

# The Messenger



A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA

MARCH 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

### "God's 'no quit' spirit isn't dependent upon us"



Pastor Steve

I was watching the China vs. USA women's hockey game at the Olympics recently and it was clear to me that the talent and skills of the US women far exceeded those of the Chinese. Most of the game, the US was in the Chinese end of the rink and seemed to be always on a power play (when one team has an advantage of one or more players due to a penalty for a couple of minutes) even when they had the same number of players. Soon the US scored one goal after another and the rout was on. Into the third period it went, US up now by a score of 11 to 0, yet the Chinese kept playing like they were only down one goal. They pressed and skated hard. Their goalie kept making great saves otherwise the score would have been twice what it was and finally, near the end of the game, they scored a goal. Everyone in the arena stood and cheered them for this small, yet honor-redeeming goal. You had to be impressed with their "no quit" attitude and spirit, a spirit in large quantities at an Olympics.

I like this "no quit" spirit. It's the same spirit our God demonstrates towards us. When we read the Bible, we can't help but notice a God who never gives up, even when it seems hopeless. The Israelites over and over rejected Him and turned to other gods. He sent prophet after prophet to call them back. They continued to reject His love. Finally, He sent His one and only Son. He came to us Himself, in the flesh, through Jesus. And what did we do? We crucified Him. Yet even then, God didn't quit on us. In fact, Jesus' death won the great victory over sin and death. Now through faith, God calls us home to Him and we, who were losers, share in His victory. God never quit or will not quit on us. His love is eternal. In the 3:16 – The Numbers of Hope study, Max Lucado made the point that we can never win

## IN THIS ISSUE

Discipleship News	2
C.L.A.S.S. 101	2
Prayer Vigil	3
St. Patrick's Day Celebration	3
Parish Nurse Health Corner	4
A Spiritual Experience	5
Thank You	5
Bereavement Ministries	6
Session Notes	6
Getting to Know Your Church Family	7
Stewardship Update	8
Mission Ministry	9
Music Notes	10
Meet Our New Members	11
Church Prayer Calendar, Birthdays & Anniversaries	12
This 'n That	13
Bible Quiz	14
Monthly Calendar (see insert)	
Church Officers & Staff	15

Continued on page 2 : MOCK'S MUSINGS



## ◆ MOCK'S MUSINGS

*From page 1*

God's love or lose it. God's "no quit" spirit isn't dependent upon us. This Lent, as we prepare to remember the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus on the cross for us, let's remember and cherish God's "no quit" love for us.

In Christ,

*Steve*

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## YOU CAN STILL JOIN A 3:16 SMALL GROUP

The winter session of Wonderful Wednesday ended on February 10th. It was very successful. Approximately 30 people attended the three classes.

One thing that has made Wednesday so wonderful is the delicious dinner that has been served before the classes at the fall and winter sessions the last four years. When the idea of Wonderful Wednesday was first presented to the Discipleship Team we thought of a light supper of soup or sandwiches, maybe pizza once in awhile. Instead, the Fellowship Team went all out and put on a banquet each week. We want to thank Gail Thornton and members of the Fellowship Team for their hard work. We really appreciate all they have done.

During the Lenten season we are enjoying a church-wide, small group study of "3:16, The Numbers of Hope" by Max Lucado. It is not too late to join a group!

### WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY RESUMES APRIL 21ST

Wonderful Wednesday will resume on April 21st. Craig Anderson will lead a six-week, non-video study of Philippians. There will be more details of this next month.

### OUR NEXT SUPER SATURDAY IS MARCH 20TH

The first Super Saturday of 2010 was held on January 16th. It was a very thought provoking video showing how the A.C.L.U. is trying to overturn our Christian morals and values. If you missed it see Cy Ling. He may let you borrow it.

The second Super Saturday was on February 20th. A DVD entitled "Epicenter" by Joel Rosenberg was shown. It presented the complexities of Middle East politics, religion and social issues. Unfortunately, this article is being written before the showing so cannot be reviewed at this time.

On March 20th at 10am, Super Saturday will feature a video by R.C. Sproul called "Total Depravity." It is a continuation of the series started last year which focuses on the fundamental tenets of Reformed and Evangelical theology. A sign-up sheet for this study is on the table in the church entrance.

We hope you will be able to participate in our presentations. Let us know if we are meeting your spiritual needs.

Joyce Schork and the Discipleship Team

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## C.L.A.S.S. 101—DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Pastor Steve will conduct this basic membership class on Sunday, March 21st from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at the church. This course is required for all who want to become members of First Presbyterian Church. Even if you have not decided to become a member, you are still invited to take the class. A sign-up sheet can be found on the table in the church entrance or see Pastor Steve.

# PRAYER VIGIL — FRIDAY, MARCH 19TH — 8AM - 8PM

**W**e attempted a prayer vigil early in February, however, because of the short notice many people were unable to participate. We are planning another prayer vigil at our church on Friday, March 19th. We will start praying at 8am and continue through 8pm.

We will provide a prayer outline, and pray for our country, our community, and our church. We have a great deal to be thankful for and a great many challenges ahead of us. Please sign up for a half hour of prayer. A sign-up sheet is in the church entrance. We would like as many people as possible to participate in this vigil. The bible tells us:

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God.”* (Philippians 4:6)

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”* (Mark 11:24)

## SPECIAL PRAYER SERVICE—March 14th

**J**oin us on Sunday, March 14th at 6pm at the old church property on the corner of Marion and Harvey Streets in downtown Punta Gorda for a special prayer service. We will be praying specifically for God’s Will for that property as well as our usual prayers for the church, her people and others. Bring your own lounge chair and join us outside for this important service.



Happy St. Pat's

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration**  
March 17th @6pm  
First Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda  
Fellowship Hall

Featuring Corned Beef & Cabbage  
\$7 donation requested  
Entertainment by the Four Leaf Strummers

Sign up in the church entrance and join our celebration

# THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

**“You restored me to health and let me live.” Isaiah 38:16**

**T**he older I get the more I realize it is easier to give than to follow advice. Here are some *tidbits* I recently learned:

**Massage Therapy:** This little luxury has helped the pain in my neck and right shoulder dissipate. Gloria at Charlotte Regional Medical Center Wellness Clinic is amazing in her use of hot stones, hot oil and strong fingers. A package of four half-hour massages come to a little under \$100. Gloria tells me about three-fourths of her clients come for some sort of pain relief, not pleasure. Massage improves the circulation of both the blood and the lymph system throughout the body while improving heart health and blood pressure.

**Osteopenia:** My bone density Dexa Scan, the gold standard for detecting osteoporosis, is not as good as it was two years ago. I am increasing and trying to be more faithful to my vitamins, especially calcium 1500mg, magnesium 600mg, vitamin D 1000mg, vitamin C, B vitamins, vitamin K, zinc, copper, manganese, boron, while trying to avoid processed foods, limit animal protein over vegetable protein, limit sugar, soda, salt, alcohol, tobacco, coffee and chocolate.

*More tidbits* from our recent guest speakers:

Dr. Antoine Dakouny is a new Internal Medicine Doctor at Burnt Store Square. He is interested in being the old-fashioned doctor that comes to see you at any of the three local hospitals and follows your health and illness issues in his office. He is not adverse to taking patients OFF medicine if he can...now that is a new concept!

Rachel Streubing, RN from Peace River Regional Medical Center encouraged us to become Health Advocates. She talked about this concept as, “to stand beside and stand up for others” in the medical setting. We would love to repeat this program with Rachel. Let me know if you would like to become a “Congregational Health Advocate.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1 BREAKFAST WITH THE DOCTOR: Friday March 19th at 9am - Dr. Brian Triola, is a new Cardiologist who will present lifesaving information titled, “What Is Coronary Heart Disease.”
- 2 LUNCH 'N LEARN: March 22nd at 11:30am - Dr. Charles Toman, new Orthopedic Surgeon, will present, “Advances in Orthopedic Medicine.”
- 2 LUNCH 'N LEARN: April 15th at 11:30am - Dr. Christopher Constance, Plastic Surgeon will present, “Skin Cancer and You.”
- 4 DIABETES CONVERSATION MAP: A series of three sessions — March 16th, 23rd and 30th at 1:30pm. The Conversation Map is an interactive diabetes educational tool. This is the road to help one better manage diabetes as a chronic yet conquerable illness.
- 5 BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING: On the 2nd Sunday of each month.
- 6 YES YOU CAN (YYC): A weight loss and exercise program meets every Monday morning from 9:30-10:30am. We have had great success! Why not come and join us.

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



# AN AWESOME SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

By Gail Thornton

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



On February 4th I was blessed to be able to begin one of the most awesome spiritual experiences I have ever had and I wanted to share some of it with all of you. I went to the Riverside Retreat Center in Alva, Florida to join with 31 other women in "The Walk to Emmaus." The Walk to Emmaus, an Upper Room sponsored program, is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders and it is ecumenical. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all." During those four days, I learned, I laughed, I cried, and I experienced Christ in a powerful and fulfilling way. I have been a believer for 32 years, and I can honestly say that this experience was at the top of my spiritual walk. I want to encourage you, men and women, to pray if this might be something that our Lord would have for you. Men's retreats are held on a different weekend than the women's. If any of you are interested, please contact me and I will be blessed and happy to explain more. The Walks are held about 3 times a year.

Your sister in Christ,  
Gail



I wish to thank you so much for the beautiful healing shawl I received from you shortly after my husband's death.

It was so thoughtful of you folks to remember me, and I shall cherish the shawl for the years to come.

In Christian love,  
Elsie Bushor



Dear Friends,

I'm sorry I'm so late in thanking Pastor Steve and Joanie and Bill and Elaine Schultz for their welcome visits during my recent hospital stay. After I came home I came down with the horrible viral infection that has hit Charlotte County. I'm sure I brought that germ home with me from the hospital! I am slowly recovering from that and have enjoyed the beautiful altar flowers all week.

Thanks to all who offered prayers and get well wishes. Our congregation shows so much love and caring and I am so glad to be a sister in Christ with all of you.

Sincerely,  
Veralou Scott



Joyce and I would like to thank our pastor and all our friends of First Presbyterian for their kind expressions of concern and affection since my stroke last October. And also to express our pleasure at receiving such wonderful greetings for my 94th birthday, and our 70th wedding anniversary.

We are anxious to return to the church services, but my recovery continues to be very slow.

Bob and Joyce Kiskaddon



Dear Church family,

Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. When I wrap it around my shoulders I feel your love and caring.

Barbara Shinn

# A MESSAGE FROM BEREAVEMENT MINISTRIES

As God's creatures, it is our collective responsibility to support one another through the walk of life we all must make. It is especially true for us as Christians when we help our fellow church members through the bereavement process that we as a church provide.

To illustrate this point, let me paraphrase a portion of a work by John T. Faris that deals with the importance of following up on things we should do.

A noted editor once noticed a particularly fine achievement by a friend, also an editor. He thought he would write a letter of congratulation to his friend, but he did not get to it right away, thinking his friend would receive many other such letters. Months later, he met his friend and told him that he had intended to write him a letter of congratulation. He went on to admit that he had not gotten around to it, but he was certain that his letter

would be only one of many the friend would have received. His friend asked him how many letters he thought the friend might have received. "Hundreds" he replied. The friend said he would have enjoyed that letter because he actually had received not a one.

How many opportunities does each of us miss or ignore to support one another? Certainly there is opportunity when someone is grieving, but there are countless other times in daily living if we look for them. Praising a friend or family member may be the one action that could change that person's life.

The Meet and Chat group will meet at 10:00am Friday, March 5th. I pray God's blessings on all of you.

Joy Kiser

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## SESSION NOTES

### Highlights from the February 16th Session

- Membership report – After a review and audit, the membership number is as follows: 121 active; 20 affiliate; 9 inactive
- The spring session of Wonderful Wednesday Bible study will be on Philippians, led by Craig Anderson, Wednesday afternoons at 3pm beginning April 21st through May 26th.
- Discussed the need for a publicity coordinator to take care of the publicity for the church. This ministry would include submitting articles to the various newspapers, advertising events, etc. This is an extremely important ministry and will be of great benefit to the church.
- Approved motion to cut the 2010 budget. After much discussion and a line by line evaluation of the 2010 the session made the difficult but necessary decision to cut the 2010 budget as follows. These cuts are effective immediately.

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Amount Cut</u>	<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Amount Cut</u>
Presbytery Mission	\$5,700	Mission Miscellaneous	\$1,000
Duvall Homes	\$ 550	Fellowship Team	\$ 500
Thornwell Home	\$ 550	Evangelism	\$ 900
Beth-El/Misión Peniel	\$2,000	Worship Team	\$ 500
Ministry Team	\$ 100		

Total cuts: \$11,800

- Approved the Statistical Report for 2009 to be sent to the General Assembly offices.
- A 12 hour prayer vigil is scheduled for Saturday, March 19th, 8am to 8pm. A sign-up sheet will be made available.

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session

# GETTING TO KNOW THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY

By Craig Anderson



## Howard & Mary Chamberlain

**H**oward and Mary live on a canal in Punta Gorda Isles (on Mayaguana Ct.) with their sailboat parked outside their back door. They have lived very interesting lives—which have included blue water sailing in the Atlantic and off the coasts of Great Britain and France, as well as in the Caribbean. They have an extensive nautical library and Mary is an avid quilter (with a quilting room to match her enthusiasm). Both had significant involvement in their Presbyterian church in Connecticut. They are delightful people that add much to the richness of our congregation.

### Mary Chamberlain

**Born/grew up:** Arlington Heights, Illinois, a Chicago suburb.

**Fond childhood memory:** Sailing on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

**Education:** Attended Purdue University, Edinburgh University (Scotland) and graduated from Iowa State University (B.S. Home Economics); University of Connecticut (M.A. in sociology).

**How did you and Howard meet?** Blind date arranged by college roommate. We were married in 1959 in Lombard, Illinois.

**Vocation:** Housewife, not retired.

**What brought you to Punta Gorda?** The canals.

**How did you happen to come to our church?** Life-long Presbyterian, so First Presbyterian was a perfect fit.

**How you came to faith in Christ?** High school youth groups and camps.

**Great church memory:** Attending Sunday services in Tobermory, Scotland gave me a real sense of connecting with the “mother church.”

**Service in the church:** Ordained elder and member of the Board of Trustees in our home church of 30 years in West Hartford, Connecticut.

**Favorite hymn:** *How Great Thou Art.*

**Favorite vacation:** Camping trips in the Adirondacks with our three kids.

**Book I'd recommend:** *Into Thin Air* by Jen Krakauer for the volumes it says about faith, human endurance, the beauty of nature, and the nature and challenges of leadership.

**Hobbies/interests:** Quilting (fanatic level), opera, reading (Polar exploration, literary biography, Civil War history, poetry, mysteries).

### Howard Chamberlain

**Born/Grew Up:** Lombard, Illinois (western suburb of Chicago).

**Fond childhood memory:** At age 12, hitting a triple in the town's all-star game.

**Education:** Purdue (BSME – 1957); Harvard University (MBA - 1963).

**Spouse/family:** Mary. Three children – John, Robert & Sarah; 7 grandchildren. We met on a blind date set up by a mutual friend. We were married in 1959 in Lombard, Illinois.

**Vocation:** Retired Businessman.

**Favorite vacation:** Living and sailing in Scotland, France and the Caribbean; sailing across the Atlantic Ocean.

**What brought you to Punta Gorda?** The water and sailing.

**Spiritual journey:** There have been many times in my profession and career when the Holy Spirit has powerfully influenced my decisions.

**Great church memory:** Helping to resolve a serious, long-standing congregational conflict in our northern church.

**What brought you to our church?** After hosting Jerry Iwerks (an interim pastor at this church) in our home, we were moved to join the church.

*Continued on page 8: Getting to Know*

## ◆ GETTING TO KNOW

From page 7

**Service in the church:** Ordained elder and Clerk of Session in our West Hartford, Connecticut Presbyterian Church.

**Favorite Hymn:** *The Navy Hymn (Eternal Father, Strong to Save).*

**Book I'd recommend:** *Admiral of the Ocean Sea* by Samuel Elliot Morrison, the historical study of Columbus' voyage to America. His deep faith empowered him to overcome near insurmountable obstacles and to carry out inspiring feats of leadership.

**Hobbies, interests:** Sailing, travel, reading and genealogy.

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## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

### YEAR ENDING 01/31/10

Income	\$ 19,320
Expenses	\$ 22,930
Difference	\$ (3,610)

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.

### BENCHES

I LOVE A BENCH TO SIT UPON  
AND CONTEMPLATE IN EARLY DAWN.

TO WATCH THE BIRDS FLY TO AND FRO  
AS SUNRISE BRIGHTLY CASTS IT'S GLOW.

A GARDEN BENCH INVITES A REST  
TO VIEW AND SMELL NATURE AT IT'S BEST.

A PORCH BENCH WELCOMING PASSERS BY  
A WAY TO GREET AND JUST SAY "HI."

BENCHES ON THE WATER DOCKS  
AS BIRDS OF ALL KINDS FLY IN FLOCKS.

PARK BENCHES IN THE AFTERNOON.  
A WELCOME TIME FOR GOD TO COMMUNE.

-- NANCY BEASOM



### Congratulations to:

- \* Mary Vincent on the birth of her 10th great-grandchild, Jackson Parker Case, on July 31, 2009. Jackson is the son of Sgt. Brian and April Case of Alice Springs, Australia.
- \* Gail Thornton on the birth of her first great-great-grandson, Jadin Villa, on February 1, 2010. Jadin is the son of Andrea and Jesus Villa.
- \* Dianne Sizemore on the birth of her 9th great-grandchild, Zoe Rae, on February 12, 2010. Zoe is the daughter of Sgt. Ian and Christina Hendricks and is welcomed by her big brother, Devin.
- \* Dave & Debbie Carney on the birth their grandson, David M. Carney III, on February 20th. David is the son of Dave and Nicole Carney of Monroe, NC.

# MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

## COOPER STREET RECREATION CENTER OPPORTUNITY

Mary Vincent has asked for volunteers to help tutor children at the center in the afternoons. She says that they need tutors for approximately 1-1½ hours each day except Fridays. They have three groups of children. One group consists of first, second, & third graders; another group is fourth and fifth graders; and the last group of children are learning the computer. She says this is very rewarding. Call the center and volunteer if this is your passion. The telephone number is 639-3034.

## LOCAL GIFTING SUMMARY

For those of you who have not seen the Annual Mission Team Report, this is what we have done for Charlotte County in the past year.

- Over 2,000 pounds of food to St Vincent de Paul for the hungry, plus \$1,075 for meat. \$1,070 for Thanksgiving gifting, which with their buying power, tripled our donation.
- Baby food, diapers and toiletries to Chara House.
- Bibles donated to girls at Chara House and to Crossroad Wilderness Institute.
- Visiting the Veterans Home. Newspaper subscriptions for the vet's home by one of our small groups during 40 Days of Community.
- Helped with an electric bill for a county resident who was in need.
- Playground equipment, basketball hoop, soccer balls, kickballs and basketballs were given to Homeless Coalition Genesis House.
- Help was given to Still Waters.
- Sneakers and school supplies were collected for Sallie Jones Elementary School.
- Cents-A Bility for food for the hungry was \$62.00.
- A second-year commitment for our Christian brothers and sisters of Wintergarden for \$2,000 was sent to help them to hold things together.
- We had people babysitting at Chara house. We have people serving Meals on Wheels. Several people are volunteering at the hospital and we have tutoring at Cooper Street Recreation.
- We have a member on the Faith Committee for Habitat. We have a member on the YMCA Habitat committee for World Day of Prayer evening venue for the community.

- There are four mentors for Habitat families from the mission team.
- The Deacons Fund has contributed to Habitat Abrahamic build, Genesis House Homeless Coalition, St Vincent de Paul and Chara House. This year we will add Crossroads Wilderness Institute.

If anyone has any questions about any of the above, please feel free to talk to one of the Mission Team members.

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Hooray! We celebrated Souper Bowl Sunday before the big game by donating \$180 and many cans of soup for St. Vincent de Paul to distribute to the hungry in Charlotte County—the food bin was almost overflowing! We can make a difference one can of soup at a time. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

## BOXER SHORTS AND SOCKS

New packages of boxer shorts and socks will be collected for Crossroads Wilderness Institute on March 14th as an Easter present for the boys who are in need. As you may remember, this facility is located east of Punta Gorda. It is a camp that rehabilitates boys who have made the wrong decisions. It is a very worthy cause and they have an 80% success rate.

## FOOD FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY

For the month of March, I suggest we bring cereal for the Food Bin for the Hungry of Charlotte County. We can surely fill the bin each week to overflowing with cereal. All sorts of cereal can be purchased, you choose. Make March cereal month for Charlotte County. Let no child go hungry.

## THORNWELL HOME FOR CHILDREN

Most of the children who come to Thornwell bring with them little more than the clothes on their backs and a deep sense of loss. They look to Thornwell not only for their daily bread but their toothbrushes, socks, books and medical care as well. They also need a safe, loving environment filled with mature adults who can help them release their hurt and discover their value as children of God.

*Continued on page 10: Mission Ministry*



## ◆ MISSION MINISTRY

Such a recovery process is painful and difficult for children who have experienced abuse, neglect, and abandonment. They often turn the blame inward upon themselves to protect the adults who they long to believe are trustworthy.

Children are expensive, especially displaced ones. But their smiles and their love make it all worthwhile. When their stories continue to call us out of our own greed and selfishness, we know God is working through them to change us. The children of Thornwell are a gift from God to you and me. If we choose to stand with them, our lives will be changed from the inside out. This is true spirituality. If you are looking for a meaningful way to share the mission and ministry of Thornwell, your gifts can be sent to:

THORNWELL HOME FOR CHILDREN  
PO BOX 60  
CLINTON, SC 29325-9972

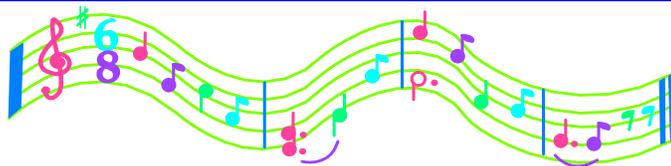
Thank you for all your generosity,  
Dianne Sizemore, Chair, and your Mission Team

*Maundy Thursday - April 1*  
† *7pm Communion Service*

*Good Friday: - April 2*  
† *12pm Communion Service*

*Easter Sunday - April 4*  
† *7:30am Sunrise Service*  
† *9am New Beginnings Worship*  
† *10:30am Traditional Worship*

*Easter Prayer Service - April 4 @6pm*



## MUSIC NOTES

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

**W**ORSHIP is defined by Wikipedia as “an act manifesting a state of religious devotion typically directed to one or more deities. Worship is derived from OLD ENGLISH words meaning “worth-ship”, or giving worth to something. Our God is deserving of all the worship we can give Him.

My favorite way to worship my Lord is through my music. From contemporary to the classics, I feel closer to my God after all the music we do on Sunday, but it is only one form of many types of worship. We should worship Him in everything we do and say all week long. Whether individually or corporately, we should worship or give worth to Him in all we say and do.

We welcome a few new members to our choir over the last few weeks. Remember, all are welcome.

Whether you are here for a few weeks or a few months and miss singing in your home church, we welcome you to join our family for the time you are here. If you love to sing praises to our Lord, you are welcome.

Let’s share the joy and love we have in our worship with others who may need a way back to Christ. Together, let’s fill this place with His love and His people.

In Christ,

# MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

*At the January Session meeting, the following were received as members of our church family*



**SHIRLEY BERG** grew up in Colton, South Dakota and was employed in the accounting department of various offices. She enjoys golf, sewing and quilting. Shirley was raised in the Lutheran church and was a Sunday school teacher, VBS teacher and enjoyed working in the nursery and for the altar guild. She has four children and seven grandchildren.



**ROBERT & DOTTIE BLAKEY** live in Punta Gorda and had been attending Church of the Good Shepherd. Dottie was a teacher in the Boardman, Ohio public schools and Robert was a B.P. Oil Division Manager. Dottie enjoys tennis and going to Curves. Robert was in the U.S. Army and likes to golf and play tennis.



**PAT IHRIE** grew up in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan and was a high school business education teacher for 32 years in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. She enjoys music, quilting, traveling, Mah Jongg, and folk instruments. Pat has three children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren—and all live in the greater Detroit area. She was a Sunday school teacher, deacon, and in the choir.



**ALFRED CHURCHILL** grew up in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts and now lives in Punta Gorda. He spent four years in the Navy and was employed in construction. Alfred enjoys boating and woodworking.



**STANLEY HOINACKI** grew up in Southport, Connecticut and spent three years in the U.S. Army. He was employed as a teacher, data tech, machinist, and engine assembler and enjoys building model boats. Stanley is a former Episcopalian and has two daughters, and 1 and 1/2 grandchildren.



**STANLEY & BARBARA SMITH** were born in Michigan, lived in Massachusetts and now reside in Punta Gorda. They enjoy their summers in New Hampshire. Stan spent 5 years working at Thermo Analytical Instruments, 20 years at Instrumentation Laboratory, 10 years at Jarrell Ash, and 3 years at Ford Motor. He teaches guitar and plays in a dance band. Stan enjoys music, art, orchids, and boating and is in the choir. Barb worked for the Michigan State Police Fingerprint Bureau and Registry of Deeds, and after 17 years, retired from the Concord, Massachusetts school system. She belongs to P.E.O. Sisterhood and Punta Gorda Boat Club and enjoys reading, volunteering, and choral singing. Barb has been singing in church choirs since she was 5 years old.

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# MARCH 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**

**MARCH**

- 1 Joe Cherny
- 2 Al Churchill
- 3 Jean Cleffi
- 4 Ed & Marilyn Combs
- 5 Sam & Carol Crockett
- 6 Irene Csontos
- 7 Randy, Diane, Jill, Daniel, & Michael Curtis
- 8 Robert & Sharon Cuzner
- 9 Donald & Annabelle Deblauw
- 10 Connie Diller
- 11 Dave & Beverly Doupé

**MARCH**

- 12 Don & June Drake
- 13 Millie Drum
- 14 Kathryn Duke
- 15 Elizabeth Dunn
- 16 Helmut & Phyllis Ehrhardt
- 17 Lois Faber
- 18 Chris, Laura, Jonathan, & Timothy Epperly
- 19 Fran Farris
- 20 Sarah Ferry
- 21 Dick & Sandy Fisher
- 22 Frederic & Dee Foerst

**MARCH**

- 23 Robert & Carol Fogg
- 24 Ray & Cheri Foley
- 25 Helen Fowkes
- 26 Arnold & Lois Anne Galbraith
- 27 Paul & Arlene Gebel
- 28 Ron & Neta Gensemer
- 29 Jack & Mary Gilbert
- 30 Margaret Giner
- 31 Frank & Sue Gready

**PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH**



- Ernie Johansen 9
- Don Washabaugh 10
- Marjory McKenzie 18
- Marjory Tisdale 19
- William Luchynsky 28



- Robert & Sharon Cuzner 6
- Gerald & Marge Smith 26

# 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 April issue of *The Messenger* are due in the church office by Monday, March 15th.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto:rpc1220@me.com).

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## EASTER LILIES



We will be decorating the church with Easter lilies again this year. If you would like to donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one, please use the offering envelopes on the back table of the sanctuary, or call the church office.

Suggested donation is \$7 for each lily. A special insert will be published so we need your envelope by March 29th.

## 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 **Tuesday** at Sky View Café at the Punta Gorda Airport. March's meetings will be on the 2nd, 16th, and 30th. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

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## EMAIL UPDATE

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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## BLOOD PRESSURES TAKEN

Blood pressures will be taken on Sunday, March 14th from 9:45am—10:45am.

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## LIVING CROSS



We will be presenting the Living Cross on Easter morning and are requesting flowers for it. You can bring them to the church on Saturday, April 3rd between 1pm-2:30pm and by 10:00am Sunday morning.



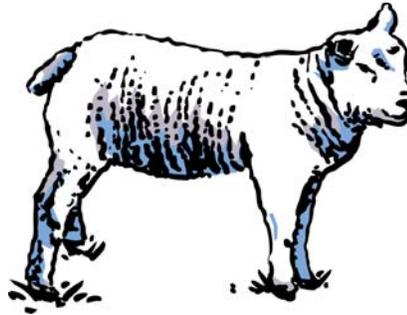
# BIBLE QUIZ



An Old Testament prophet wrote the following words about Jesus: "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."

Who wrote those words?

- A. Amos
- B. Jonah
- C. Jeremiah
- D. Isaiah



Answer: D (See chapter 53, verse 7)



## The Red-Faced Usher

When an elderly woman asked a church usher to seat her close to the pulpit, he tried to talk her out of it. "If you sit up front, you won't be able to sleep," he said.

The woman looked the usher square in the face and asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No, I don't," he responded.

"Well," she said firmly, "I'm the preacher's mother."

Fully embarrassed, the usher asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No," she answered.

"Good!" whispered the fellow. "Sit anywhere you want."



## MEET OUR OFFICERS

### ELDERS

Sharon Cuzner — Ministry	637-1792
Arlene Gebel — Worship	637-8655
Dave Woods — Ministry	456-4876
Marguerite O'Brien — Administration	639-7226
John Truby — Discipleship	637-7407
Joyce Schork — Discipleship	575-9493
Dianne Sizemore — Mission	743-5637
Phyllis Botticelli — Fellowship	637-0445
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



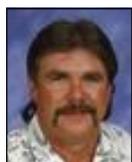
### Pastor

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  
first@fpcpunta.org



### Parish Nurse

Debbie Carney  
carneydeb@hotmail.com



**First Presbyterian Church**

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Website: [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)



**PC(USA)**



**MEMBER, CONFESSING CHURCH**



**A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH**



**A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH**