



# The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PUNTA GORDA  
FLORIDA - ECO: A COVENANT ORDER OF EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIANS

APRIL 2013



## 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.*

Stay connected when you're away. Watch our worship service LIVE! Go to our website at: [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org) and click on the link "Watch services LIVE here" on our homepage.

## MOCK'S MUSINGS

Rev. Stephen A. Mock, Pastor



**H**e is risen! Our Savior is alive and because He lives, we who put our faith and trust in Him will live forever. Easter is the season of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus and new life. Through faith in His life, death and resurrection we all receive new life. We are new creatures in Christ and as the old Avery and Marsh song goes, "Every morning is Easter morning from now on." Every day is a new day full of opportunities and experiences of God's love and power. Every day holds for us endless possibilities to share Jesus' love. Through the forgiveness of

sins, when we confess those sins, the slate is wiped clean, and we can put the past behind us and move freely into God's future for us. Every

***"We are trusting that God is leading us and we will go wherever and do whatever He wants."***

day is a new day to live the new life we have through the resurrected Jesus. That is why His resurrection is so important and why we celebrate. Alleluia, Christ is risen! Let us rejoice and be glad that Jesus has made all things new! Speaking of new...

At the February 28th meeting of Peace River Presbytery, our congregation and Pastor Steve were officially dismissed to A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), Presbytery of the East. We now begin our new journey, our new life, in a new denomination. In the coming

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months you will be hearing more about the new opportunities in ministry and mission coming our way in ECO. There are currently 39 congregations in ECO and many more in the process of joining. Our church is the tenth congregation to join from Florida and soon a presbytery of just Florida ECO churches will be created.

A decision on the property is still to be worked out. After gathering and sending requested information to the Administrative Commission (AC) to make sure all bases are covered, the AC will meet with the Session to discuss what to recommend to Peace River Presbytery regarding the disposition of the property. It is important to understand that the presbytery has the final say regarding the property and can overrule the AC's recommendation. Whatever recommendation the AC offers, if it involves a payment of funds, the Session will call a congregational meeting to discuss their recommendation and seek the congregation's approval or disapproval. No decision or recommendation will be accepted without the congregation voting on it. The presbytery should vote on the property settlement at their May 23rd meeting at Siesta Key Chapel on Siesta Key, Sarasota.

We are trusting that God is leading us and we will go wherever and do whatever He wants. Pray that His will be done and that He will allow us to continue to use this property for continuing worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and mission.

In Christ,

*Steve*

## SESSION NOTES



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH 18TH SESSION

- Continued our study of the book *In the Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day* by Pastor Mark Batterson.
- Met with and received into membership as covenant partners: Sue and Larry Mesler, Donna and Dick Peterson and Rich Handschumacher.
- Discussed current financial situation and will have the Finance Team make recommendations of possible cuts in our 2013 budget.
- Called a special congregational meeting to amend our Articles of Incorporation and By-laws for Sunday, April 21st after the second worship service.
- Approved granting Steve's requests for study leave (April 5-7) to attend an ECO conference on church planting and vacation (April 2-4 and 8-14).
- Still gathering requested information for the Administrative Commission to help determine a settlement for our property that should be voted on by Peace River Presbytery at its May 23rd meeting.

Session:  
Nancy Beasom  
Joe Cherny  
Joan Hoffman  
Marguerite O'Brien  
Elaine Schultz  
Dianne Sizemore  
Gail Thornton  
Diane Truby  
Dave Woods

Moderator:  
Pastor Steve Mock  
Clerk of Session:  
Gail Thornton

Dianne Sizemore, Clerk of Session Pro-Tem



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## BIBLE STUDY TO RESUME IN APRIL



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, April 16th. We will start off the spring session with a study of Jezebel – *The Sin of Being a Stumbling Block*. This is chapter 8 in our study guide. If you have not attended this bible study before, at each session we look at one woman in the Bible so that each study is complete onto itself. The study is open to all women of our church and guests, starts at 10am and is held at the home of Robert and Sharon Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande, PGI. The study last about 1½ hours with time for fellowship and refreshments.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S APRIL MEETING

All women of the church are invited to our next meeting on **Saturday, April 13th at 11am**. Mary Kasbohm has offered to present a program on Todd Burpe's book, HEAVEN IS FOR REAL — a little boy's astounding story of his trip to heaven and back. It is recommended that we read the book prior to the program. "HEAVEN IS FOR REAL is a wonderful book. It reaffirms how important faith is in our lives - for children and adults." — Timothy P. O'Halloran, MD

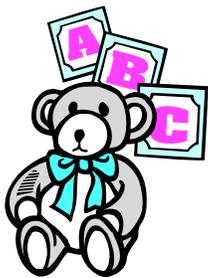
Please bring sandwiches or a salad to share. Dessert will be provided.

## PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

Prayer shawl gatherings meet on the second Monday of the month in Fellowship Hall. The next one will be on **April 8th at 10am**. Since we have quite an inventory of prayer shawls, we are working on little blankets for Project Linus until such time as more shawls are needed. Come join us, and if you would like to learn to knit or crochet, we would be happy to teach you.

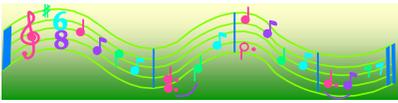
## PRICELESS TREASURES TABLE

Our PRICELESS TREASURES TABLE in Fellowship Hall is an ongoing fundraiser for use in our outreach projects. Please check it out. You are encouraged to bring household goods and appliances in good working order, toys, general-interest books, CDs, DVDs, and decorative items. Please - no clothing. If you find a "Treasure" that you would like to take home, just put your donation in the container provided.



### Congratulations to:

- ♥ Diane Truby on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Madalyn Jo Mooney on February 25th. Madalyn's proud parents are Kevin & Jessica Mooney of Riverside, Florida.
- ♥ Al and Helina Churchill on the birth of their grandson, Alfred Nelson Churchill IV on February 26th. Alfred's proud parents are Alfred and Brook Nelson Churchill III.
- ♥ Gail Thornton on the birth of her great-grandson, Grady Weiss on March 4th. Grady's proud parents are Nick and Holly Weiss. This is Gail's 15th great-grandchild.
- ♥ Bob and Jean Humphreys on the birth of their great-grandson, Gage Angelo Wagner on March 24th. Gage's proud parents are granddaughter, Shauna McNulty and Ambrose Wagner.



## MUSIC NOTES



**B**y the time this newsletter is published we will have already celebrated another Holy Week and Easter. What an emotional time of the year it is for many of us. From the depths of sorrow and despair to the miracle of all miracles on Easter Sunday, it reminds me of the old saying, "It may be Friday, but Sunday's coming."

It's hard to believe that we have been in our present location for 7 years now. It seems like yesterday that we moved in and had our first service here. In June, I will have been at this Church for 9 years, and it is hard to believe it's been that long. We worshipped together for 2 months on Harvey St. before Hurricane Charley and our move to the Fellowship Hall at Burnt Store Presbyterian. I have been in two previous churches for 9 years each but have never been anyplace longer than 9 years. I guess we will break that string because I can't see myself anyplace but right here.

This is the most caring and loving congregation that I have ever been a part. I'm honored to lead your Choir and Praise Team even though they sometimes are a bit of a challenge. We have a lot of fellowship in our time together and all share a common goal of singing for His glory. My goal is fill the empty chairs in our choir area, and I won't give up on the goal until it is accomplished. You who should be sitting up front know who you are and where you should be sitting on Sunday mornings.

Week after week, the Praise Team and Sanctuary Choir make me look like I actually know what I'm doing. I can't thank each of them enough for their faithful service to our music program. Truly God has called us together for His kingdom. Like our move to ECO, it is a New Beginning for our Church and the possibilities are endless. Hopefully we will remain in this location, but in the long run, it really doesn't matter. We are His servants and if He has other plans for us, we need to faithfully follow.

Whatever happens in our future, it will be His will and not ours. May we always bring honor and glory to Him in all we do, and may we always find the will to trust in His will for each of us and for His church.

For Him,

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.*

Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

## BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. LARRY YERGER

**N**ow that you've spent 40 Days in the Word with Rev. Rick Warren and have learned some techniques for solo Bible study, come and discover insights into Scripture you have never encountered before with a group of fellow inquirers led by Rev. Larry Yerger.

We will resume our Wednesday meetings beginning **April 24th at 10am** at the Church. We will be picking up where we ended prior to Lent with Genesis Chapter Six. All are welcome to attend, regardless of depth in Scriptural knowledge or previous experience in Bible study. Don't be shy—we are all friends here.



- PV2 Alexander Fogg, grandson of Bob & Carol Fogg, stationed at Fort Polk, LA.
- Captain Ryan Hobert, Army-23rd Infantry, grandson of Mel & Rose Ann Hobert, 2nd deployment to Iraq.
- CW5 Donald L. Washabugh, Jr., Army, son of Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh, stationed in the Pentagon.
- Capt. John McPherson, Air Force, grand nephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed at Scott Air Force Base, IL.
- Capt. Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Fred & Rachel Pfaender, stationed at Ft. Hood, TX.
- 1st Lt. John Mock, Army, nephew of Steve & Joanie Mock, stationed at Ft. Benning, GA.
- Jacob K. Crockett, Army, grandson of Sam & Carol Crockett, stationed at Baylough, Afghanistan.
- Sgt. Jason Douglas, Marines, step-grandson of Mary Stones, stationed in Afghanistan.
- Caleb Driggers, Army, step-grandson of Fred & Diane Tabert, stationed in South Korea.
- Staff Sgt. Sarah Blackburn, Air Force, stationed in Spokane, WA.

## Prayer for Our Military

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all.  
Amen.

Do you have a family member serving in the military? If so, we'd like to add them to the newsletter prayer list. Fill out the form that's on the sign-up table in the church entrance and place in the HELMET or let the church office know.



### Our prayers and sympathy are shared with:

- † Marguerite O'Brien and family whose grandson, Simon Dokouzian, went home to the Lord March 12, 2013.
- † Joyce Kiskaddon and family on the passing of her husband, Dr. Robert "Bob" Kiskaddon on March 24, 2013 in Pennsylvania.

*"Because I live, you also will live."  
John 14: 19b*

# THE POET'S CORNER

## A NEW BEGINNING

LIKE A FLOWER'S  
BLOOM IN SPRING.  
LIKE A CHOIR  
WE HEAR LIFE SING.

LIKE WITH A NEWBORN  
SPIRITS SOAR  
LIKE A WELCOMING  
OPEN DOOR.

NOW OUR CHURCH  
BECOMES A BUD.  
OPENING GLORIOUSLY  
WITH NEW BLOOD.

WE ARE CALLED  
TO HONOR THE WORD  
WITH THE TRUTH  
LET IT BE HEARD.

JOIN US NOW  
AS WE GO TO SEARCH  
PEOPLE IN NEED  
TO JOIN OUR CHURCH.

— NANCY BEASOM



## SEASONING

AS WINTER'S WEB OF SADNESS  
IS PARTED BY THE SUN;  
AND RAINDROPS CLING LIKE DIAMONDS  
SPRING HAS JUST BEGUN.

AS SINS WRONG WEB OF SADNESS  
IS PARTED BY THE SON;  
AND CRIMSON DROPS GIVE PROMISE  
LIFE HAS JUST BEGUN.

— GEORGIA CHERNY

# THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*  
John 8:12

**I**t is time for the annual observance of the National Day of Prayer on **Thursday, May 2nd 12 noon** at the City Hall Annex, across the street from our old church. The theme this year is PRAY FOR AMERICA, inspired by Matthew 12:21: "In His name the nations put their hope." Pastor Steve will be one of our praying pastors. Please do try and come.

Our street where I live, Sorrento Court, had a very sad event happen recently. A lovely and quiet couple died in a house fire that was never detected until many hours later. The fire extinguished itself and there were no visible signs of fire for neighbors to see and possibly call 911 for help. I talked to Chief Ray Briggs about this incident and what we can learn. He said this couple had no working fire detector, which may have saved their lives. Chief Briggs said the heightened awareness since this tragic event has kept the firemen busy helping folks beef up their smoke detectors. Chief Briggs said the type of smoke detector doesn't matter but it should be UL certified and folks must read and follow the manufacturer's instructions. The city recommends one smoke detector on every level of your home and one smoke alarm inside each sleeping room.

We all know the best time to change a smoke detector's battery is when we change our clocks in the spring and the fall. I was confused as my smoke detectors have electric hookup as well. Chief Briggs told me if there is an electrical fire the smoke alarms will not work. There must be a 9 volt battery in it for backup. He suggests checking the smoke alarm monthly. No need to get out a ladder to do this but use the end of a broom to hear its alarm. He jokingly said you can check the smoke alarm near the kitchen with some over-cooked food.

If you live in the City of Punta Gorda and do not have a working smoke alarm, you can get one for free. Also, the firemen will be happy to change the batteries on your smoke alarm but you must supply the batteries. Call 575-5529 for this free service in the city or 833-5600 if you live outside the city limits. The firemen have a saying, "We can help you change your batteries or we will pick you up off the floor when you fall. Either way you get to see a fireman." Finally, Chief Briggs said that communities and condos are setting up pre-planned dates for the firemen to come and change all the batteries for those interested in the community and this plan is really convenient for the firemen.

One thing I noticed immediately on my neighbor's house after their fire, besides their American flag, were their hurricane shutters still being on the windows in March. Chief Briggs said that hurricane shutters could make a difference, if there is no escape route out of a bedroom window during a fire. His firemen tell folks to keep shutters off bedroom windows until a hurricane is predicted. Always have an alternate escape route.

Elaine and Bill Schultz wanted folks to know about an incident that happened to them. Elaine smelled smoke recently coming from her dryer. She looked in the telephone book and found Gary Drake Dryer Vent Cleaning Service, which she called. Gary promptly arrived and cleaned and vacuumed out the dryer vent, which was totally clogged. Elaine was grateful that a fire was prevented and wanted everyone to be aware of this potential hazard. His charge is \$49.00; if five families get the service at the same time it's discounted to \$44.00. The State of Florida recommends that dryer vents be cleaned yearly due to the high humidity. His phone number is 889-7596 or 204-6468.

Mrs. Drake gave me some tips on how to know if your dryer vent is clogged:

- Clothes taking longer than one cycle to dry, especially jeans and towels
- No lint visible on the lint dryer screen
- Dryer stopping during a cycle
- Clothes having a moldy smell
- Clothes HOT after a dryer cycle completes
- Top of dryer HOT to touch
- Excess lint left on your clothes

*Continued on page 8: Parish Nurse*

◆ **PARISH NURSE** *From page 7*

If anyone would like to attend the 12th Annual Southwest Conference on Aging on **Friday, April 5th** at the Broadway Palm Theatre, see the brochure near the monthly newsletters in the church entrance or give me a call.

In need of a doctor, again give me a call.



Because He lives!

Debbie Carney, RN, Parish Nurse, carneydeb@hotmail.com, 637-9389, 456-6804.

## MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

### HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL

#### Rice and Pinto Beans

**T**hank you for your generous gifts of rice and pinto beans. We collected 135 lbs. of rice and 45 lbs. of pinto beans. Your gifts will help to feed the families of Immokalee this month. We will continue collecting rice and pinto beans on the **2nd Sunday of each month**. Thank you for your generous hearts.

#### Mission Trip to Immokalee

Misión Peniel is serving an average of 600 meals each Friday. If you want to go and help, please contact Dianne Sizemore at 743-5637 or call the church office. We go the fourth Friday of each month, carpooling from the church at 12:30pm. Our next trip will be **Friday, May 24th** (there will be no trip in April).

### HELPING THE COMMUNITY

Our "Blue Bin" for the St. Vincent de Paul seems to be nearly full on Sundays. By donating to it, you are "helping no child go hungry in Charlotte County." For this, the community thanks you.

### CROSSROADS MINISTRY

Our contributions for Crossroads AMI Kids pottery program was \$1,374. That is enough to get the programs started. If anyone would like to donate to this program, please pick up an envelope in the church entrance and place your dollars or your check in it, mark the envelope for pottery, and place it either in the collection plate on Sunday or send it to the church office.

Crossroads is now running electric and water and setting up the kiln. The Beasoms are excited to be able to work with the boys in this exciting project. Thank you for your generosity!!!

If you have a talent you could share with the Crossroads AMI Kids or you would like to help with tutoring the boys, please place your name, phone number and talent on the list in the church entrance. They now have around 14 boys and their capacity will be 24.

Thank you from your Mission Team: Dianne Sizemore, Chair, Gail Thornton, Georgia Cherny, Laurel Aumend, Nancy Smith, Mary Vincent, Ron and Nancy Beasom, Bill and Elaine Schultz.



#### Jim Brown

3946 Crooked Island Drive  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

E-mail: jabvirgo@live.com

#### Marion Brown

Royal Palms  
2500 Aaron St. #326  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

#### Joyce Kiskaddon

Penn Hall Manor  
1425 Philadelphia Ave #316  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Telephone: (717) 261-4032

# APRIL 2013 CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders - We pray for....

*The elderly, the infirm, the hospitalized, those in nursing homes, the homebound and lonely, and all those who have requested our prayerful support.*

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

**APRIL**

- 1 Fred & Rachel Pfaender
- 2 Don & Joyce Rebholz
- 3 Ed & Phyllis Richardson
- 4 Thomas & Shirley Richey
- 5 Gayle Rosa
- 6 Barbara Ryan
- 7 Charles Sampsel
- 8 Bill & Elaine Schultz
- 9 Walter & Veralou Scott
- 10 Barbara Shinn
- 11 Dave & Ella Sifferd

**APRIL**

- 12 Lorraine Sisson
- 13 Dianne Sizemore
- 14 Andrew & Nancy Smith
- 15 Gerald & Margie Smith
- 16 Stan Smith
- 17 Mae Snyder
- 18 Mary & Sarah Stones
- 19 Anne Swift
- 20 Fred & Diane Tabert
- 21 Gail Thornton
- 22 Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale

**APRIL**

- 23 Diane Truby
- 24 Mary Vincent
- 25 Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh
- 26 Doug & Esther Wheeler
- 27 Ed & Pam Williams
- 28 Vern & Marlene Wilson
- 29 Dave & Barbara Woods
- 30 Bob & Natalie Wylie



- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 04—Phyllis Ehrhardt | 20—Andy Smith      |
| 05—Edwina Norton    | 22—Carolyn Hansman |
| 09—Jean Humphreys   | 23—Nancy Smith     |
| 09—Ella Sifferd     | 25—Dick Fisher     |
| 18—Al Churchill     | 28—Anna Hill       |



- |                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
|                         | Years |
| 20—Cy & Marcia Ling     | 17    |
| 29—Jerry & Nancy Julius | 24    |

# 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, April 15th**.

## SPONSOR SUNDAY FLOWERS

The cost to sponsor flowers is \$35. 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.

## R.O.M.E.O.S. & J.U.L.I.E.T.S. BREAKFAST



R.O.M.E.O.S. (Retired Old Men Eating Ot Someplace) and J.U.L.I.E.T.S. (Joyful Understanding Ladies Inconspicuously Eating Together Someplace) will meet for breakfast at 8am at Sky View Café, Punta Gorda Airport on **Thursday, April 4th and 18th**. 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.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

If you like to knit or crochet, please gather with us in Fellowship Hall **Monday, April 8th at 10am**.



## 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.

"When you talk, choose the very same words that you would use if Jesus were looking over your shoulder. Because he is."

—Marie T. Freeman

## Our Only Job

Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.

—Thomas Merton



# MEET OUR OFFICERS

## ELDERS

Nancy Beasom — Fellowship	505-9383
Joe Cherny — Administration	575-2186
Joan Hoffman — Ministry	639-4907
Marguerite O'Brien — Administration	639-7226
Elaine Schultz — Worship	505-8339
Dianne Sizemore — Mission	743-5637
Gail Thornton — Discipleship/Clerk of Session	639-5510
Diane Truby — Worship	637-7407
Dave Woods — Administration	456-4876

## DEACONS

Debbie Carney — Parish Nursing	637-9389
Paul Gebel — Helping Hands	637-8655
Nancy Julius — Communication	575-7491
Laurel Aumend — Flowers	625-5238
Margie Smith — Prayer Shawls	833-0185
Barbara Ryan — Communion	575-8141
Kay Callahan — Loaves & Fishes	916-9252

# MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



### Pastor

Steve Mock  
steve@fpcpunta.org



### Music Director

Randall Curtis  
randy@fpcpunta.org



### Office Mgr., Bookkeeper & Editor "The Messenger"

Elizabeth Dunn  
elizabeth@fpcpunta.org



### Parish Nurse

Debbie Carney  
carneydeb@hotmail.com



### Volunteer Office Assistant

Gail Thornton  
gail@fpcpunta.org



### Volunteer Office Assistant

Kay Callahan  
first@fpcpunta.org



### Volunteer Office Assistant

Dianne Sizemore  
dgsizemore@comcast.net



### Treasurer

Joe Cherny  
first@fpcpunta.org



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**ECO**

A Covenant Order  
of Evangelical  
Presbyterians



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



MEMBER, CONFESSING CHURCH

A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH