

God's gifts to us can never be earned or deserved. They are all by His grace and kindness.

While we can't repay God, He does offer us the opportunity to honor Him by giving to support the work done in His name in this world. What a rich privilege we have to make a difference!

Giving back...
in gratitude
for all our
blessings

“What can I offer the LORD
for all he has done for me?”
— PSALM 116:12 (NLT)



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
BONITA SPRINGS

fpcbonita.org

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BONITA SPRINGS



From the Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of First Church,

I am very grateful for all of you. It is your faithful participation and support that allows our congregation to serve Bonita Springs and its surrounding communities as a “flagship church.” God has called us to proclaim His message, and to be a fellowship of sisters and brothers in Christ who genuinely love and care for one another. By His grace, this is what we are becoming.

As a new year begins, it’s appropriate that we all look ahead to how we can serve the Lord in the next 12 months. One natural way we show our love and gratitude to God is through generous giving to support His Church. All of us have been blessed by God with more than we need to simply survive and provide the bare necessities for ourselves and our families. He has given to us in abundance.

For the 2,000 years of the Christian movement, the Holy Spirit has been prompting followers of Christ to give back to God. The Spirit does so by first putting in our hearts the impulse or desire to show our gratitude to our Lord. And then He puts in our minds His thoughts about how much to give, and where to give, so that it will do the most good.

Again this year on Stewardship Sunday we will share some principles from scripture about why and how Christians can and should give back to the Lord, in response to His love. I am confident that God will continue to provide for His work at First Church through you!

Yours in Christ,

Doug Pratt
SENIOR PASTOR

A Year of God’s Blessings

The just-completed year of 2015 saw continued growth and vitality at First Church—reaching new all-time highs in membership, in attendance and in giving. Even more importantly, significant steps have been taken to expand the Kingdom of God.

- We said goodbye to Pastor Paul Fahnestock, who “retired” as Associate Pastor in order to join the staff of Wycliffe Associates and serve around the world in Bible translation with his wife Linda. A search committee has begun the work of seeking a new pastor to join our ministry team.
- After much prayer and planning, a new Saturday night service called “CenterPoint Praise” was launched in October, with Mr. Brent Taylor as our praise leader.
- Ms. Nancy Bolognese has begun her leadership role in our Wonder Years Preschool.
- A new Youth Coordinator, Ms. Rachel Steffens, has revitalized our outreach to teens, and a new Student Ministries Center has been opened across Bonita Beach Road from the main church campus.
- Working with Compassion International, a new Child Survival Program was begun in the Dominican Republic, and a team of First Church members spent a week with the staff and our sponsored children.
- The Spiritual Development Center, under the leadership of Dr. Al and Rev. June Barrow, has not only expanded our Christian counseling but also sponsored a variety of practical seminars and conferences.
- Our community has been enriched by numerous concerts (including recording artist Sandi Patty in June) and prominent guest speakers.

- Our BookCenter has provided high-quality Christian literature at a discount, and our Thrift Shop has been a place for high-quality second-hand merchandise of all kinds.
- Nearly 150 members of the First Church family gathered for a spiritual renewal week at the Billy Graham center, “The Cove,” in August.
- The first year of our prototype Seminary Mentorship program through Gordon Conwell Seminary was inaugurated.
- At Christmas the church joined hands with Christians in Bulgaria to serve desperate refugees from the civil wars in Syria and Iraq.

About First Church

First Presbyterian Church provides a large facility, staff and range of programs to meet the needs of our diverse and growing congregation. In the past year approximately 16% of church income was devoted to mission causes beyond the local congregation, both local and global.

All gifts are voluntary and tax deductible. Each year the congregation is asked to indicate through pledges its intent to give in the coming year. Pledges are not a legal debt or obligation, but an estimate that allows the elders of the church to manage the church’s resources and programs wisely.

Learn more...

You can find out more about First Church and our various ministries by visiting our website. Online giving is also available by clicking the “GIVE” box on the home page.

fpcbonita.org