



# Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church  
Marianna, Florida

## January 2014

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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## THE HIGH HOLY DAYS AND THE LOW SUNDAYS

In a sermon recently, I compared Christmas Eve and Easter to Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah, the High Holy Days of the modern Jewish community. Those are the days when everyone who practices the faith makes a particular effort to be in a house of worship. In some Christian fellowships, where there are “high church” and “low church” traditions, there are certain Sundays of the year that are designated as “low Sundays.”

The Sundays after Christmas and Easter are low Sundays. I think that means “low attendance.”

When I was preaching in Kentucky in seminary days and in West Virginia in the first half of the ‘80’s, the winter time was a time of low attendance. The snow and ice and cold kept people indoors. Many who were retired spent their winters in Florida, or even Arizona. Our last winter in West Virginia, we had six weeks with snow on the ground. Two weeks in the middle of that, the temperature never got above zero! One Sunday, when I went across the river to preach in the little church in the town of Smithers, no one came to church at all. I waited for about half an hour, prayed a prayer for the congregation at home where it was warm, and skidded and slid back to Montgomery, W.Va. for the eleven o’clock service, where there were a few folks gathered.

That was the winter I experienced the all-time record cold in my home town of Knoxville, Tennessee: minus 24 degrees.

After serving God faithfully through that winter, a call to Florida seemed like a special blessing!

When we moved to Southwest Florida, the winter season was the time when the church was fullest, with “snowbirds” who filled our trailer parks from October until May making a huge difference in the life of the church. And the Sunday after Christmas was often the Sunday that a big wave of snowbirds, winter visitors, arrived, or returned from a brief trip north for the holidays.

Here in Marianna, we enjoyed a full house on Christmas Eve, as one would expect of a “high holy” day. The next two Sundays, well, they were “low Sundays.”

I know that our next full house will be on Easter. I also know that we have very few “snowbirds” here in the winter. It appears that this winter is going to be a cold one, which means we may have quite a few more low Sundays.

These things I want you to know: we will be open on Sunday! And whether you are present in the sanctuary, or at home by the fire, you are a part of the church, and you are included in our prayers. Remember that you can listen to the sermon, or read it on line through the church website, and know that you are missed and valued here.

Your Interim Pastor,  
Ted Land

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## Adult 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:

January 12 How to Live as God's People *Luke 6:17-31*

January 19 Jesus Teaches about Relationships *Luke 14:7-18a,22-24*

January 26 Jesus Teaches Compassion for the Poor *Luke 16:19-31*

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.

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## Youth Led Sunday Morning Services Resume

The Youth led Sunday morning service The services will resume at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 12 in the Fellowship hall.

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## Children's Sunday School News

Ryan Law and Sarah Bedini earned the right to paint their chairs in Sunday School by attending ten Sundays in one quarter. Many thanks to Ron and Willie Mae Goold for donating a few more ladderback chairs. We made New Year's resolutions this past Sunday as a class: **Pray more, Honor our Fathers and Mothers, and be kind to others. Come and join us!**

# 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.

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## Montreat Luncheons

The Montreat luncheons will resume for the New Year. The next luncheon will be on Sunday, January 26, 2014 following the 11:00 worship service. These luncheons help to fund the annual trip to the Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina.

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## Wildflowers Meeting Schedule for 2014

The Wildflowers will meet on the second Tuesday of each month for 2014. We invite anyone who is interested in joining our group to contact Merian Milton for more information. We have a great time fellowshiping with each other and learning about God. Our first meeting of the year will be at Merian Milton's house on January 14th at 6:30.

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## How do you form a Women's Circle?



Find a group of like- minded women and set a time each month to get together and study God's word. If you need curriculum, contact Peggy Peacock, the chairperson of the Christian Education committee. The committee can recommend good books that might interest you and your group, or order the curriculum that many of our circles follow.

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**Lunch Bunch Circle** will meet on Monday, January 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the home of Betty Joyce Hand.



## WEEKLY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Wild Wonderful Wednesday's Children's program will be held every Wednesday afternoon beginning January 8 from 3:45 to 5:15. We are in need of volunteers to provide snacks for the children, and also volunteers for arts and crafts and music. There is a sign-up sheet on the table outside the fellowship hall if you are willing to volunteer your time or talent.

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## JuBELLee Handbell Choir Begins Practice

The JuBELLee Handbell Choir 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 weekly at 5:45 p.m. in the upstairs Bell Room. **You do not need to be member of this church to participate.**

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## New Ruling Elders

Thoughts and prayers from the congregation will be appreciated for our new Ruling Elders as they prepare for the Service Installation on Sunday, January 26 at 11 a.m. Our new Ruling Elders in the Class of 2016 of our Church Session are **Peggy Peacock, Kitty Myers, Jim Gibbs and Larry Spivey**. The new Session for 2014 will begin service following this worship service. A Montreat Luncheon will follow the service on January 26 and will provide an opportunity to visit with our new Ruling Elders.

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What does the Lord require of us? Simply this: to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). May it be so.







## PALS Luncheon on January 21

The January PALS Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, January 21 at 12 noon. Reservations for lunch (\$5.00 per person) may be made by filling out one of the *Welcome* cards and placing it on the offering plate on a Sunday morning or by contacting the church office by 10 a.m. on Monday, January 20 at 526-2430 or e-mail to [firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net](mailto:firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net). Joy Lewis will be providing the Lunch. The menu will be Chicken Casserole, Fruit, Rolls and Dessert. Our Guest Speaker will be Melissa Krebeck, our Food Pantry Coordinator.

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## Looking Ahead to February

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 8th** from 9-11. The children of the church, grandchildren of members, and friends are invited to a Valentine Party in the fellowship hall. We will play on the new playground, do crafts, and eat yummy treats. Theme: Love The Lord with all of your heart. If you are interested in helping with the party, contact Jennifer Stafford. ❤️

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## News from Property and Operations Committee



**CHURCH  
MAINTENANCE**

We want to thank everyone who has helped on the upgrading of the playground. It was really a big help to have Jeff Hinson's tractor to move mulch and dirt around. Thanks, Jeff. The playground is taking shape, but we still need to have a couple more "work days" which will be announced in the near future. Remember this is for the children and friends of our church to enjoy.

The new Fire Alarm System has also been installed throughout the Church facilities. The Main Church Building, Office and Spivey House have all been wired with a new Fire Alarm system to bring our Church facilities up to current Code.



## 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 Virginia and Ernest McNeill

**1835 Endowment Fund** in honor of John and Alma Milton

**Gifts to the 1835 Endowment Fund** were given by Ernest and Fran McNeill, Larry and Hazel Nelson and Anonymous

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**[jmiltonv@digitalexp.com](mailto:jmiltonv@digitalexp.com)**

**Jan. 6, 2014**

**Dear Anonymous,**

**We were overwhelmed to learn a generous gift was made to the 1835 Endowment Fund in our honor! What a humbling and surprising revelation.**

**We love First Presbyterian which has been such an integral part of our family's life and faith. It is our hope that the 1835 Endowment Fund, as it increases both in principle and income, will afford our Church opportunities in the future like supplementing a D.C.E. salary or helping to provide a Ministerial Intern.**

**Thank you so much for the gift to our Church, but especially for placing it in a place near and dear to our hearts, The 1835 Endowment Fund.**

**Sincerely,**  
**Alma and John**



**Our Prayer Calendar:** Becky Brewer (requested by Gina Stuart), 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 the family of Charlene Garraway who died in 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  
Tom Abney in Afghanistan ( son-in-law of Larry and Jackie Spivey)

# January

## RULING ELDER OF THE MONTH Jackie Homoney

### Church Session

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

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 Month of January are provided by:

Jan 12 Larry and Hazel Nelson  
Jan 19 Bill and Susie Stevens  
Jan 26 Jason and Lu Anne Law

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

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