



Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church
Marianna, Florida

January 2015

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
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BAPTISM, JESUS, AND JANUARY

The second Sunday in January, which is the 11th this year, is the Sunday in the liturgical calendar that is set aside to remember the Baptism of the Lord. Since we've spent most of Advent on texts that recall John the Baptist, it won't be unfamiliar ground, or feature unfamiliar characters. It is a time for all of us to reflect on our own baptism. Some churches have a service for the renewal of baptismal vows, and include it on that Sunday. We won't be doing a full service of renewal, but I will be reminding you all that we are baptized into the church, and what that means.

That Jesus was baptized by John is still one of the remarkable stories of the New Testament, and I will enjoy preaching on that story on the 11th. January itself was "baptized", you know. We took the Roman calendar and "baptized" it, when Popes Gregory and Julian authorized the use of the Roman calendar, as modified, as the official calendar of Christendom.

As with our modern calendar, January was the first month of the year. It was named after the Roman deity, Janus. Janus was the two-faced god. He had a face on the front of his head to look forward into the future and a face on the back of his head to look backward into the past. January is a time for looking ahead into the New Year, and for looking backwards into the year that is past. It is a time for looking at the mistakes, sins, errors, and seeking forgiveness, and leaving them behind, and a time for making plans, setting goals and objectives for the year ahead.

I'm fairly sure we didn't baptize Janus, just the month named after him, but January is also the month of making resolutions. Most of which don't last past the first week of the New Year.

But making plans, setting goals and objectives, that is different.

I learned recently the difference between a goal and an objective. If I remember correctly, a goal is something that you want to achieve. The objective is a measurable step that moves you towards your goal.

I put that in football terms so that I could grasp it: a touchdown is the goal. The first downs one accomplishes to reach that goal are objectives. The plays one runs to make a first down are strategies

In the first month of the year, I am going to ask our church committees to set at least one goal for the year, along with the objectives necessary to get there and maybe some strategies.

I'm setting some goals for myself: the first is to lose weight. My objectives are these: to lose enough weight by Easter to get into the suit I bought for Megan and Clay Milton's wedding. Secondly, to lose enough weight so that when I go to Ring Lake Ranch in June, I will be below the maximum weight allowed to ride the horses. Thirdly, to get down to what I weighed when Polly and I got married.

Now how am I going to accomplish these objectives? Cutting out sweets, including those delicious desserts at church suppers and Montreat luncheons. No more candy in the office!

Cutting out bread with my meals unless it is a sandwich. No more honey in my hot tea, or sweetened creamer in my coffee. Eat more cucumbers and carrots and less peanuts and chips. No more French fries. No more mayonnaise on my turkey burgers! No more biscuits for breakfast!

Getting back in the gym at least three days a week. I'm going three days a week for physical therapy now, and I'll just keep going those same three days when I'm discharged.

It is first down and ten on the 40 yard line, and every first down will get me closer to the goal.

And every first down is ten pounds, not ten yards!

Now: how do we apply those same principles to our church committees? What is our goal going to be? What will the objectives be? And what strategy will we use to achieve our objectives, to accomplish our goals?

How about you?

A stewardship goal, to give 10 percent, a true tithe to the church this year? Or maybe make that tithe a goal out there in the future several years, and increase your giving by one percent a year until you reach the goal? Or give 1% of your income in January, and increase it by 1% each month, so that come December, you'll give 12% for that month, and giving 10% the next twelve months will actually be reducing what you did the last two months of the year?

How about a church attendance goal? Increase your participation in the life of the church by increasing your attendance by one service or program a month. If you are in church every Sunday, come to one Wednesday Bible Study, or one Circle meeting, a PALS luncheon or a Lenten luncheon.

How about a prayer goal? To pray one more time a day each day for the first month, two more times a day for the next, and so on until you are praying twelve times a day come December.

How about a Bible reading goal? Read a chapter a day, or just a verse a day the first month, and then increase with each week or month. But don't start with Genesis! You'll bog down in the "begats"! Start with the Gospels. Don't we need the Good News?

I'll be giving you monthly reports on "down and distance". I don't expect the same from you, but it might be fun to know if you do achieve an objective or accomplish a goal.

And a blessed New Year 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:

January 4 A Model for Prayer

Luke 11: 1-13

January 11 Jesus Prays for the Disciples

John 17: 6-21

January 18 Jesus Intercedes for Us

Hebrews 4:14—5:10

January 26 We Pray for One Another

James 5: 13-18

Ruling
Elders



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 25 at 11 a.m.

Our new Ruling Elders in the Class of 2017 of our Church Session are Scott Yant, Lu Anne Law, Susie Barber and Ellie Lawson. Joe Busby will be serving in the Class of 2015. The new Session for 2015 will begin service following this worship service. The **Montreat Luncheon** will follow the service and will provide an opportunity to visit with our new Ruling Elders.



Montreat Group

Montreat Luncheon

The Montreat luncheons will resume for the New Year. The next luncheon will be on Sunday, January 25, 2015 following the 11:00 worship service. These luncheons help to fund the annual trip to the Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina.

PALS Luncheons Resume



The January PALS Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, January 20 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 19 at 526-2430 or e-mail to firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net.

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship Commitment Forms

The **2015 Stewardship campaign** is currently ongoing 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 2014 must be dated **December 31, 2014** 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 form, they are available on the table outside the fellowship hall or from the office. Please fill out the Time and Talents portion of the Commitment form if you would like to participate on a committee, or volunteer your time or talents in any other way.

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



JuBELLee Handbell Choir Begins Practice

The JuBELLee Handbell Choir will start back their practice sessions on Wednesday, January 7, 2015. We need 7 or 8 willing ringers to commit until May. Practices will be weekly at 5:45 p.m. in the upstairs Bell Room. **You do not need to be a member of this church to participate.**

News from Property and Operations Committee



**CHURCH
MAINTENANCE**

The property and operations committee would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. The ongoing project of watersealing the Church is almost complete. Once we are reassured that all the leaks are watertight, we will commence with the repairing and painting of the Sanctuary ceiling in the Spring.

The Sand Dollar



These pretty shells are from sea urchins related to starfish and sea cucumbers. The shell's unique characteristics call to mind Christ's birth and death: the poinsettia- and lily-like images, holes representing the four nails and spear that pierced Jesus, small bones inside the shell resembling doves and thus symbolizing the Holy Spirit.



Poinsettias Gracing the Sanctuary During Advent and Christmas were given by

- Macky McCaskill Gortemoller in memory Dexter and Jay McCaskill and Judy McCaskill Garraway
- Joy Hinton in honor of her Grandchildren Chelsey McCrary and Brandon Massengill
- Dr. Joe and Rosie Gay in memory of John Lewis
- Alex and Joy Lewis in memory of their parents Alex and Jean Lewis and Merritt and Mae Blighton.
- Barbara Lewis in memory of James A. Lewis
- Dennis and Carol Maxson in memory of their grandson Braden Maxson Errol Grant
- Ernest and Frances McNeill in honor of our Grandchildren Zephra, Gage, Elijah and Nehemiah and Great-grandchild Ellie
- Jane Powell and daughters Alane Prinz, Kim Donofro and Kelly Parmer in memory of Robert C. Powell
- Larry and Jackie Spivey in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Spivey
- Frankie Stewart and the Owens Family in memory of Robert and Betty Linton, Linda Linton and Wayne Stewart
- Tom and Joan Stadskev in memory of their parents Frank and Wilma Bylsma and Otto and Donna Stadskev
- Allen and Laurie Ward in memory of Christine Edge

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 and
Kay Bell Turner

1835 Endowment Fund in Honor of Rev. Dr. Ted and Polly Land
Gifts to the 1835 Endowment Fund were given by John and Alma Milton, Robert and Beverly Hinson, Mary Lynn Hancock, Roger and Deborah Stevens and Chuck and Cindy Morgan



James Raymond Parker (great grandson of Alex and Joy Lewis), Mike Andrejko (requested by Mary Wierman), Ned Grove, Margaret McRae (requested by Betty Joyce Hand), Eleanor Houyoux, Ron Wierman (brother of Bud

Wierman), Bill Nelson (requested by Hazel Nelson), Will Rountree (requested by Jo-Ann Rountree), Don Morris (requested by Jim Gibbs), Matt Lein, Ise Daffin, Gina Stuart, 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), Millie Sica, Julie Stadskev and James Griffith.

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

Please remember those serving in our military:

Wayne Busby (son of Joe and Ginny Busby) at Naval Station in Rota, Spain

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

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



JANUARY

Elder of the Month Peggy Peacock

Church Session

Susie Barber 482-6034
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Joe Busby 526-2927
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Jim Gibbs 482-2188
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scottandcindyant@yahoo.com



Bobby Skipper	Jan. 3
Gracie Wallace	Jan. 3
Laurie Ward	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
Shannon Sims	Jan. 13
Kerri Loving	Jan. 17
Matt Brickler	Jan. 17
Polly Land	Jan. 18
Amanda Yant	Jan. 19
Gretchen Schulz	Jan. 21
Brian Spivey	Jan. 21
Helen Taylor	Jan. 21
Ouida Morris	Jan. 22
Hunter Busby	Jan. 23
Hunter Daffin Jr.	Jan. 24
Carley Wilson	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

Sanctuary Flowers in January are given by:

Jan 4 Jason and Lu Anne Law
Jan 11 Hazel Nelson
Jan 18 Bill and Susie Stevens
Jan 25 Chuck and Cindy Morgan

Sanctuary Flowers



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

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