

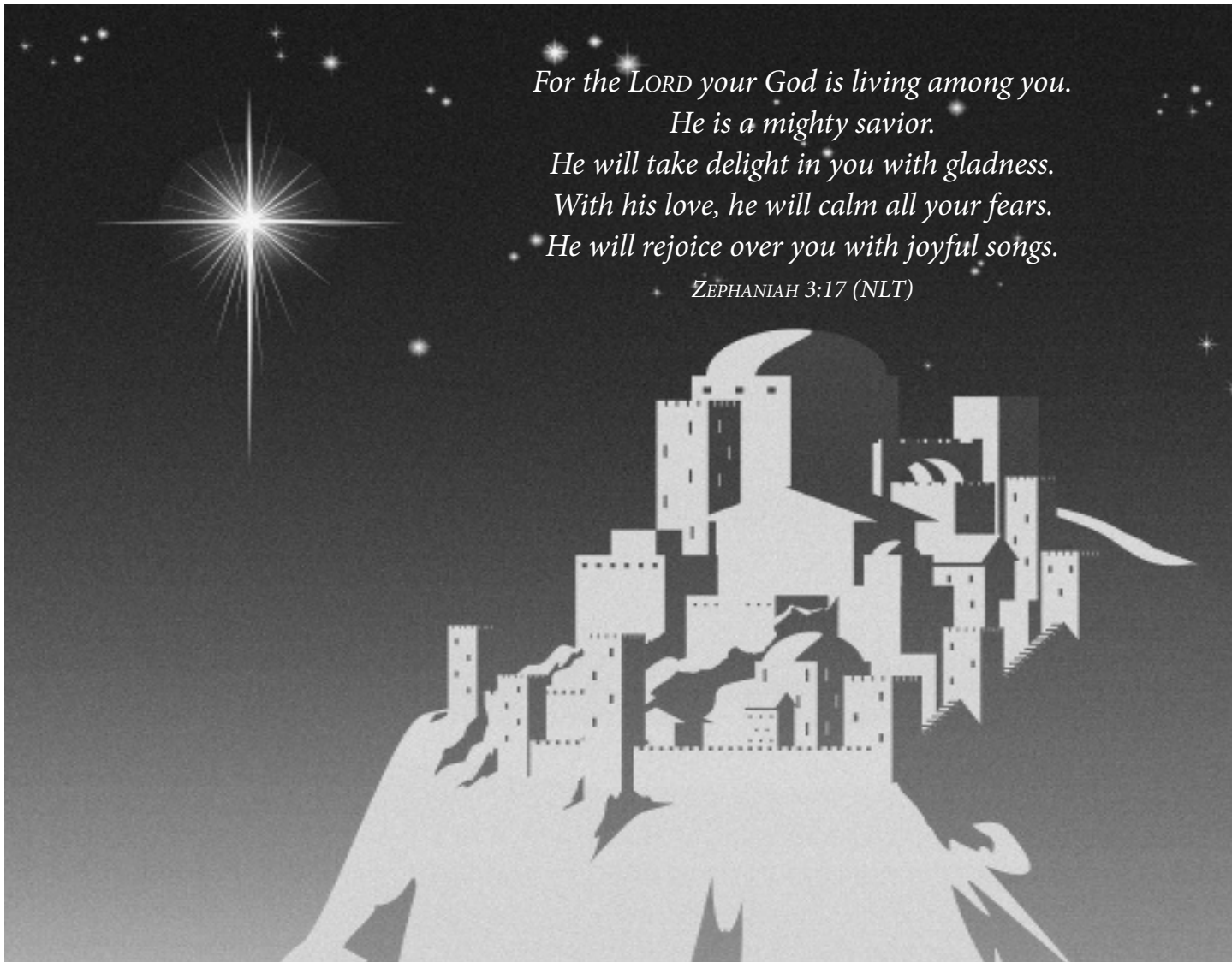
# Epistle *to the Bonitians*



THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BONITA SPRINGS | NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

*For the LORD your God is living among you.  
He is a mighty savior.  
He will take delight in you with gladness.  
With his love, he will calm all your fears.  
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.*

*ZEPHANIAH 3:17 (NLT)*



## OUR MISSION

To be a welcoming and nurturing family, committed to helping people grow as followers of Jesus Christ who make a positive difference in today's world.

**First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs**

9751 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135 | 239 992 3233 | 239 992 7547 fax | [fpcbonita.org](http://fpcbonita.org)

# Doug's Desk

Dear Members and Friends of First Church,

**A**s our fall season is in full swing and rapidly approaching the holiday time, we are experiencing the usual busy and exciting schedule at our church. The "First Light" early morning worship service on Sundays (8:00 AM) is a great alternative if you have a busy Sunday or like to get up early. The same message is presented as at the 10:00 service, but with less music and announcements and other activities. We are usually finished within about 40 minutes, so that allows lots of time to enjoy the rest of your day. I am a confessed "Early Bird" and truly enjoy starting out my day at "first light" (or soon after daybreak) with a time of singing and study of Scripture. If you haven't tried our early morning worship, I warmly invite you to do so.

Fulfilling our goals in last winter's "First Forward" campaign, we have contracted with a local video production company called Blue Sky Media to begin the video recording of our worship services using three separate live cameras each Sunday. When the renovations to our Learning Center are completed (they've been delayed by permitting issues and a revision of the plan to allow for a media room) the services will be piped live into that location for a more casual worship environment. If you are interested in serving as one of our volunteer video camera operators, please speak with me or Sacred Arts Director Jeff Faux. We offer initial training and then you can work at a schedule that is convenient for you (similar to the way we have various volunteers for ushering, greeting, hospitality, etc.).

The line-up of concerts, speakers and other special events that lie before us in the next six months looks terrific. Nobody can possibly attend everything that is available at First Church! But I encourage you to sample different opportunities, and even to try something new during this fall and winter season.



Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt

A couple personal words of commendation and thanks. Our new Membership Coordinator Rebecca Harley has "hit the ground running" and is doing a wonderful job of guiding our process for providing a warm welcome to our visitors and newcomers. Preschool Directors Jenn Boocock and Stephany Abraham, along with Pastor Dan Oedy and Children and Family Ministries Director Amanda Zaengle, have worked very skillfully together to revise our programs for closer coordination. Changes in the classroom area, which many adults never have the opportunity to see, have had a positive impact. With limited classroom space available we need to use every square foot as wisely and effectively as we can to accommodate our growing outreach programs. Finally, I want to express my appreciation to Ruth Ann Bruce, who served us so ably and faithfully for five years as our Biblical Counselor. She and her husband Ken have sold their home in Naples and moved out of the area to be closer to family. We miss them both very much. Ruth Ann touched many individuals and families with her counseling ministry!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Doug Pratt

# Membership Task Force

Many new visitors walk through the doors of First Church every season. We want to welcome them into our family of believers and help them grow as followers of Christ. To help us do this, a Membership Task Force was formed this summer. Led by Pastor Doug Pratt, their purpose is to evaluate the best ways to greet and welcome prospective members. Six key areas were specifically considered: a Membership Coordinator position, Membership Classes, Greeters, the Welcome Desk, Assimilation Ministry and a Visitor/Guest Kiosk.

“By evaluating and initiating changes in these key areas, we hope to better serve our church, our congregation, potential members and, of course, our Lord,” said Connie Duquin, chair of the Membership Committee. “Among our goals is to more efficiently identify first time visitors, to more effectively welcome prospective members, and to provide information and encouragement so they can discern where they may best serve God’s church.”

A part-time Membership Coordinator position was created as a first step toward greater continuity and follow-up in reaching potential members. After a focused search, Rebecca Harley was hired in late August to work with the Membership Committee. (*Read more about Rebecca on page 6.*) Her position will support the many aspects of identifying, monitoring and welcoming new members into the church consistent with our mission.

The Membership Classes subcommittee is being led by Marcia Wheat, with Pastor Doug Pratt presenting the classes on a Saturday morning (9-11 AM) and Sunday evening (6:30-8:30 PM) several times throughout the season. We hope these two options allow prospective members more flexibility in attending. Our upcoming fall classes will be held on November 5 and 6, with light refreshments served.

The Welcome Desk subcommittee is being led by Joan Gandrup. The Welcome Desk is a very busy place on Sunday mornings. We hope to update and streamline its functions during the course of this coming year.

Research has determined that the first 30 seconds of a guest’s visit forms their impression of a church and its congregation. With that in mind, we have set up a new Visitor/Guest Kiosk near the entrance to McClure Hall. This area is overseen by David Nichols and Stevie Joslin, who host the kiosk every Sunday and possibly during concerts and other events. Dave and Stevie will be there to hand out information and temporary name tags, as well as answer any questions from our visitors.

The Greeters subcommittee is being led by Kay Springston. Greeters play a pivotal and powerful role in the



Stevie Joslin is anxious to welcome new faces with a friendly smile at the Visitors Kiosk on Sunday morning.

church. We hope to increase the number of greeters and have them circulate during First Stop on Sundays. We are asking them to serve a one-month obligation or as many Sundays as they are available. Eventually we would like to hold annual workshops to uniformly train ushers and greeters. Our goal is to have entire families, teenagers, singles and couples serve as greeters. We would love to have you volunteer for either the Visitor/Guest Kiosk or as a Greeter.

The Assimilation Ministry (formerly New Member Reception) is being led by Janet Mustian. On a Sunday following the Membership Classes, our new members will be introduced during the worship service. Afterward, a New Member Reception will be held in McClure Hall during First Stop. Our next reception will be on November 13. Our prayer is that members will “find their place” in our church family, put down some spiritual roots, and make a positive difference in the world.

If you would like to serve in any of these key areas of membership or have suggestions for the task force to consider, please contact Connie Duquin at 495-1744.

## Sundays

Our early Sunday service is held at **8 AM**. It includes all the basic worship elements of music, message and Scripture—having the same preacher and message as the later service—but neatly packaged into a 40-minute time frame. Child care is provided. Coffee and refreshments are available following First Light; make that your first stop before getting on with the activities of your day or participating in a Sunday morning class!

Sunday morning Bible study, taught by the pastoral staff, is offered from **8:45-9:45 AM** in Price Chapel. This study nicely bridges the time between our two worship services, so is equally convenient for those attending the early First Light service and those who prefer the later service.

The full worship service with choir is at **10 AM**. Children's Sunday school is also held at that time. Child care is available for children 6 months to 3 years of age.

Following worship, all are invited to our First Stop fellowship time in McClure Hall, with an additional coffee station in the Art Gallery area. Those who wish may avail themselves of a time of healing prayer and Communion in Price Chapel.

### *CURRENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE* **8 and 10 AM**

First Light at 8 AM and traditional service at 10 AM.

### **November 13**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion  
The anthem, *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus* by Dan Forrest, will be presented by the Chancel Choir. This anthem was commissioned by the choir in honor of Peter Lewis's 10th year at FPC.

### **November 20**

Mission Awareness Sunday  
Guest Preacher: David Meade, founder of Propempo International, a mission consulting organization. Special Music: Telile Fikru, Christian singer/songwriter from Ethiopia, who sets the Gospel message to traditional melodies of her people, the Arssi Oromo. (*Read more on our special guests on page 13.*)

### **December 11**

Christmas Music Sunday  
The Chancel Choir and orchestra will be presenting *A Festival of Lessons and Carols* by John Leavitt—a Christmas tradition that features readings from Scripture with favorite carols and choir anthems between the readings.

### **December 25**

One service at 10 AM  
The Chancel Choir will offer a special musical presentation called *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, accompanied by String Quartet and Flutes. The service will be a very special celebration of the Christmas story.

## Special Services

### **November 23**

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service  
7 PM

The community is invited for this ecumenical evening service hosted by First Presbyterian Church and sponsored by a fellowship of area pastors and churches.

### **December 24**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
7 & 9 PM

The Contemporary Ensemble will sing at the 7 PM service and the Chancel Choir will be featured at the 9 PM service.

## A Time of Prayer and Communion

### **Sundays – 11 AM**

Price Chapel

On Sunday after the 10 AM service, we offer **A Time of Prayer and Communion**—an opportunity to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion and experience a time of healing prayer (except on Sundays when the sacrament is shared during worship).

Come to Price Chapel where one of our ministers will be present to welcome individuals who wish to take Communion and receive healing prayer offered by members of the Order of St. Luke.

## Epistle *to the Bonitians*

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

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# News & Notes

## Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 11 • 11 AM • Sanctuary

Our year-end congregational meeting will be held Sunday, December 11 after the 10 AM worship service. Items of business include the election of new Elders and Deacons (who will serve 3-year terms beginning in January), the approval of any changes in the “terms of call” of the pastors, and approval of revised bylaws for our congregation.

## FAM Christmas Recital

Sunday, December 11 • 3 PM • McClure Hall

First Academy of Music invites church members to join FAM parents and friends in celebrating both the Christmas season and student progress. This annual end-of-semester recital will be held “bistro style” in McClure Hall. The audience will be seated at tables where they can nibble on holiday goodies to the accompaniment of student musicians.

## Wonder Years Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 13 • 6 PM • Sanctuary

Always a fun event, our preschool students will show what they are learning and perform for their parents and families. Fellowship, refreshments and the silent auction will follow in McClure Hall.

## HR Symposium

by Dave Nichols

The Human Resources Committee will be hosting an all-day Human Resources Symposium at our church on November 12. During the summer months invitations were extended to like-size churches in Lee and Collier County to send representatives to spend the day brainstorming and developing best practices on several contemporary Human Resources issues/concerns churches are facing today. Topics to be covered include: Salary Administration—Compliance/Legal, Performance Appraisals, and Standard Operating Procedures. A local labor relations lawyer will be facilitating the exercises and there will be over 35 participants from nine churches in the area.

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church is to be a welcoming and nurturing family, committed to helping people grow as followers of Jesus Christ who make a positive difference in today’s world. It is the intention of the Human Resources committee to reach out to the church community through this inaugural Symposium and possibly initiate an event that all participating churches will want to continue and grow upon.

## Manger Tree

Once again this Christmas season, the Deacons of our church are organizing our annual Manger Tree project, and are inviting friends and members of First Church to help brighten the lives of area children. We are expecting about 250 children to participate this year.

The Manger Tree will be on display in our Narthex on Sunday, November 27 and December 4, with ornaments that list the child’s name, age, gender and wish list. You may choose one and then register the name with the Deacons sitting at the table next to the tree.

It is recommended that a gift between \$25 and \$35 be purchased, wrapped with paper and ribbon only, and returned to the Deacons on Sunday, December 4 and 11. Gifts will be distributed by December 13. Because of storage and distribution concerns, bicycles will not be accepted. We also ask that you pray for each child and their family as you participate, and continue to pray through the coming year.

The gifts will bless children from Pinewood Elementary, the Kids Club in Estero, and the New Horizons Super Kids Clubs in Manna Christian RV Park and Rosemary Park (both in Bonita).

Thank you for your continued support of the Manger Tree project. If you have any questions, you may call Deacon Marcia Courtney at 239-949-1195.



# Meet Our New Staff Member

Rebecca Harley | FPC Membership Coordinator

The smarts of a businesswoman... the determination of a former golf pro... the caring of a wife and mother... and, last but not at all least, the heart of a servant. All these traits describe Rebecca Harley to a tee.

Rebecca is our Membership Coordinator. She was hired in August after responding to an announcement in First Things First describing the new position opening.

"I read the ad and said to my husband, 'I can do this!'" Rebecca said. "I had been searching for work that would make good use of what I had to offer and at the same time fit in with my family obligations and schedule."

Rebecca lives in Estero with her husband Bill (head golf pro at The Forest) and her two children, Alexa (age 11) and John (age 9). She and her family have been members of our church since 2004. Bill was elected as an Elder of the church in December 2006 and Alexa serves as an acolyte.

Rebecca grew up in Ontario, Canada and graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a degree in Economics. She began a professional golf career in SW Florida in 1991 and in 1993 joined the LPGA Futures Tour. She also started and ran her own successful business, The Ginger Monkey Biscotti. If you like FPC's First Café biscotti, you have Rebecca to thank. Try one the next time you visit Café First.

Rebecca enjoys volunteering at her children's Evangelical Christian School and assisting her husband as his merchandising buyer. She loves gourmet cooking, golf (of course) and anything Disney. Her favorite Scripture verse is Proverbs 3:5—"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight." It's even on her iPhone!

Rebecca is energetic and passionate about this new position and is full of creative suggestions for our church membership.

"I view this ministry as a form of 'hospitality,'" Rebecca said. "It's way beyond spreadsheets and numbers. It goes to the core of what we are all about—welcoming and nurturing."

FPC welcomes Rebecca to our church staff and hopes you will, too. Please say hello to Rebecca and her family on Sundays.

## Questions?

If you are interested in church membership or have questions about the membership classes, contact Rebecca Harley at 239-229-8953 or [rharley@fpcbonita.org](mailto:rharley@fpcbonita.org).



Rebecca Harley with her family—husband Bill, son John and daughter Alexa.

## Membership Classes

Saturday, November 5 • 9-11 AM • Learning Center  
Sunday, November 6 • 6:30-8:30 PM • Price Hall Parlor

The members of First Church would like to extend an invitation to guests interested in becoming an Affiliate or Full Time member of our church family to attend one of two Membership Classes to be offered on Saturday, November 5 from 9-11 AM and Sunday, November 6 from 6:30-8:30 PM.

Please attend whichever class allows you time out of your busy schedules. Join us in fellowship with light refreshments in the Great Room. Learn answers to your questions regarding our church—its history, principles, pastors, staff and ministries. A tour of the church will be offered.

We hope you will take this opportunity to meet new faces in our church family and become enlightened in the many ways our congregation serves our Lord. The newest members will be introduced to our congregation on Sunday, November 13 during worship. A New Member Reception will follow in McClure Hall.

# Against All Odds: A First Responder's Prayer

by Ken Feeley

I'd like to share a very personal experience that happened two weeks before our Community Servants Recognition Sunday. I had just finished three days of infusion therapy for a blood infection that came upon me following my heart surgery. That Sunday I came to church fully intending to participate in the Bible study prior to worship, but did not feel well enough to go in.

I left church to go home, with my wife, Sherri, following me a few minutes later. By the time she arrived it was necessary to call 911 for an ambulance. The paramedics arrived just as I lost consciousness. Apparently I was going into anaphylactic shock and had stopped breathing. They pushed me into the ambulance and, with siren wailing we left my driveway heading for Health Park.

I was under the care of a young lady EMT named Brenda Bledsoe who immediately took action. She administered heavy doses of Benadryl and some stimulants. The ambulance rolled on. When she had done all that she could, she surprised me and did something I never expected. She gently took my hand and asked to pray with me. I was amazed and blessed beyond belief. She prayed.

"Father God," she said, "we are five minutes away from help and

I have done all that I can do by law and we need You with us now to save this man. We are your servants, Lord, and we cry out to you to strengthen Ken and to be with us now."

She prayed, of course, in the mighty name of Jesus. Against all odds, I was awake when the ambulance arrived at the hospital... and, needless to say, very grateful to be alive. I could never thank her enough.

Brenda reminded me that she, and I am sure many others who are public servants, are oftentimes called upon to be God's servants as well. I firmly believe that God was with us both that day. To be witness to a first responder's prayer and for her to show her own faith in such a personal way was awesome. I will never forget that experience and I will never forget Brenda.

Well, I am still here... perhaps because of a stranger's prayer. One thing is for sure... God was listening! I am now back on infusion therapy two times a day for a few weeks and am starting to get better.

## Community Servants Recognition



Deacon Janet Mustian delivers goodies to First Responders at the Bonita fire station on Terry Street (above).



Bonita Springs Sheriff Deputy Bobby Hunter with Deacon Wynette Griffith (left).

On September 18, we celebrated our annual Community Servants Recognition with dozens of First Responders attending as our guests. Recognition was also given during worship to those in the congregation who have served, at any time, as community servants or volunteers with the Red Cross.

After worship, congregants had the opportunity to greet the local firefighters, sheriff's officers and EMTs, and offer personal words of thanks and support. Our congregation was happy to sign the giant "thank you" cards designed by our Sunday school children and express their personal notes of gratitude. Two fire engines were parked in our parking lot for our children to tour.

Our "cookie shower," organized by the FPC Deacons, was a big hit. Church members and friends were asked to bring homemade treats to be delivered to the local First Responders.

"About 200 packages were donated... that's about 3,000 treats!" said Deacon Wynette Griffith. "They were boxed up and taken by our Deacons to 10 local fire stations and sheriff's offices in Bonita, Estero and San Carlos Park. Each location received one of the children's thank you cards along with the treats. Those cards really impressed our local heroes. And, of course, they were thrilled with all those baked goods and treats."

Thank you to all who helped us show our appreciation to our local Community Servants.

# FAM has New Director

Over the summer the Sacred Arts department made a few changes concerning the responsibilities of our staff. We are very excited to announce that Cheryl Bauer has been named the Director of the First Academy of Music. Cheryl will continue her duties as the Administrative Assistant for Sacred Arts while taking on the exciting challenge of leading the First Academy of Music.

The *Epistle* spoke with Cheryl about the school and her part in it. This is what she shared with us.

**What excites you most about this new position?**

When the music school was founded in 1998 (as the Community Music School) there were just seven instructors. I was a member of that first faculty so the music school has always been close to my heart. I've relished my involvement with the school since I started working at FPC in 2005. I'm fortunate to be able to continue to draw on the expertise and experience of Peter Lewis, the previous music school director, as well as being able to work closely with Jeff Faux on music school projects.

**How many students and teachers are part of FAM?**

We currently have 17 instructors and 75 -100 students enrolled in private or group instruction.

**Aside from individual music lessons, are there other music opportunities offered by FAM?**

Our early childhood music program has expanded this fall with the addition of Kindermusik classes taught by Marne Gleason. This internationally recognized program offers classes for children from newborn to age 7. Two other group classes at FAM are open to children and adults. Bagpiper Don Goller, who many know from his participation in the Kirkin' O' the Tartan service, offers a class called Bagpipes for Beginners. This fall, we've added a Scottish Drumming class which is a nice compliment to the bagpipe class.

**What is your background as a musician?**

I have a Bachelor's degree in music and a Master's degree in flute performance. I worked for nine years as an elementary and middle school music teacher before coming to FPC as administrative assistant to the Sacred Arts Department. I've taught flute (do I have to admit?) for nearly 40 years. I was a member of the chamber ensemble Quintus and still play with the Charlotte Symphony.

**What is the greatest challenge you see for FAM?**

The downturn in the economy hit our student population hard. Many families who provided lessons for their children were forced to quit when their financial situations became



unstable. We definitely so our enrollment decline. But perhaps there is evidence that the local economy has turned the corner. I'm happy to report that three students have returned after suspending their studies for a year and an additional 16 new students have enrolled since the semester started in August.

**What is it that makes FAM unique when compared to other places where students can receive musical instruction?**

At FAM, all the teachers hold music degrees or are established specialists in their area of instruction and have passed a background check. All classes and lessons are conducted on the FPC campus rather than in someone's home. For increased security, we also provide a staffed check-in desk where parents sign their children in and out for their lessons. Unlike other local music businesses and private teachers who operate on a for-profit basis and do not offer any type of financial underwriting, FAM awards need-based financial assistance to music students enrolled in private instruction at FAM.

**In what way does FAM fit into the overall mission of FPC?**

Because FAM is a component within a larger church ministry, we believe that the music education we provide gives other benefits, particularly in the area of Christian character development. Like other church outreach ministries, the music school presents an opportunity to bring families to our facility where they are exposed to church programming and offered opportunities to become engaged in church life.

We congratulate Cheryl for her expanding role in FAM as well as in FPC's Sacred Arts Ministry.

Cheryl lives in Bonita Springs with her husband, Chuck. A native of Ohio, Cheryl has lived in Florida since 1981.

# Anthem Celebrates 10 Years of Service

The Chancel Choir recently surprised Associate Director of Sacred Arts Peter Lewis with an anthem they commissioned to honor his 10 years of service at First Presbyterian Church. Renowned choral composer Dan Forrest was commissioned to write the anthem that will be sung during worship on November 13. *Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus* takes a tune and text that is over 300 years old and breathes a fresh spirit into it.

“The piece is really beautiful,” said Peter Lewis after the choir read it for the first time in rehearsal.

“The choir was very excited about this,” said Jeff Faux, director of Sacred Arts. “They took very little time to raise the money needed for this gift. It is a wonderful tribute that honors all Peter brings to First Presbyterian Church.”

Peter was presented with a framed copy of the first page with the dedication that reads:

*From the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs, Florida, in honor of Peter Lewis for his 10 years of service as Organist and Associate Director of Sacred Arts.*



## Quiet Joy: A Christmas Celebration

Associate Director of Sacred Arts Peter Lewis has issued a CD recording of Christmas music. Entitled *Quiet Joy: A Christmas Celebration*, the disc features arrangements of seasonal tunes by Phillip Keveren, J. Bert Carlson, and Fred Bock.

“This collection is a perfect accompaniment to a quiet evening while you enjoy the lights and ambience of your home during the holiday season,” said Peter.

The arrangements are unique and vary in their stylistic treatment — from Jazz to Celtic—and feature contemporary settings. If you like George Winston or Mannheim Steamroller, you’ll notice similarities in these arrangements. The overall feeling of the disc is warm and fuzzy.



“I wanted to create something that would remind a listener of the warmth that’s felt in winter when you sit by the fireplace enjoying your Christmas tree,” he remarked.

The entire project has been a collaborative effort. Peter worked with FPC’s Gil Urick, who provided the graphic design for the disc and the packaging. FPC’s sound engineer Chad Zuchegno also participated by recording the tracks on location at Peter’s home in Estero, and mixing the recording at Chad’s studio in Fort Myers.

Selections feature a broad variety of songs. Of note, you’ll want to hear the arrangement of the *Ukrainian Bell Carol*. “It reminds me of the theme song from James Bond,” said Peter. Also noteworthy is the beautiful arrangement of the little-known *Oh, Sleep Now, Holy Baby*, a Hispanic folk tune.

CDs can be purchased in the FPC BookCenter or through the music department for \$20. Peter will donate a portion of sales back to the church, to benefit the First Academy of Music.

# Concert Series 2011-2012



## Three Divas & The Dons

November 18 • 7:30 PM

The repertoire of this unique ensemble is surprisingly eclectic, ranging from opera and Broadway to sacred, folk, nostalgic and patriotic. You will savor the heartwarming classics from *Fiddler on the Roof*, the fun of *Die Fledermaus*, the beauty of Lakme's *Flower Duet* and the sizzle of *All That Jazz* presented within a fun venue of "Travelin' on Route 66."

## Paul Saik

December 17 • 3:00 & 7:30 PM

This award-winning singer and pianist has played the piano since the age of three. His concerts are known to inspire with a unique journey through his life as he performs various styles of music. From Broadway to opera to romantic ballads, his performance is powerful and passionate. His talent will leave you amazed!

## 42Five

January 28 • 3:00 & 7:30 PM

Evolving from a street corner barbershop sound and drawing from funk, rock, jazz and blues, this group is blazing new trails with a style all their own. 42Five recreates an entire instrumental band with nothing but their five voices—a feat which has to be seen to be believed!

## The Lettermen

February 2 • 3:00 & 7:30 PM

The 60's and early 70's saw The Lettermen score over 25 chart hit singles, including *Goin' Out Of My Head*, *Can't Take My Eyes Off You* and *Hurt So Bad*. Their signature sound and romantic hits made for nearly five decades of popularity, 18 gold records internationally, and recordings in over 14 languages.

## The Barbary Coast Dixieland Show Band

February 25 • 3:00 & 7:30 PM

February 26 • 3:00 PM

February 27 • 7:30 PM

February 28 • 7:30 PM

Seven talented musicians who play 18 instruments! Rated among the finest entertainers in the Midwest, this band has played everywhere—from the Mississippi paddlewheel boats to Nagasaki, Japan.

Terry Myers Orchestra presents

## A Tribute to Benny Goodman & The Andrews Sisters

March 16 • 3:00 & 7:30 PM

The 17-piece Terry Myers Orchestra will be joined by The Swing Sisters in a re-creation of the Big Band sound that made Benny Goodman a household name. You'll wish we had a dance floor for this one!

NEW!

## Let's Hang On!

March 30 • 3:00 & 7:30 PM

The nation's premier Frankie Valli Tribute Show is a full blown stage production complete with that Four Seasons sound, crisp choreography, and a live band. Four great guys and two beautiful girls sing and dance their way through some of the best songs of all time in this high-energy production.

Concert Series ticket and sponsorship information is available at the church or online at [fpcbonita.org](http://fpcbonita.org). You may become a Concert Series sponsor for \$100 and receive two tickets per performer as our way of saying thanks, or you may come to the music office 10 days before each performance to pick up free tickets. We know you will enjoy this season's concerts!

# Fine Arts Series 2012

Presented by First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs

## Tim Zimmerman & The King's Brass

January 14 • 7:30 PM • Tickets: \$10

The King's Brass features three trumpets, three trombones, a tuba, percussion and keyboards—blending together to create an



innovative and eclectic performance for all generations to enjoy. Secular and sacred music critics alike applaud their concerts as “superb in every way” and “innovative and well played.”

## Naples Philharmonic Orchestra

January 26 • 7:30 PM • Tickets: \$40; Students \$15

### MOZART'S "THE GREAT"

Jorge Mester, music director/conductor

Mozart – *Symphony No. 40*

Dvorák – *Serenade for Strings*

Ginastera – *Variaciones Concertantes*



Mozart's next to last symphony, nicknamed “The Great,” is among his most beloved. One of only two symphonies Mozart wrote in a minor key, it is

known for its famous opening, daring harmonies and emotionally charged composition—perhaps reflecting the turbulence in his life at the time. Also on this wide-ranging program: Argentine composer Alberto Ginastera's *Variaciones Concertantes*, a folk-based theme with 11 variations, each spotlighting a different soloist; and Dvorák's rich and charming *Serenade for Strings*.

## Thomas Pandolfi PIANIST

### "Into The Night" with Gershwin

February 4 • 7:30 PM • Tickets: \$10



This internationally acclaimed pianist and Julliard graduate will present this very popular program that features improvisations on several Gershwin songs such as *I Got Rhythm*, *The Man I Love* and *Embraceable You*. It will also include the exciting *Rhapsody in Blue*.

## Naples Philharmonic Orchestra

March 22 • 7:30 PM • Tickets: \$40; Students \$15

### HAYDN'S "LONDON SYMPHONY"

Jorge Mester, music director/conductor

Haydn – *Symphony No. 104*

Dvorák – *Serenade for Winds*

Vaughan Williams – *Tuba Concerto*



Haydn's final symphony is an inventive and majestic work, full of soaring folk-song melodies and luminous orchestrations. One of the dozen symphonies he wrote in London in the 1790s, it is among Haydn's most popular compositions. Also showcased will be Vaughan

Williams' remarkable *Tuba Concerto* from 1954, the first concerto ever written for that instrument, performed by the orchestra's Principal Tuba Aaron McCalla. The program begins with Dvorák's delightful *Serenade for Winds*.

## Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra

April 1 • 7:00 PM • Tickets: \$7

### TCHAIKOVSKY'S "SWAN LAKE"

Michael Hall, conductor

Come hear the future of music in an exciting concert that will feature *Swan Lake* by Tchaikovsky. The Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra is an auditioned group comprised of the best young musicians in Southwest Florida.



The Youth Orchestra provides quality symphonic training and performance experience for young musicians. Coached by professional symphony musicians, they rehearse weekly and perform during many Symphony events and in their own concert series.

*The Fine Arts Series is being presented as a fund raising effort for the First Academy of Music's financial aid program. Tickets may be purchased in person at the ticket office at FPC or at the door prior to each event.*

# Paul's Perspective

Dear Friends in Christ,

**T**he Bible clearly tells us that human sexuality is a wonderful gift from God. It was His idea, and He is the One who knows best how it can be used for our blessing and to honor Him (and also how it can be abused, misused or become a source of pain). I am grateful that my colleagues Rev. John McWilliams and Dr. Nancy Heche presented such a wonderful, sensitive and biblically-based program recently, helping us to see our sexuality from God's perspective. I especially commend to you the audio CD of their presentation on October 10 (stop at the Welcome Desk on Sunday or the church office on weekdays to order a copy).

Just as our secular culture has become very permissive in sexual behavior, so, too, have many of the mainline Protestant denominations. That is why we need to be reminded of biblical principles. Christians must hold fast to God's pattern for human sexuality as expressed in the Bible—for those who reject the authority of the Bible on issues of sexuality reject the authority of God to determine what is right and wrong, natural and unnatural, allowed and forbidden. It is a choice between biblical authority or sexual confusion.

Dr. Ken Bailey, ordained Presbyterian minister, missionary, professor, author and lecturer in Middle Eastern New Testament Studies, recently wrote an article for the Presbyterians for Renewal web site entitled *A Tale of Elephants and the Mouse: Presbyterians, 10-A, and the World Church*. The article was written in response to the change of the Presbyterian Church (USA) ordination standards in its constitution, known as Amendment 10-A. I believe Dr. Bailey has an important message about the changes that we all need to consider. The following is an excerpt from his article:

Once a small mouse was playing around the feet of a family of elephants. The mouse suddenly decided to run down the hill away from the elephants. The elephants did not follow the mouse.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2011 is just over one half of one percent of the population of America and America is approximately 5% of the population of the world. We are a very small blip on the radar screen of world Christianity. Sixty percent of the world's Christians are now in the Global South, which is comprised of South America, Africa, and Asia. What can be said about Presbyterian world mission and 10-A?



Rev. Dr. Paul Fahnstock

The recent decision to change our ordination standards is a rejection of Scripture and tradition as understood by more than one billion Roman Catholics. It is also an offense to more than 300 million Eastern Orthodox in their various communities in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and around the globe.

Western Christianity has been the “superpower” of the Christian world for more than a thousand years. Across the centuries we were able to define what it meant to be a Christian. This is no longer the case. As is well-known, the numerical center of the Christian world has moved South and East. That “global South” is becoming more and more important for the larger body of Christ and they (along with the Catholics and Eastern Orthodox) will see us as having departed from Scripture and tradition as the Church everywhere has known it for two millennia. Our relationships with them are now freshly damaged.

Added to this is the reality of our “partner churches” around the world with whom we have served in mission for the last 160 years and longer. They are quickly discovering the change we have made in our ordination standards and they will understand it as betrayal. Many Anglican Archbishops in Africa describe the American Episcopal church as having “walked apart” from what the Church has believed and proclaimed for nearly two thousand years. The same judgment will now be made of us by our partners in mission. This has serious implications for our ability to continue in mission with them.

*(You may read the full article at [www.pfrenewal.org](http://www.pfrenewal.org).)*

And, in fact, mission partners are responding to the change in the Presbyterian Church (USA) ordination standards. In August, the directors of the General Assembly of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico (a partnership of 139 years) presented a letter and severed ties with the PC(USA). The letter stated the new ordination standard “separates them (PCUSA) completely from loyalty and

*continued on page 22*

# First Missions: Around the Corner... Around the World

## Missions Emphasis Worship

Sunday, November 20, 2011 • 8:00 & 10:00 AM

Guest Preacher David Meade



David Meade

David and Kathy Meade met at Moody Bible Institute while they were both there preparing for missions ministry overseas. Local church planting, college ministry and teaching further prepared them for service. In the summer of 1981 they were accepted as appointees to the Philippines with the Regions Beyond Missionary Union (RBMU). David was the field director throughout their 10 years there: leading, advising, and counseling the missionaries as well as planning church planting for city, rural, and Muslim settings.

In 1992, the Meades returned to the USA as David took the position of US Executive Director for RBMU International. In 1995 the opportunity arose to work more directly in assisting local churches in missions as the Southeast Regional Director for Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment (ACMC). In 2005 David started Propempo International, a mission consulting organization which catalyzes practical, biblical ministry, resources and networking to enable church leaders to effectively mobilize their people for world evangelization and fulfillment of the Great Commission. God has raised up scores of new missionaries through churches Propempo has helped. A natural development of training and sending missionaries has been the spearheading of strategic ministry in the 10-40 Window, particularly among Muslim peoples of North Africa, the Middle East, and the Arabian Peninsula. David leads the “North Africa Project”—for planting first-generation indigenous churches and implementing church-based missionary training for deployment to the unreached people groups in North Africa. This involves David and Kathy again with field leadership, field strategy consulting, and mentoring of missionary candidates and workers. David and Kathy are supported with FPC missions funds.



Telile Fikru

### Guest Singer Telile Fikru

Telile Fikru is a Muslim-background follower of Jesus Christ from Ethiopia. When she was a teenager in Ethiopia she had two dreams: She prayed that one day she would have her own guitar (she was already writing Christian songs), and that she might study the Bible and devote her life to Christian ministry. God answered both her prayers. Telile sets the Gospel message to traditional melodies

of her people, the Arssi Oromo. Her honoring Oromo culture in this way has been deeply moving to the hearts of Oromo Muslims as well as Oromo Christians. Telile is currently studying at the George Fox Evangelical Seminary in Portland, OR. FPC mission funds support the Ethiopian Arssi Oromo ministry, Light of Hope.



## “Walk for Life” a Big Success

Saturday, October 15 turned out to be a beautiful morning for the Walk for Life, an annual fundraising event for the Pregnancy Resource Center of SW Florida. Churches of many denominations in Lee and Collier Counties were represented at the 2-mile walk around the North Collier Regional Park. Twenty women and men representing FPC Women’s Connection and Men’s Ministry participated, ranging in age from 9 to 87. An increased number of members and friends of FPC contributed as sponsors this year, totaling over \$2,500. Donations are still welcome. The PRC, which is supported by FPC mission funds, provides services to hundreds of women each year who face an unintended pregnancy. Resources at the Center include: free pregnancy testing, crisis pregnancy support, infant care classes, adoption support, and Bible study and support groups. PRC also has a mobile ultrasound, staffed by a nurse and an ultrasound technician, in which women can receive free images of their child growing in the womb.

# Compassion Child Sponsors: Expect Changes in 2011-12

by Roy Tipton, FPC Mission Leadership Team

Do you recall our Compassion Sunday in 2009? Tony Morales from the Dominican Republic spoke to the congregation. Tony had been a Compassion sponsored child who went on to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science through Compassion's Leadership Development Program, and then received a scholarship to Moody Bible Institute. He was a student at Moody when he was our guest to share his experiences as a sponsored child. Tony first became a Compassion sponsored child at age 8 and over a 10 year period had two sponsors. The first sponsor never wrote to Tony. The second sponsor was a U.S. family and everyone in the family wrote to him, although the primary letter writer was a teenager named Ashley. Tony says, "She changed my life." The letters from this family were his most important possession, and he kept them under his mattress, safe and close to him.

I know that all of us who sponsor children would love to have the fulfilling experience that Tony's sponsor family enjoyed. And I know that some sponsors, maybe you or your grandchild, have not had a rewarding experience corresponding with your Compassion child.

Every three seconds a child under the age of five dies from poverty-related causes. But it takes only one voice—yours—to fight poverty. In its 50-plus years of development work, Compassion International has found investing in individual children to be the best method for breaking the cycle of poverty in children's lives. Today, Compassion helps over one million children in 26 countries.

For just \$38 a month you can sponsor a child and give them spiritual, educational and health care opportunities they never had. Visit the Compassion International web site at [www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com) to find out more.

*Be sure to visit our Mission Wall to see the Compassion children who are already sponsored by First Church members.*



Certainly there are a lot of very understandable reasons why the sponsor-child communications can break down. Compassion is handling millions of letters, written in who knows how many languages, in 26 poor countries with delivery systems ranging from not so hot, to awful!

Compassion's leadership and managers at all levels recognize that quality communications between sponsors and children is central to the long range success of their mission to release children from poverty in the name of Jesus. They have been focused on developing a better model to bring their global field offices and thousands of church based Compassion projects up to the uniform standard expected by sponsors like us. So, starting at the end of September, 2011 new correspondence standards will be phased in over a period of nine months in all 26 countries.

Here is an overview of what's new:

- All sponsors will receive an annual letter from the church pastor, project or country director that will help them understand the child's world and the Compassion International partnership with the local church.
- The number of required letters from a child will be reduced from 3 to 2. However, the process becomes reciprocal – that is, children will all write in response to their sponsor's letter versus a set schedule.
- Children ages 3-8 will use structured template letters to help them learn letter writing. In addition to topics, each template includes space to draw pictures, respond to questions, say thank you for gifts and share prayer requests.

These changes won't solve everything. We'll still have dusty roads, pen and pencil, and that real imperfect thing, us—God's work in progress!

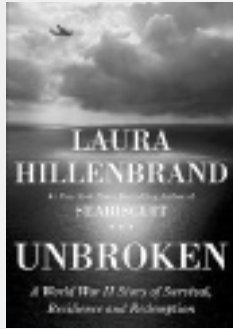
If you are an engaged sponsor, whether or not you are having a "Tony Morales experience," I encourage you to write your child more often and pray a lot. Remember, Compassion International isn't really about us and the impact sponsoring a child has on us, although it may be immense. It is all about changing a child's life by releasing them from poverty and introducing them to Jesus Christ. Think about your letter more than their letter. Remember, your letter may be under your child's mattress.

Everyone, please pray for our nearly 400 children and their sponsors at FPC.

To be reintroduced to Tony Morales go to [facebook.com/video/video.php?v=373690036649](https://facebook.com/video/video.php?v=373690036649)

# Adult Christian Education

## Review on the Run



### **Unbroken**

by Laura Hillenbrand  
Genre: Biography

This book is the gripping tale of Louis Zamperini's life... As a boy who could "run like mad"; as a college student who posted

the fastest NCAA mile in history; as a World War II Air Force bombardier who survived over 40 days adrift in the Pacific Ocean after his plane was shot down. To end that ordeal, Louis was plucked from the sea by the enemy, only to be held captive in a series of Japanese POW camps. The inhumane treatment and torture he endured during those long months is unimaginable.

Author Laura Hildebrand (*Seabiscuit*) tells Zamperini's life story in this powerfully crafted book. It is one of those books that rivets the reader to the story, so that the next page must be read—now. It is the dramatic account of a series of amazing feats of courage and fortitude on the part of a man who has to count as a genuine American hero. From a record-setting Olympic runner to a combat flier with the U.S. Air Force, Louis Zamperini is an uncommon man who has lived a valiant and remarkable life.

The wonderful transformation of Zamperini from a tough and unbroken survivor to a devoted Christian is as surprising as it is reaffirming.

— Dick Hamlin

*Review on the Run* is a short book review written and submitted by members of the congregation on a book purchased in our FPC BookCenter. Consider it one way to spread the word about a beloved Christian book and inspire others to read it. You may send your submission of 150-200 words to BookCenter Manager Ed Schick ([schick@fpcbonita.org](mailto:schick@fpcbonita.org)) Your review may be subject to editing.

## Staying in God's Word

Since May, your Christian Education Committee has been providing a monthly plan to help you continue your personal journey through the Bible. During the final months of 2011 we will concentrate on God's prophetic Messianic prophecies and their New Testament fulfillment. Our Old Testament studies this year are an important foundation for our upcoming "Year in the New Testament." We hope you will continue in this challenge and grow in the study of God's Word.

### **November: Old Testament Prophecies of Christ and Their New Testament Fulfillments**

As we approach Advent and Christmas, our reading schedule will take you through many of the important prophecies concerning Christ's coming. Reading the Old Testament prophecies alongside their New Testament fulfillment, you will be able to easily see the connection between God's prophetic Messianic promises of the Old Testament and how He fulfilled those prophecies and promises in His Son Jesus.

### **December: Advent Devotional**

Similar to what was done in April with a Lenten devotional reading plan, we will provide an Advent devotional plan which, of course, will focus on the major themes of Christmas and the coming of Christ. Our BookCenter will also have a children's Advent Calendar available, so children can also be encouraged to take part in an Advent program on their level.

#### *NOVEMBER SUNDAY CLASSES*

### **The Life of Joseph**

Price Hall Chapel • 8:45-9:45 AM • Pastor Dan Oedy

Joseph lived an incredible life. He was a beloved son of his father Jacob, who was also known as Israel. His special place in Israel's heart prompted Joseph's brothers to sell him into slavery out of jealousy. But what his brothers intended as harm, the Lord used for good. Through the events of Joseph's life, God's covenant people moved from Canaan to Egypt. The Lord gave Joseph favor and granted him protection and blessing through a myriad of trials and temptations. His story and life as a patriarch is something every Christian should read and discover.

#### *DECEMBER SUNDAY CLASSES*

### **Old Testament Messianic Prophecies**

Price Hall Chapel • 8:45-9:45 AM • Pastor Dan Oedy

Advent is a season of waiting. It is a time when we are reminded of how the Israelites waited for the coming Messiah. It is also a wonderful opportunity to study the literature they had to guide them in their anticipation. The Messianic Prophecies are the proclamations of God's prophets which were given to the people as promises of the hope to come. They are rich in detail and give stunning insight into the providence and grace of God. We will see how the utterances of the prophets proclaimed the coming salvation of the Lord.

# Let Your Light Shine Brightly!

At Neon Kids, our mission is to partner with parents to lead children into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Neon Kids provides quality programs for children ages 6 months through 6th grade. We invite you to visit us on Sunday mornings before the 10 AM worship service. Check in your children for nursery care or Neon Kids Sunday school. You can also visit us on the web at [neonkids.org](http://neonkids.org) to catch up on all the latest news.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:16

### Questions?

Contact Director of Children & Family Ministries Amanda Zaengle at [azaengle@fpcbonita.org](mailto:azaengle@fpcbonita.org) or 992-3233.

### Advent Celebration

November 27, December 4, 11 & 18  
10 AM • Sanctuary

Each Sunday of Advent, there will be a brief drama presentation along with the lighting of the wreath at the beginning of the service. Children are welcome to attend this special time with their family and then depart for Sunday school during the first hymn.

### Christmas Day Worship

December 25 • 10 AM • Sanctuary

Christmas morning we will have a true Family Worship Sunday where families are invited to worship together for the entire service. A Children's Message will be included; there will be no Sunday school. The Chancel Choir will offer a special musical presentation called "O Little Town of Bethlehem," accompanied by string quartet and flutes. Childcare will be available for children ages 6 months to 3 years.

### Wednesday Night Programs... for the whole family.

Wednesday night is Family Night with programs for children, middle school students and parents! This session is already underway but you may join at anytime. Childcare is available for children 6 months through 3 years of age.

### Wednesdays

Now through Nov. 16 • 6-7:30 PM

Lil' K for Preschoolers-Kindergartners (ages 3-6):

In *I Can Love*, we will explore God's great love and learn how we can love our families, our friends, God's creation, ourselves, and even our enemies.

KIDMO for 1st-5th Graders:

Join us for *Beefesians!* Saddle up with Cowboy Johnny Rogers for our "meatiest" KIDMO yet! We'll learn how to "be" according to Ephesians: God wants us to belong, believe, be patient, behave and be strong.

For Youth:

The Chat House

Middle and high school students are invited to Café First to join us for our ongoing study, *A Year in the Parables*, with faith-based discussions and activities.

For Parents:

"Courageous" Small Group Study

We encourage you to see the recently released movie *Courageous* and then come join our follow-up small group study.

*The Resolution for Men\** challenges men to become bold and intentional about embracing their responsibilities as leaders of their homes, marriages and children.

*The Resolution for Women\** challenges all women to be intentional about embracing and thriving in God's eternal calling on their lives.

*\*Books are available at the FPC BookCenter.*

### Kids Night Out

November 5 • 5-8 PM • Learning Center

Open to families of FPC; children ages 1 through 12 will enjoy "A Kid's Night of Thanks" with Thanksgiving-themed games and activities at the church while parents have a Saturday evening to themselves. Send \$3 per child for pizza. Please contact Amanda Zaengle to register.

### Family Worship Sunday

November 6 • 10 AM • Sanctuary

Families are invited to worship together during our monthly Family Worship Sunday at 10:00 a.m. The service will include a Children's Message; there will be no Sunday school. Childcare will be available for children 6 months through 3 years of age.

## Gift of the Word

Dick Plowman was an influential man in both our community and congregation. He served in a variety of leadership roles throughout his life. Dick passed away this summer on July 13. He was a man of integrity and a faithful follower of Christ. We want to recognize a wonderful gift given to First Presbyterian in his honor. It is a fitting tribute that a class set of New International Version Bibles have been purchased with the memorial gifts given in honor of Dick. The Bibles will be stored in the Chapel and used on Sunday mornings during our adult Bible study hour. We are thankful to Dick's wife, Judy, and his many friends who made this gift possible.

## D.I.G. – Discover, Investigate, Grow

We invite you to consider a new initiative at First Presbyterian Church. Beginning in January 2012 we will be celebrating the “Year in the New Testament.” This fall our studies of the patriarchs and messianic prophecies will set a foundation and backstory for an in-depth excavation of God’s word. We invite you to “DIG” into the scriptures with us as we discover, investigate and grow. A daily reading plan is provided here and participants are encouraged to read along each day and attend Bible study on Sunday mornings in the Chapel. These studies will be led by a member of our teaching staff and covers the weekly readings. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to have a life-changing encounter with God’s word. We hope you will begin reading with us on January 1!



### D.I.G. Daily Reading Plan

#### WEEK 1

- 1/1 – Matt. 1:1-25
- 1/2 – Matt. 2:1-23
- 1/3 – Matt. 3:1-17
- 1/4 – Matt. 4:1-22
- 1/5 – Matt. 4:23–5:20
- 1/6 – Matt. 5:21-42
- 1/7 – Matt. 5:43-6:15

#### WEEK 2

- 1/8 – Matt. 6:16-34
- 1/9 – Matt. 7:1-20
- 1/10 – Matt. 7:21-8:13
- 1/11 – Matt. 8:14-34
- 1/12 – Matt. 9:1-17
- 1/13 – Matt. 9:18-38
- 1/14 – Matt. 10:1-15

#### WEEK 3

- 1/15 – Matt. 10:16-42
- 1/16 – Matt. 11:1-24
- 1/17 – Matt. 11:25-12:13
- 1/18 – Matt. 12:14-37
- 1/19 – Matt. 12:38-50
- 1/20 – Matt. 13:1-23
- 1/21 – Matt. 13:24-43

#### WEEK 4

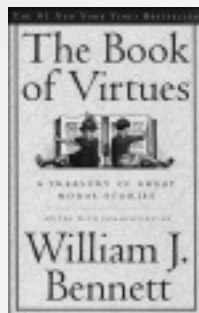
- 1/22 – Matt. 13:44-14:12
- 1/23 – Matt. 14:13-33
- 1/24 – Matt. 14:34-15:20
- 1/25 – Matt. 15:21-16:4
- 1/26 – Matt. 16:5-23
- 1/27 – Matt. 16:24-17:13
- 1/28 – Matt. 17:14-18:6

#### WEEK 5

- 1/29 – Matt. 18:7-20
- 1/30 – Matt. 18:21-19:2
- 1/31 – Matt. 19:3-22

## Book Review

By Tyler C. Myers



### THE BOOK OF VIRTUES

by William J. Bennett

My mom recommended *The Book of Virtues* to me when she heard Pastor Doug Pratt talking about it in a sermon. I think it is a great book that teaches you about how to be a good Christian. It also has many stories that are fun to read but also teach you things that are helpful in life. Overall, I think it is a great book that will keep you reading it. I think anyone who can read it should read it.

Tyler is the 9-year-old son of Stephen and Lana Myers. Last year he took Pastor Doug’s challenge to read the Bible in a year with his mom. Tyler is a fourth grader at Seacrest Country Day School. He is a Junior Handler for the United Kennel Club and recently received his 2nd Degree Black Belt. Tyler loves to play sports and hopes to become a professional athlete.



Tyler with his champion 2-year-old Dalmation, Jedi.

# FPC Children's Choir



Marilyn Carson

All children in the Pre-K through grade 6 are invited to join the Children's Choir now being formed. Weekly rehearsals will be held 11-11:45 AM, immediately following the Neon Kids Sunday School. No audition is required. The choir will be led by Marilyn Carson, who has taught music and children's choirs for 30 years.

"A children's choir gives children an opportunity to serve their church, a chance to minister to others through music," she said. "When children sing Scripture, they remember it for a lifetime. Reflecting on its message as they sing instills understanding of spiritual truths and knowledge of God."

Marilyn is a member of FPC's Chancel Choir and the Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers. A graduate of the University of Illinois (at Champaign), Marilyn taught in the western suburbs of Chicago. She sang with the Oak Brook Choral Society and the Elmhurst College Chorale Union and also served on the board of directors for the Glen Ellen Children's Choir, attended by her children. Marilyn's elementary/junior high choirs participated annually in the Illinois Music Educators Conference choir contests, with select members often chosen for state and national ACDA Honor choirs. She has taught using the Kodaly Method and is

certified in three levels of the Orff Method. Recently she spent four summers participating in the week-long World Music Drumming Workshops in Wisconsin.

It's obvious that Marilyn holds a special place in her heart for children and teaching them music is one of her greatest joys. "It's a wonderful privilege to have a part in developing young minds and building Christian character," Marilyn said. "A choir is a team with a common goal; the qualities of promptness, self-control, cooperation, and commitment must be developed in each participant if the group is to accomplish its purpose of praising the Lord."

Marilyn has many goals for FPC's new Children's Choir. She sees it as part of the education process through which they learn leadership and responsibility, exercise their singing voice, and expand their knowledge of God through the hymns of the church.

"The children will be introduced to quality religious and secular music in a variety of styles, learn music reading skills and, most importantly, feel they are accepted and loved as they serve in God's house."

If you are considering the Children's Choir for your child or grandchild, please stop at the Children's Desk on Sunday morning for more information. Singers beyond grade 6 (junior high) are also welcome. You may contact Marilyn Carson at [marilynacarson@centurylink.net](mailto:marilynacarson@centurylink.net).

## Meet Nicole Tancredi

We welcome to our full-time staff Nicole Tancredi, who is serving in the newly created position of Children's Ministry Teacher. Nicole has worked part-time at the church for 10 years in many areas, including nursery coordinator and preschool teacher. She has two Associate degrees, one in General Education and one in Early Childhood, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Management and Supervision. Originally from Long Island, New York, Nicole moved her family to Southwest Florida in 1998. She has two children, Joseph (age 13) and Patrick (age 9).

Nicole's primary responsibilities are in teaching preschool-aged children across all areas of Children's Ministry: at Wonder Years Preschool on weekdays and at Neon Kids programs on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Nicole also serves as our Childcare Coordinator, arranging childcare for all ministry events. We are very grateful to have Nicole's talents and expertise on our Children's Ministry team!



Nicole Tancredi

## Meet and Greet

On October 14, FPC's Women's Connection and Wonder Years hosted a Café First coffee for the parents of our preschool children. Forty-seven moms and dads spent about an hour meeting and greeting, sharing newly purchased school pictures and enjoying coffee and great treats from Sandy Ritchie and Lori Willis of our Hospitality Ministry. Families could sign up to walk or sponsor a walker for the WALK FOR LIFE, benefiting the Pregnancy Resource Center. Planning calendars were given out to highlight October as National Breast Cancer Awareness month, a gift for the women from our Crowning Glory Ministry.

# Bonita Christian Forum, Season 7

What does it look like to “live out” one’s faith in Jesus Christ? This season, the Bonita Christian Forum presents five individuals whose lives evidence a particular resonance with the heart of God—fighting injustice, sharing the Gospel of Christ, extending forgiveness, demonstrating love, saving children. Let their stories inspire you to deeper commitment and action. Every one of us can make a difference.



November 15, 2011

## Gary Haugen

*Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. (Isaiah 1:17)*

Imagine a world in which laws are not enforced, police do not protect, leaders oppress, women and children are exploited, families enslaved. This is Gary Haugen’s world—and it is ours. The founder of International Justice Mission, a human rights agency active on five continents, Gary shares God’s compassion for victims of oppression and His call for justice. Come hear the William Wilberforce of our day—one who has dedicated his life to making a difference in the face of formidable injustice. (See article on page 22.)



January 24, 2012

## Lee Strobel

*The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 1:14)*

Lee Strobel was an award-winning investigative journalist for *The Chicago Tribune*—and an atheist—when he embarked on a life-changing two-year investigation of the evidence for Jesus. He became a Christian in 1981, and went on to become a mega-church teaching pastor, television host and author. His books include *The Case for Christ*, *The Case for Faith* and *The Case for a Creator*. His first novel, *The Ambition*, was released this past May.



February 21, 2012

## Louis Zamperini

*Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13)*

Troubled teen. Olympic runner. World War II bombardier and POW. Survivor. Christian. All describe Louis Zamperini of Torrance, California, the subject of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Laura Hillenbrand’s 2010 book, *Unbroken*. Louie’s incomparable story of redemption and forgiveness is a true inspiration, especially when shared by this nonagenarian.



March 20, 2012

## Dr. Gary Chapman

*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

*(1 Peter 4:8)*

Dr. Gary Chapman, a relationship counselor, is perhaps best-known for introducing the concept of “love languages” — the means by which we most effectively express love to others and receive it ourselves. His *New York Times* bestseller, *The Five Love Languages*, has sold over five million copies in English and has been translated into more than 40 languages. In addition to his writing and speaking, Dr. Chapman hosts a syndicated radio show and is a pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC.



April 10, 2012

## Wess Stafford

*Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. (Matthew 18:5)*

Wess Stafford has served as President of Compassion International, one of the world’s largest (and most trusted) Christian child development agencies, since 1993. And it would seem he was born for this. The son of missionaries to the Ivory Coast, Wess credits those early years in the African village with teaching him “everything I really need to know to run a multinational organization” and inspiring his passion for serving the poor, particularly children. His daily radio feature, *Speak Up with Compassion*, is heard on over 800 radio stations in the U.S.



Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

I PETER 3:15

All programs begin at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.

# Steven's Study

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

**T**here is a great debate raging across our land. People are struggling over the question of whether or not the United States is a "Christian nation." We would first need to define exactly what that means, but the problem is this debate is unnecessarily polarizing and prevents all Americans from freely embracing our American story. Predetermined agendas can cause participants in a debate not to hear each other and to be selective about what facts they choose to remember. All of us can be guilty of revisionist history. As I see it, "Is this a Christian nation" is the wrong question. A better question is: To what extent has the Church been fulfilling its mission?

On one side of the debate we have people who want to claim that this is a Christian nation and always has been. Their cause is to reclaim what America presumably used to be and desires to see the right laws and public structures reestablish some measure of acceptable moral order. They recoil at any mention of "separation of church and state," claiming that such wording does not appear in our founding documents. I would encourage us to see that separation of church and state is actually an *ally* for the church. We live in a nation where the church is free to exercise its mission as it believes it is led. Unlike the church in European nations that for many centuries was beholden to the princes of the world for ecclesiastical patronage, the American church does not have the burden of the government being involved in church matters, nor do we want it to be.

On the other side, there are people who want no Christian influence whatsoever, and deny that there ever was any. It takes some significant mental gymnastics to get around the founders' own words, but nevertheless there is the claim that they were all deists. If they were they were very strange deists indeed! Deists are people who are willing to accept the possibility that there is a creator or deity, but deny any participation of that deity in the affairs of the creation. How does this square with Washington's consistent trust in divine providence, Franklin's insistence that the Constitutional Congress begin all its sessions in prayer because they would not be successful without God's help, and Jefferson's trembling for the nation because he was sure that God is a just God?

A case can clearly be made that the Christian faith of the founders did have a great impact on the shaping and founding of America not because their intent was to create a "Christian nation" as such, but because the Christian faith



Rev. Steven Grant

was a profound part of their worldview, their frame of reference, and so it was inevitable that their worldview would influence their thinking and decision making. We can no longer assume that our leadership has this same worldview. Nevertheless, in the current debate I would hope that all Americans would be able to embrace this part of our history without people on one side of the debate thinking they must carry the burden of imposing a certain worldview on others, and the people on the other side not needing to live with the fear of being imposed upon.

We must not fall into the illusion that there was once a "golden era" in the nation and the Church when we got it all right. Human depravity has consistently accompanied even the greatest of American accomplishments. Human nature has never changed. Both the good and the bad are part of our story, and we need not shy away from either one of them. Instead of trying to "go back to" we need to glean the best from our heritage as we move forward.

For Christians, we need to ask ourselves where in scripture do we find the mandate to Christianize the civil authority. Do we see Jesus attempting to do this? By contrast we read Paul teaching Christians to be good citizens wherever they live (Romans 13). Peter taught that we must "fear God and honor the emperor" (I Peter 2:17). This is amazing since Peter and Paul were living under the rule of the Roman Empire, possibly even under the dreaded Nero. We must remember that the Christian mission is a worldwide mission, regardless of whatever political structure under which Christians find themselves living.

Also, we must remember that the United States is not the "new Israel," the Church is. It is our call to live out the great commission to evangelize, teach and baptize. Our mission is to be God's instruments in transforming people from the inside out rather than to impose on them from the outside by force or coercion. Ours is a servant leadership. The Christian in society is not called to lord it over others but to be the servants of all. If we in the church look at our culture and do not like what we see, we must then see it as our

*continued on page 21*

## DISCIPLE Bible

DISCIPLE Bible is a unique experience with Scripture combining small group fellowship with solid Biblical education. During two (Old Testament and New Testament) 17-week semesters, weekly 2-hour sessions include video presentations and follow a structured workbook. At least 30 minutes per day is devoted to private reading, covering about 70% of the Bible. Studies will begin either in December or January. An organizational meeting will be held soon to plan our schedule. Look for more details in upcoming weekly bulletins. Questions? Contact Charley Nevaril at 239-290-9641 or [chasnev@earthlink.net](mailto:chasnev@earthlink.net).

## Order of St. Luke

OSL is an international Christian healing ministry dedicated to developing a member's prayer life so they are equipped to encourage the healing of body, soul and spirit in others. The Bonita Springs chapter at First Church is Mercy and Grace. Training begins with the in-depth study of the healing ministry of Christ, set to start on January 11 from 1-3 PM for seven consecutive Wednesdays. Registration will begin in December on Sunday mornings in McClure Hall. Questions? Contact Johanna McMichael at 239-947-1211 or Margaret Gieselmann at [mgieselmann@att.net](mailto:mgieselmann@att.net).

# Single Direction

by Shirley Kuaile

The Single Direction ministry offers numerous opportunities for singles (50+), from our church as well as the community, to gather for Christian fellowship.

Evening meetings are held monthly at 6:00 PM with a catered meal followed by a program. Please mark these dinner dates on your activity calendar: November 17, December 15, January 26, February 23, March 22 and April 26.

This season promises to be filled with memorable dinners, guest speakers and fellowship events. We are planning a Welcome Back Beach Party for the first part of November. In the works for December: a Christmas party at Connie Duquin's and our Christmas dinner sing-a-long. We hope to have enough interest in going to St. Petersburg to The Dali Museum by mini bus on a Thursday in February. We plan on spending a day in Naples at the Old Naples Festival in March. Also in our planning is a boat trip around Estero Bay, a visit to the Sugden Theater and, of course, lunch and game days. We can add or subtract activities as dictated by the interests of the group.

Please plan to join us for fellowship, food and fun during the coming season. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to call or email Shirley Kuaile (239-676-8656; [saks\\_1@columbus.rr.com](mailto:saks_1@columbus.rr.com)).

## Steven's Study *continued*

mission field, not our enemy. People without the Gospel are simply living the way fallen, unregenerate people are naturally going to live. Is that their fault? What is the Church doing to reach them? I have to wonder what the Church has been doing or not doing for the past hundred years that our culture has evolved into the condition it is currently in. And is it really all that different than any other era? We can no longer assume that people are going to automatically adopt a Christian worldview merely by breathing American air.

If we are going to have an impact on the worldview of others it must start with us. When the world looks at the Church do they see something that looks like Christ? Do they see something unlike anything else in the world, or are we blending into the culture so much that there appears to be little difference? If we are going to be salt and light in the

world we must first make sure we have retained our flavor and that our lamps are lit. We must make sure that Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is so much a part of our way of living that others will begin to identify that ethic as what Christians are all about. We must manufacture the authentic Christian revolution, one that does not impose anything on anyone, but draws them to Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit evident in the people who claim to possess it. Simply stated, we must know what it means to be the "body of Christ" and then to give every ounce of our commitment to being that body. "Is this a Christian nation?" is the wrong question. The question we must ask first is, "Is there a Christian Church?"

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Steven Grant

# Fighting Injustice... on Five Continents

Gary Haugen is a modern day abolitionist who not only cries out for justice but fights for it. The founder and CEO of International Justice Mission (IJM), Gary has worked on the front lines of injustice for over a decade giving a voice to those who desperately need an advocate. But his work began long before that.

A magna cum laude Harvard graduate in Social Studies, Gary was a Ford Foundation Scholar in International Law and earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Chicago, cum laude. In the 1980s, he worked alongside Bishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa and with the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights investigating human rights abuses.

Gary then began a career in the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice. In 1994, his life took a sharp

turn when he was appointed director of the United Nations' investigation of the Rwandan genocide. Gary led an international team of lawyers, developing new investigative protocols and field methodology, painstakingly gathering evidence and conducting personal interviews.

When he returned from Rwanda, Gary founded IJM, an organization nearly unique among human-rights agencies for its focus on legal casework and its depth of Christian conviction. During the past decade, IJM has played a major role in awakening American Christians to global injustice and, more importantly, to the opportunity we have to bring justice to the oppressed.

Gary believes that "a heavy responsibility and glorious opportunity is in the hands of the global church." Through his ceaseless work—including his books, *Terrify No More*, *Just Courage*, and *Good News about Injustice*—he is inspiring a new generation to join the battle against slavery and oppression.

Gary will speak at the Bonita Christian Forum at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 15 at FPC.

## Paul's Perspective *continued*

fidelity to the basic teachings of the Word of God." This immediately impacts the placement of eleven PC(USA) missionaries in Mexico and the U.S. Mexican border region, as well as joint efforts between the two bodies that involve nine PC(USA) presbyteries and a number of additional Presbyterian congregations.

I predict other Presbyterian partner denominations around the world will be reconsidering their relationship with the PC(USA) because of its choice of sexual confusion over biblical authority.

We in the PC(USA) have much to learn from our sister churches around the world. Pray that we will have the ears to hear.

Blessings,  
Pastor Paul Fahnestock

Pastor's Chat: A Christian Response to Modern-day Slavery  
Tuesday, November 1 • 7 PM • McClure Hall

Human Trafficking is modern-day slavery. Florida is one of the top three destinations for U.S. trafficking victims, who rarely escape or seek law enforcement for help. For this Pastor's Chat, Pastor Paul Fahnestock will host three Christian organizations working in our community to combat human trafficking. These representatives will share the biblical motivation driving their passion to make a difference. Hear what is being done in our neighborhoods to rescue women and girls and to warn parents and children.



Gary Haugen in Cambodia.

"Over the past decade we have seen a seismic shift in the North American church regarding the need and opportunity to be engaged in God's call to justice. God is doing an incredible work of mobilizing the church to bring justice for those suffering from violent oppression, and the coming generation is positioned to have the greatest effect in continuing to bring about this shift."

— Gary Haugen, from "Good News about Injustice"  
(2009, InterVarsity Press)

# Men's Ministry Fellowship

Changing Men's Hearts One at a Time



by Dave Stauffer

Activities and interest in the Men's Ministry Fellowship are growing as we enter season here in Southwest Florida. Thursday mornings at our breakfast, our numbers continue to increase as Pastor Doug Pratt leads us in his amazing study of the Holy Bible. Not only do we cover the Bible at our breakfast, but Doug provides us with lively discussions on current events. It's really true... when you start attending our MMF breakfasts, you get hooked. We enjoy wonderful fellowship with other men, plus experience changes in our spiritual lives thanks to Pastor Doug's leadership.

When you attend our breakfasts, you'll find a warm reception from our hospitality team, made up of Tom Schreck, John Sackl and Jim Brandreth. Carl Johansen warms us up each morning with a song or two.



## FALL SCHEDULE

Come and join us... we meet every **Thursday, 7:29 AM.**

For more information, please contact Dave Stauffer at 239-949-4045.

*"The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out."*

— Proverbs 20:5

**MMF VISION STATEMENT: To build relationships with men, to mutually encourage them, and bring them closer to Christ through fellowship and discipling.**

Ian Russell (our food czar) along with Sandy Ritchie, Lori Willis and a host of KP volunteers provide an outstanding continental breakfast served each Thursday morning at 7:29 AM. You don't have to call us for a reservation... just "be there" in McClure Hall on Thursdays.

## MMF Annual Dinner, November 8

We're excited as we look forward to this year's event. Besides Pastor Doug, as master of ceremony, we'll be featuring Jim Towey as our keynote speaker. Mr. Towey is the new President of Ave Maria University. He served as the Director of the White House Office of Faith-based Initiatives and Assistant to President George W. Bush from 2002 to May 2006. He reported directly to President Bush on church-state and religious matters. Previously, Jim had represented Mother Teresa on legal matters for 12 years, traveling with her on many occasions.

We will be serving a delicious catered meal from Haney's in McClure Hall. Entrée options are Slow Roasted Prime Rib or Grouper Key West. Music will be provided by FPC member Mike Haddock and his group of musicians. All these activities, plus a remembrance gift, for only \$25. We warmly invite the men of FPC to attend our dinner. Seating is limited. The deadline to register (as long as seating is still available) is Sunday, Nov. 6.



## Road Trip, December 2

All men of FPC and their guests are invited to Germain Arena on Friday, December 2, to watch an exciting hockey game—the Florida Everblades vs. the Gwinette (Georgia) Gladiators. Face off starts at 7:30 PM Premium tickets are only \$15. Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun! Tickets will be available at the MMF Kiosk on Sunday mornings and at the Thursday morning breakfasts.

# Dear Dan...



Rev. Dan Oedy

**T**his column has always been about dealing with a specific question of faith I have encountered in the last month. However, this month I want to step back from the particulars and focus on a broader issue. Time and time again I hear people struggling with a certain aspect of their faith and as we discuss the potential implications, they are shocked to discover that the Bible addresses their struggle concisely and effectively.

Biblical literacy should be near the top of our agenda as followers of Christ. Imagine you are on a hike in a national forest and before heading out the ranger gives you a trail

## How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth

Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

This book will give readers an introductory understanding of how to read Biblical text with an eye towards original context and content.

## The Essential Bible Companion

John H. Walton, Mark L. Strauss, Ted Cooper, Jr.

The first text will help you understand why context is important in studying God's Word, and this text will help you discover that context. This is a very simplified and readable tool, quick and easy to use.

## Encountering the New Testament

Walter A. Elwell, Robert W. Yarbrough

This comprehensive book will become a treasure trove of information and insight in your theological discovery and growth.

## Quick Notes Simplified Bible Commentary Series Vol. 1-12

These are short and accessible commentaries which offer insightful comments that connect a particular narrative to both the broader themes of Scripture and cultural insights.

map which includes the route and survival tips. My gut feeling is we would all keep that information handy as we attempted to navigate the difficult and unexpected terrain ahead.

The Bible is God's trail map. It is not antiquated rules and regulations but rather God's timeless wisdom. Scripture speaks directly to many common traps I see ensnaring people every day, and for those issues not directly addressed, there are principles to be extrapolated and applied. Yet so often when we face struggles or challenges we are tempted to seek answers from secondary sources such as self-help books and internet blogs. Orthodox Christians need to know and be aware that there are a lot of perspectives being published under the umbrella of "Christianity" that are actually antithetical to the meaning of God's Word.

We have the purest source of wisdom in the universe at our disposal. The Holy Spirit will meet us and guide us whenever we prayerfully engage the Scripture for guidance. When we do so, we have the opportunity to discover God's way through our daily lives. Developing a Biblical worldview—learning to see the world and the issues as God does—is one of the greatest assets to our personal spiritual journey.

To develop this Biblical worldview takes time and effort, but maybe not as much as you think. I want to invite you on an adventure, where we will seek to grow in God's Word together. In January we begin the "Year in the New Testament" at First Presbyterian Church. We are calling this initiative "D.I.G."—which stands for Discover, Investigate and Grow—which is exactly what we believe will happen if you join us on this journey. Each day there will be a reading of one to two chapters of the Bible, an amount that can be completed in 10-15 minutes. On Sunday mornings, Bible studies led by our teaching staff in the Chapel will cover the material for that week.

I am very excited about this endeavor. I believe it can truly be a life changing and church changing experience for this congregation. I hope you will seriously consider joining

*continued on page 26*



# Ruth Ann's Goodbye

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Over the past several weeks God has taught me much from Ecclesiastes 3, the first being “there is a time to keep and a time to throw away.” That is what we did after living 41 years in Naples—a place we dearly love—and 35 years in the same house.

On September 30 we walked through our home, gathering memories as we went. We turned out the light, closed the door and drove out of the driveway for the last time—“a time to weep.” In spite of the sadness, our hearts are full of thankfulness to God for the sale of our home in this down economic time.

Almost equally difficult was our departure from First Presbyterian Church and the Biblical Counseling Ministry there. Nearly six years ago, when Dr. Pratt asked me to counsel in the church, I was both thrilled and blessed. What a great opportunity to be used by God in this wonderful place. The blessings have been mine as many of you shared with me your hurts and disappointments. Together we experienced God's hand in solving difficult problems.

Pastor Steven Grant was such an encouragement to me, as well as Maria Karl who continues to work hard toward certification. My prayer is that the Biblical Counseling Ministry will continue to be a vital part of FPC and become even stronger.

We will not be in our new home in Deland, FL until April of next year. Our future and future ministry is in God's hand. Where we will attend church is still a question. One thing is for sure, if we trust in the Lord with all our heart He will direct our path.



Ruth Ann and Ken Bruce (middle) with their daughters, Becky (left) and Ann.

I would love to keep in touch with you. I want to know how you are doing and how I might pray for you. Please feel free to email me at [kwra762@yahoo.com](mailto:kwra762@yahoo.com). We will be in North Carolina until the end of the year and in Deland the beginning of next year. Please stop by to see us on your way out of the state or just for a visit.

A big thanks to the wonderful staff of FPC—and yes, I really did enjoy staff meetings. Thanks also to those who weekly plan and participate in the worship services. What a joy to be part of a service with the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

We will continue to pray for the church and its ministries and would so appreciate your prayers for us.

In His Love,  
Ruth Ann Bruce

## Biblical Counseling Ministry

Biblical counseling is a Christ-centered, prayerful and scriptural way of working through the issues of our lives. It is a partnership with God, the counselor and those who seek direction from God's Word. The counseling environment is one of openness and caring, confidentiality and authenticity. God speaks His truth to us through His Word, and that truth leads us to deeper discipleship, healing and growth.

Our Biblical Counselors at First Presbyterian Church are here to walk with you to find answers and direction, and help nurture your faith as we wrestle with the many issues of life. To schedule a confidential appointment with Rev. Steven Grant or Dr. Nancy Heche, call the church office at 992-3233.

*“When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.”*

– 1 CORINTHIANS 2:13 (NLT)

## Dear Dan *continued*

us. The classes will be recorded on audio CDs. If you cannot join us on Sunday mornings, you can still keep up with the material.

Finally, I want to offer some additional resources for those who would be interested. The books listed (on page 24) are easy to read and decipher, affordable and insightful. They are all available in the FPC BookCenter, and I believe they would be valuable tools in your excavation of God's Word. I hope you will find these books to be as valuable and cherished as I have. I invite you to get a copy of those you find most helpful and join us in this exciting new endeavor!

Let's dig in!

Pastor Dan Oedy

If you would like to send in a question to be addressed in a future edition of "Dear Dan" please email your question to [doedy@fpcbonita.org](mailto:doedy@fpcbonita.org) or share your question with Pastor Dan when you see him next. You can remain anonymous.

## The Great Banquet

This 72-hour Christian retreat held at FPC begins on a Thursday evening and ends on a Sunday evening. For three days, guests live and study together in a worshipful time of singing, prayer and discussion.

Do you want to strengthen your spiritual life? Do you want a better understanding of prayer, the sacraments and Christian action? Do you strive to live a Christian life that bears fruit for God? Do you seek to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and to make Him known? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, God may be drawing you toward accepting His invitation to the Great Banquet. We welcome your R.S.V.P.

For more information, contact Community Lay Directors Lee Gery (239-498-6051; [upnorth2@aol.com](mailto:upnorth2@aol.com)) or David Mustian (239-498-5972; [jadmust@aol.com](mailto:jadmust@aol.com)).

Men's Weekend: Feb 9-12, 2012

Women's Weekend: Feb 16-19, 2012

## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

### **Our heartfelt Christian sympathy extends:**

to Jeanne Brown on the death of her father on August 10 in Wisconsin; to Natalie Nixon on the death of her husband, Joe Nixon, on August 10 in Canada; to Janice Croley on the death of her father on August 11 in Ohio; to Alvey Rushton on the death of his wife, Dale Rushton, at Joanne's House on August 19; to Karen Schor on the death of her mother on August 23 in Ohio; to Ed & Ann Schick on the death of Ann's mother, Lucy Segura, on September 6; to Ben and Joyce Rigby on the death of their grandson, Jacob Rigby, as the result of a climbing accident in Glacier National Park in September; to Gil and Donabeth Urick on the death of Gil's father, Gib Urick, on September 16 in Missouri; to Sally Hebeisen on the death of her husband, Bob Hebeisen, on September 23 in Minnesota; to Jerry Benson on the death of his wife, Judith Benson, on September 27; to Roger Clapp and Sarah Zimmermann on the death of Roger's son and Sarah's brother, Roger Clapp, Jr. on October 5 in Virginia; to the family and friends of Minor Vandermade who died on October 5; to Eugene Hoyt on the death of his mother, Arline Fague, on October 14 in North Carolina; to Kaye Dotson on the death of her husband, William Arvil Dotson, on October 16 at Hope Hospice in Fort Myers; to Henny Eifler on the death of her son, Peter Spachtholz; to Karen Dominik on the death of her brother, Craig Morris; and to Candy Donnell on the death of her husband, Rev. Dr. Charlie Donnell, on October 20 in North Carolina.

### **Please pray for our loved ones in the military:**

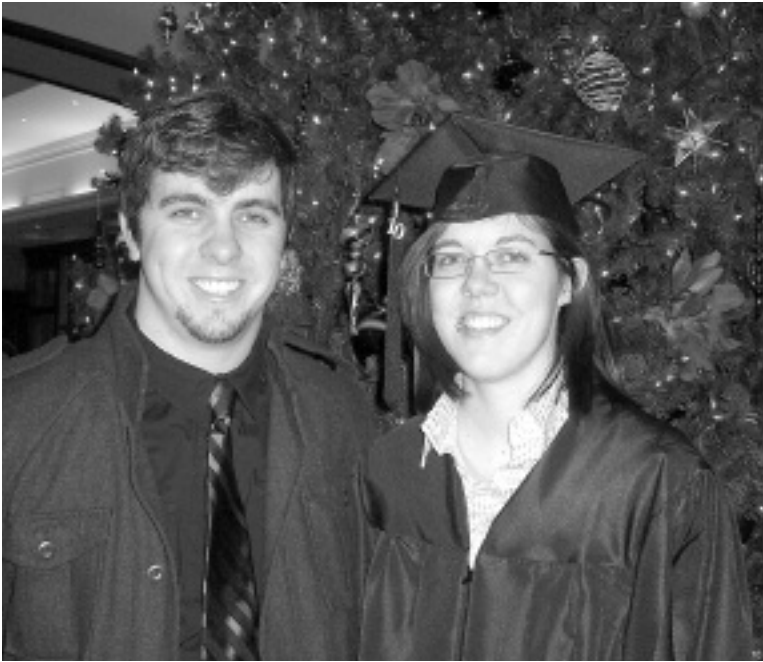
\*Nick Abey, \*Steve Adams, Alexis Alvarado, Ryan Bach, \*Adam Bentley, Steven Bourdon, Andrew Bryant, John Bryant, Matt Byington, Amy Nesbitt Copeland, Justin Cramer, Andrew Crawford, John Cuddy, Dave Cullen, Andy Dalton, Hope DiGiusto, Scott DiGiusto, Matthew Edmunds, Brian Eifler, John Eloffson, \*Josh England, Stephen Fox, David Gatoude, David Gilliland, Paul Gritter, \*Seth Guy, Kent C. Hay, Michael Heath, Travis Hilgers, \*Morgan Holden, \*Michael Holmes, Jarrett Hon, \*Michael Jaster, \*Kevin Kath, Michael Kim, Daniel S. Lai, Dave Landymore, Lee Moffett, Kurt Mondlak, Philip Novak, John D. Petro, \*Mark Potter, Christopher Rhodes, \*Nicholas E. Richardson, Daniel Scott, Evan A. Scott, Kimberly Ann Scott, \*Sean B. Scott, Dylan Sipos, Kyle Sisco, Nathan Sitterley, Logan Spachtholz, Thayne Stahlacker, \*Travis Sylvester, Trevor S. Thrasher, \*Jeffrey Tolbert, \*Logan Tyler, Tyler Van Kampen, Kurt Vollmer, Aaron Wasliewski, Alasdair Waterhouse, Sally White, Brian Wilson, Jonathan Wise, Deisy Wolfe, Matthew C. Wolfe, \*John N. Yacos, Kyle York

*\*Indicates military personnel currently deployed.*

If you have a prayer request, you may call the church office (992-3233), our Pastoral Care Line (992-6887), Sherri Feeley (992-2726), or write it on a Prayer Request card found at the Welcome Center and place it in the "prayer box" there.

For special prayers for a loved one serving in the military, please contact Deacon Bill Abey at [babey@comcast.net](mailto:babey@comcast.net).

# Where are They Now?



Siblings Alex and Heather Scott

Heather and Alex Scott are two adults who, as children, grew up at and participated in many activities at First Presbyterian Church. Heather was often seen in the FPC sound booth, while Alex was the first youth elder at First Church. Where are they now?

Last December (2010), Heather graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Audio Engineering Technology from Belmont University in Nashville, TN. Since January 2011, she has been employed by the Montreat Conference Center, in Montreat, NC. Working there became a dream come true for Heather. She knew she wanted to work there after her first visit there with the First Presbyterian Youth Group, as a high school student. Now, as Production Associate for the Conference Center, Heather is responsible for the audio needs of large and small conferences at the center. She has also been working to build her own music production company.

Alex received his Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science from Florida State University in August, 2010. Currently, he is midway through a Master of Science degree in Exercise Physiology, at Florida State. While earning his degree, he is working as a teaching assistant at FSU. Alex also works at City Church Tallahassee as the Production Director. Alex is engaged to Melissa Schaedel, of Lakeland, FL. They will be married December 30, 2011, in Tallahassee.

## Teacher Dedication Sunday

On Sunday, September 25 during worship, First Church celebrated the start of the new school year with a special time set aside to dedicate the teachers who serve our Children and Family Ministry. Sunday school teachers, Preschool teachers and teacher assistants were recognized for their service and the important part they play in God's work.

Special recognition was given to Elli Morawietz, a 23-year member of our church who has been involved in our Children's Ministry for many years. Employed as a preschool aide since 2005, and a long-time supporter of the preschool and its mission, Elli retired this past May. A comment from Preschool Director Jenn Boocock sums it up perfectly:

"Through her demonstration of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, Elli has been a Christian model for both the children in her care and the Preschool staff. We know that children learn best by example and there could be no better example than Elli. Although we will miss seeing her on a regular basis, we will look forward to sharing our common Christian mission."



For the love of children. Elli Morawietz (third from left) was given special recognition on September 25 for her many years of service to our church's Children's Ministry. Here she is pictured with (left to right) Wonder Years Preschool Director Jenn Boocock and teachers Nicole Tancredi and Tami Micheli.

# Women of First *Connecting*



## A NOTE FROM NANCY

Dear Friends and Sisters,

Yes, it's true. We are quickly approaching the season of feasting and gift-giving and singing and baking and laughing and decorating and... the list goes on! Always another list. How in the world will we prepare for these days and these meals and these people!

I am not so naïve as to think that the season is all "Joy to the World" and "Peace on Earth," but I want to think about how I/we can participate in creating that environment as much as possible.

Call me crazy, but I'm going to suggest that you include in any celebration a beautiful array of "wheat, and barley and figs and pomegranates, olive oil and honey," some of the good things that the LORD promised the children of Israel for their inheritance when they entered the Promised Land. If there's a promise of God in food, I want to find it and eat it! And my favorite is the POMEGRANATE!

Here are some of the purported benefits and healing properties of the amazing pomegranate:

*The mission of the Women's Ministry of First Church is to help women of all ages  
Reach UPWARD to a deeper relationship with Christ,  
Reach INWARD to one another in love and fellowship, and  
Reach OUTWARD to our community and world in service.*

- Relieves NAUSEA
- Aids FERTILITY
- Enhances ABUNDANT LIFE
- Assures a BLESSED FUTURE
- Improves EMOTIONAL HEALTH
- Nurtures SPIRITUAL FRUITFULNESS
- Gives HOPE

The little we know about the pomegranate is that Spanish missionaries planted them here. Thomas Jefferson planted pomegranate trees at Monticello, but not till the 21st century did they get their fame and fortune in the USA. That was when we discovered their real value... they are full of antioxidants which help prevent and repair damage done in our cells by the not-so-blessed foods we eat.

Jesus says in the Song of Songs, "Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their

blossoms have opened and if the pomegranates are in bloom—there I will give you My love!"

How beautiful! The pomegranate is a reminder and a token of the love of Jesus. In the last *Epistle* we talked about the tokens we use to remind us of the Father's presence and the Savior's love... our silver crosses, our worship music. Now here's another one—THE POMEGRANATE!

This love sung and written in Song of Songs—Jesus' love for His Bride, the Church—includes all the advantages of the pomegranates listed above. Jesus Christ in His love gives all of this to us (well maybe not relieving nausea!). Then He says to us, as He lavishes His love on us, "Trust in Me with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Me; worship Me and turn away from evil. THIS WILL BRING HEALTH TO YOUR BODY AND NOURISHMENT TO YOUR BONES!" (Proverbs 3:5-8). And I add my blessing: Happy and healthy Thanksgiving and Christmas!

With love, Nancy Heche

*DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY*



A job well done. Pictured are some members of the Women's Ministry Leadership Team after enjoying a proper British tea in the Hawk Hospitality Center. See next page for more details. (From left to right) Nancy Heche, Kathy Fredberg, Kay Springston, JoAnn Hoshstetler, Jeanne Pratt.

## Save the Date!

### Christmas Event

December 5 • 7 PM • McClure Hall

Women's Connection invites the men of the church to join the ladies at their annual Christmas celebration. Nancy Heche will speak on the topic, "From Baby to Bridegroom: The Glory and Beauty of the Coming Christ." All are invited to bring two dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies—some to enjoy that evening and some to share with the New Horizons Super Kids Club.

## APPLES OF GOLD

The 2011 Fall Apples of Gold group met for their first session on September 26 following a dedication during the morning worship service on September 25. The six “Apples” enjoyed an evening of fellowship, Bible lessons and delicious food at the home of Janice and Jim Croley. They loved getting to know their mentors and enjoyed the food prep demonstration that Jim and Janice provided along with some great appetizers. Apples and mentors meet once a week for six weeks to share a different lesson and meal, culminating with a celebration dinner with spouses on November 14 in McClure Hall.

Betty Huizenga is the author of the Apples of Gold and Appleseed Books. Betty and husband Lee winter on Sanibel Island and began attending First Church last year. Betty is so pleased that First Church has been blessed by this program that brings the women of the church together to learn from each other as the Apostle Paul encouraged in Titus 3:5.

The topics for evening lessons include: Kindness, Loving Your Husband, Loving Your Children, Submission, Purity and Hospitality. This year’s Mentors are Trudy Woods, Coralyn Steffen, Lynne Stauffer, Nancy Heche, Karen Schor, JoAnn Hochstetler, and Elsie Nesbitt as a guest mentor. The Hostesses are Janice Croley, Marcia Wheat, Pam Doyle, Julie Aspegren, Barbara Meier and Lila Nichols. This year’s “Apples” are Stephany Abraham, Jennifer Boocock, Nicole Tancredi, Rocio Lunski, Joy den Hartog and Amy Schulte.

The Apples of Gold committee who helped with the Spring Applesauce event also recruited the Mentors, Hostesses and Apples. They are Beth Johansen, Janice Croley, JoAnn Hochstetler, Jacque Dousson, Ivany Vasseur and Gino Provinzino. Carol Johnson will chair the committee for planning the Celebration Dinner.

## WM Planning Meeting

On September 7, the Hawk Hospitality Center set the perfect stage for a proper British tea complete with scones, clotted cream and strawberry jam from Bramble’s Tea Room in Naples. The tea was a celebration for the Women’s Ministry Leadership Team after completing their intensive prayer and planning meetings for the coming season. A lovely table with vases of gorgeous pink roses, china, silver and linen napkins was arranged by our Hospitality hostess Sandy Ritchie. The guests of honor were Mary Ann McCoy (Women’s Ministry Chair), Kathy Fredberg, Barb Goff, JoAnn Hochstetler, Regina Liggins, Jeanne Pratt, Kay Springston, Janet Mustian, Trudy Woods and Nancy Heche.

The Women’s Ministry has given much thought, prayer and commitment toward embracing the women in the congregation of First Presbyterian Church for the 2011-2012 season. We extend a warm invitation for you to join us to see what we have prepared for you!

## Home Again

*“I will gather you who mourn... I will save the weak and helpless ones; I will bring together those who were chased away. On that day I will gather you together and bring you home again.” Zephaniah 3:18-20*

Hunger, emptiness, poverty, loneliness... Words that cut deep because we all have felt them. As Christians, we remember all too well these states of the heart—before we came to know Jesus, before the richness of the Word came into our lives. Normally, these are not words we think of often at Christmastime. But, as Christians, maybe we should.

We live in a broken world... where the brokenhearted are never far from our reach. We don’t have to look far to see... a hungry child, empty hands, a family in desperate need, a lonely senior. Here at First Church we are rich in many ways and especially rich in opportunities to offer a glimmer of light in an otherwise dark world.

Our church ministries are abundant with chances to brighten this earthly domain with the love of Christ. We can sponsor a Compassion child in a foreign land, donate our time with Love INC, purchase a Manger Tree gift for a local child – there are literally hundreds of ways to give just within our church’s Mission Ministry.

If you have ever felt hungry, empty, poor or lonely at Christmastime, you know it hurts all the worse. But you can make a difference. Remember God’s words in Zephaniah 3:18-29. Have compassion; show kindness; give selflessly... until the time when He will bring us ALL home again.

## ON GIVING

*An excerpt from Pastor Doug Pratt’s sermon, “Keepers Losers, Givers Winners” (August 31, 2011)*

The purpose of our lives, and that which will bring us true happiness and fulfillment both in this life and in eternity, is not found in what we acquire, but what we give. Giving in the broader sense is everything we do that is focused on and uplifts and contributes to other people and to God’s work in the world. A life of giving means being other-directed rather than self-absorbed. A life of giving means that, even if we are blessed with the ability and opportunity to acquire many of the good things and pleasures and benefits of life, we hold them lightly and do not base our worth or our security on them. We recognize that all we have is transient and temporary, and is given to us by God not just for our benefit but to be a blessing to others.

## Organic Foods

Advocates of organic foods contend that conventional foods are dangerous to our health because of pesticide residue and hormones given to the animals. Skeptics say there's no proof. Besides struggling with this controversy, there are two other aspects: cost and convenience. Do the health benefits of organic foods really justify paying significantly more for them and is it worth the time to go to specialty stores? Theoretically, if organic foods are grown in soil that is richer in nutrients, the crops should be more nutritious. Some studies support this theory while others find no difference.

Here is a reasonable approach...

### BEWARE OF THE "DIRTY DOZEN"

Plant crops are considered organic when they are grown without the use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers or sewage sludge, and are not genetically engineered or irradiated to combat bacteria and insects. They cost from 10% to 40% more than their non-organic counterparts.

The Environmental Working Group (EWG), a nonprofit research organization, has developed a list of the 12 conventionally farmed fruits and vegetables most laden with pesticides. Organic is well worth the higher price for these: apples, bell peppers, carrots, celery, cherries, grapes (imported), kale, lettuce, nectarines, peaches, pears and strawberries.

If you do buy a conventional food from this "dirty dozen," wash it thoroughly before eating. Also, discard the outermost leaves of leafy vegetables, such as lettuce, especially with non-organic produce. EWG also has determined which conventionally farmed foods usually are low in pesticide residue. To save money, you can skip organic versions of these: asparagus, avocado, broccoli, cabbage, eggplant, kiwi fruit, mango, onion, papaya, pineapple, sweet corn, sweet peas, sweet potato, tomato and watermelon.

Helpful: To print a wallet card of these lists, go to [www.foodnews.org/walletguide.php](http://www.foodnews.org/walletguide.php). Or just remember this rule of thumb: If you eat the skin (like an apple), buy organic... if you peel the skin (like an onion), conventional is okay. Not all of EWG's foods fit this guideline, but most do.

## "ORGANIC" vs. "NATURAL"

Food labels can be confusing. As you shop, keep these terms in mind:

- 100% organic means just what it says.
- Organic means that at least 95% or more of the ingredients must be organic.
- Made with organic ingredients signifies that ingredients are at least 70% organic.
- Natural does not mean organic. In fact, it has no standard definition so there's no point in paying more for a food just because it claims to be natural.

## The Art of Christian Care Giving

Our Congregational Care and Visitation Ministry invites you to join us in this diversified ministry. Through personal visits, phone calls, card-writing and delivery of prayer shawls or flowers, ministry members support and encourage others going through health challenges or stressful times. Visitation and other duties can be done according to your own self-directed schedule.

If you feel you are being called to serve God by serving others, consider attending one of our upcoming monthly meetings on November 7 or December 5. We meet at 11:00 AM in the Lightner Conference Room adjacent to McClure Hall. Feel free to contact Deacon Ginger Russell (948-9077) for more information.

To offer preparation and guidance for those considering serving within this ministry, First Church will hold a seminar series entitled *The Art of Christian Care Giving* beginning in January. This five-part series is intended to improve Christian interactive skills. Topics will include: the Biblical Basis for Caregiving, Presence and Praying with Others, Confidentiality, Hospital Visitations, Types of Needs and Places to Serve at FPC. We encourage attendance at all the sessions, which are presented by experienced pastors and lay people.

Classes will be held on consecutive Mondays, from January 16 through February 13, from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Steven Grant or Parish Nurse Stephanie Stec, 992-3233.

# Church Directory

## PASTORS

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Rev. Steven Grant	Associate Pastor	x226	sgrant@fpconita.org
Rev. Dan Oedy	Associate Pastor	x222	doedy@fpconita.org

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Peter Lewis	Associate Director of Sacred Arts	x287	plewis@fpconita.org
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Sonia Feliciano	P.M. Housekeeping		
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First Academy of Music: (239) 992-3410  
First Thrift Shop: (239) 992-0285  
Wonder Years Preschool: (239) 948-6677

## 2011 SESSION

Moderator  
Rev. Dr. Douglas G. Pratt

Clerk of Session  
Trudy Woods

### ELDERS

Lois Bachman  
Kay Brown  
Dee Carter  
Dick Doyle  
Joan Faux  
Carl Johansen  
Stevie Joslin  
Maria Karl

Roger McLaughlin  
Kathryn L. McMichael  
Robin Moore  
David Mustian  
Dave Nichols  
Chuck Vogt  
Bob Wagner  
Jerry Weisenauer  
Chuck Wolfe  
Trudy Woods

Elder Emeritus  
Frank Provenzano

## 2011 DEACONS

Moderator  
Ron Brown

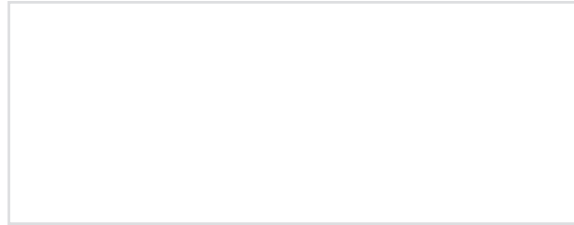
Bill Abey  
Sharon Alspach  
Ron Brown  
Marcia Courtney  
Pat Frye  
Wynette Griffith  
Debra Hashek  
Beth Johansen  
Marlene McLaughlin  
Alice Moser  
Janet Mustian  
Ginger Russell  
Connie Sackl  
Dan Scott  
Paul Sundquist  
Jim Thomas  
Dorn Van Cleave  
Jeannette Vogt

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## FPC Greeters Ministry

*“Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others.” (Mark 10:45)*

In Biblical times, being a temple Doorkeeper was an important and privileged job entrusted to only the most capable and loyal of priests. Their job was to make sure all who entered were properly purified to seek the Lord’s presence and pay their tithe. Impeccable character was necessary so as not to be bribed or become lazy in their work.

At First Church, the doorkeepers would be those first to greet members and visitors entering our church. Research tells us that a first impression is sealed within the first thirty seconds of a guest’s visit. It’s like a Polaroid snapshot of our church! You don’t have to be a psychologist to know that, when in a new environment, we all search for one particular sign on an unfamiliar face: a smile. A smile lets us know that we’re likely to get a positive reception, and it’s hard not to reciprocate.

Serving as a Greeter is an opportunity to make that first impression a “wow” moment for those entering our church as a visitor. Even familiar faces will be drawn to your warm smile and pleasant greeting. Who knows? You just might “make their day” and open their hearts to hear God’s Word.

Serving as a Greeter is a wonderful way to embody the mission of our church to “be a welcoming and nurturing family.” Singles, couples, teenagers and entire families are encouraged to serve. Leaders of this ministry will show you how to be comfortable greeting people of all ages.

If you would like to consider joining our Greeters Ministry, please contact Kay Springston (495-4600; [kayspringston@embarqmail.com](mailto:kayspringston@embarqmail.com)) or Connie Duquin (495-1744; [cjduquin@comcast.net](mailto:cjduquin@comcast.net)).



Jean Dugan and Dick Fredrickson serve as FPC Greeters, offering a welcoming smile and handshake.