



Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church
Marianna, Florida

July 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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Phone: (850) 526-2430

Fax: (850) 482-7745

E-mail: firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net

Website: www.firstpresmarianna.org



INDEPENDENCE AND INTERDEPENDENCE

July 4 is the day we Americans celebrate our independence. It is truly our nation's birthday, and a time when we celebrate all that it means to be an American.

When, in 1776, that historic document was signed, one of the signers, John Witherspoon, was a Presbyterian minister. He served in the Continental Congress from 1776 until 1782, representing New Jersey, where he also served as President of what would become Princeton University. Later on, he would be the convener of the first General Assembly of Presbyterians in this new land, convening commissioners from every Presbytery then extant.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) meets every two years now. This year, it met in Detroit.

I think it was Will Rogers who said the only time the Republic is safe is when Congress is not in session. I suppose we can say the same thing about the Presbyterian Church: the only time the denomination is safe is when the General Assembly is not in Session.

Headlines in the newspaper, television reports, and internet news services tend to focus on the controversial and the sensational, and this year's General Assembly certainly had its share of those issues.

On Sunday, June 15, an Associated Press article in the local paper focused on the proposed divestment of funds from certain businesses doing business in Israel. This is a means of protesting the treatment of Christians in Israel by what is by definition a Jewish state. The press usually refers to those Christians as Palestinians, which they are, and sometimes as Arabs, which they are, but they are people who live in places like Bethlehem and Jericho and Jerusalem, many of whom trace their Christianity back to the days of the disciples. And they are an oppressed minority in Israel.

Headlines on line on June 20 noted that the Presbyterian Church (USA) was approving same gender marriages. The issue of homosexuality has caused difficult and painful debate in our denomination. It has caused churches to leave our denomination and members to leave our churches. And the press has seldom if ever reported accurately what transpired at our national meetings.

Basically, what happened in Detroit was that the Assembly approved a measure giving pastors the discretion to perform same gender

marriages in states where it is legal and offering the same discretion to sessions in determining the use of church property for such weddings. Additionally, a proposed change in language to the Directory of Worship (a part of the Book of Order) reinforces the right of pastors and sessions to use their discretion in who may or not be married in a Presbyterian church, noting that marriage is “a unique commitment between two people (traditionally a man and a woman)” that is a gift from God.” The proposed change concludes with this language: “Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service that the teaching elder or the session believes is contrary to the teaching elder’s or the session’s discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the Word of God.”

Approval of this proposed change will take a majority vote of the 172 Presbyteries.

We enjoy in American society a remarkable degree of independence. In the Presbyterian Church we are both independent, and interdependent. We are a local congregation that is a part of a Presbytery, and that Presbytery sends commissioners to General Assembly. This year, Randy Jackson, teaching elder from First Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, and Leslie Yandle, a ruling elder from one of our churches, represented us. Our own Mary Bevis Schmidt was Leslie’s alternate.

As a family is interdependent, yet independent, in its different branches of a family tree, so we Presbyterians are inter-related. We saw this clearly at Montreat earlier this summer at the Youth Conference. We see it clearly at our meetings of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. We don’t always agree. Some of us are Republicans, some are Democrats. Some are Gators, some are Seminoles. Some even cheer for heretical teams like Alabama or Tennessee or Auburn or Georgia. We don’t agree on interpretation of Scripture, or the Constitution of the church, but we are part of the same family, with uncles and cousins that we don’t agree with but tolerate.

I would ask for your prayers for the denomination as we try to discern God’s will and God’s purpose in a change that most of us neither sought nor desired.

I think it is safe to say that for First Presbyterian Church of Marianna and its interim pastor, nothing about the way we conduct ourselves, or about who will be married in this church by this teaching elder has changed.

Independence Day is Friday, July 4th



Blessed to be a blessing

God promised Abram, "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you ... so that you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2, NRSV). Especially on the Fourth of July, we in the United States remember that God has blessed us as a nation, too.

That isn't to say everyone here has an equal share of resources. Our government isn't perfect, and our land isn't necessarily more beautiful than any other place on earth. It doesn't mean we alone model "liberty and justice for all" – or that we do so flawlessly.

Rather, God's promise to Abram and us means we aren't to hoard our blessings. We are to share our wealth generously, cultivate liberty and justice, and pass on to the world the gifts we enjoy in this land.

Please remember those serving in our military:

Wayne Busby

Jarred Roberts (Son of Lou and Kathy Roberts) at Camp Pendleton, California

Drew Blighton (Brother of Kip Blighton) at Ft. Bliss, Texas

Tyler Schaeffer (grandson of Valerie

Marlow) at Tyndall AFB, Panama City

Tom Abney in Afghanistan (son-in- law of Larry and Jackie Spivey)

From the Church Office

...Pastor Ted Land will be on **vacation** beginning Wednesday, June 25 and will return to the pulpit on Sunday, July 6. He and his wife Polly will be taking a trip to Tennessee for his Class Reunion and then on to Montreat, N.C. for a Conference. If there is an emergency, please contact Valerie Marlow, Church Administrator at 526-2430, or your elder of the Month for June, Joy Gilbert, or Kitty Myers elder of the month for July.

...The Church Office will be closed for the Fourth of July holiday on Thursday, July 3 and Friday July 4.



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:

July 6	Glorify God with Your Body <i>1 Corinthians 6:12-20</i>
July 13	Love Builds Up <i>1 Corinthians 8</i>
July 20	Overcoming Temptation <i>1 Corinthians 10:12-22</i>
July 27	Seek the Good of Others <i>1 Corinthians 14:13-26</i>

PNC Committee Continues Search

Your PNC continues to meet weekly in search of our new Pastor. The PNC has viewed over 200 PIF's. We thought we were close on one opportunity, but it did not workout. The PNC has had the opportunity to attend two "Face to Face", but did not attend the one in California due to the associated cost. There was one in Detroit during the General Assembly which we chose not to attend. We just felt there were too many other matters going on, and would not have been a productive use of time or money. We will continue to try to attend a future Face to Face. If you know of any potential candidates please refer them to any member of the committee, Jennifer Stafford, Chair, Jim Gibbs, Amy Milton, Matt Payne, Kathy Roberts, Natalee Milton, Ginger Green, and Chuck Morgan, alternate.

Update Your Church Member Information

The office is attempting to update Church member information. If you are a new member, please fill out the Information Sheet that was given upon acceptance of membership and return it to the office. If you have moved, changed your e-mail address or phone numbers, we also thank you in advance for forwarding the information to the Church office. Please e-mail the office at firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net



God's Love is Paradise Vacation Bible School 2014

First Presbyterian Church
Monday – Thursday July 7th-10th
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

All of the children of the church are invited to take part in Vacation Bible School this year. Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend. We look forward to learning about and experiencing God's love. The children will soak up a few Hawaiian phrases, eat a mass amount of popsicles, and enjoy the splash pad and our new playground. Look for the registration sheets in the e-newsletter and in your Sunday Bulletin.

Grab Your Shirt...



We will not order t-shirts this year. Everyone is encouraged to wear their best Hawaiian shirt or outfit on Thursday.



Congratulations are extended to
...Patricia Louise Bruner who graduated from the
Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary with a
Doctorate of Ministry. She is the daughter of Louise
Pumphrey.

Christian Education Volunteers Needed



Christian Education Committee is currently seeking loving disciples to nurture and teach our children, ages Kindergarten through 5th grade requiring only a ONE MONTH commitment. Beginning in September, a class for this age group will be offered with teachers committing to a one month rotating cycle. Please prayerfully consider being a part of the cloud of witnesses for the next generation of the church. Please contact Peggy Peacock, Chairperson of Christian Education at 850 693-1854 or ppeacock@embargmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

*"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my
God; thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness."*
Psalm 119:10

Changes in the Nursery

Please welcome Tina Wilson who will be providing nursery care on Sunday mornings along with assistant Trey Weeks. We hope that both parents and children will feel at home in the nursery. Our primary purpose is to enhance your family's time of worship, study, and service by providing a safe and loving environment for your children. The nursery is available Sunday mornings beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The Christian Education Committee would like to recognize and express appreciation for the service of Mary Skipper who recently resigned after several years of lovingly providing care for the children in the nursery.



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 Julia Holmes, Lottie Fite, Ruth Sherrel, Jackie Parramore, Justin Ayers and Chad Plant

Memorials in memory of Lottie Fite, Ruth Sherrel, Jackie Parramore and Larry Nelson

Gifts to the 1835 Endowment Fund were given by John and Alma Milton, Bill and Jean Boyenton and Ray and Betty Brendemuehl

Homebound Members and Friends:

Eileen Drew
Doris Irwin
Louise Hoy

Homebound Members and Friends Out of Town:

Daun Crews (Tallahassee)
Edith Griffith

Signature Health at the Rehabilitation Center:

Raynell Morris Ilene Culpepper Bert Andrews

Our Prayer Calendar: Cliff Stewart (requested by Ginger Green), Betty Pettis, Rosemary Hand Battle (requested by Betty Joyce Hand), Richard Hand, Daun Crews, Mary McLure Clark, Jeff Hinson and Family, Louise Pumphrey, Stanley Littleton, Bill Ansley (requested by Joe Busby and Scott Yant), Joan Byrd (requested by Dot Carpenter), Kena Nelson, Bill Nelson (requested by Hazel Nelson), JoAnn Rountree, Dr. Wade Crankshaw (requested by Rev. Ted Land), Piper Montana Smith (niece of Polly Land), Millie Sica and Sue Land and Sylvia Grandal (requested by Mary Schmidt).



The **sympathy of the Church** is extended to the family of Tom and Joan Stadskev on the death of his mother Donna Stadskev in Satellite Beach, Florida on June 23.



RULING ELDER OF THE MONTH

Kitty Myers

Church Session

Kip Blighton 482-4661
 cliffordblighton@hotmail.com
 Ginger Green 594-5724
 ginger@chipola.com
 Linda "Joy" Gilbert 482-3895
 joy@innovativecharities.org
 Jackie Homoney 526-2041
 jax2861@msn.com
 Peggy Peacock 693-1854
 ppeacock@embarqmail.com
 Ernest McNeill 482-8140
 elmceill@centurylink.net
 Chris Milton 482-7944
 chris.milton@gentiva.com
 Gina Stuart 526-2298
 ginacstuart@gmail.com
 Jim Gibbs 482-2188
 jimgibbsfl@gmail.com
 John W. Milton 482-8963
 johnw@daffinfoodservice.com
 Kitty Myers 482-8963
 kittymyers3@yahoo.com
 Larry Spivey 592-5227
 larryspivey@centurylink.net



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

Kathy McCrary	July 3
Lu Daffin	July 4
Helen La Fontaine	July 4
Tatum Milton	July 4
Judy Brooten	July 5
Louise Daffin	July 6
Robert Hinson	July 8
Parker Roberts	July 9
Angela Franz	July 12
John Milton V	July 13
Merian Milton	July 13
Alex Nowell	July 13
Kathy Roberts	July 14
Tom Wilkinson	July 14
Mary Lu Andreu	July 15
Courtney McKeen	July 15
Matt Payne	July 21
Macky Gortemoller	July 23
Frances McNeill	July 23
Vikki Milton	July 26
Beth Beasley	July 27
Larry Spivey	July 27
Margaux LaFontaine	July 29
Jake Gunter	July 31

Flowers for the Month of July are provided by:

July 6 Toni Nowell
 July 13 Don and Ouida Morris
 July 20 Hanni Daffin
 July 27 Gene and Ethel Pelt



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

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