

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MARIANNA FLORIDA



Volume 16 Edition 2

February 2016

Church members, family, and friends of FPC Marianna,

I am really looking forward to being in my new home, community and Church! It is Mardi Gras Season here in Lafayette, La—430 miles west of you on I10. It is a time of saying goodbyes and sharing love and respect and appreciation and tears and laughter and hugs. It is a time of getting ready to MOVE and tying up loose ends. It is hard to believe that I will be in your midst within two weeks of getting this newsletter. My wife Linda and I are excited and confident. We KNOW that this will be a good move and a good ministry. We feel blessed to receive a call to such a wonderful Church and community. We KNOW we will love what God has in store for us in Marianna.

We will be loading up on Wednesday, February 10. Presbyterians actually have Ash Wednesday services here in south LA, and it will serve as my last worship service here. The moving truck and the Wamsleys will be heading east on Thursday. WE will be settled in (kind of) on Friday and Saturday. Valentine's Day will be our first worship experience with you. I am looking forward to many firsts with you—first children's sermon, first Sunday message, first fellowship time, first food pantry day, first time with Wednesday's children, first time with the youth on Sunday night, first Montreat fundraiser,

I look forward to the first time enjoying the music ministry of our church, first time meeting with the custodial staff and nursery attendants. Yes there will be the first new member and the first Baptism (rumor has it that it will be Lauren and Justin's baby Hudson), first wedding and first funeral for us together in Marianna. Yes there will be the first confirmation class and the first road trip with youth. The first long walk, the first trip to the state park, the first time visiting with home bound saints and members in hospitals in town, out of town, and out of state.

I am very grateful to your Pulpit Committee. They made the whole interview process very easy, They communicated well and worked as a team very well. It is obvious you have many, many gifted and committed Christians who love the Lord and their Church. I am also very grateful to the Rev. Dan Mitchell who was your moderator and friend during the transition from Dr. Ted Land until now. He is already a good and trusted friend.

You may know that the oil industry is in a real slump and people are hurting where I now live. Many people say "I feel fortunate to have a job". Well, Linda and I feel fortunate to have a call to your church. The timing is good; the church I am leaving behind is in a good place. I believe that your church and myself are a "good fit" for life and ministry together. I know that First Presbyterian Church of Marianna will thrive in the years ahead. There will be spiritual and numerical growth and we will continue to bless the community and the world.

My favorite benediction is Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace, as you trust in Him, that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." See you soon!

In This Issue

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On Sunday, February 7th, the weekend of the big game, our youth will be armed with soup pots to collect donations for our food pantry. As we know, the problems of hunger and poverty exist right here in Marianna, and by making a donation you can help care for our neighbors in need. Soup or any other non-perishable food is a wonderful way to help, too.



tacklehunger.org

Church Fellowship Opportunity



Help us welcome Pastor John Wamsley. Plan to fellowship with our church family at the Valentine's Day potluck luncheon on Sunday, February 14th, after church.

Bring your best dish, your family, and your friends.



Flower
Calendar
February

7th: Tom and Lou Wilkerson
14th: Ernie and Fran McNeil
21st: Jim and Mary Ann Gibbs
and Frankie Stewart
28th: Betty Pettis

Lenten Luncheon Information

This year's Lenten Luncheon Theme will be based on 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

This series will be relevant as we learn more about who God is and who He wants us to be. It will apply to us as individuals, as a church, as a community, and as a nation.

The luncheons will take place every Tuesday during the season of Lent. Soup, salad, and dessert will be provided for lunch free of charge, or you are welcome to bring your lunch and join in the fun. RSVP not required.

February 16th: Introduction: Ask for God's presence (Circle 2 provides lunch.)
February 23th: Turn toward God's Glory (Circle 1 provides lunch.)
March 1: Turn toward God in Prayer (Wildflowers provide lunch.)
March 8th: Turn toward God's Word (MHS Culinary Department will provide lunch.)
March 15: Turn toward God in Repentance (Lunch Bunch will provide lunch.)
March 22: Conclusion: Turn our Hearts Toward God (Men of the church will provide lunch.)



Dogwood Acres Work Day Retreat

March 11-12

Call Susie Barber
(209-1403) for more
information, or to
reserve your spot.

Children are
welcome. They will
complete a kid sized
project and then
have a ton of fun
playing with some
of our youth
volunteers.



**You are invited to spend a little
time at Dogwood Acres, enjoying
God's wonderful creation while at
the same time helping with
projects that keep our grounds
and programs in tip top shape.**

**We depend on volunteers like you
becoming a part of our
Presbytery's largest ministry.**

*For more information contact Dogwood Acres at 850-535-2695
or your church's Dogwood Acres Volunteer Coordinator*

Elder of the Month:

Larry Spivey

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Scott Yant: 526-9108
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All ladies are invited to participate in one or more of the following circle meetings on the following dates:

Monday, February 1

Circle 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the church parlor

Circle 2 at 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall

Wildflowers

Wednesday, February 3 at 6:30

Location: Rebecca Dilmore's house

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, February 16th at 11:30

Location: Kathy Sloan's house

With Sympathy

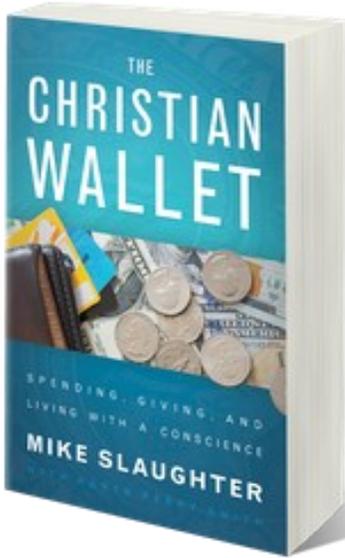
Our sincerest sympathy is extended to the Marsh Rogers and family on the death of her mother, Grace Maxwell. She lived in Washington State. Marsha requests that any donations received go to Kitchen Supplies.

Enjoy cookies, juices, hot chocolate and coffee every Sunday prior to Sunday school, from 9:15 until 9:45. There are classes for all age groups between 9:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. including two classes for Adults.



Sunday School is awesome.

Mike Slaughter Explores the Morality of Money in New Book



What we do with our money matters to God, according to a new book from author and pastor Mike Slaughter. "There is no clearer indicator of our ultimate values than our financial priorities and practices," he writes. How we spend, save, and give are deeply spiritual issues, as Slaughter shows in his new book, *The Christian Wallet: Spending, Giving, and Living with a Conscience* (Westminster John Knox Press). By profiling people who have made the hard choices necessary to transform their relationships with money, Slaughter outlines eight Christian Wallet principles and offers tips on how to put them into practice.

Covering topics such as debt, giving, budgeting, and conscious spending, Slaughter offers a comprehensive look at Christians and money. He argues that we each make a choice, consciously or unconsciously, to invest our resources in serving ourselves or serving God's purposes. "Conscientious and compassionate use of our money in a world where people spend \$310 million on costumes for their pets and \$5 billion on ringtones for their phones is not an easy task," Slaughter says.

The *Christian Wallet* includes questions for reflection after each chapter, encouraging the reader to take a closer look at their own financial priorities and practices.

Mike Slaughter is the lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio. Under his leadership, Ginghamburg became known as an early innovator of small group ministry and a leader in global mission efforts. A sought-after speaker, he is the author of many books, including *Renegade Gospel: Rebel Jesus, Dare to Dream*, *Hijacked*, *Change the World*, *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday*, and *Upside Living in a Downside Economy*.

The *Christian Wallet* is available for purchase through Westminster John Knox Press and other major retailers.

This article was copied from the PCUSA website.

The website has many really cool resources for members and friends.

For more information, visit

<https://www.pcusa.org/>

Our Prayer Calendar

Our Prayer Calendar: Gail Stearn (requested by Ginger Green), Rev. Don Harris (requested by John Milton, V), Allison Hand Travis (requested by family), Ned Grove (requested by family), J R Gortemoller (requested by family), Elizabeth Littleton Walker (requested by Stanley Littleton), Dr. Steve Stafford (requested by Barry Stafford), Jeff Allen (requested by Hazel Nelson), Destry Burch and Fletcher Dunaway (requested by Mary Bevis Schmidt), George McMullin (requested by Nancy McMullin), Bob Ward and Michael Ward (requested by Mary Wierman), Kena Nelson (requested by Hazel Nelson), Marie Lanier (requested by Joy Lewis), Gina Stuart, Joy Gilbert, Daun Crews, Stanley Littleton, JoAnn Rountree. **Homebound Members and Friends:** Eileen Drew, Doris Irwin, Joy Gilbert

Homebound Members and Friends who are living out of town: Daun Crews (Tallahassee); Edith Griffith (Dothan); Louise Hoy

Remember those serving in the Military:

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

Jarred Roberts (son of Lou and Kathy Roberts) in the Marine Expeditionary Unit

Tyler Schaeffer (grandson of Valerie Marlow) at Tyndall AFB

Destiny Schaeffer (granddaughter of Valerie Marlow) at Goodfellow AFB, Texas



Newsletter

February 2016

First Presbyterian Church of Marianna: Serving God with Faith, Hope, and Love since 1835

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Worship:
Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Published Monthly
Volume 15 Edition12

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 179

Marianna, Florida 32446

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