



THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PUNTA GORDA



MOCK'S MUSINGS

Rev. Stephen A. Mock, Pastor



Pastor Steve

“What will 2009 hold?”

What will 2009 hold? A new president and new congress will take office, but will the same old Washington politics rule the day? We'll make New Year's resolutions, but how many of them will be forgotten by May? Will the economy turn around and begin to move out of the “recession”? Or will it get worse? What will happen in Iraq? Iran? Israel? Will gas prices shoot up again? Will the housing market rebound? Will my pension recover? Will I have enough to live on in my “golden years”? I could go on and on and get more and more depressed, but we get enough of that from the media. Worry and fears can easily consume us and dictate how we will live our lives. The question is, will we let this happen to us?

Jesus has a word for us in times like these. In Matthew 6:25-34,

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For

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◆ MOCK'S MUSINGS

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the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Whenever I'm worried or concerned about the future, I've found these words so comforting and assuring. As we enter a more uncertain future than in recent new years, let us heed these words of our Savior, the Son of God. As we strive to live faithful lives, seeking first God's kingdom and God's righteousness, in other words, obeying the Great Commandment to love God with all our hearts, soul, mind and strength and our neighbors as ourselves and the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them all that Jesus commanded, God will deliver His promise to take care of our needs. No matter what happens with our government or our economy or our retirement or our health, God will take care of us.

May these words of Jesus give all of us hope and peace in the new year and beyond.

Your servant in Christ,

Steve



SESSION NOTES

Highlights from the December 15th Session

- Stewardship reported – 2009 pledges \$188,444 as of 12/14/08.
- Membership Report – 119 Active; 17 Affiliate.
- Session approved Lynda Borg and Barbara Klepinger's request to become affiliate members.
- Pastor Steve expressed his appreciation to the elders who are retiring from seated elders. They are: Connie Johansen, Jerry Julius, and Gail Thornton. Gail has agreed to continue the duties of Clerk of Session for 2009.
- Session approved Dianne Sizemore and Gail Thornton as commissioners to the Feb 26th Presbytery meeting. Sharon Cuzner & Cy Ling as alternates.
- Session approved Pastor Steve's 2009 employment contract for IRS purposes. His 2009 compensation remains the same as 2008.
- Session approved communion dates for 2009. 1/4, 2/1, 3/1, 4/9 - Maundy Thursday, 4/10 - Good Friday, 5/3, 6/7, 7/5, 8/2, 9/6, 10/4, 11/1, 11/29 - first Sunday of Advent, 12/24 - Christmas Eve.
- Picture directory – Nancy Julius has agreed to organize and Bill Schultz will be taking pictures sometime after the first of the year.
- Session approved the organization of two new ministries, Divorce Recovery Workshop led by Pastor Steve and assisted by Gail Thornton and a community counselor. Also "Juliet's", a women's Bible study led by Gail Thornton & Chris Harrold. More info to follow on both of these ministries.
- Session approved Mission's request that the Christmas Eve offering be used for the purchase of long sleeve t-shirts for Misi3n Peniel in Immokalee.

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY & SUPER SATURDAY

The Discipleship Team hopes that you all had an enjoyable holiday season and are ready to begin a new year of Wonderful Wednesdays and Super Saturdays.

During the winter session of Wonderful Wednesday, which will begin on January 7th, we are offering three classes. Pastor Steve Mock will continue "Developing a Faith that Works", the study of James part 2. Sharon Cuzner will lead "The Bible Jesus Read", and Connie Johansen will offer "If You Want to Walk on Water You've Got to Get Out of the Boat", a video study by Phillip Yancy. We are repeating this study for snowbirds, or anybody, who missed it this past summer.

All classes will follow a delicious dinner that will be provided by the Fellowship Committee for a donation of \$5.00. Sign-up sheets for the dinner and classes are on the table near the entrance. Come for both or either one.

The second Super Saturday was attended by nineteen people. It was a tour of our nation's capitol buildings and monuments and a history of how our founding fathers regarded the relationship between religion and government, narrated by Newt Gingrich and his wife Callista.

The next program for Super Saturday is "Knowing How to Defend Our Faith", based on a video presentation by R.C. Sproul. As Christians and Christianity continue to come under criticism, we need knowledge and skill to be advocates for Christ. That is the focus of our next topic.

PLEASE NOTE: During January, February and March Super Saturday will move to the THIRD Saturday of the month. The next program is scheduled for January 17th at 10am.

The Nursery comes under the responsibility of the Discipleship Team. If there is anybody who would be willing to help out in the nursery one Sunday a month, please call Joyce Schork at 575-9493.

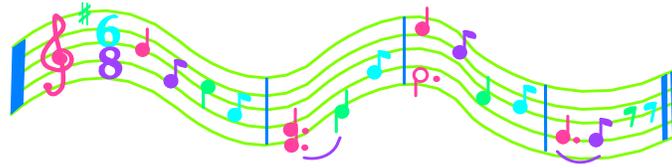
We wish you all a happy, healthy and blessed 2009.

Joyce Schork and the Discipleship Team



From the beginning, God's plan has been that we fulfill his purposes in community with other people. Before you were born, God chose you to be a difference-maker, and to make an impact for good with your life. He has a purpose for you in his community. Are you willing to take the next step in growing a life of purpose and meaning?

Starting February 22nd and continuing through Lent we will offer *40 Days of Community*. You are invited to enjoy this important sequel to *40 Days of Purpose*. Each of the six weekly video lessons is led by Pastor Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose Driven Life*. Watch for the sign-up sheets in the lobby for small group times and places. Discover how we are better together! Plan to join in this important study.



MUSIC NOTES

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands."

Another new year is upon us and I am looking forward to all the possibilities that God has put before us. I recently received a email from a relative that shared a thought on the three ways that God answers prayers. It stated that God says "yes", "not yet", or "I have something much better planned". I like the last one because I believe God has some plans for this church that most of us cannot yet comprehend. All we have to do is listen to His calling and be willing to invest our time and assets to make it happen. Let's not wait for the next person to do it, let's step up and do what our God is calling us to do. Let us all be servants who faithfully follow His righteous path.

Our choir is always open to new members and we have added a couple new ones this year. We welcome all that have a desire to sing His praises and have the ability to read a little music. We meet on

Thursday nights at 7pm in the sanctuary. Please see me if you have any questions about our choir or music program.

We have many opportunities and challenges that we each face in our lives and in the life of this church. How we choose to answer these challenges says a lot about our faith. One of my favorite passages is, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Together, with Him and through His calling, we can be the servants that He deserves. Let our faith give us the strength to be all that we can be for our Lord and Savior.

See you in Church,

C.L.A.S.S. 301 - FINDING YOUR SHAPE

AC.L.A.S.S. 301 will be offered January 18th from 2pm to 5pm at the church. This class is designed to help determine your place in God's church. The class looks at your **S**piritual gifts, **H**eart, **A**bility, **P**ersonality, and **E**xperience.

The class is followed at a later date by a one-half hour personal discussion of your **SHAPE**. The class is led by Elder Sharon Cuzner. A sign-up sheet will be in the church entrance.



Our prayers and sympathy are shared with:

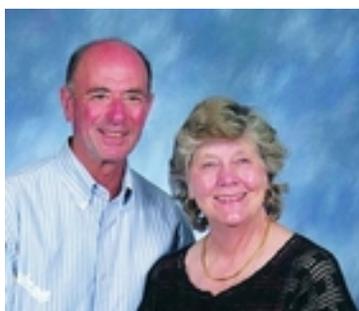
Pat Ihrie on the death of her husband, Dale, who went home to the Lord December 7, 2008. A memorial service will be held at the church in February or March.

"Because I live, you also will live."

John 14: 19b

GETTING TO KNOW THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY

By Craig Anderson



DAVE & ELLA SIFFERD

Dave and Ella live on Washington Loop in Punta Gorda. These dear people are faithful members and diligent workers in our church.

Ella Mae Sifferd

Born/grew up: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Family: Ella and Dave have been married since 1960 and have four children: David Jr., Elicia, Heather, and John Andrew.

Education: Eastern Nazarene College and Allegheny Community College. Ella is an R.N. with an Associate Degree in Nursing.

Fond childhood memory: Roaming the hills and woods of Pennsylvania. Meeting my husband at church camp in 1956.

Vocation: Retired registered nurse.

Great church memory: My Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Gibson, and learning Scripture.

Favorite vacation: I loved our month in Costa Rica.

Spiritual journey: I was brought to faith through my family and raised in a church that taught the Word.

How did you come to join our church? Honestly, we were first drawn to the church by the choir. We now love the church for the truth it teaches and the wonderful people in the congregation.

Service in the church: Sing in the choir and involved in the landscaping around the church. (Ella is a master gardener and is responsible for the planning of the beautiful memorial garden and the grounds around our church). Dave and Ella have been making trips with the Mission Team to Immokalee.

Favorite hymn: *There Is a Balm in Gilead*. I love the "old" hymns.

Books I'd recommend: James Dobson's books have helped me with raising my four children.

Hobbies/interests: Always music, sewing, travel, gardening. I enjoy language study and Spanish is my current interest.

David Wirth Sifferd, Sr.

Born/grew up: Born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 1939. Grew up in Baton Rouge and Shreveport, Louisiana.

Education: 4-years at Eastern Nazarene College (pre-med), Quincy, Massachusetts.

Fond childhood memory: Fishing and swimming in the bayous with my friend, Louis King; bicycling.

Vocation: Retired from 37 years in the insurance industry. General Adjuster – industrial fire and casualty.

Great church memory: Summer youth camp, Church of the Nazarene, Pineville, Louisiana.

Favorite possession: Sailboat (now sailing in Maine under a new owner).

Favorite vacation: Many canoe trips to north woods of Quebec.

How did you come to faith? Personal faith in Christ was considered very important early in my life. I accepted Christ as my Savior when I was 12 years of age.

Service in the church: I have served as a Sunday school teacher, for much of my life. Also been a S.S. superintendent, trustee, and member of the men's chorus and choir.

Favorite hymn/scripture: *Great is Thy Faithfulness* and the entire book of Proverbs.

Book I'd recommend: *Song of Ascents* by Earl Stanley Jones.

Hobbies, interests: Sailing, gardening, reading (non-fiction), wood-working (design and build), choral singing, and painting (Dave has painted many pictures—some of which adorn the walls of their home).

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MANY PROJECTS ARE IN THE WORKS



The Saturday after Thanksgiving about eight people helped set up the Advent wreath and decorate the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and foyer. In under two hours we transformed the building, thanks to Connie Johansen's instruction list she wrote last year. I personally want to thank all who pitched in and Bill Barbour for retrieving the trees from storage and setting them up in all the right places. Also for hanging the large wreath on the side of the building.

On Saturday, December 13th a small group of devoted women enjoyed Christmas lunch in Fellowship Hall. Barbara Smith read a beautiful Christmas message on "Fear and Hope", taken from a letter from her northern church.

We all brought cookies to be sorted and boxed for our shut-ins and the veteran's home in Pt. Charlotte. Thanks to all who boxed and hand delivered them.

During the past few weeks some of our ladies took individual girls from Chara House out to lunch and to shop. We enjoyed listening to their experiences. What a blessing our women are to these girls. One girl said she had not had pizza in five years!

One of our recent projects was to knit children's sweaters for Guideposts magazine. They

package and send them where needed, this time it is Romania. We currently have fourteen sweaters and six pairs of mittens to send. I will continue to accept any sweaters/or mittens as this is an on-going project, as is the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

We are also still collecting used printer cartridges except Epson and laser cartridges. Just put them in the basket on the PW table in the foyer.

Presbyterian Women will be sponsoring Blanket Sunday on January 25th.

The Presbyterian Women's annual gathering will be in Sarasota in early February and registration has to be received in January. We have not attended since "Charley" and we should begin again to be represented. We no longer have a flag to carry in the parade of flags, but that should not stop us from attending. There is a posting on this at the PW table.

Our next PW meeting will be on Saturday, January 10th at 12 noon. All ladies of the church are invited. Bring a salad or sandwiches to share.

May the Lord Bless you with peace and health in 2009,

Phyllis Botticelli, PW Moderator

EVANGELISM

Lord, take me to that highest place
Let others see it in my face.
Let shining eyes and special smiles
Help others going thru their trials.
Prepare my heart to glow inside
That actions good I'll never hide.
Bring joy to others with my touch
A loving hand can mean so much.
Your love inside spills out to show
Those passing by just where to go.

—Nancy Beasom



Dear friends,
The prayer shawl is just
beautiful and I want to thank
you all for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Dianne Adams

2008 — 2009 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

YEAR TO DATE 11/30/08

Income	\$188,909
Expenses	\$244,482
Difference	\$(55,573)

We Pray—

Lord, everything we have is a gift from You. We bring You our gifts in response to Your love and generosity as we try to live each day in gratitude for Your blessings.

Have
You
Pledged?



2009 PROPOSED BUDGET & PLEDGES RECEIVED THRU 11/23/08

Proposed Budget	\$ 273,617
Pledges Received	189,744
Shortfall	\$(83,873)

Pledge cards can be found on the table in the rear of the sanctuary.

2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES



We encourage all who contribute on a regular basis to use offering envelopes—it is helpful to the money counters and for posting to the computer. If you don't already have a box, contact the church office and a box will be prepared for you.

THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

It is awesome to think God IS ALWAYS there for us!

We are beginning this year with a bang! Southport Square is helping to launch our first ever LUNCH 'N LEARN program. Everyone is invited to a FREE lunch where we will begin the series, “Aging Safely in Your Home.” Smite Shinde, the spa and fitness director at Southport Square, will talk to us about prevention of falls.

Why do we need to prevent falls? Falls are a serious public health issue among older adults. More than a third of adults over 65 years of age will fall each year. Of those who fall, 20% to 30% suffer moderate to severe injuries that reduce mobility and independence, and increase the risk of premature death.

To age safely in your own home, sign up for this fun educational program and meet some old and new friends as well. The date is Tuesday Jan 27th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The sign-up sheet is in the church entrance.

Because He lives!
Debbie Carney, Parish Nurse
637-9389
carneydeb@hotmail.com

Sick? Don't shake hands with anyone and wash your hands frequently. Please stay home and get well!

MISSION MINISTRY

MISSION TEAM NEWS

2 Cents a Meal

\$243.50 was donated for 2 Cents a Meal in 2008. \$182.63 was sent to the Presbytery designated for hunger programs; \$60.87 stayed here to aid hunger locally. 2 Cents a Meal canisters will be on the tables not only at fellowship dinners but also at Sunday morning coffee time. Please fill them so we can continue to feed the hungry. All donations are accepted. Saving pennies and don't want to wrap them, bring them to us for our hunger program.

Feliz Navidad from Misión Peniel

We are so grateful for all the clothes, both used and new, and the toys contributed for Misión Peniel. St. Vincent De Paul also contributed, so we had a great amount to pass out on the 19th of December when we went to Immokalee. There are always critical needs there.

Because of the amount of workers who have already arrived and the fact that jobs are scarce, many are only working several days a week, which does not give them enough money for shelter and they are sleeping on the streets. Pastor Miguel has been out and distributed blankets especially when it was cold. Please pray for these gentle souls that conditions will improve for them.

The Christmas gifting went very well and the children were blessed. An update will be given in the February newsletter. Thank you to all who have participated.

Come with us to Immokalee the fourth Friday of the month and see how blessed it makes you feel to help for a few short hours. The next trip will be January 23rd. Wonderful things are happening at Misión Peniel!!! Call Dianne Sizemore 743-5637 or the church office 639-1959 to make arrangements to go with us. We leave the church at 12 noon, usually work till 6:00pm or 6:30pm and then stop for dinner on our return trip.

The Christmas Eve offering will be used to buy long-sleeved tee-shirts for Misión Peniel. Thank you for your generosity. The workers will be very grateful. I have gotten a very good price from a supplier in Chattanooga, Tennessee, who has a caring heart for what we are doing.

Food for the Hungry

The food bin is staying nice and full and I am sure the hungry of Charlotte County are very grateful. For those of you who have just returned to Florida, or have not participated, when you go to the store "BUY ONE FOR YOURSELF AND ONE FOR THE BLUE BIN." Let's overflow the bin. Most of the stores in our area always have "buy one get one free" deals.

Chara House

The girls of Chara House were all very grateful for the gifts that they got to purchase for their babies. They were looking forward to the extra special Christmas gifting that they would receive from our Christmas gathering on December 13th. These girls are mostly teenage mothers who are still trying to finish school, even though they have been shunned by their families. Chara House is a wonderful place for them. If you have not gone over to see the home please go. They will be glad to show you around and answer your questions. There is also an opportunity to baby sit on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30pm to 8:30pm while the mothers attend class to get their GED. Chara House is located at the corner of Mckenzie and Berry St., west of US 41.

We would like to thank Dorothy Blue for her generous gifting of baby food for Chara House each week.

Refugees from Hurricane Ike

Each Sunday in January we will be taking offerings to help the people who have become refugees from Hurricane Ike. Jim Schork, son of Fred and Joyce Schork, was with us for a few weeks and told of the devastation of the area where he once lived. Special envelopes will be available for this offering. As always there is great need for months and years to come. Who knows better than us the "Charlie survivors." Please consider this way of reaching out.

May thanks and blessings from your Mission Team and Dianne Sizemore, Chair, and a very happy new year!

A MESSAGE FROM BEREAVEMENT MINISTRIES

Where is my path, Lord, for this coming year? This question will, at times, lead us to such things as a New Year's resolution to lose weight or a wish to live a better life in one way or another. This same question may also show us what is so important about prayer in our lives. The simple fact that the Lord's Prayer is such a wonderful summary of religion and morals may make each of us realize how precious prayer is, for it is speaking to God in a most personal way.

Alice M. Kyle wrote years ago: To know thy will Lord of the seeing mind, to learn thy will for me, thy purpose kind, thy path to follow and thy guide find – For this I pray to do thy will, Lord of the eager soul, to bring my restlessness neath thy control, to give Thee all and not only part but the whole. For this I pray to love thy will, Lord of the ardent heart, to bid all selfishness, all sloth apart, to share with gladness all thou dost and give for this I pray.

Sometimes we forget, as Christians, that we are to live by God's will, not our own. By doing this we may avoid arrogance. Live a servant's life to God and help others see that this life is a preparation for a greater life with Christ to come. We need to learn these truths by the last fourth of our life to prepare to be with Christ in His eternal home.

Join us for MEET & CHAT if you have a LOSS/GRIEF issue. You may be surprised at how many successful graduates we have had from this self-help group. January 2nd will be our next gathering @ 10am. The Bereavement Ministries Advisory Committee will meet January 13th at 10am at the church.

A New Year has begun. Let us make the most of it in Christ's name.

Joy Kiser

GOD BLESS AND THANK YOU FROM THE CHARA HOUSE GIRLS

Thank you for babysitting the 1st Tuesday night of each month at Chara House (off of Charlotte Avenue in Punta Gorda.) It surely is appreciated by the mothers of the babies so they can attend GED classes. The next date will be January 6th, 2009. We start at 6:30pm and are done before 8:30pm. The grandma babysitters so far have been: Connie Johansen, Helen Fowkes, Barbara Smith, Mary Vincent, Barbara Woods, Loriania Brenton, and Elaine Schultz.

Special thanks to Dianne Sizemore, Marguerite O'Brien, Barbara Shinn, Nancy Smith, Rachel Pfaender, Connie Johansen, Mary Vincent, Barbara Smith, and Joy Kiser who either paid for or took a girl from Chara House to shop for their babies/baby for Christmas. One of my girls told me that last year she had no money and her two little ones didn't have a Christmas present. It was so hard on her. All these mothers were very, very grateful, which they showed with their hugs and love.

Christmas blessings to you all, as you have certainly done God's work for these babies.

Thanks so much,
Elaine Schultz

2008 CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY



JOYCE SHORK PLAYED CHRISTMAS CAROLS FOR US



THE FOUR LEAF STRUMMERS ENTERTAINED US AFTER DINNER

JANUARY 2009 CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Please remember in your prayers the elderly, the infirm, the hospitalized, those in nursing homes, the homebound and lonely, and all those who have requested our prayerful support. Pray for the men and women who serve our country, especially Sgt. Ian Hendricks who is in the U.S. Marine Corps and has recently been deployed to Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Ian is the grandson of Dianne Sizemore.

Each month we remember church members and friends on a rotating basis

JANUARY

- 1 Walt & Joy Kiser
- 2 Bob & Joyce Kiskaddon
- 3 Ron & Annemarie Klein
- 4 Barbara Klepinger
- 5 Art & Fran Koon
- 6 Ethel Larsen
- 7 Richard & Doris Lindsey
- 8 Cy & Marcia Ling
- 9 William Luchynsky
- 10 Myles MacDonald
- 11 Edith McDonough

JANUARY

- 12 Marjory Mckenzie
- 13 Gene & Janet McLemore
- 14 Martha McMahan
- 15 Thomas & Joanne Meagher
- 16 Steve, Joanie, & Jason Mock
- 17 Nay Kay
- 18 Edwina Norton
- 19 Robert & Eleanor Norton
- 20 Marguerite O'Brien
- 21 Leetta Parrott
- 22 Scott & Sally Pauzar

JANUARY

- 23 Frank & Kay Perkins
- 24 Bruce & Myrna Peters
- 25 Dick & Donna Peterson
- 26 Fred & Rachel Pfaender
- 27 Diane Pfiester
- 28 Jack & Beth Porter
- 29 Linda Pulera
- 30 Paul & Louise Quillman
- 31 Pete & Sharon Rehm

PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Marguerite O'Brien	2	Dianne Sizemore	26
Phyllis Botticelli	6	Cy Ling	28
Debbie Carney	6	George Hoffman	29
Edie Barrett	17	Rachel Pfaender	29
Barbara Gurney	18	Walt Kiser	31
Fran Koon	23		

IF YOU DON'T SEE YOUR NAME LISTED ON OUR BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST, PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW SO THAT WE CAN ADD THE INFORMATION TO OUR RECORDS.

THIS 'N THAT

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

We welcome material for our church newsletter. All contributions are subject to editing with regard to the subject matter and space requirements. Articles for the February issue of *The Messenger* are due in the church office by Monday, January 19th.

WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE

You are invited to join your church family in the sanctuary Sundays at 6pm. Come and share in this experience of God's people praying together.

SPONSOR SUNDAY FLOWERS

The cost to sponsor flowers is \$30. To sponsor the flowers, please sign up on the sheet in the church entrance or call the church office. If you sponsored flowers for a Sunday and would like to take them after the service, please let the church office know before the date sponsored, or stop in the kitchen after the last service and see the deacon in charge that day.

COMPUTER AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE



We've set up a computer in the Conference Room for those of you who need the use of one. It has high-speed internet access and is available during office hours. We suggest you call to reserve the time before coming to use it.

R.O.M.E.O.S. BREAKFAST MEETING

R.O.M.E.O.S. (Retired Old Men Eating Ot Someplace) meet for breakfast at 8am every other Wednesday at Brenda's Restaurant (across from the church). January's meetings will be on the 7th and 21st. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

SKINNY MINIS MEET EACH WEEK



Each Thursday at 9:30am our *Skinny Minis* weight loss support group meets at the church for those who would like to lose a little, or a lot. There is a time of weigh-in, then some sharing, followed by a time of prayer for each other.

GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION PARTY



All able bodied workers are invited Tuesday January 13th from 8—10am for a grounds beautification party. Bring your rakes, shovels, & work gloves.

EMAIL UPDATE

Please advise the church office when you change your email address. Thank you.

PARISH NURSE

Blood pressures will be taken on Sunday, January 18th, before and after each service.



The preacher's 5 year old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. "Well, honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages, "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.



BIBLE QUIZ



In John 8:12 (NRSV), Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will"

Choose the phrase below that correctly completes this sentence.

- A. never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.
- B. never walk alone.
- C. be my companion always.
- D. sit at my right hand.

Answer: A (See John 8:12, NRSV.)

TRIVIA

• "I object to people running down the future. I am going to live all the rest of my life there, and I'd like it to be a nice place."

—Charles Kettering

• "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

—Martin Luther King Jr.

• "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today."

—Franklin Roosevelt



SEEN IN CHURCH BULLETINS—

- ☺ Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- ☺ The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.



January 2009

Church office hours are:
 Monday—Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM
 Friday 9:00 AM to 12 Noon



February 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Prayer Service	5 3:30pm Worship Team	6  EPIPHANY	7 8:00am *R.O.M.E.O.S Bereavement Team 10:00am Bereavement Team 6:00pm Wonderful Wednesday Dinner 7:00pm Wonderful Wednesday Study	8 9:30am "Skinny Minis" 10:00am Stephen Ministry Praise Team 5:30pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00am Bereavement "Meet & Chat"	10 12:00pm Presbyterian Women Meeting & Lunch
11 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Prayer Service	12 11:00am Fellowship Team	13 8:00—10:00am Grounds Beautification Party 10:00am Property Team 1:30pm Discipleship Team 3:00pm Mission Team	14 6:00pm Wonderful Wednesday Dinner 7:00pm Wonderful Wednesday Study	15 9:30am "Skinny Minis" 5:30pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16 5:00pm Children's Network	17 10-11:30am Super Saturday Study
18 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Prayer Service	19  Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2:00pm Session 	20	21 8:00am *R.O.M.E.O.S. 6:00pm Wonderful Wednesday Dinner 7:00pm Wonderful Wednesday Study	22 9:30am "Skinny Minis" 5:30pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23 1:00pm Mission Trip to Immokalee 5:00pm Children's Network	24
25 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Prayer Service	26	27 11:30am Lunch & Learn	28 6:00pm Wonderful Wednesday Dinner 7:00pm Wonderful Wednesday Study	29 9:30am "Skinny Minis" 5:30pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30 5:00pm Children's Network	31 *Retired Old Men Eating Out Someplace

MEET OUR OFFICERS

ELDERS

Sharon Cuzner — Ministry	637-1792
Arlene Gebel — Worship	637-8655
Connie Johansen — Ministry	637-5787
Jerry Julius — Administration	575-7491
Cy Ling — Discipleship	639-6394
Joyce Schork — Discipleship	575-9493
Dianne Sizemore — Mission	743-5637
Gail Thornton, Clerk — Fellowship	639-5510
Don Washabaugh — Worship	255-8616

DEACONS

Debbie Carney — Parish Nursing	637-9389
Phyllis Ehrhardt — Visitation	863-993-1849
Arlene Gebel — Respite Care	637-8655
Paul Gebel — Helping Hands	637-8655
Nancy Julius — Communication	575-7491
Joy Kiser — Bereavement	575-9745
Elaine Schultz — Flowers	505-8339
Margie Smith — Prayer Shawls	833-0185
Helen Travis — Hospital Visitation	639-3067
Mary Anne Washabaugh — Communion	255-8616

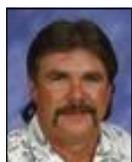
MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



Pastor
Steve Mock
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Custodian
Bill Barbour
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Music Director
Randall Curtis
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Volunteer Office Assistant
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A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH