



The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA

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 and click on the link "Watch services LIVE here" on our homepage.

MOCK'S MUSINGS

Rev. Stephen A. Mock, Pastor



Moses was dead. For 40 years he had led them. The people were leaderless as they faced the prospect of entering the Promised Land. Someone needed to lead God's people. Who could do it? Who had the abilities and character to lead the nation of Israel in the difficult and uncertain days ahead? No job search was done. No applications were received. No one seemed qualified. I mean, who could fill Moses' shoes. God knew. God had prepared one for the task – Joshua, son of Nun. God called Joshua to this enormous responsibility. Joshua was to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land. Joshua was to command

"As we enter 2013, we are facing great uncertainty."

the army of Israel against unnumbered foes and unknown strongholds throughout Canaan. Imagine being in Joshua's shoes. God obviously knew the overwhelming job before Joshua and when he spoke to Joshua in the first chapter of the book that bears his name He exhorts Joshua three times to "Be strong and courageous." Not only does God exhort Joshua, He promises to give them success in conquering the land. He promised that He would be with Joshua as He was with Moses and that He would "never leave you nor forsake you." God would see that Joshua would succeed if Joshua trusted Him and believed Him. In verse 9, God again reminds Joshua who is in charge; that success will come through Him. He says to Joshua, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (NIV)



January

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◆ **MOCK'S MUSINGS** *From page 1*

As we enter 2013, we are facing great uncertainty. We are discerning God's will for our place of ministry, whether in our existing denomination or in a new one. Our vote on January 20th will help us determine that. We face many unknowns. Will the presbytery dismiss us with grace? Will we be able to leave with our property? Will we be able to move forward together as one body? Will we financially be able to go forward? This I know. No matter what happens God will be with us and He will lead us wherever we go. All He wants us to do is to trust Him and be strong and courageous. He wants us to depend upon Him and to be unafraid of the future. No matter the outcome of the vote of the congregation or the vote of presbytery, God will be with us and will bless us.

"Be strong and courageous." Let us remember His promises to be with us and to never leave us nor forsake us. Let's continue to be faithful in following Him and trust Him to keep His Word. He proved faithful to Joshua. He's proven His faithfulness to us through all that we've gone through. And He will prove faithful to us no matter what the future holds. *"Be strong and courageous!"*

In Christ,

Steve

ECO FORUM

There will be an ECO Forum after the 10:30am service **January 13th** in Fellowship Hall. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of those who attended previous Fellowship of Presbyterians/ECO: Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians conferences. Members will hear reasons for our recommendation to seek dismissal to ECO and why we are so excited about that possibility.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO VOTE ON DISMISSAL

JANUARY 20, 2013
3:00PM

**ALL MEMBERS NEED TO BE PRESENT FOR THIS MEETING TO
DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

We will be voting to request Peace River Presbytery to dismiss us from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO). Your vote is very important so please be sure to attend. If you need transportation, please call the church and we will arrange for someone to pick you up.

SESSION NOTES



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DECEMBER 17TH SESSION

- Due to a short fall in our pledges for 2013, the Finance Committee will be reviewing and making recommendations for cutting the 2013 budget. If you intend to pledge for 2013 and have not turned in your pledge card, please take care of it as soon as possible. The financial situation is getting very serious as we have had to use our reserves to cover the shortage of money for our expenses since Hurricane Charley, and we have cut expenses drastically over this same period and are still experiencing a shortage. Please help us out. Thanks.
- Pledges received for 2013 as of December 17th are \$149,980. We anticipate our income for 2013 to be around \$182,000 when we include non-pledge giving. Our proposed 2013 budget at this time is \$214,225 (to be adjusted in January).
- Discussed the possible use of our facility by Bricks4Kids. Dave Woods, Nancy Beasom, and Gail Thornton to meet with their representative to obtain more information.
- Launching new Crossroads Ministry at the January 16th dinner. John Davidson, director of Crossroads, will be here to share about the ministry and how we as a congregation can help them (see article on page 10 in this newsletter).
- Installation and Ordination of our new 2013 officers will be held during the 10:30am service on January 20th.

Session:
Nancy Beasom
Phyllis Botticelli
Joe Cherny
Joan Hoffman
Marguerite O'Brien
Elaine Schultz
Dianne Sizemore
Gail Thornton
Don Washabaugh

Moderator:
Pastor Steve Mock
Clerk of Session:
Gail Thornton

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session

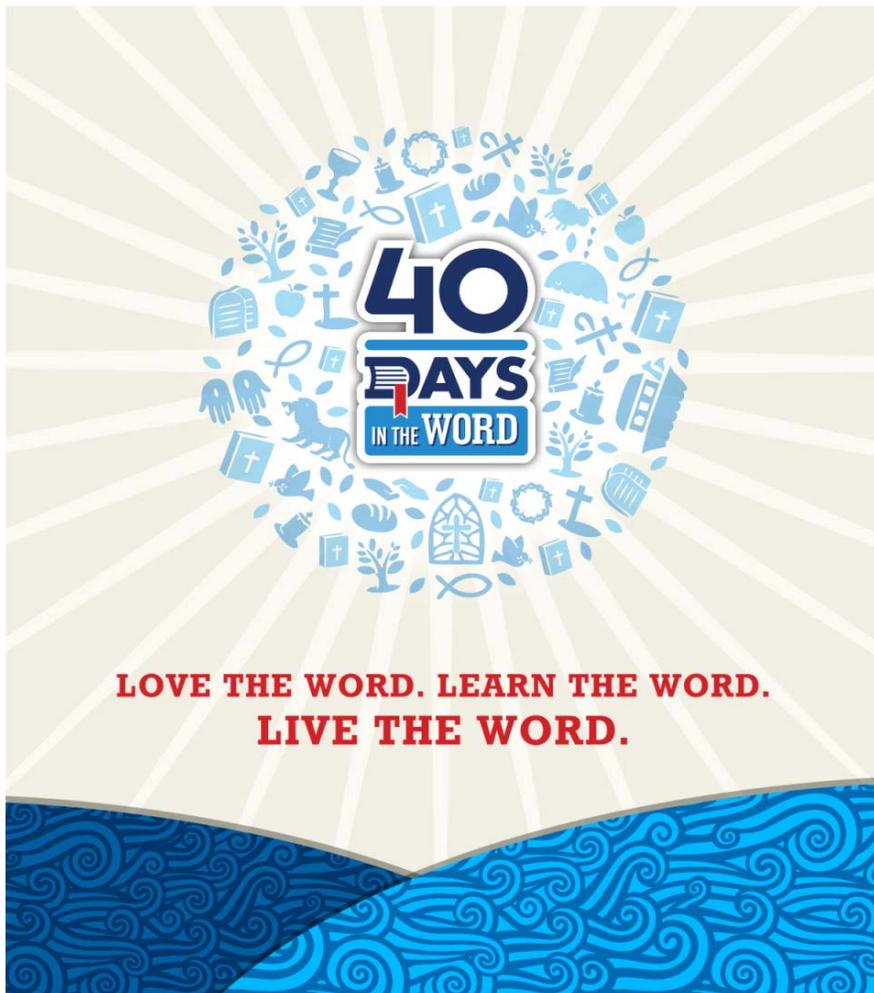
NEW BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN JANUARY 2ND AT FPCPG

Rev. Larry Yerger will lead a Bible study @ FPCPG beginning **Wednesday, January 2nd at 10:00am.**

The study will be open to any and all who wish to come. It will be strictly Bible-based - not using any purchased 'booklet-type' materials. The topics will range across the board and will be determined mainly by the people who regularly attend and Larry.

At the first meeting we will discuss the book of PHILEMON, so if anyone wishes to read it prior to attending the first session, they are welcomed/encouraged to do so. A sign-up sheet is in the church entrance. Hope to see you there.

Rev. Yerger is the former pastor of Wintergarden Presbyterian in Port Charlotte and is a member of Peace River Presbytery. He is currently on disability.



40 DAYS IN THE WORD **February 10th thru March 24th**

Celebrate Lent by spending
40 Days in the Word

This will be a journey that will take you into God's Word in a way like never before. No habit can do more to transform your life and make you more like Jesus than to study and act upon God's Word. God's Word is not meant just to inform you, but to transform you. God never intended for Bible study to simply increase our knowledge. Receiving, reading, researching, remembering, and reflecting on the Bible is useless if you fail to put God's Word into practice.

God's Word is unlike any other book. It is alive. When God speaks, your life will be transformed, but that can only happen by making the Bible the authoritative standard for your life: the compass you rely on for direction, the counsel you listen to for making wise decisions, and the benchmark you use for evaluating everything.

Our hope is that participation in the 40 Days in the Word will become very important days in your life as you love God's Word, learn God's Word and live God's Word.

Through weekend services, small group studies, and daily devotions, our entire church family will focus on the same spiritual themes for the same period of time. We would like to ask that all our people participate to get the greatest benefit from this journey together. We want everyone to be in a small group study, so please sign up using the sign up sheets in the entryway on the sign-up table. We will be having groups meet at different days and times and at different locations.

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY 20 – SMALL GROUP STUDY SIGN UPS BEGIN

FEBRUARY 10 – KICK-OFF SUNDAY

MARCH 24 – CELEBRATION SUNDAY

COME AND JOIN US FOR 40 DAYS IN THE WORD!!!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will continue with the study of Women of the Bible through the spring of 2013. The first meeting for 2013 will be **Tuesday, January 15th**. All women of the church are welcome to this study. If you haven't had the opportunity to be part of this group, we invite you to attend a study just to see how God has helped us to be better Christians through study and fellowship. The studies meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the home of Robert and Sharon Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande Dr, Punta Gorda Isles. All gatherings start at 10am and are about 1½ hours in length and include time for fellowship and cookies.

BABY SHOWER AT NEXT PW MEETING

At the next Presbyterian Women's meeting we will be holding a "Baby Shower" for the Pregnancy Care Line. We will be collecting gifts the month of January. They may be left in the crib located in the hall beginning January 6th. We hope you will be able to join us on **Saturday, February 9th at 11am** for the presentation of the gifts. All women of the church are invited. Please bring a salad or sandwiches to share for the luncheon; desert will be provided.



PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

Prayer Shawl Gatherings meet the second Monday of the month. Prayer shawls are very important in our outreach mission. In addition to Prayer Shawls, we are making smaller blankets for babies and children in cooperation with the Linus Project.

Our next gathering is **Monday, January 14th at 10am** in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to learn how to knit or crochet, we would be happy to teach you. See you there.

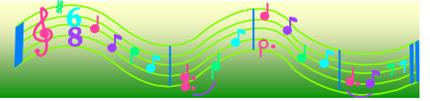
"PRICELESS TREASURES" TABLE

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.

If you haven't returned your 2013 pledge yet, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. Thank you.



MUSIC NOTES



Music Notes and Resolutions



It's that time of year again. We're going to lose weight, eat healthier, exercise, get out of debt, save more money, spend more time with friends and family, work less, reduce our stress and join the choir.

What did I just hear you say? You want to join the choir? Well you have come to the right place. We are open to anyone with a little ability and an abundance of enthusiasm to sing for our Lord. Whether you are here for a few weeks, a few months, or all year long, you are welcome. We will be starting January with new music, so mark your calendar for **Thursday, January 3rd at 7:00pm** for your first rehearsal with our choir.

When I came to this church in 2004, you already had a good choir and I have worked hard to maintain and build on that tradition. We need to add some new members to keep this process going. I realize it may seem a little intimidating to take this leap, but rest assured that I am not as mean as legend has me being. There are several of you sitting out there week after week knowing that you should be in our choir. Consider joining the rest of our choir servants and let us rejoice in song together. See me after any service, call me at 941-380-0841, email me at rpc1220@me.com, or talk with any of our current choir members.

We have all heard the sayings, "a penny for your thoughts" and "putting in your two cents worth." I always wondered where the other penny went. Well for what it's worth, here is my two cents worth.

Change is a word that often creates fear and anxiety in our minds. I find it ironic that if we are to remain the same and remain faithful to God's word, we need to change. On the other hand, staying the same will result in change in the near future if we remain in the PCUSA. I know this whole process has created some worry in many of you, but remember that we need to be faithful to Him and His word. Together, with God's help and guidance, I believe we will come through this process a much stronger and more vibrant light in our community.

See you in church,

Let's Make Some
MUSIC



- 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.
- 1st Lt. 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 Joint Base Lewis McChord in WA - slated to be deployed to Afghanistan soon.
- 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.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

LET'S START THE NEW YEAR WITH A PRAYER
IT'S TIME TO LOOK TO GOD AGAIN
IF WE OUR GOALS WE WANT TO WIN.

LET'S GATHER HOPE FROM UP ABOVE
AND TURN TO THOSE
IN NEED OF LOVE.

A TIME TO LOOK AT LIFE
AND SET OUR SIGHTS UPON THE ROAD
TO HELPING SHARE ANOTHER'S LOAD.

A TIME TO SHARE OUR LOVE
TO ALL IN NEED
SHOW US HOW TO SOW GOD'S SEEDS

OH GOD IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH
SHOW US THE WAY
TO GIVE EACH DAY

SHOW US THE VALUE OF A SMILE
TO OTHERS THAT LIFE IS SUCH A TRIAL

REACH OUT A HAND
TO STEADY OTHERS
SO WE CAN BE LIKE CARING BROTHERS

A VISIT TO A LONELY SOUL
TO CHEER THEIR DAY
ALONG THE WAY.

A WORD OF PRAISE
TO THOSE WHO FALTER
HELPING THEM TO FIND THE ALTAR.

A SHOUT OF PRAISE
FROM DEEP INSIDE
FOR THAT IS WHERE YOU DO RESIDE.
AMEN.

—NANCY BEASOM

THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17

Happy New Year 2013! How are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? I was taking down some wall plates and I was struck by the sayings, "Love like you've never been hurt before, dance like no one is watching, sing like no one is listening, live like heaven begins tomorrow." Wouldn't it be sweet if everyone made this a part of their resolutions! We would no longer be called, "The frozen chosen."

So what is health care going to be like in the next few years? Although much is still unknown, it is obvious that we will need more money for all the promised care. The needs will get greater at a time money is tighter. Hospitals and doctors will get less in reimbursement with some shutting their doors. With budget cuts comes fewer registered nurses in hospitals and that has proven to cause more hospital deaths. The bottom line is to stay as healthy as possible. *Let this be a New Year's resolution: to be better stewards of our health.* Make sure you have help when making healthcare decisions. Try to keep a reasonable weight and to exercise.

A doctor that I follow on-line is Dr. Daniel Amen. I once attended a conference and heard his partner speak on brain health and I was hooked. Dr. Amen is a Christian Psychiatrist who began using Brain Spect Imaging to diagnosis all disorders of the brain in the 1990's. He has said, "Why are psychiatrists the only specialty that never looks at the organ it treats?" He is able to diagnose with specificity all brain problems using Spect studies, which looks at brain blood flow and activity. He states it provides a window into the soul.

I have often heard Dr. Amen talk about "Brain Envy." This means if someone has a healthy brain, others also want a healthy brain. That makes sense! He wrote a book titled, "Change Your Brain, Change Your Life." He says when your brain works right, you work right but when your brain doesn't work right, you can't work right. Your brain is involved in everything you do. How you think, feel, act and interact and who you are as a parent, child, spouse, employer/employee. He believes when you optimize your brain, your life gets better.

He writes that the brain is our most complex organ with 100 billion neurons making 1,000,000,000,000,000 connections. How amazing is our God? The brain is SOFT like butter yet the skull is really hard with many ridges. This means if you have a traumatic brain injury, the soft part of the brain can be squashed against the hard outer casing causing many problems.

Lastly, Dr. Amen believes those who are overweight are doing a big disservice to their brain. He has 18 published studies that show as your weight goes up, the actual physical size and function of your brain goes down. He calls it the dinosaur syndrome: big body, tiny brain, and soon you become extinct. This is reversible with healthy weight loss.

Dr. Amen does frequent Sunday shows on PBS so I hope you catch one of his shows. He has written many books which you can get at the library or Amazon. You can sign up for weekly emails with great information. I have a series of DVDs called, "The Brain and Behavior" you are welcome to borrow. He has a whole host of ideas to get or maintain a healthy brain.

Please notify me if I can help in any way.

Because He lives!

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



MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL

Rice and Pinto Bean Sunday

We will collect rice and pinto beans for Misión Peniel on **Sunday, January 13th**. Please bring your items to the church entrance and place them in the wicker chest or the tall basket. Let us surpass the last gifting.

Shoebox Gifting

Christmas shoebox gifting for the children of the migrant workers at Misión Peniel was a huge success. We had 50 boxes from FPCPG and 45 boxes plus 150 stuffed animals from the Alligator Park church. We also budgeted \$500 for extra gifts, games, etc. as well as for babies newborn to 3 months. Thank you for helping us make this a VERY, VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

PURCHASES FROM COFFEE CAKE PROJECT

We purchased 12 fleece blankets, 12 towels, 20 washcloths, 12 pillow cases, 3 large boxes each of #3, #4 and #5 diapers from our coffee cake project receipts, which we delivered to Genesis House Homeless Coalition of Charlotte County. They have lots of families

there at this time of the year; we want to be “A Beacon of Love” and let them know that we care. Thank you to each one of you who have purchased a coffee cake.

FEBRUARY BABY SHOWER

The Mission Team and Presbyterian Women will sponsor a baby shower for Pregnancy Care Line on **Saturday, February 9th at 11am**. We



would love for every woman to come to hear all about the New Beginnings program that has been started there, but if you cannot, beginning January 6th a crib will be in the church entrance for you to drop off a baby gift—any type of clothing for newborns, blankets, booties, diapers, powder, etc. Each new baby is given a layette, and other things are needed from time to time. Anita Maguire, their executive director, will be with us at the shower. Hope to see you there.

God Bless each and every one of you. We wish you all the best for 2013.

Your Mission Team and Dianne Sizemore, Chair



NEW MISSION FUND OUTREACH

Beginning the first of January, your Mission Team is partnering with Crossroads as a new mission opportunity for you. Special envelopes will be available for those of you who would like to financially support Crossroads. The most exciting aspect of this ministry is we are able to be involved with the boys and teens, who are foster children that are unable to be placed in foster homes for various reasons.

Areas that we can volunteer are: Bible studies, reading tutors, vocational training volunteers, such as woodworking, pottery, artistic painting, photography, etc. They can also use volunteers to go with the boys on community service projects. We will also be doing a community dinner for them with you joining the boys for a meal at the Crossroads facility on Bermont Rd.

A special dinner will be held on **Wednesday, January 16th at 6pm** to introduce you to the Crossroads Ministry and it's Director John Davidson. Sign-up sheets are available on the table in the church entrance.



Congratulations to:

- ♥ Mary Vincent on the birth of her great-grandson, Ryan Smith on November 12, 2012. Ryan's proud parents are Wyatt and Kate Smith of Philadelphia, PA.



I want to thank everyone in the congregation for the kindness and comfort given to Dick and me during the past couple of months.

Being caregiver for the past three years for Dick was getting harder and harder as he got weaker. Everyone said, "slow down" but I felt I had to keep up with my obligations so the Lord took things into his hands and said, "stop." Now I was in no condition to help Dick or myself. I was the one asking for help and it poured in from everywhere by way of prayer, cards, phone calls offering help, beautifully prepared food and transportation to the clinic and doctor's visits. Three Angels were sent to care for me round the clock and when they needed a rest there was another angel among you who volunteered to take the night shift. I've never felt so loved and cared for.

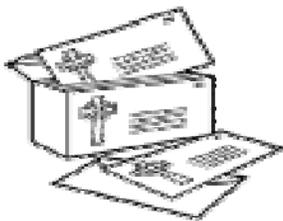
Thank each of you for your wonderful gifts of love. Our home is filled with the true Christmas spirit this year, stop in anytime and join us.

*In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Dick and Phyllis Botticelli*

I would like to thank all the wonderful people who volunteer in the church office, especially: Gail Thornton, Dianne Sizemore and Kay Callahan - our office assistants; Joanie Mock, who fills in whenever needed; Barb & Dave Woods, who make sure the pews have envelopes, pens, etc.; and Nancy Julius for proofing "The Messenger."

Thank you all for your continuous support in 2012.

*Your sister in Christ,
Elizabeth*



2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

JANUARY 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

JANUARY

- 1 Craig Stephens
- 2 Charles & Connie Stickler
- 3 Mary & Sarah Stones
- 4 Larry & Betty Strong
- 5 Anne Swift
- 6 Fred & Diane Tabert
- 7 Gail Thornton
- 8 Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale
- 9 Diane Truby
- 10 Mary Vincent
- 11 Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh

JANUARY

- 12 Doug & Esther Wheeler
- 13 Ed & Pam Williams
- 14 Vern & Marlene Wilson
- 15 Dave & Barbara Woods
- 16 Bob & Natalie Wylie
- 17 Larry & Andrea Yerger
- 18 Jay & Patricia Aldridge
- 19 Craig & Dotty Anderson
- 20 Stephanie Anderson
- 21 Tom & Vera Aping
- 22 Laurel Aumend

JANUARY

- 23 Ron & Nancy Beasom
- 24 Shirley Berg
- 25 Dorothy Blue
- 26 Dick & Phyllis Botticelli
- 27 Lloyd & Loriania Brenton
- 28 Jim & Marion Brown
- 29 Kay Callahan
- 30 Bonnie Carey
- 31 Dave & Debbie Carney

Please pray for the families that lost loved ones in the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. Pray for God's comfort and love be poured out upon them.



- 2—Marguerite O'Brien
- 6—Phyllis Botticelli
- 6—Debbie Carney
- 16—Frank Gready

- 23—Fran Koon
- 26—Dianne Sizemore
- 28—Cy Ling
- 29—Rachel Pfaender

THIS 'N THAT

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

We welcome material for our church newsletter. All contributions are subject to editing with regard to the subject matter and space requirements. Articles for the February issue of *The Messenger* are due in the church office by **Monday, January 14th**.

WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE

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

SPONSOR SUNDAY FLOWERS

The cost to sponsor flowers is \$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, January 10th & 24th**. 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 **Tuesday, January 14th at 10am**.



The Water's Fine?

While a tourist vacationed on the Florida coast, his boat capsized. Although he could swim, his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft and praying aloud. Spotting an old beachcomber on shore, the tourist shouted, "Are there any gators around here?"

"No," the man hollered. "They haven't been around for years!"

Relieved, the tourist began swimming leisurely toward the shore. About halfway there, he asked, "How'd you get rid of the gators?"

"We didn't do anything," the beachcomber replied. "The sharks got 'em."



BIBLE QUIZ



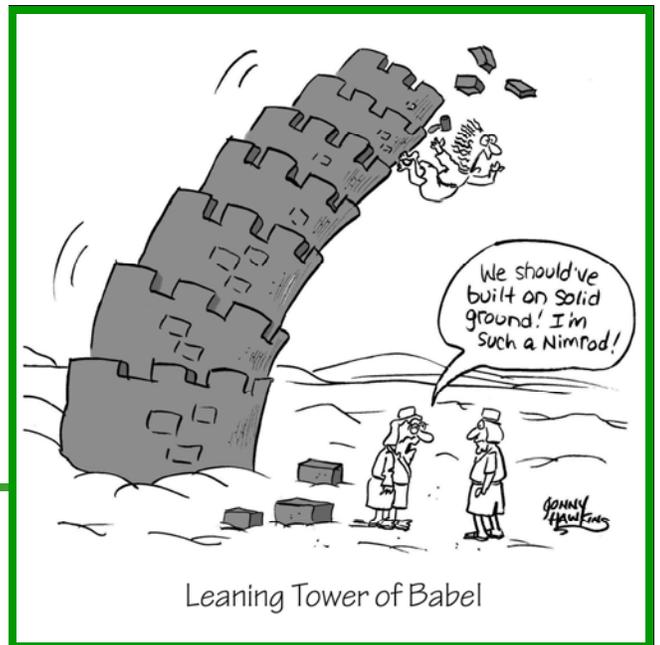
What is the Hebrew meaning of the word Amen?

- A. So be it.
- B. We praise you.
- C. Thank you.
- D. Please, God!

A•men
(ā•men')
adv., interj.

Answer: A

"Nothing is impossible with God."
Luke 1:37, NIV



Leaning Tower of Babel

For the New Year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)
Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)
Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
Aim for a perfect, mature faith (Hebrews 6:1)
Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

—Gus Nichols

MEET OUR OFFICERS

ELDERS

Nancy Beasom — Fellowship	505-9383
Phyllis Botticelli — Fellowship	637-0445
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
Don Washabaugh — Worship	255-8616

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
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