

The Messenger



A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA

JANUARY 2010



OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE
LOVING.... GROWING.... GOING.... in JESUS!

*Loving... God and others through worship and fellowship.
Growing... in our understanding Jesus and God's purposes for us through Bible study, and developing our ministries to serve God and others.
Going... into God's world with His message of love and salvation through Jesus Christ, and with His ministries of compassion and mercy.*

MOCK'S MUSINGS

Rev. Stephen A. Mock, Pastor



Pastor Steve

"I love the new life I have in Jesus."

The New Year is upon us and I love new. Some people love antiques, but I love new stuff. I love the smell of a new car and new houses. We just got a new bathroom (to replace the one damaged by a minor flood) and I love the new look, fresh smells and modern décor. I love the advances in technology and am always looking forward to the new releases of computers, TVs, cell phones, etc. I guess you can say I'm a 'new' junkie. If it's new, I'm pretty sure to like it. I guess you can say that's why I like New Year. It represents the start of new chances, new opportunities, new possibilities and new experiences. Everyone likes having new chances.

God is in the business of 'new'. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!" (TNIV) And in Revelation 21:5, he says, "I am making everything new!" (TNIV) In Jesus, we are all new creations. We all get new starts in life. We receive new life – eternal life in Christ. We are reborn to a new life full of God's love, peace and joy. We have new relationships with God and with each other. We have a new purpose in life – to love God and others. Christianity is all about newness. That is why I love Jesus – He brings newness to me and I love new. I love being made a new creation in Christ. I love the new life I have in Jesus.

May the New Year bring the newness of Christ into your lives. May you have new experiences of His love and may you continue to become a new creation, filled with new hope, purpose and joy.

In Christ,
Steve

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WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY BEGINS JANUARY 6TH

Happy New Year Everybody!! The Discipleship Team hopes you had a fabulous Christmas and are ready to begin an exciting new year.

We have several new classes planned for 2010. The winter session of WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY will begin on January 6th. The Fellowship Team will serve another of their delicious meals at 6pm and three new Bible studies will start at 7pm.

Pastor Steve will lead C.L.A.S.S. 212 - **Becoming a Contagious Christian** by Bill Hybels. C.L.A.S.S. 217 - **The Prayers of Jesus** edited by Matt Williams will be led by Connie Johansen. Cy Ling will lead C.L.A.S.S. 218 -

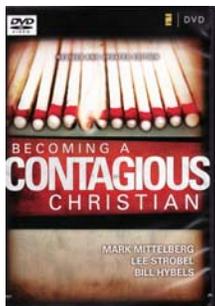
The Case For Faith: Investigating the Toughest Questions of Christianity by Lee Strobel. These are all six-week studies which will take us up to February 10th.

During the Lenten season we hope to have small groups meeting in homes to learn about "3:16, The Numbers of Hope."

It is so exciting to be able to offer so many opportunities to learn more about our Lord and Savior. We hope you will join us. There are sign-up sheets in the church entry for all of these programs.

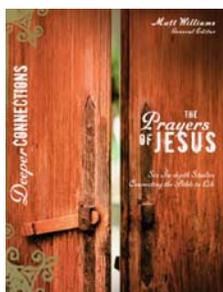
Joyce Schork and The Discipleship Team

BECOMING A CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN



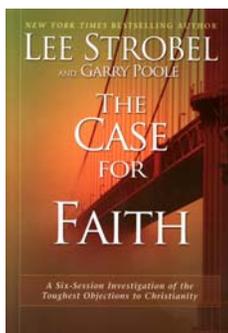
The *Becoming a Contagious Christian* course is designed to help everyday Christians to confidently and effectively spread their faith to people they know. The emphasis is on natural approaches that work over time to bring family members, friends, coworkers and neighbors to the point of trusting in Christ. Through a variety of formats including video vignettes, group discussions, role playing and teaching segments, you will learn how to communicate the message of Christ in your own personal, God-given style. Pastor Steve Mock will be leading this class. A participant guide is required and available to all who attend.

THE PRAYERS OF JESUS



Prayer was the backbone of Jesus' life and ministry. From his baptism to his crucifixion, the Gospels portray Jesus as a man of prayer who knew and deeply valued intimate communion with his heavenly Father. What can we learn from the prayers he prayed? This Deeper Connections DVD study helps explore the prayers of Jesus to gain new insights into prayer, the character of God and how to deepen our relationship with him. Elder Connie Johansen will be leading this class. A participant guide is required and available to all who attend.

THE CASE FOR FAITH: A Six-Session Investigation of the Toughest Objections to Christianity



In this six-session video curriculum, Lee Strobel, former atheist and award-winning author of books for skeptics and Christians, uses his journalistic approach to explore the most common emotional obstacles to faith in Christ. These include the natural inclination to wrestle with faith and doubt, the troubling presence of evil and suffering in the world, and the exclusivity of the Christian gospel. Through videos of compelling stories and experts addressing these topics, combined with reflection and interaction, participants will learn how to overcome these obstacles, deepen their spiritual convictions, and find new confidence that Christianity is a reasonable faith. Elder Cy Ling will be leading this class. A participant guide is required and available to all who attend.

SUPER SATURDAY - JANUARY 16TH AT 10AM

SUPER SATURDAY was begun last year to better acquaint us with the tenets of our faith and the attacks on Christianity, which are growing. We have been using material from Professor R.C. Sproul on reformed theology.

However, when we resume SUPER SATURDAY on January 16th, we will focus on the attacks on our faith. January's video and discussion will show how the A.C.L.U. seeks to overturn our Christian morals and values. On February 20th our video and discussion will center on the problems in the Middle East and how they affect Christians everywhere. On March 20th we will resume with Dr. Sproul's lessons on reformed theology.

Please join us at 10am on these Saturday mornings!

SESSION NOTES



Highlights from the December 21st Session

- Membership report – Approved the membership roles update for 2009. 4 members moved to inactive; 2 members removed; 3 members removed from inactive role. Totals are: 114 Active; 21 Affiliate; 5 members Inactive; Total: 140.
- Approved Communion & Special Offering dates for 2010.
- Approved Christmas Eve Offering to go to Misión Peniel.
- Approved the January 19th Violin Concert Fund Raiser for Misión Peniel.
- Approved Steve's 2010 employment contract for IRS.
- Elected Gail Thornton as Clerk of Session for 2010.
- To date, pledges for 2010 are \$196,064.
- Scheduled a joint meeting with elders and deacons on January 23, 2010 at the church.
- Installation of John Truby as elder on January 10, 2010 at 10:30am service.
- Annual Meeting will be February 07, 2010 after 10:30am service.
- Approved Marguerite O'Brien and Phyllis Botticelli as delegates to the February 25, 2010 Presbytery meeting.
- Our thanks to Cy Ling for his years of service on session.

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session

MUSIC NOTES

1Chr. 16:9 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

Have you ever given someone that perfect gift that brought a special smile to their face? At that moment you knew you found that perfect gift that will be cherished for many years. In that single moment, the joy in your heart was never more satisfying. The perfect gift!

That's what God gave to us in His Son, the perfect gift. The gift that will last forever and ever. What can we give Him to bring that special smile to His face? What gift do you have that He is asking you to share with Him through this church? He deserves everything we have and so much more. Whatever your gift, consider sharing it any way you can. What could be better than bringing a smile to God's face through your service for Him?

January is the perfect time to join our Choir as we will be filling the choir folders with new music. We have robes and chairs available just for you. If your gift is music, please see me after worship, call me at 941-380-0841, or email me at rpc1220@me.com. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, January 7th at 7pm. He hopes to see you there, and so do we.

In Christ,



THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22

Another year, another set of expectations for self-improvement. To help with motivation, **we are planning an exercise and weight-loss program at the church beginning Monday January 11th at 9:30am.** We will be doing chair exercises and gentle stretching exercises so all can be included. Sign up at the church. Be sure to check with your doctor if you haven't exercised in a while.

Our Lunch 'n Learn program is Tuesday January 19th at 11:30am. This will be an interactive program to teach us about vision loss also called low vision. Low vision has been identified as one of the most significant contributors to the loss of independence among seniors. Come and enjoy good food, good friends and good information to help yourself or others.

Our blood pressure screening is Sunday, January 10th from 9:45-10:45am. Please call me if I can help you with any medical issues. Have a blessed New Year 2010!

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



MUSIC ON A WINTER'S EVE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19TH AT 7PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PUNTA GORDA

The Artists:



Leon Petrus

Violinist/Composer Leon Petrus, cousin of Elizabeth Dunn (the church Office Manager), has been Artistic Director of both the Meadowbrook Music Festival in Detroit and the Society for the Performing Arts in Houston and has played violin under the baton of Leopold Stokowski, Donald Voorhees and Otto Werner-Mueller. He has composed stage music for productions in New York and Philadelphia including Brecht's Mother Courage. A film score for "The Wait" won recognition in the Ann Arbor Film Festival.



Mitchell Vines

Pianist Mitchell Vines' active performing career has taken him to Europe, South America, and Asia and throughout the United States. His teaching experience includes positions with the Aspen Music Festival, Mannes School of Music, Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music and the Harlem School of the Arts, and he is a music director for theater, opera and cabaret. A native of Portland, Oregon, Mr. Vines holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Portland State University and a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music.

The Program:

Felix Borowski: Adoration

Vitali: Ciaconne

Beethoven: Sonata in F ("Spring")

Franck: Fantasia and Allegretto from Sonata in A

Shostokovich: Cadenza and Burlesque from the Violin Concerto in A minor

- ♫ **The concert is free but a ticket is needed; tickets are available on the Welcome Center's table in the church entrance**
- ♫ **Love offering taken to benefit Misión Peniel**
- ♫ **After the recital, meet the artists and enjoy dessert**

GOD'S NEW YEAR

STARTING FRESH, LOOKING BACK
RESOLUTIONS MADE - ARE WE ON TRACK?

THE YEAR BEGINS AND HERE WE ARE
LOOKING AT OUR LIFE WE'VE LED SO FAR.

SHOULD WE PRESS TO DO THINGS WE MUST
OR SHOULD WE TRUST GOD'S PLAN FOR US?

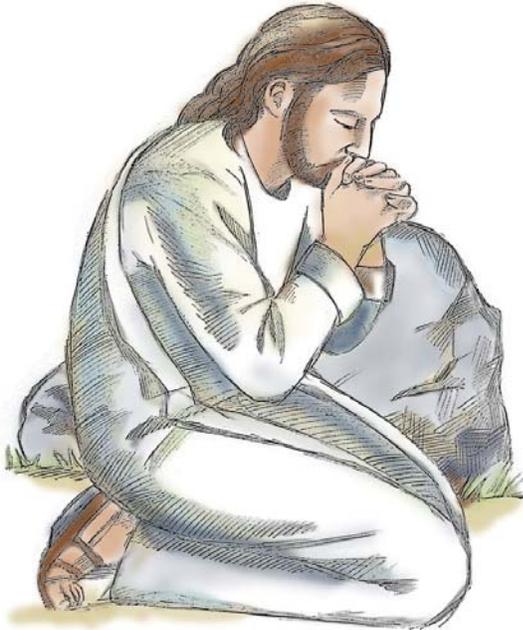
SHOW US GOD YOUR WAY TO GO
AND SEND YOUR THOUGHTS TO US BELOW.

WE ASK YOUR HELP TO POINT THE WAY
WE NEED YOUR LOVE INSIDE US EVERYDAY.

PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND US TIGHT
AND WALK EACH STEP TOWARD THE LIGHT.

THANK YOU GOD FOR BEING HERE
AND SHOWING US YOU ARE ALWAYS NEAR.

— NANCY BEASOM



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

YEAR TO DATE 11/30/09

Income	\$206,968
Expenses	\$236,943
Difference	\$ (29,975)

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.

If you haven't returned your 2010 pledge yet, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. Thank you.



2010 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.

A MESSAGE FROM BEREAVEMENT MINISTRIES

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of our God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6 – 7 NIV**

When a family friend or member dies or has to enter a care facility we can be filled with feelings of impending doom. That may sound extremely emotive and histrionic but believe me, it can happen! Not knowing how to deal with these emotions can lead to confusion, sadness, anxiety, hopelessness and an unfamiliar lack of confidence in oneself.

We may also worry and fret and carry on in ways that are not what we are. I have found that prayer is the best antidote. When one talks to God, He may not help immediately but He does come to your aid. We must give up control and wait for God to fix things in His time. In other words, have TRUST in Him. God can fix anything when we take our problems to Him in prayer. However, if we do not put full trust in Him, He can postpone the fixing because in imperfect trust we are really telling Him "Thank you Lord for listening but this

situation is impossible." This must really hurt His feelings. Instead, ask Him to have mercy on you and you will wait for His help. Peace will follow in time.

I wrote this article mostly for me rather than many of you I am sure, but I wrote what I thought all of us need to know.

God inspires lessons by allowing us to experience that which we know very little about. It seems so foreign that we seem to learn some things late in our lives, but this must be His plan and purpose for us as individuals.

There will be no "Meet & Chat" in January, since the scheduled date would be January 1st which is New Year's Day. The next "Meet & Chat" will be Friday, February 5th. May God's grace cover you this season.

Joy Kiser

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Presbyterian Women (PW) wishes to thank all those who participated in the decorating of the church on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We had a large turn-out this year; there was almost not enough work to go around. Your efforts resulted in a magical setting in which to welcome our Lord Jesus! Afterwards, for those who stayed, there was pizza and brownies which were enjoyed by all.

Presbyterian Women's annual Christmas luncheon was held on Saturday, December 12th. It was well attended by 24 ladies who enjoyed a marvelous lunch (those PW ladies can sure cook). We sang carols and packaged and delivered cookies to our shut-ins and the Veterans Home in Port Charlotte. Thank you all for being so generous with your cookies. I had to leave early, but I'm sure my able board members carried on without me. (Thank you Sharon, Barb, Connie, and Dotty).

I am so pleased that many of you are taking advantage of Sharon Cuzner's Bible study on Ruth. I hear it is marvelous. (I, as yet, have not been able to attend).

Anyone who has a child's sweater to be sent to Guide-Post Magazine for overseas, please bring them to church ASAP. You know who you are.

God bless you and yours and may your Christmas truly contain CHRIST!!

Phyllis Botticelli, Moderator, PW

GETTING TO KNOW THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY

By Craig Anderson



Mary S. Vincent

Mary is a faithful member of our church. She resides on Jones Loop Road for a part of the year and in Banner Elk, North Carolina the rest of the year. She moved to Punta Gorda some years ago for the warm weather.

Born/grew up: I was born in Brooklyn, New York but moved to Connecticut when six months old. I grew up there.

Fond childhood memory: Sitting in my Dad's lap when he read me a book before going to bed.

Education: 1 1/2 years of college. Left to get married.

Spouse/family: My husband was a marine pilot. We met in an apple orchard. I was collecting apples so my mother could make applesauce when I was accidentally hit on the head by an apple dropped by a fellow who was picking apples from the top of the tree. I didn't see him until the apple hit me, but then we met. We were married later in 1944 in Pinehurst, North Carolina. We have four children.

Vocation: In addition to being a homemaker, I worked in my brother's toy store and then in a bank.

Spiritual journey: Grew up an Episcopalian and then became a Presbyterian upon moving to Florida.

Favorite vacation: A cruise with my husband and four children after forty years of marriage.

Great church memory: Hearing my three boys singing in the boys' choir. They looked angelic!

What brought you to First Presbyterian: After years in the Episcopal church, I thought I needed a change.

Service in the church: Taught Sunday school; served as an Elder for four years and as a Deacon for eight years.

Favorite hymn: "In the Garden."

Favorite Scripture: Psalm 95.

Book I'd recommend: Anything by Dickens.

Hobbies/interests: Tennis, golf, making beaded Christmas stockings and knitting.



A Prayer For the New Year

"Dear God..." Eternal God, thank you for bringing us once again to the threshold of a new year. Help us dedicate each day of 2010 to following your will for our lives. Guide us, Lord, in all our decisions and actions, day by day and hour by hour. Help us accomplish all that you desire for us to do, until our mission on earth is finished. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A New Year's Desire

Grant that I may bring no tear to any eye,
when this New Year in time shall end.
Let it be said I've played the friend,
have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.

—Edgar A. Guest

MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

Working to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes

The Prophet Micah asks us, "What does the Lord require of you?" The answer is one we have heard hundreds of times..."To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your god."

We are called to do three things in the face of poverty: do justice (address systems that prevent people from meeting their basic needs), love and kindness (reach out in compassion to those in need), and walk humbly (live knowing that all our personal and communal gifts and resources come from God to be used to glorify God). This incredible verse guides the Presbyterian Hunger Program's work as we enable our partners to address basic needs and their causes in communities worldwide.

Through your gift to the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), you are part of creating new opportunities for those in need. We are grateful for your generosity and thank you for your donations to the Hunger Fund, much of which was raised through Cents-Ability (2 cents a meal). Examples of those opportunities include: an agricultural development program in West Africa for families recovering from Civil wars, a program in India to help farmers achieve food sovereignty and sustainability, and an internship and leadership development program in rural parts of the Carolinas.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. I invite you to watch a six-minute video entitled **COMMUNAL GRAIN BANKS** at www.relufa.org produced by our partner in Cameroon, Africa and PC (USA) Mission-co worker Christi Boyd. It demonstrates the kind of holistic, community development work PHP does. This work is life-giving and exciting. A list of hunger projects can be obtained by emailing jessica.maudin@pcusa.org

Making another donation to Cents-Ability helps those partners that are in greater need than before so remember drop your donations in the colorful cans on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. Put your faith into action and remember to pray for support for this project.

MISION PENIEL, IMMOKALEE

565 meals were served with the help of the Mission Team on November 27th and many of the migrants were blessed with clothes and the children with toys. On December 19th the Mission Team went again to distribute the toys that were donated to the children as well as feeding the migrants and their families.

If you are interested in going to Immokalee to help, we will be going the fourth Friday of each month in 2010. The next trip will be January 22nd. We car pool from the church at 12 noon. Thank you for all your support.

Beans and Rice Sunday

On Sunday January 10th we will have a Beans and Rice Sunday for Mision Peniel. Lets see who wins..... the Beans or the Rice. Those who sit on the left side of the church bring rice; those who sit on the right side of the church bring beans. Dried pinto beans are the beans of choice but they also eat other types.

Let's really give them a real treat. They will be very grateful. Let's feed hungry bellies.

A Message from Beth-El Farmworker Ministry....

Thank you First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda for your donations which help us to continue to keep the farmworker community in Immokalee going.

Please continue to keep the Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in your prayers. Please come and visit us and see for yourself what miracles are happening thru God's love.

CROSSROADS WILDERNESS INSTITUTE

The Crossroads Wilderness Institute (CWI) is a non-profit program for at-risk boys ages 14-18 located in rural Punta Gorda. The remote location offers a wide range of opportunities for the kids to learn about their relationship with our environment on a large scale. The facility combines education, treatment and behavior modification to provide a holistic, comprehensive approach to the needs of the kids, resulting in over 80%

Continued on page 10: Mission Ministry

◆ MISSION MINISTRY

From page 9

of them having a successful transition back into the community.

We received a tour of the facilities by one of the young men that included the cafeteria, living quarters, recreational area, skills learning center and the classrooms. We saw some of the work of the boys while walking on sidewalks they constructed and bunk beds they had built.

We were invited to eat lunch with the boys and we got to visit with them. They shared what they had accomplished so far and what goals they had set for completion of the program. The food was wonderful and one of the boys even commented on how good it is there. They told us how they are learning to do laundry, about their recreation program, how they are expected to do KP duty and clean up their dorms, showers and rest rooms. The bedding on their bunks fold back to give them a place to do their homework. They do most of the work on the property, like painting the interiors of the buildings, etc.

They were troubled young men seeking to turn their lives around. The director and staff were impressive and committed to help them. If you are interested in touring the facility, please let me know and we can schedule another trip. I know you too will be impressed.

In the near future we will have a BOXER and SOCK SUNDAY for them.

TOWEL AND WASHCLOTH SHOWER

On Sunday, January 17th we will have a Towel and Washcloth Shower for Duvall Presbyterian Home (mentally challenged people), which is a covenant partner of Peace River Presbytery in the central area of our state.

Towels and wash cloths can only be used once and then they must be thrown in the wash. With the very hot water that has to be used to launder them, they do not last very long. Duvall has just received a new 200 lb. commercial washer as a donation so now let's give them lots of new towels and washcloths to launder.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

February 7th is SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY. We will be collecting \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ in the soup pot, but in addition to that please, bring a can of soup for the food bin. This money and this soup will all stay right here in Charlotte County. Let no child go hungry.

Thank you for all your support,
Dianne Sizemore & your Mission team



I'd like to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, and beautiful prayer shawl. The outpouring of love and support while I was recovering from back surgery was greatly appreciated.
Sue Gready

&&&

To the entire First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda,
I am floored at the generosity that was waiting for me on Sunday. What a wonderful group of people. I thank you so much. It just so happens to be exactly what I needed, meaning an unexpected huge act of kindness. I wish all of you happiness and health in the coming year!
Thank you,
"Bill" (Barbour)

&&&

Dear members and friends,
Thank you so very much for your generous Christmas gift. It is much appreciated. You are such a loving and giving congregation. May 2010 bring you joy and many blessings.
Elizabeth Dunn

JANUARY 2010 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: Lt. Ryan Swisher, an Army Ranger, who is stationed in Afghanistan. Ryan is the grandson of Fred & Rachel Pfaender.

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

JANUARY

- 1 Andrew & Nancy Smith
- 2 Gerald & Margie Smith
- 3 Stan & Barbara Smith
- 4 Mae Snyder
- 5 Dennis & Marilyn Stebner
- 6 Terry & Annetta Stinebuck
- 7 Walt, Mary & Sarah Stones
- 8 Robert & Mary Stromberg
- 9 Larry & Betty Strong
- 10 Betty & Leonard Stroth
- 11 Anne Swift

JANUARY

- 12 Carol Sytsma
- 13 Fred & Diane Tabert
- 14 Gail Thornton
- 15 Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale
- 16 Helen Travis
- 17 John & Diane Truby
- 18 Speed & Elaine Unrau
- 19 Cindy Valier
- 20 Bernie Vander Meulen
- 21 Mary Vincent
- 22 Doris Wackerbarth

JANUARY

- 23 Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh
- 24 Marc Washicheck
- 25 Joyce Watkinson
- 26 Alfred & Mary Webber
- 27 Doug & Esther Wheeler
- 28 Rich & Jan Wilkinson
- 29 Ed & Pam Williams
- 30 Vern & Marlene Wilson
- 31 Dave & Barb Woods

PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY



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

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 January issue of *The Messenger* are due in the church office by Friday, January 15th.

WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE

You are invited to join your church family in the Conference Room 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.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Our church music is available to you on the internet at <http://public.me.com/rpc1220>. Click on one of the folders to view Organ Music, Choir Music, or Praise Team Music and a list of the music will appear by song title. Then click on the arrow at the right of the song to download and listen. Feel free to share with friends, family or potential members. Questions or comments may be directed to Randy Curtis at rpc1220@me.com.

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

R.O.M.E.O.S. (Retired Old Men Eating Out Someplace) meet for breakfast at 8am every other Wednesday at Skyview Café at the Punta Gorda Airport. January's meetings will be on the 6th and 20th. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

EMAIL UPDATE

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

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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FUNDRAISER

Presbyterian Women (PW) are selling note cards as a fundraiser. There are 5 cards in a set for a cost of \$2.50. A sample & an order form are on the PW table in the narthex. If you would like to order them, please put your name on the list. Thank you for supporting PW in this.

BLOOD PRESSURES TAKEN

Blood pressures will be taken on Sunday, January 10th from 9:45am—10:45am.

A Winning Pattern For the New Year

Some anonymous wise person penned the following directions for living without bringing pain to others or oneself:

"You will never be sorry — for thinking before acting, for hearing before judging, for forgiving your enemies, for being candid and frank, for helping a fallen brother, for being honest in business, for thinking before speaking, for being loyal to God and the church, for standing by your principles, for refusing to participate in gossip, for holding your words when tempted to demean another, for not entertaining impure or hateful thoughts, for sympathizing with the afflicted, for being courteous and kind to all."



BIBLE QUIZ



In Revelation 22:16, Jesus says: "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of _____, the bright morning star."

Choose the correct name from the list below:

- A. Isaac
- B. Jacob
- C. David
- D. Solomon



Answer: C



"Stationary Time"

We are frequently thinking
That time's running fast.
The present seems fleeting
And soon becomes past.

But time is a measurement
Standing quite still.
It's we who are moving —
Or stopped, by our will.
—Peggy Ferrell

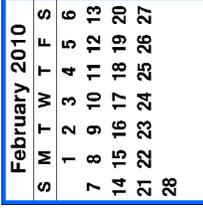


"Even though the last meeting was an eternity, Sam, we'll continue to call this report the minutes."



JANUARY 2010

Church office hours are:
 Monday—Thursday 9:00am to 2:30pm
 Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 10:30am Worship with Communion 6:00pm Prayer Service	4 3:30pm Worship Team	5 10:00am Women's Bible Study	 6 Epiphany 8:00am *R.O.M.E.O.S. Wonderful Wednesday: 6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm Bible Study	7 5:30pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	1 OFFICE CLOSED 	2
10 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 9:45-10:45am Blood Pressures Taken 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Prayer Service	11 9:30am Chair Exercise 10:00am Fellowship Team	12 1:30pm Discipleship Team 3:00pm Mission Team	13 Wonderful Wednesday: 6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm Bible Study	14 5:30pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	15 	16 10:00am Super Saturday
17 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Prayer Service	18 9:30am Chair Exercise 2:00pm Session	19 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:30am Lunch 'n Learn 7:00pm Violin/Piano Concert	20 8:00am *R.O.M.E.O.S. Wonderful Wednesday: 6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm Bible Study	21 5:30pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22 12:00pm Mission Trip to Immokalee	23
24 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Prayer Service	25 9:30am Chair Exercise	26 10:00am Bereavement Team	27 Wonderful Wednesday: 6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm Bible Study	28 5:30pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 BLANKET SUNDAY 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Prayer Service					*Retired <u>Old</u> Men <u>Eating Out</u> <u>Someplace</u>	

MEET OUR OFFICERS

ELDERS

Sharon Cuzner — Ministry	637-1792
Arlene Gebel — Worship	637-8655
Dave Woods — Ministry	456-4876
Marguerite O'Brien — Administration	575-7491
Cy Ling — Discipleship	639-6394
Joyce Schork — Discipleship	575-9493
Dianne Sizemore — Mission	743-5637
Phyllis Botticelli — Fellowship	639-5510
Don Washabaugh — Worship	255-8616
Gail Thornton — Clerk of Session	639-5510

DEACONS

Debbie Carney — Parish Nursing	637-9389
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
Mary Anne Washabaugh — Communion	255-8616

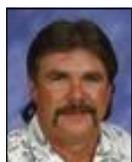
MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



Pastor
Steve Mock
revmock@fpcpunta.org



Custodian
Bill Barbour
first@fpcpunta.org



Music Director
Randall Curtis
randy@fpcpunta.org



Volunteer Office Assistant
Gail Thornton
gail@fpcpunta.org



Office Mgr., Bookkeeper & Editor "The Messenger"
Elizabeth Dunn
elizabeth@fpcpunta.org



Treasurer
Joe Cherny
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Parish Nurse
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carneydeb@hotmail.com



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PC(USA)



MEMBER, CONFESSING CHURCH



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH