



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY  
NEW YEAR !!

# Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church  
Marianna, Florida

## December 19, 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 11:00 a.m.

Published Monthly Volume 13 Number 13

Phone: (850) 526-2430

Fax: (850) 482-7745

E-mail: [firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net](mailto:firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net)

Website: [www.firstpresmarianna.org](http://www.firstpresmarianna.org)

Pastor's  
Message

for

**CHRISTMAS**



## I HEARD THE BELLS...

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the poem that begins “I heard the bells on Christmas day, their old familiar carols play...” in the midst of the Civil War, in 1863, 150 years ago. His beloved wife, Frances, had died in a fire that year. His only son, Charles, had enlisted in the Union Army and had been severely wounded in battle. If a man ever had reason to lose heart, to lose faith, to doubt God, it was Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a century and a half ago.

He wrote,

“And in despair, I bowed my head,  
‘There is no peace on earth,’ I said,  
For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

And yet in the face of a terrible war that divided a nation and divided families, in the face of the death of his partner and helpmate, in the face of not knowing whether his son would live or die, Longfellow responded,

“Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,  
‘God is not dead, nor doth He sleep,  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men’.”

Dear hearts, as I come to the end of this year, as I come to celebrate our Savior’s birth once again, I’m listening for the bells. I may come to the church and ring the bell on Christmas Day all by myself. I’m listening for the bells. I’m listening for the good news that not only is God not dead, that Christ is born again and again in the hearts and minds and lives of those who believe in Him.

2013 has been a year when many old and dear friends and one of my brothers departed this life for the life everlasting. I’ve lost some new friends, too. I choose not to mourn the loss, but to celebrate their lives; not to despair, but to hope.

That is the message of Christmas: “Fear not, for behold: “I bring you good tidings of great joy’...”

Listen for the bells.

Your interim pastor,  
*Ted Land*

# Christmas Eve Services



Everyone is invited to share in our Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, December 24, **at 6:00 p.m.**

The Christmas Eve Service will centered on the theme of “The Holy Night” 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 Linda Price, our guest organist, and will also include a solo selection sung by Lee Shook.

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 our service. Childcare will not be provided for the Christmas Eve service.

---



## Sunday School Schedule

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 22 Jesus is Born *Luke 2:1-17*

December 29 Jesus is Presented in the Temple *Luke 2:25-38*

January 5 Honoring the Sabbath *Luke 6:1-11*

Upstairs the Adult Class in Room 4 will the 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.

---

## Youth Led Sunday Morning Services Suspended

The Youth led Sunday morning service has been suspended throughout the Christmas and New Year Holiday. The services will resume at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 12 in the Fellowship hall.

# Christmas Joy Gift Offering



The Christmas Joy Offering of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) 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. Special envelopes for this offering will be included in the bulletin on Sunday December 22. The special envelopes will also be available on the table outside the fellowship hall during the Christmas and New Year Holiday Season.

---

STEWARDSHIP



**The Stewardship Committee** would like to thank everyone who supports our Church. The 2013 Stewardship campaign is coming to an end and 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 2013 must be dated **December 31, 2013** 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. If you have not yet turned in a commitment or time and talents card, they are available on the table outside the fellowship hall or from the office.

---

## Office Holiday Schedule

The Church office will be closed Monday, December 23 thru Wednesday December 25 and Monday, December 30 thru Wednesday January 1 while Valerie Marlow, Church Administrator is on vacation. You can e-mail the office at [firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net](mailto:firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net) and leave her a message. She will be checking her e-mails from time to time while on vacation. 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.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!**

# Evangelism and Fellowship Committee News

## *New Year's Eve Games Night*

*You are invited to game night as we ring out the old and bring in the New Year. Bring a snack, a game or video or nothing at all, but at least join us for a low stress New Year's Eve celebration.*

*Games begin at 8 p.m. and we'll ring the church bell at midnight!*



---

## *Covered Dish Suppers Resume*

*Beginning Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The Covered Dish Suppers will become weekly as we begin the Faith Lessons Bible Studies by Ray Vander Laan.*

---

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee extends its sincere gratitude to those members and friends who selflessly gave of their time to promote the Gospel of Christ during the Trunk-or-Treat and the Living Nativity. God knows your name and your reward awaits you in heaven. Matthew 16:27



Poinsettias

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

- Louise McFarlin Daffin in memory of Ralph H. Daffin Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Sidney A. Daffin and Mr. and Mrs. John L. McFarlin, Jr.
- Jim and MaryAnn Gibbs in honor of Rev. Dr. Ted and Polly Land
- Macky McCaskill Gortemoller in memory of Dexter and Jay McCaskilland in honor of Louise M. Daffin
- Joy Hinton in memory of Leon and Magdalene Land and Edward Hinton
- Don and Charlotte Hunter in memory of their parents
- Alex and Joy Lewis in memory of Alex and Jean Lewis
- Barbara Lewis in memory of James A. Lewis
- Marianne Lonsinger in memory of Richard (Doug) Lonsinger
- Dan and Donna McGehee in memory of the McGehee, Symonds, Lewis and Daniel families who have served this Church
- Dennis and Carol Maxson in memory of their grandson Braden Maxson Errol Grant
- Ernest and Frances McNeill in memory of Ernest and Virginia McNeill.
- John and Alma Milton in memory of the Wandeck family
- Jane Powell, wife and daughters Alane Prinz, Kim Donofro and Kelly Parmer in memory of Robert C. Powell
- Bobra Palmer, Bob Pitman, Alyne Farrell, Jennifer Farrell, Carlton-Jane Beck in memory of Alyne McQuagge Pitman
- Lou and Kathy Roberts in memory of Jake and Bonnie Peacock, Louis and Mildred Roberts and Emma Rossman
- Larry and Jackie Spivey in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Spivey
- Frankie Stewart and the Owens Family in memory of Betty Linton, Robert Linton, Linda Linton and Wayne Stewart
- Mary Bevis Schmidt and Mary McLure Clark in memory of Reginald Schmidt



## Memorials and Honorariums

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 Jesse Stuart, Robert Land, Craig Loving, Virginia McNeill, Ernest McNeill, Milton Wynn, Nona Grace Eade, Mr.Southerland

**1835 Endowment Fund** in honor of Betty Joyyce Hand, Mary Ann Gibbs, Scott Yant, Kerri Loving, Nissa Loving, Davis and Rosemary Hand Battle and Ted and Polly Land

**Memorials** in memory of Jesse Stuart

**Gifts to the 1835 Endowment Fund** were given by John and Alma Milton, Larry and Hazel Nelson, Richard and Betty Joyce Hand, Jack and Peggy Peacock, Daun Crews, Ernest and Frances McNeill and Joanne Wynn

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](mailto:firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net)

---

## History Books Available



*As you think about Christmas presents for this year, you might want to consider giving a family member or friend one of our History Books. They are available at the Church Office. The cost of the books are \$20.00 each or 3 for \$50.00*



**CHURCH  
MAINTENANCE**

## Help Needed for Church Playground

**Property and Operations needs your help to get our Playground in Compliance.**

All men, women and kids (teenagers too) that can help during daytime on Monday, December 23 and Monday, December 30. If you can help, please bring your rakes, shovels, pruners, wheelbarrows, gloves, etc. to help get our playground ready to be fenced. You may call Ernie McNeill at 209-1919 for more information.

---

## January Circle Meetings Monday, January 6

All ladies are invited to participate in one or more of the following circle meetings on Monday, January 6.

**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

---



## JuBELLees Resume Practice Bellringers Needed

Handbells will start back their practice sessions on Wednesday, January 8, 2014. If we do not get 7 or 8 willing ringers to commit until May, there will be no concert again this coming year. Practices will be at 5:45 p.m. in Bell Room. **You do not need to be member of this church to participate.**

---

## Brass Flower Vases Retired

The older large vases used for flowers in the Sanctuary have been retired. In the future we will be using the Medium Tall and Rectangular vases that have recently been refurbished. When ordering flowers, please advise the Florist which vases you will be using. Several of the local florists have already been notified by the Altar Guild as to the type of arrangements that will be needed for the vases.



# Food Pantry News



On Wednesday, December 18, America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend along with Family Dollar distributed food and clothing items alongside our regular pantry. It was a huge success with over 300 people receiving items from the Mobile Pantry and 218 receiving

food from our pantry. A special thank you goes out to everyone who volunteered. Boy Scout Pack 300 donated clothing and toys to be distributed also.

.....**Thank you to** the J.C Riders Motorcycle club for helping with our food delivery days.

..... **Thank you to** our regular pantry volunteers as well as our special occasion helpers, Charlotte Hunter, Buddy Bannerman and Mason Flowers.

During the month of December our food pantry served 501 families consisting of the following age groups 441 (0-18), 620 (19-59) and 253 (60+) for a total of 1314 individuals.

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

*The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.*

---



**Non-Perishable Food for the Pantry**  
**Canned Tuna**  
**Soup**  
**Vegetables**  
**Rice**

**Four Volunteers to work once a month on Wednesday mornings that can lift up to 20 pounds.**



**Our Prayer Calendar:** : Charlene Garraway, JoAnn Rountree, Burton Fite (requested by Donna Moore), Linda and David Stewart (requested by Jake Gunter), Sherry Stone (requested by Susie Stevens), Larry Stevens (requested by Kathy Milton), Peggy Keaton (requested by Joy Lewis), Stanley Littleton, Dr. Wade Crankshaw (requested by Rev. Ted Land), Kena Nelson (requested by Larry and Hazel Nelson), Piper Montana Smith (niece of Polly Land), Millie Sica and Sue Land.

The **Sympathy** of the Church is extended to Ernie and Fran McNeill on the death of his father Ernest McNeill on Monday, December 9, at St. Petersburg, Florida.

**Homebound Members and Friends:**

Eileen Drew

**Marianna Health & Rehabilitation Center:**

Lottie Fite  
Christine Crews

**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 (Son of Lou and Kathy Roberts) at Camp Dam Neck, Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Gordon Blighton (brother of Kip Blighton) at Norfolk Naval Station  
Steven and Drew Blighton (Brothers of Kip Blighton) at Ft. Bliss, Texas  
Tyler Schaeffer (grandson of Valerie Marlow) at Lackland AFB, Texas

---

## Devotional Literature Available

Copies of the new ***Our Daily Bread*** for December, January and February are available on the table in the narthex, on the table in the hallway outside the fellowship hall, and from the church office during the week.



**RULING ELDER  
OF THE MONTH**

**Joy Gilbert**

**Church Session**

Kip Blighton 482-4661  
cliffordblighton@hotmail.com  
Mary Ann Gibbs 482-2188  
maryanngibbs@embarqmail.com  
Ginger Green 594-5724  
ginger@chipola.com  
Marcus Green 482-3270  
floridaindiangreen@yahoo.com  
Linda "Joy" Gilbert 482-3895  
joy@innovativecharities.org  
Jackie Homoney 526-2041  
jax2861@msn.com  
Peggy Peacock 693-1854  
ppeacock@embarqmail.com  
Betty Joyce Hand 482-5066  
bettyjhand@comcast.net  
Ernest McNeill 482-8140  
elmceill@centurylink.net  
Chris Milton 482-7944  
chris.milton@gentiva.com  
Gina Stuart 526-2298  
ginacstuart@gmail.com  
Scott Yant 526-9108  
scottandcindyant@yahoo.com

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY TO:**

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
Gracie 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



***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  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 179  
Marianna, Florida 32446**

Return Service Requested  
(Except "Temporarily Away")