

# The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA

APRIL 2009



*Maundy Thursday :*  
† 7pm Communion  
Service

*Good Friday:*  
† 12pm Communion  
Service

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

A stylized illustration of the Resurrection. Jesus is shown in the center, wearing a white robe and a blue sash, with his arms outstretched. He is standing in front of an open stone tomb. The background is a mix of yellow and blue, suggesting a bright, divine light. The illustration is done in a sketchy, textured style.

*God  
raised him  
on the  
third day  
and allowed  
him to  
appear....*

Acts 10:40. NRSV



**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*

One of my favorite movies growing up was *Patton* starring George C. Scott based on part of the life of General George S. Patton, Jr. during World War II and up to his death. Patton, also known as "Old Blood and Guts," was one the top armored commanders the U. S. had during the war and one of his most glorious moments came during one of the most important battles of the war in Europe. It was during the Battle of the Bulge when Germany surprised the U. S. Army with an offensive that looked like it was going to set the Allies back considerably. The village of Bastogne was completely surrounded by the Germans and held by the valiant 101st Airborne Division. They were cut off, starving and freezing to death. They needed help and a supply line to keep the Germans from succeeding in their offensive. When Patton was asked by General Dwight D. Eisenhower how quickly he could disengage his 3rd Army from combat on it's front and turn north to relieve the 101st Airborne, he said, "48 hours."

**“Vision shows us where we want to go, how to get there and what it is going to cost”**

him and his army to the amazing relief of Bastogne. His vision caused him to lead from the front, to push his soldiers and attack his enemies so that the enemy's plans would be thwarted and lives saved in Bastogne. That is one example of the power of vision.

Vision shows us where we want to go, how to get there and what it is going to cost. Patton's soldiers may not have liked him, but they believed in his vision, and because of that, were able to accomplish amazing feats on top of the relief of Bastogne.

God has given us a vision. It is on the front of this newsletter and on our Sunday bulletins. It is the vision that the leaders of our church have committed to follow. It is the vision God has called me to set before you. **Loving...Growing...Going...in Jesus!** We believe God is calling us to love Him with all our being and to love each other as Jesus has loved us. We do this through worship and fellowship. We believe He is calling us to grow in



**Pastor Steve**

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## ◆ MOCK'S MUSINGS

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our understanding of Jesus and God's purposes for us through study of the Bible and discovering and developing our areas of ministry so that we can serve God and others with energy and joy. We do this through discipleship and ministry. We believe that God is calling us to go into His world with the message of God's love and salvation through Jesus as well as extending the loving care to the needy and poor among us. We do this through missions and evangelism.

That is our vision. That is what is driving our leadership and ministries of our church. Over the next several Messengers I will touch on each of these aspects of our vision to help us understand where God wants us to go, how to get there and what we need to do to make our vision a reality. Patton's vision enabled his soldiers to do amazing and impossible things. God's vision for First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda will continue to lead us to do amazing and impossible things to His glory and to the blessings of all we touch with His love. It is a great vision based on the 5 purposes of the church that are based on the Great Commandment and Great Commission of Jesus.

If anyone asks you about our church, you can tell them that we are committed to loving, growing and going in Jesus and we'd love for them to join us in our journey.

In Christ,  
*Steve*

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## SESSION NOTES



### Highlights from the March 16th Session

1. Membership report – 123 Active; 21 Affiliate.
2. Property report – SBA loan balance – \$206,546.37. This balance is after the sale of Durrance St. properties. The Harvey St. lot is listed for three months for \$269,000.
3. Presbytery Report – Vote on the change to the Book of Order G6.0106b by our presbytery was 82 noes and 63 yeses.
4. Elected Gail Thornton & Dianne Sizemore as delegates and Marguerite O'Brien as alternate to the May 28th presbytery meeting.
5. Appointed Arlene Gebel & Joyce Schork as the Session representatives on the Nominating Committee. Arlene will chair the committee.

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session

# WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY & SUPER SATURDAY

The Spring session of WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY will begin April 22nd. Elder Sharon Cuzner will lead C.L.A.S.S. 229 - "Does Prayer Make a Difference?" There will be no meals served during the spring and summer sessions. Please come and join anyway.

The last SUPER SATURDAY of the season was held on March 21st. SUPER SATURDAYS will resume on November 21st and will be held on the third Saturday of each month through March 20, 2010. Elder Cy Ling will bring us topics centering on theological issues facing our denomination today.

The nursery has been in use for several Sundays during the past few months. If there are any women in

our congregation who would be willing to help care for the little ones so their parents may attend the church service, please see Jan Wilkinson or myself.

The Discipleship Team is busy planning programs for more WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY classes. There will be a summer class starting in July. We hope you will join us when you are not on vacation. We also hope that you who go north in the summer will have a healthy one. We look forward to seeing you again in the fall. In the meantime, may the Lord look after you while we are absent one from the other.

Joyce Schork and the Discipleship Team

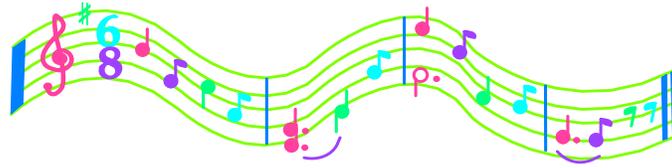


As *The Messenger* goes to press, we are in our final weeks of the **40 Days of Community**. The groups are deeply involved in their individual mission projects and studies. Some have adopted Chara House, a group visited ECHO in N. Ft. Myers, some have visited the veteran's home and one group enlisted the help of Wal-Mart in our all church food drive. Our objective is to have a ton of food to distribute to the hungry in Charlotte County. We are collecting non-perishable food items; leave them in the back of Fellowship Hall. Please help us make this food drive a success! If all will contribute a little, a lot can be achieved.

We will look at the Mission/Ministry projects on Saturday, March 28th at 10:30am. The entire congregation is invited to join the group and group leaders in this Expo. A continental breakfast will be served by the Fellowship Team.

On Sunday April 5th we will celebrate the **40 Days of Community** at 3pm. The entire congregation is invited to join in this celebration.

Meanwhile, the groups continue to meet; we have heard some wonderful "God Moments" that have occurred during this study. And **TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER.**



## MUSIC NOTES

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

**T**hank you for your many compliments about the music at each of our services. I am grateful to God for the talents He has given me and work hard at providing music that brings honor and glory to Him. God gave us all varied and unique talents and I believe it is up to each one of us to use those talents for His glory.

Easter is fast approaching and I have some wonderful music planned. At the New Beginnings Service, our Praise Team will provide two special Easter numbers as will the Chancel Choir during our traditional worship. Easter is always a special time of year and a great Sunday to invite friends and family to worship. Come and celebrate the resurrection with us.

Easter also signals the time when many of you start leaving for northern territories. We are thankful that you chose to worship with us and welcome you into our family. May God continue to bless each of us until we are together again.

In Christ,

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## CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SERVICE SEMINAR 201 (C.L.A.S.S. 201)

*Discovering Spiritual Maturity*

Sunday, April 26th, from 2pm to 5pm

**P**astor Mock will be offering the C.L.A.S.S. 201 *Discovering Spiritual Maturity* on Sunday afternoon April 26th from 2pm to 5pm at the church for anyone interested in learning about the habits that create spiritual maturity. For more information, please contact Pastor Steve at 639-1959. A sign-up sheet can be found on the sign-up table by the west entrance.



Our prayers and sympathy are shared with:

Tom & George (Bill) Steckert and family on the death of their mother, Clara Steckert, who went home to the Lord March 18, 2009.

*"Because I live, you also will live."*

# GETTING TO KNOW THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY

*By Craig Anderson*



**Fred & Joyce Schork**

**F**red and Joyce live on Jones Loop Road in Blue Heron Pines. These dear people have faithfully attended our church since 2003. Joyce is a member of the Session, chairperson of the Discipleship Team and a member of the Prayer Chain. The aging process has brought on a loss of memory for Fred, so understandably it was difficult for him to respond to some of the questions.

## **Joyce M. Schork**

**Born/grew up:** I was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, attended elementary school in Torrington, and moved to my Dad's hometown of Bethlehem at age 12.

**Fond childhood memory:** When my Dad came home from work, before I could read, I would sit on his lap and he would read the funnies and the story of Mrs. Wiggs & the Cabbage Patch to me while mother prepared supper.

**Family:** Fred and I met while I was a student nurse. We were introduced by one of my good friends. We were married in 1946. We had 3 children—Rickie (died in 1954 at age 7), Jim & Marietta. We have 4 grandsons and 1 granddaughter.

**Education:** Graduated from Watertown High School and Waterbury Hospital School of Nursing.

**Vocation:** I am a Registered Nurse and now a retired school nurse from the Bethel, Connecticut Public Schools. At the time of my retirement, I was Head Nurse.

**Great church memory:** Shortly after we moved back to Bethlehem, the deacons of the Congregational Church asked me if I would like to take organ lessons from the church organist at no charge to me. Of course, I took them up on the offer. When I was about 11 years old and attending Sunday School at Second Congregational Church in Torrington on Easter Sunday, the Superintendent came to my class and asked me to play the piano for the worship service. That was the first time. When we moved to Bethlehem, I was the regular pianist for Sunday school. In Bethel, I played the piano for the Junior Choir. We did several cantatas for the congregation.

**Favorite vacation:** Fred and I had an Airstream travel trailer. When we retired, we sold our house and

traveled full time for 14 years. We have been in all 50 states (we cruised to Hawaii) and most of the Canadian provinces.

**Service in the church:** In the Bethel, Connecticut church, I served as Sunday school teacher, Superintendent of Sunday school for 6 years. A Deaconess in Bethel Church and President of the Women's Guild for two years. I also substituted for the organist in Bethel. When we first came to Punta Gorda, we lived in our trailer in Paradise Park on Bermont Road. They have their own church during season, and I played the piano & organ there for 8 years. I am now an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda and chairperson of the Discipleship Team.

**Favorite hymn:** I like many hymns but I think my favorite is a very old one: "An Evening Prayer" ("If I have wounded any souls today..." is the opening line).

**Book I'd recommend:** I like mysteries.

**Hobbies/interests:** Music, reading, knitting, crocheting, Mah Jongg, Pinochle, many board and card games.

## **Frederick B. Schork**

**Born/grew up:** Danbury, Connecticut.

**Favorite childhood memory:** Fred has lost his memory and cannot remember his childhood and some other aspects of his life.

**Family:** See Joyce's comments.

**Education:** A graduate of high school.

**Vocation:** Retired from Barden Corp. in Danbury, Connecticut where he was a maintenance mechanic. Barden made precision ball bearings.

**Great church memory:** Brought up as a Roman Catholic but has attended church with Joyce since they were married. Fred is not a member of our church but attends regularly.

**How did you come to attend our church?** We first came with Helen & Web Travis who we have known for over 30 years through the Airstream Trailer Club.

**Hobbies, interests:** Of course, he used to love to travel pulling their Airstream trailer. Also enjoyed bowling and archery, and playing pool. Now enjoys television and "The Reader's Digest."

# A MESSAGE FROM BEREAVEMENT MINISTRIES

Spring is a time of year when the cold and illnesses of winter are shaken off and new blooms come forth in a random display of color that shows God's awesome majesty. It is a reminder that God is building a new beginning for each of us, His children. Samuel Rutherford uses another example of submission to God's will as a reshaping of us as humans, preparing us for our lives eternal.

May our Lord's sweet hand  
square us and hammer us  
And strike off all kinds of pride,  
self-love, world worship  
And infidelity, so that He can make us  
stones and pillars in His Father's house.

Renewal is a process that is good no matter how you look at it in a productive way. What is your renewal process in the making and what preparation for it are you moving toward? The answer is within you and I ask you to personally search and find it.

There were thirty-four church members who attended the VALENTINE MEMORIAL SERVICE on February 15th. We hope to hold this service each February to celebrate the lives of those who went to our Lord in the past and ask Him to look after them and care for them with His gracious mercy. We plan to expand on this program and provide new agendas during the services in the future.

Our sister, Clara Steckert, went to our Lord on March 18th. We will miss her greatly. May she rest in peace.

"Meet & Chat" will meet at the church in the Conference Room on April 3rd at 10am. All are welcome to attend. God bless you and a wish for a Happy Easter goes out to every one of you.

Joy Kiser

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## 2009 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

### YEAR TO DATE 2/28/09

Income	\$43,937
Expenses	\$42,826
Difference	\$ 1,111

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.

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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 April 6th.

## 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 11th, between 1-2:30pm and by 10:00am Sunday morning.

## Thank You God

Thank you God  
for joyous days  
and memories good of your miraculous ways.

For birds that sing  
and ruffled feather on the wing.

Thank you God  
for friends so dear  
and hearts together thru the year.

For times to treasure  
and moments of pleasure.

Thank you God   
for fish that jump  
upon the river with a thump.

For faces round  
and tables filled with prayful sound.

Thank you God  
for butterflies their wings a swirl  
around the flowers as they swirl.

For rain upon the windowpane  
as all of nature bows its terrain.

Thank you God  
for friendship dear  
and tender hearts of people near.

For those that say  
Christ is the way.

Thank you God.

--Nancy Beasom

# MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

## Deacons' Fund

This year's offerings to the Deacons' Fund will be dispersed to Habitat for Humanity, Chara House, Homeless Coalition Genesis House, and St. Vincent de Paul.

## Brazilian Mission

Our friends from the Brazilian Mission, Simone and Matthew Mckinnon, have sent their thanks for our support and encouragement. They have applied the monies to the ABBA Boys Home. They will be finishing up their work and returning to the USA in June. Matthew will be teaching in New Jersey and doing youth ministry with the local church body. Matthew is a friend of Arlene Gebel's son.

## Immokalee Misión Peniel

The critical needs for Immokalee Misión Peniel are men's pants size 28 to 34, men's jackets up to large in size, men's long-sleeved shirts small to large, regular shoes, sneakers, and work shoes in sizes 6 to 8 1/2. These are all things that are in short supply and they are running out of each Friday. 264 meals were given out on our last trip to Immokalee Misión Peniel and several new volunteers went with us. As we come upon the summer months, some of you who are curious about what goes on there are invited to come along with us. We will be going the fourth Friday of each month.

## Samaritan's Purse

Look for some interesting information on Samaritan's Purse in the coming months. Remember as you go out shopping pick up some small items each week that can be placed in boxes for this Christmas gifting program. I am still corresponding with the child who received my gifting two years ago. This is a great international link in our Mission program.

## Food for Our Community

As 40 Days of Community goes along, please be generous with the food drive but do not forget our food bin which we need to fill each Sunday. More and more folks are becoming unemployed and the needs are becoming critical. We need to help our community so no one goes hungry. Thank you for your generosity!!!!

## Genesis House

Charlotte County Coalition has the homeless center called the Genesis House, where they feed and

house men and woman and a few families. Some of their needs are cleaning supplies, towels, blankets, laundry detergent, DVD movies, & baggies. See Nancy Beasom for a complete list of needs. They also feed other homeless people as well. For a tour contact the Homeless Coalition Executive Director Rebecca Foote at 627-4313.

## Restoration Roads

Anna, the former director for the Charlotte County Coalition, is now director of Restoration Roads at 21350 Stillwater Avenue, Pt. Charlotte, FL 33952. Her office manager is Bonnie Waldrath, 941-204-4180. Restoration Roads is a home for teens 13 to 17 who have no where to live. It is behind the Cultural Center on the next street and is a white new building, which should be completed by May 15th of this year. They need financing to finish the project. Take a tour there and see Anna if you find it in your heart to help.

## Chara House

The staff at Chara House, home for girls and their babies, has been cut due to budget problems. Mentors are needed (they allow men to come and mentor as well now). They have a man that comes to talk to them on Monday nights about finances and budgeting. They would like mentors to come and teach them how to cook (you could stay and eat with them also), visit for an hour or so, and hold a baby or feed a child. To set up a tour or a time to volunteer call Diane Martin at 833-0200. Tell her you are from First Presbyterian Church.

We received a donation for Bibles for Chara House and would like to start a Bible study class there. If anyone is interested in helping with teaching God's word once a week or once every two weeks, please contact Elaine Schultz at 505-8339.

For those who are returning north for the summer, have a great summer. If you hear of a mission program that sounds interesting, we would be open to hearing about it. Have a safe summer and return to us soon because we miss you when you are gone.

