, and a curious mind.

Covered
Dish
Supper





Food Pantry News

Our **Food Pantry Offering** for September will be received on Sunday, September 22. During the month of July our food pantry served 419 families consisting of the following age groups 334 (0-18), 473 (19-59) and 237 (60+) for a total of 1044 individuals.

If you would like to help with our food pantry ministry, please contact Mary Ann Gibbs at maryanngibbs@embarqmail.com or 482-2188 or Melissa Krebeck, Pantry Coordinator at 372-4913 or fpcpantry@earthlink.net for more information.

Thank you for Bagging on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30: Bill Boyenton, Marianne Lonsinger, Bob Pitman, and Donna Moore

Thank you for Working in the Pantry on Wednesday mornings: Hazel Nelson, Betty Pettis, Ron & Willie Mae Goold, Marianne Lonsinger, Sharon Bannerman, Louise Pumphrey, Mary Ann Gibbs and Bud & Mary Wierman.

Thank You to the Fire and Iron and J. C. Riders Motorcycle Club for helping to unload the USDA delivery for August.

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.

Alzheimer's Support Group to feature Dr. Joe Gay

The Alzheimer's support group will be meeting the first Thursday of each month in the fellowship hall at 10:30 a.m. The featured guest speaker on Thursday, September 5, will be Dr. Joe Gay. He will discuss the topic on Prevention and Care of Falling.

JuBellees looking for Bell Ringers

The JuBellees Bell Choir is short on ringers. You do not have to have any experience with bellringing. Beginners are welcome. If you have any further questions, please call Charlotte Hunter at 850-482-0097, or e-mail to rosebelhunter@aol.com.





Our Prayer Calendar: : Ben Alig (requested by Cindy Morgan), Dr. Wade Crankshaw (requested by Rev. Ted Land), Stanley Littleton, Kena Nelson (requested by Larry and Hazel Nelson), Piper Montana Smith (niece of Polly Land) and Millie Sica.

Homebound Members and Friends:

Eileen Drew
Jessie Stuart

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:

Jackie Parramore
Bennie Fowler – Youngstown
Julia Holmes – Mobile, Ala

Serving in the Military:

Wayne Busby
Jake Vickery in Afghanistan
Jarred Roberts Camp Dam Neck, Virginia Beach, Virginia
(Son of Lou and Kathy Roberts)
Gordon Blighton (brother of Kip Blighton) at Norfolk Naval Station
Steven and Drew Blighton (Brothers of Kip Blighton) at Ft. Bliss, Texas



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 of Imogene Bontrager

Gifts to the 1835 Endowment Fund were given by Jack and Peggy Peacock

September

RULING ELDER OF THE MONTH

Chris Milton

Church Session

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BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

Mary Ann Hutton	Sept. 1
Joy Lewis	Sept. 1
John Ross Green	Sept. 2
Connor Ward	Sept. 2
Trey Weeks	Sept. 6
William Andreu	Sept. 9
Jo-Ann Rountree	Sept. 12
Scott Yant	Sept. 12
Ryder Hinson	Sept. 13
Tyler Stevens	Sept. 16
Kelly Blighton	Sept. 19
Betty Joyce Hand	Sept. 19
Marley Green	Sept. 20
Peggy Peacock	Sept. 24
Bill Boyenton	Sept. 26
Matt Fuqua	Sept. 26
Edith Griffith	Sept. 28
Gene Pelt	Sept. 29
Ed McDaniel III	Sept. 30
Ethel Pelt	Sept. 30

Flowers for the month of September
are provided by:

Sept 01 Tom and Lou Wilkinson
Sept 08 Travis and Ellie Lawson
Sept 15 Johnny and Vicki Milton
Sept 22 Lou and Kathy Roberts
Sept 29 Garraway Girls



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

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