



Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church
Marianna, Florida

December 2014

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

Education Hour	9:45 a.m.	Phone:	(850) 526-2430
Worship	11:00 a.m.	Fax:	(850) 482-7745
Published Monthly Volume 14 Number 12		E-mail:	firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net
		Website:	www.firstpresmarianna.org



CAN YOU STILL HEAR THE MUSIC?



During my life, for brief periods of time, I've been without my sight, and other times I've been without my hearing. I've come to understand that I can function in ministry, and enjoy life, without my sight better than I can without my hearing. So naturally, as I'm growing older, I am losing my hearing! When it gets so bad that I can't hear well enough to do what I need to do in ministry, I will finally retire and write the books I've been threatening to write for years.

As bad as my hearing is now, I can still hear the music. And this is the time of year when we hear the hymns of Advent, the carols of Christmas, the great works like Handel's *Messiah*, the trivial tunes like "Jingle Bells", the old favorites and maybe a new one or two.

There are certain songs that bring tears to my eyes, as I remember Christmases past, and dear friends now absent. There are others that bring joy to my heart, and there are some that are just so beautiful they take my breath away.

My wife, Polly, would listen to Christmas music year round. I think maybe she does when I'm not in the house to hear it. I took her to a Christmas concert in November this year, Mannheim Steamroller, one of her favorite musical groups. When we looked at the program, she said, "I'm disappointed." I asked why. She said, "They aren't playing *Silent Night*." I replied, "They will. They are saving it for their encore."

And sure enough, at the end of the concert, after a standing ovation from the packed house, they played *Silent Night*.

It is always the last song sung on Christmas Eve, why shouldn't it be the last song played at a Christmas concert?

On Christmas Eve, we'll light the candles, we'll dim the lights, we'll sing *Silent Night*, and we will go out into the darkness of the night with the light of Christ's coming into the world illuminating our lives for yet another year.

Can you still hear the music? I can. And I suspect that when I can hear nothing else, I will still hear the music of *Silent Night*, *Holy Night* playing in my heart.

A blessed Christmas to all who read these words!

Ted Land, Interim Pastor



Adult Education Hour

Enjoy cookies, juices, hot chocolate and coffee every Sunday prior to Education hour 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 10:45 a.m. including three classes for Adults. The Adults in the parlor will be studying:

December 7 Worship Christ's Majesty

Hebrews 1:1-9

December 14 Make a Joyful Noise

Psalms 95: 1-7a

December 21 Glory to God in the Highest

Luke 2: 8-20

December 28 In Awe of Christ's Power

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Christmas Joy Gift Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has been a tradition for almost 70 years. It 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 21.



children's
program



Children's Christmas Pageant

The Children's Christmas pageant is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. All are invited to attend and bring a friend. The Christian Education Committee will be providing Pizza and everyone is invited to bring their favorite salad or dessert to share after the pageant in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Eve Services



Everyone is invited to share in our Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24, at **6:00 p.m.** The Christmas Eve Service will be centered on the theme of “A Light Shines in the Darkness” 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 Stanley Littleton. 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.

With Humble Hearts



Bethlehem’s Church of the Nativity, which marks the likely spot of Jesus’ birth, has a four-foot-high entrance. Throughout the centuries, the height of the entrance has been lowered twice: once to prevent looting and once to keep out camel- and horse-riders. Because visitors must bow as they enter, this has become known as the Door of Humility. It’s a reminder of the reverent, submissive posture our hearts should take as we approach our newborn Lord and Savior. It’s also a reminder that Jesus is the narrow door (Luke 13:24) — the only path to eternal life. As you worship this Christmas season, whether or not you’re physically able to kneel, enter Jesus’ presence with a humble and thankful heart. He alone deserves our reverence because he alone is able to save.

Montreat Luncheon Scheduled for Sunday, December 7.

The Montreat Youth Group will have a Luncheon on Sunday, December 7 following the worship service in the fellowship hall. Please join them for lunch and bring a friend. The proceeds from these luncheon help to defray the costs of their annual trip every year to the Montreat Conference in North Carolina.



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 Richard Hand

Food Pantry in memory of Robert “Robbie” Prinz

Gifts to the 1835 Endowment Fund were given by Drucilla C. Brown

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

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.



History Books and Aprons 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.

Aprons are also available for purchase at the cost of \$15.00. The proceeds from the aprons will go to the Church's Food Pantry.



Food Pantry News

November was a busy month for the food pantry. The pantry served 454 households for a total of 1318 individuals just in the first three Wednesdays of November.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who bag and/or work the pantry. A special thank you to Tina Wilson, Beth Beasley and the Montreat Youth Group for helping with the Walmart/Winn Dixie Food Drops. **The pantry is in need of canned food of any kind. Our USDA allotments have been reduced like most other government programs.**

If you would like to help with our food pantry ministry, Melissa Krebeck, Pantry Coordinator at 372-4913 or fpcpantry@earthlink.net for more information.

On Wednesday, December 17, America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend along with Family Dollar will be distributing food and clothing items alongside our regular pantry. It was a huge success last year with over 300 families receiving items from the Mobile Pantry, and over 200 families receiving food from our Church Food Pantry.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.



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

Office Holiday Schedule

The Church office will be closed Wednesday, December 24 thru Friday, December 26 and Wednesday, December 30 thru Friday January 2.



Poinsettia

We will be decorating the Sanctuary with poinsettias during our Advent and Christmas Seasons.

If you would like to give a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, they will be available through our Worship and Music Committee for \$15.00 each. A complete listing of those giving poinsettias and those for whom they are given in memory or in honor will be included in the bulletin on Sunday, December 21, and the church newsletter on December 30.

(You may pick up your poinsettia following our Christmas Eve service if you would like to take one home or give to a shut-in.)

NAME _____

I/We would like to provide _____ poinsettia(s)

In memory of

In honor of

Please include this information with your check to the First Presbyterian Church, and place it on the offering plate, or return it to the church office by Sunday, December 14. If you have any questions, please contact Joy Hinton from our Worship and Music Committee, at 482-3466 or jlhinton@yahoo.com.



Donna O'Bryan (Sister of Joy Lewis), Ron Wierman (brother of Bud Wierman), Bill Nelson (requested by Hazel Nelson), Will Rountree (requested by Jo-Ann Rountree), Cole Payne , Don Morris (requested by Jim Gibbs), Matt Lein, Ise Daffin, Gina Stuart, Tyler Ward (grandson of

Bud and Mary Wierman), Louise Wilkinson Spivey, James Carpenter (Freddie's brother), Sid Riley and Doris Adkins (requested by Dot Carpenter), Cliff Stewart (requested by Ginger Green), Joy Gilbert, Daun Crews, Mary McLure Clark, Jeff Hinson and Family, Stanley Littleton, Kena Nelson, JoAnn Rountree, Dr. Wade Crankshaw (requested by Rev. Ted Land), Piper Montana Smith (niece of Polly Land) and Millie Sica.

Homebound Members and Friends:

Eileen Drew
Doris Irwin
Louise Hoy
Gina Stuart
Joy Gilbert

Homebound Members and Friends Out of Town:

Daun Crews (Tallahassee)
Edith Griffith (Dothan)

Signature Health at the Rehabilitation Center:

Raynell Morris Ilene Culpepper

The **Sympathy** of the Church is extended to the family of Kay Bell Turner. Services were held Friday, December 5th, in Phenix City, Alabama. Memorials may be made to The 1835 Endowment Fund in her memory.

Please remember those serving in our military:

Wayne Busby (son of Joe and Ginny Busby) at Naval Station in Rota, Spain
Jake Vickery in Afghanistan
Jarred Roberts (Son of Lou and Kathy Roberts) at Camp Dam Neck, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Tyler Schaeffer (grandson of Valerie Marlow) at Tyndall AFB
Tom Abney in Afghanistan (son-in- law of Larry and Jackie Spivey)





Church Session

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Sandra Daffin	Dec. 1
Lu Anne Law	Dec. 2
Bob Pitman, Jr.	Dec. 3
Justin Schutkovske	Dec. 4
Mary Wierman	Dec. 4
Ronnie Myers	Dec. 5
Jean Boyenton	Dec. 6
Beverly Hinson	Dec. 8
Catherine Hester	Dec. 9
Jonathan Taylor	Dec. 9
Jackie Parramore	Dec.10
Jeff Allen	Dec.12
Stephen Stafford	Dec.14
Kara Roberts	Dec.15
Stanley Littleton	Dec.16
Don Morris	Dec.16
Vikki Cumming	Dec. 17
Ginny Busby	Dec. 18
Emma Smith	Dec. 18
Lewis Bullard	Dec. 20
Jane Powell	Dec. 21
Virginia Watford	Dec. 22
Don Hunter	Dec. 23
Hunter Hutton	Dec. 29
Andrew Franz	Dec. 31
Meghan Austin	Dec. 31



Poinsettias will be gracing the Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

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

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