Your Mission Chair, Dianne Sizemore, and the Mission Team

# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

**Y**ou are invited to come join us for National Day of Prayer that will be on Thursday, May 7th, sponsored by Habitat and YMCA and their Faith Committee. They are planning to have an evening program again this year that will be at the YMCA Dotzler Outdoor Center on Bayshore Rd., Port Charlotte beginning at 6:00pm. We would like to request your help in letting your congregation know about this event. What better way to celebrate than to join with others in fellowship and prayer and also an added bonus God's wonderful sunset.

Also this year, there will be an opportunity for area churches to participate in an expo at the park prior to the program. Any church group that would like to be included in the table for the ministry of our church, please see Dianne Sizemore or Gail Thornton so that we can plan on space, etc. Thank you for your support.

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## HELPING HANDS MINISTRY STARTS

**W**e are starting the Helping Hands Ministry for people attending our church that are unable to do small jobs around the house. Some of the suggested tasks include: changing light bulbs, changing batteries in smoke alarms, hanging pictures, hanging curtains rods, blinds or curtains, putting up and taking down hurricane shutters, anything needing a ladder, moving some light furniture, lifting and moving boxes. Other requests will be considered on a case by case review.

Tasks such as regular maintenance, cleaning or transportation and computer repair will not be done. However, depending on the request, the coordinator will review it and decide if it fits within the scope of this program.

Please call Paul Gebel, Coordinator, at 637-8655 to make contacts and referrals.

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## THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

“He is not here; He has risen, just as He said!” Matthew 28:6

### MAINTAIN YOUR BRAIN!

**T**he brain is so obviously made by God...It's complexity is unbelievable! The brain is estimated to have 100 billion nerve cells and more connections in it than there are stars in the universe. A piece of brain tissue the size of a grain of sand contains up to 100,000 neurons and 1 billion synapses, all talking to one another. If you don't care for your brain you can lose up to 85,000 brain cells a day.

Here are some steps to build brain cells:

1. Learn something new (mental exercise) and establish and maintain friendships. Thus, coming to our monthly **Lunch 'n Learn** events can qualify as help in achieving this goal. Plus the food is pretty good. This month we are welcoming Dr. Robert Watine, a new internal medicine physician in our town. He is well-known to our church as he is credited with saving the life of one of our members, with help from the Lord! **Dr Watine will talk about, “Feeling Young Again,” also called Age Management or Quality of Life Medicine.** The date is Tuesday, April 14th at 11:30am.
2. Keep your blood pressure below 120/80. Come to our blood pressure screening from 9:45-10:45am on Sunday April 19th to learn your numbers.
3. Protect your brain- wear helmets, seat belts and STAY OFF THE ROOF!

*Continued on page 12*

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## What is Presbyterian Women and what do they do?

Someone asked me recently, "What is Presbyterian Women and what do they do?" Every woman in the Church is a member of Presbyterian Women, although most do not participate in the actual functions. In the past, most Presbyterian Women groups were made up of "Circles" consisting of 10 to 12 women who met monthly or weekly for Bible study, prayer, or to quilt. Then once a month, they all met together for a covered dish lunch.

Our meetings began with prayer, then lunch and then devotions. We had a short meeting with each Circle reporting what they were currently doing, followed by a program of some kind. We've had ECHO, the Duvall Home, the Parish Nurse, and Meals on Wheels for our programs. After fellowship, we closed with our hands linked in a closed circle repeating, "May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other."

Our Presbyterian Women magazine is *Horizons* and is used as a guide to Bible study and also provides information on our birthday and thank offerings. We also sponsor Blanket Sunday for the entire congregation in January each year.

Our present officers are: Moderator, Phyllis Botticelli; Vice-Moderator, Connie Diller; Secretary, Connie Johansen; Treasurer, Joan Hoffman; Devotions, Birthday and Thank Offerings, Barbara Smith. The Historian and nominating committees are appointed by the officers.

We are independent from the church as far as our budget, and are responsible for raising the money needed to cover our yearly expenses, which are about \$1,000. We pay \$100 each to the following: Beth-El, Church Women United, STAR, CARE, Meals on Wheels, and Duvall Home. We also give the church staff (custodian and office manager) gifts at Christmas. In addition, we are obligated to Presbytery for a mission

pledge of \$250 and a per-capita fee for each woman in the congregation. This is revised from the 2007 budget of \$1,402, as we did not have a rummage sale this year.

We have also supplied the kitchen with table cloths, dishes and silverware over the years. If funds allow, we also help the following organizations: Habitat for Humanity, ECHO, Good Samaritans and Chara House. We earn money for these projects with rummage and bake sales, cook books, free-will offerings, remunerations from memorial receptions, and finally our Cash-4-Empties (used ink cartridges).



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

Active membership in Presbyterian Women has declined drastically in the past few years, not only in this church but area churches as well. This is somewhat due to Hurricane Charley and also by the loss of many senior members due to illness, death, or moving back to live with children. Port Charlotte and Wintergarden Presbyterian Women meet together monthly. Some churches have gone to meeting every three months. We are open to suggestions on how to improve attendance. Some suggestions we have discussed are knitting, quilting, Mah Jong circles, and Bible study groups (although ALL Circles should be based on Bible study and prayer).

Our Birthday and Thank Offerings through Peace River Presbytery and Synod of South Atlantic provide grants for deserving organizations. We have nominated Chara House this year.

Writing this article has clarified my thinking of what Presbyterian Women is and what we do as witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. I hope it does the same for you!

In Christ,  
Phyllis Botticelli,  
Presbyterian Women Moderator

# DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED A SCHOLARSHIP?

## Educational Scholarship Application Guidelines

1. Applicant must have a high scholastic standing of a “B” average or better.
2. Applicant must be a full time resident of the State of Florida.
3. Applicant must have the acceptance of desired college.
4. Applicant must be approved by Session for any grant or loan.
5. Applicant or family must be active members of First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda.
6. Needed are:
  - Church application with letter of intent for educational plans and goals (must be typed).
  - A copy of current school transcripts.
  - A record of prior academic work, i.e., high school diploma or equivalent, a copy of test scores, i.e., Scholastic Aptitude Test, American College Test, or GED Equivalency Test.
  - Three letters of recommendation, i.e., Guidance Counselor, Principal or teacher, clergy, business/ professional person.
  - An interview with Scholarship Committee.
7. The amount of the Scholarship will be based on qualifications and available funds.
8. Applicants to be considered should be seeking full accredited programs relating to Christian Discipleship.

Applicants are strongly urged to apply for additional financial aid if they have additional needs. Applicant must show ability to have appropriate funds (including scholarship funds) to complete scholarship year. Any funds will be paid upon matriculation. Dates of application submission will be discussed with applicant.

Scholarship Committee:

Phyllis Botticelli, Chair, Rachel Pfaender and Cy Ling

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### ♦ MAINTAIN YOUR BRAIN

*From page 10*

4. Stop poisoning your brain- with smoking, alcohol, drugs, cleaning solutions.
5. Develop good sleep habits.
6. Use nutrients such as good quality fish oil, ginkgo biloba, Co Q10, sage, and B vitamins, especially vitamin B-12.
7. Eat a low fat diet with complex carbohydrates, fruits like blueberries and vegetables.
8. Exercise- This IS the Fountain of Youth! Exercise increases blood flow to the brain. Exercise 4-5 times a week.
9. Appreciate life- “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.” Philippians 4:8
10. Appreciate other people and help them.
11. Learn brain-healthy ways to deal with pain and depression and anxiety. Do deep-breathing exercises.
12. Read your Bible!

See [www.amenclinics.com](http://www.amenclinics.com) for more information on this subject and to take a FREE test to check your memory. Talk to me for articles pertaining to this subject.

Happy Easter! Because He lives!  
Debbie Carney

# MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

*At a special March Session meeting, the following were received as members of our church family*



**KAY CALLAHAN** grew up in Lebanon, Virginia and now lives in Punta Gorda with a puppy named Kassie. Before retirement, Kay was an executive secretary. She likes to cook, sew, garden, and read.



**RONALD & ANNEMARIE KLEIN** hometowns were in Indiana. Annemarie came from Evansville, and Ron from Vincennes. They both enjoy boating, gardening, and traveling. Annemarie also likes antiquing. Ron was a Deacon at United Church of Christ and Annemarie was in the choir and taught Bible and Sunday school.



**EDWINA NORTON** is a part-time member of First Presbyterian. Her other affiliation is Onondaga Valley Presbyterian Church in Syracuse, New York where she was a Deacon. She grew up and still resides in Fayetteville, New York. Edwina enjoys natural history, music, and antiquing. She spent 28 years working in Ophthalmic Dispensing and 25 years in real estate sales.



**BRUCE & MYRNA PETERS** are part-time residents of Lake Suzy, Florida. Bruce's hometown was Bridgeport, Michigan, and Myrna's was Spokane, Washington. Bruce spent 4 years in the Air Force and then worked 34 years for the Foremost Insurance Group. He has 1 child and 1 grandchild. Myrna owned A & A Attorney Services, Inc. and has 5 children and six grandchildren. They both like to travel. Bruce also enjoys golf and Myrna enjoys reading and the theater.



**BETTY STROTH** has been a long-time attendee of First Presbyterian Church. She is a retired registered nurse and lives with her husband, Leonard in Port Charlotte.

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## CHURCH LIBRARY HAS BOOKS BY JOHN ORTBERG

Some books you read and you become carried along with a plot or theory from the author's pen. Other books you read with a pen in hand to capture on paper the profound thoughts the author is giving you. Such are the books by John Ortberg, the author of 5 new books in our library as well as the author of two of the last studies we have done on Wonderful Wednesdays.

In his book *God is Closer Than You Think*, Ortberg uses a chapter to take us through an ordinary day with Jesus, learning daily to develop a faith that strengthens our soul. Using his gift for storytelling and down-to-earth humor, Ortberg shows us how an intimate relationship with God really works. God continues to give us "Rainbow Days" by showing himself in unexpected ways.

In another chapter he refers to the movie *A Beautiful Mind* and Ortberg suggests how to cultivate the kind of mind that is responsive to God's presence and voice. God plants thoughts directly into our minds and

speaks to us through others and through scripture. What makes a mind beautiful he states, "Stored goodness that overflows in a beautiful life." Make your mind the dwelling place of God. *GOD Is Closer Than You Think*. I challenge you to read this or any one of Ortberg's inspiring books. If you need any help in finding what you want, use the card catalog and look up Ortberg. Or call me (Connie Johansen, 637-5787) and I will try to help you.

A big thank you to Gail Thornton who has consented to take care of the library books while Nancy and I are away this summer.



*To everyone, especially Pastor Mock,  
I'd like to thank everyone for their support during my recent illness and recovery.*

*Sincerely,  
Christina Hutchinson*



*Dear one and all,*

*There are no words to say thank you for the beautiful flowers. It was such a big surprise!! They were so beautiful. You have made my prayers complete. And then the beautiful prayer shawl. I just love it and have been using it. You have made my recovering so much better—thanks, thanks. May God bless everyone of you for all prayers and thoughts. It made my healing so much easier. I will never forget any of you. All of you are my angels.*

*Love and prayers,  
June Drake*



*Thanks to all of you who sent cards, called, and visited me in the hospital. God is so good and I'm doing well.  
Phyllis Ehrhardt*

## LUNCH 'N LEARN

Our next Lunch 'n Learn will be on Tuesday, April 14th, with Dr. Robert Watine as our speaker. Dr. Watine is a new Internist in Punta Gorda. He will talk about "Feeling Young Again," also called Age Management or Quality of Life Medicine. You don't want to miss this program! Seats are limited so sign-up today for this **FREE** lunch and program on the sheet on the table in the church entrance.

# APRIL 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; 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**

**APRIL**

- 1 Patricia Bird
- 2 Robert & Dorothy Blakey
- 3 Dorothy Blue
- 4 Lynda Borg
- 5 Dick & Phyllis Botticelli
- 6 Bob & Maribeth Brakvill
- 7 Lloyd & Loriania Brenton
- 8 Erma Brown
- 9 Jim & Marion Brown
- 10 Kay Callahan
- 11 Marceline Carlock

**APRIL**

- 12 David & Debbie Carney
- 13 William & Mary Carrier
- 14 Howard & Mary Chamberlain
- 15 Joe Cherny
- 16 Jean Cleffi
- 17 Pauline Cohoe
- 18 Ed & Marilyn Combs
- 19 Sam & Carol Crockett
- 20 William Crowe
- 21 Irene Csontos
- 22 Randy, Diane, Jill, Daniel, & Michael Curtis

**APRIL**

- 23 Robert & Sharon Cuzner
- 24 Donald & Annabelle Deblauw
- 25 Ellis & Martha Deibler
- 26 Connie Diller
- 27 David & Beverly Doupe
- 28 Don & June Drake
- 29 Millie Drum
- 30 Kathryn Duke

## PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL



- |                  |    |                      |    |
|------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Mary Gilbert     | 3  | Andrew Smith         | 20 |
| Phyllis Ehrhardt | 4  | Carolyn Kvam-Hansman | 22 |
| David Doupe      | 5  | Nancy Smith          | 23 |
| Edwina Norton    | 5  | Dick Fisher          | 25 |
| Jean Humphreys   | 9  | Anna Hill            | 28 |
| Ella Sifferd     | 9  | Terry Stinebuck      | 28 |
| Beverly Doupe    | 14 |                      |    |



Happy Anniversary!

- |                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Cy & Marcia Ling      | 20 |
| George & Joan Hoffman | 28 |
| Jerry & Nancy Julius  | 29 |

**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 May issue of *The Messenger* are due in the church office by Wednesday, April 15th.

## 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.

## BLOOD PRESSURES TO BE TAKEN

Blood pressures will be taken on Sunday, April 19th from 9:45am—10:45am.



When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?" Her response, "Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"

## 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 Brenda's Restaurant (across from the church). April's meetings will be on the 1st, 15th and 29th. 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, April 14th, from 8am to 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.



# BIBLE QUIZ



A New Testament book contains the following words spoken to a crowd: "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses." Who said those words?

**"This Jesus  
God raised up,  
and of that all  
of us are  
witnesses."**

**Acts 2:32, NRSV**

- A. Paul
- B. Peter
- C. John
- D. Luke

Answer: B (See Acts 2:32, NRSV.)

## TRIVIA

- ◆ "We gave the Cross, when we owed the Throne."  
—Robert Browning
- ◆ "Too many people want to have Easter without Calvary."  
—L.P. Jacks
- ◆ "The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise."  
—Carl Knudsen
- ◆ "Speak kind words and you will hear kind echoes."  
—Bahn



### SEEN IN CHURCH BULLETINS—

- ☺ The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- ☺ Low Self Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.
- ☺ The 8th graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.



# APRIL



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																										
<b>5</b>  9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Prayer Service	<b>6</b> 3:30pm Worship Team	<b>7</b> 6:00pm Praise Team	<b>8</b> 1 8:00am *R.O.M.E.O.S Praise Team 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 9:30am "Skinny Minis" 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service  MAUNDY THURSDAY	<b>10</b> 12:00pm Good Friday Communion Service  GOOD FRIDAY	<b>4</b> 10:00am Bereavement "Meet & Chat"																																										
<b>12</b>  7:00am Sunrise Service 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 10:30am Worship	<b>13</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>14</b> 8:00—10:00am Grounds Beautification Party 11:30am Lunch 'n Learn 1:30pm Discipleship Team 3:00pm Mission Team	<b>15</b> 8:00am *R.O.M.E.O.S 	<b>16</b> 9:30am "Skinny Minis" 5:30pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>																																										
<b>19</b> 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 9:45-10:45am Blood Pressures Taken 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Prayer Service	<b>20</b> 10:00am Fellowship Team 2:00pm Session	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  7:00pm Wonderful Wednesday Bible Study	<b>23</b> 9:30am "Skinny Minis" 5:30pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 12:00pm Mission Trip to Immokalee	<b>25</b>																																										
<b>26</b> 9:00am <i>New Beginnings</i> Worship 10:30am Worship 2:00pm C.L.A.S.S. 201 6:00pm Prayer Service	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8:00am *R.O.M.E.O.S 7:00pm Wonderful Wednesday Bible Study	<b>30</b> 9:30am "Skinny Minis" 9:30am Acts 16:5 Seminar @ Wintergarden PC 5:30pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	*Retired <u>Old</u> Men <u>Eating</u> <u>Out</u> Someplace	May 2009 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>31</td> </tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	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	29	30							31
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## 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
Helen Travis — Hospital Visitation	639-3067
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



**First Presbyterian Church**

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Punta Gorda, Florida 33950



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**PC(USA)**



**MEMBER, CONFESSING CHURCH**



**A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH**



**A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH**