



The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA

JUNE-JULY 2012



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



I want to update you on our process to seek dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.). The Session met with representatives of the Presbytery at our April meeting where we shared our desires and reasons for seeking dismissal. They listened to our concerns and shared their feelings with us. They reviewed for us the guidelines for seeking dismissal. They were saddened about our desire to leave the PCUSA as were we, but they seemed to understand our concerns and feelings.

The next step is the calling of a congregational meeting to discuss dismissal with representatives of the Presbytery present to listen and respond to the concerns of the membership. The Session has called for this special congregational meeting on **Sunday, June 24th at 1:00pm** in the sanctuary. We only need 25% of the active membership present for this meeting. We will only discuss the question, "Should First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda be dismissed to another Reformed denomination?" **NO VOTE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THIS MEETING.** It is only a meeting for discussion. We plan to live stream this meeting over the Internet like we do our worship service from the link on our website. Another congregational meeting will be called later, either in late October or early November to vote on dismissal. At that meeting, there will be a specific recommendation from the Session as to what denomination we will ask to be dismissed to.

"Please remember to pray for your Elders as we seek God's will for our future."

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There will be one blended (contemporary & traditional) Sunday worship service at 10am June 3rd through September 2nd.

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◆ **MOCK'S MUSINGS** *From page 1*

During the summer, I expect we will begin discussions with the Presbytery regarding the property, seeking an agreement to leave with our property that may or may not involve a monetary settlement. That will be determined through these negotiations.

We will be taking a closer look at the two Presbyterian denomination options we have. We will be evaluating which denomination: the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) or the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), that we believe God is calling us to join. I will be attending an ECO conference with a number of others from our church in August. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the EPC's General Assembly meeting in June because it is the week before our June 24th congregational meeting. But we will

be asking representatives from both the EPC and ECO to meet with the Session between now and the second congregational meeting in the fall.

Please remember to pray for your Elders as we seek God's will for our future. We will strive to keep you informed as new information comes available. Feel free to email or call me any time with any question you have regarding this process. Our hope is that God will be glorified and honored as we seek to follow Him wherever He is leading us.

In Christ,

Steve

SESSION NOTES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAY 21ST SESSION

- Opened with a time of prayer and sharing of God's Promise found in Jeremiah 29:11-13. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."*
- Approved moving Connie & Ernie Johansen to inactive members due to their relocating back up north.
- Marion St. property closing this afternoon, May 21, 2012 at 3:30pm. We will net \$73,620 after closing costs.
- Session to be praying about setting up a Mission Fund separate from our budgeted items.
- Pastor Steve to contact representatives from Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO) to meet with the Session to help us decide which denomination to recommend to join upon our dismissal from the PCUSA, if the congregation votes to leave.
- Approved the motion to call a Congregation Meeting on June 24, 2012 at 1pm. The purpose is to fulfill the next step in the dismissal process. A minimum of 25% of the active membership is to meet with representatives of Peace River Presbytery to hear from them and also to ask questions. **NO VOTE WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.** A light lunch will be served between the end of the 10am service and the meeting.
- Approved recommendation of Worship Committee to go to a summer worship schedule. There will a 10am service for the summer beginning June 3rd and ending Sept. 2nd. We will return to two services on Sept. 9th.

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session

Thank You!

Our Dear Friends,

We can never express our thanks for all the cards and prayers that were received for the loss our beloved son, Tim. They were so much appreciated. God bless each and everyone of you!

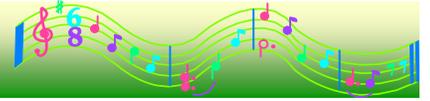
With Christian love,

Mel and Rose Ann Hobert

Church Bulletin Night is back at Chick-fil-A at Port Charlotte! Beginning June 4th and continuing every Monday until July 30th, Bring in the previous day's church bulletin and receive a FREE Chick-fil-A Chicken Sandwich or Spicy Chicken Sandwich with the purchase of the same. This offer is valid only at the Chick-fil-A at Port Charlotte, Monday evenings from 5:00pm to 10:00pm. One FREE sandwich (a redeemed church bulletin) per person per visit.



MUSIC NOTES



Summertime brings many things to us down here in southwest Florida. Heat, wind, rain, and those pesky thunderstorms that often knock out or blink our power. For me it will mean many all-nighters supervising FPL crews and contractors so you can turn your air conditioner back on. Then, when a hurricane is bearing down on Florida, I can be sent anywhere in the state for a few days or weeks.

Summertime at church is a little less hectic and much more relaxing. It is a time to be a little more casual and worship together using a slightly different format. I truly enjoyed the variety of music we were able to perform last summer and this summer should be more of the same. The Praise Team will once again lead many of the services and there will also be some solos, duets and quartets to lead us all in worship.

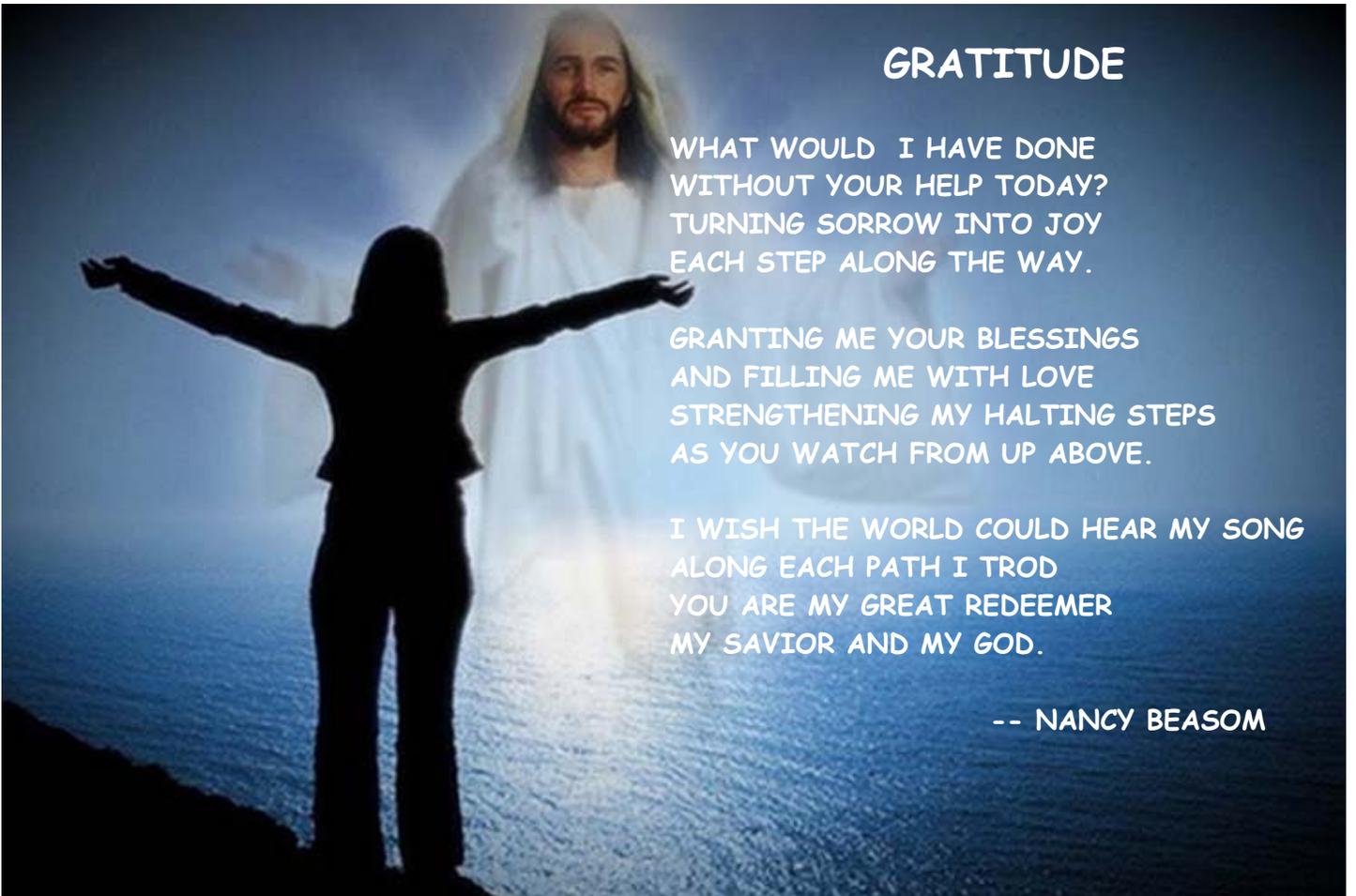
A special treat for me will be on June 24th when my parents will be in town and my father and I will be doing two piano and organ duets. Our selections will include "Behold the Lamb" and "Sanctus."



As the choir takes a much deserved breather for the summer, please don't forget to thank them for all they do. To have such a wonderful choir in this size church is truly a blessing to us all. Several of them will be performing in various capacities for us this summer.

I hope you are looking forward to our summer worship schedule and hope to see each of you every Sunday so we can worship together.

For Him!



GRATITUDE

WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE
WITHOUT YOUR HELP TODAY?
TURNING SORROW INTO JOY
EACH STEP ALONG THE WAY.

GRANTING ME YOUR BLESSINGS
AND FILLING ME WITH LOVE
STRENGTHENING MY HALTING STEPS
AS YOU WATCH FROM UP ABOVE.

I WISH THE WORLD COULD HEAR MY SONG
ALONG EACH PATH I TROD
YOU ARE MY GREAT REDEEMER
MY SAVIOR AND MY GOD.

-- NANCY BEASOM



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women's Bible study will be suspended in June for the summer and will begin again on **Tuesday, September 11th**. We want to thank Sharon Cuzner for her inspirational classes and the continued leadership she provides.

ANNUAL PICNIC



Our annual picnic will be **Saturday, June 16th, at 11am** at the home of Sharon Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande Drive, PGI. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided. If you wish to bring a side dish, it will be welcomed but not necessary. Dessert will also be provided by our dessert maker, Robert Cuzner.

Bring a Bible verse to share and also tell how it has affected your life. Please sign up at the Presbyterian Women's table or RSVP to Sharon at 637-1792.

- Our **"PRICELESS TREASURES" TABLE** in Fellowship Hall is an ongoing fundraiser for use in 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.
- **CHRISMON CRAFTERS** — Chrismon Crafters' meetings will be discontinued for the summer and will meet again the third Wednesday in September. We have an abundance of supplies, including beautiful beads. If anyone would like to pick up a pattern and supplies to work on this summer, please see Kay Callahan. We have been working on smaller Chrismons, which will fill in the spots on the Christmas trees left bare by the larger ornaments. Mark your calendar for **September 19th at 10am** to come and craft a Chrismon.
- **PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS** will begin again in the fall.



- 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.
- Sgt. Ian Hendricks, Marines, grandson of Dianne Sizemore, stationed in Jacksonville, NC.
- 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. Benning, GA.
- 1st Lt. John Mock, Army, nephew of Steve & Joanie Mock, stationed at Joint Base Lewis McChord in WA - slated to be deployed to Afghanistan late spring, early summer 2012.
- 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.

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.

THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

For you know it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 1 Peter: 18-19

Wishing all men of the church a HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! We love and appreciate you all so much and we pray you take care of yourself!

Do you have a "spare tire" around your waist?

Little things mean a lot in preventing obesity. Just trim 100 calories a day from your food intake or burn 100 more calories a day by moving more and you could avoid becoming a person who carries around too many pounds. "I am such a believer in the idea of making small changes," states Dr. James O. Hill, from the University of Colorado Health Science Center. Dr. Hill was the lead author of an article in Science Magazine whose research showed that such an incremental strategy as cutting out 100 calories a day could stem the rising tide of obesity. It is all about taking a few less bites of food at each meal or parking your car farther away in the parking lot to get a little extra exercise.

The news about too much sugar is everywhere. As Americans we each consume about 160 pounds of sugar per year. That figure is way up since the last century. For years researchers have found a higher risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, high triglycerides, gout, weight gain and more in people who consume too much sugar. Now a flurry of new studies suggests our out-of-control sweet tooth is causing belly fat with dire consequences.

So most of us thought fat was fat....Not true! There are 2 types of fat deposits in the body: subcutaneous fat (under the skin) and visceral fat (deep in the abdomen). The visceral fat is abdominal fat surrounding organs like the heart and the liver and this is the most dangerous fat. You know you have visceral fat if you have a spare tire around your waist.

A waist measurement is an inexpensive way to determine if you have visceral fat: a man's waist size should measure no more than 40 inches while a woman's waist should measure no more than 35 inches.

Abdominal fat has direct access to the liver which in turn produces more cholesterol. This fat also releases chemical substances that incite inflammation, including artery inflammation. Inflamed arteries become clogged arteries, and that is another reason why this type of fat increases the risk of heart attack and stroke. It also releases substances that make body cells less responsive to insulin, so blood sugar rises.

Sugar should be limited to 100 calories (6½ teaspoons) a day of added sugars if you are a woman and 150 calories (9½ teaspoons) a day if you are a man.

The good news is exercise is free. Swimming pools are warming up and swimming is a great aerobic workout. Maybe I will see you all out for a walk!

Because He lives!

Debbie Carney, RN, 941-456-6804, carneydeb@hotmail.com



MISSION MINISTRY NEWS



Thank you for your generosity helping children and youth at risk here and around the country!

BUTTERBRAIDED COFFEE CAKES STILL AVAILABLE

We still have some coffee cakes available for sale. They are \$12 each, with \$5 going toward mission for the community. If you have not tried one yet, they are a simple and easy treat to make. Please see Gail, Dianne or Elaine to purchase one today.



DONATIONS GIVEN FROM PROCEEDS OF "GROWING AND KNOWING"

We were able to send a generous donation of \$240 to Homeless Veterans and a generous donation of \$250 to Homeless Coalition Genesis House from the proceeds of the sale of the book, *Growing and Knowing*, written by our own Nancy Beasom.

If you have not gotten your copy or need one for a gift, they will be available again in the fall. We thank



Congratulations to:

- ♥ Bob & Joyce Kiskaddon on the birth of their 6th great-grandson, Parker Joshua Kiskaddon, on April 30, 2012. Parker's proud parents are Joshua & Dr. Karrie Kiskaddon of DuBois, PA.
- ♥ Miguel & Marifrans Estrada on the birth of their daughter, Mariela Sophia, on May 22, 2012. Miguel is the Pastor of Misión Peniel in Immokalee. A brother, Andres, welcomes his new sister.

you for your response as we reach out to our community to those in need.

CEDARKIRK CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE

Because of your generosity, we were able to send \$1,192 to Misión Peniel for camp scholarships. This money will enable three children to attend Cedarkirk Summer Camp. It will be a week of wonderful experiences for them and one they will never forget.

HELPERS NEEDED TO GO TO IMMOKALEE

Helpers are needed this summer to go to Misión Peniel in Immokalee. We carpool from the church the fourth Friday of each month and we spread God's love by administering a hot meal, a bag of food for the week and a bag of clothes. It is such a rewarding experience and we have a lot of fun. We stop at Cracker Barrel on the way home to wind down - and we all look forward to that. Come spread the love on **June 22nd and July 27th**. Contact Dianne Sizemore at 743-5637 or Laurel Aumend at 625-5238 if you'd like to help.

FOOD FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TO DISTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY

Jars of peanut butter and jelly and spaghetti sauce are always needed for the community. These are favorites and usually run out quickly. When you're at the store, take advantage of buy one, get one free offers. Our neighbors are very thankful for all the food you bring each week as the need is so great.

In Christian love,
Your Mission Team and Dianne Sizemore, Chair

JUNE 2012 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

JUNE

- 1 Jay & Patricia Aldridge
- 2 Craig & Dotty Anderson
- 3 Stephanie Anderson
- 4 Tom & Vera Aping
- 5 Laurel Aumend
- 6 Ron & Nancy Beasom
- 7 Shirley Berg
- 8 Dottie Blakey
- 9 Dorothy Blue
- 10 Lynda Borg
- 11 Dick & Phyllis Botticelli

JUNE

- 12 Lloyd & Loriania Brenton
- 13 Jim & Marion Brown
- 14 Kay Callahan
- 15 Bonnie Carey
- 16 David & Debbie Carney
- 17 William & Mary Carrier
- 18 Howard & Mary Chamberlain
- 19 Joe Cherny
- 20 Alfred & Helina Churchill
- 21 Jean Cleffi
- 22 Sam & Carol Crockett

JUNE

- 23 Irene Csontos
- 24 Daniel, Jill & Michael Curtis
- 25 Randy & Diane Curtis
- 26 Robert & Sharon Cuzner
- 27 Donald & Annabelle Deblauw
- 28 Connie & Len Diller
- 29 David & Beverly Doupé
- 30 Don Drake



- Laurel Aumend 1
- Gail Thornton 2
- Connie Diller 7
- Lorraine Sisson 10
- Mel Hobert 15
- Bill Schultz 16
- Walter Scott 22
- Frank Perkins 23

- Rich & Jan Wilkinson 5
- Bob & Jean Humphreys 6
- Dick & Phyllis Botticelli 10
- Helmut & Phyllis Ehrhardt 14
- Ron & Nancy Beasom 14
- Craig & Dotty Anderson 18
- Donald & Annabelle Deblauw 25
- Steve & Joanie Mock 26
- Art & Fran Koon 30

JULY 2012 CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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

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JULY

- 1 Millie Drum
- 2 Kathryn Duke
- 3 Elizabeth Dunn
- 4 Helmut & Phyllis Ehrhardt
- 5 Chris, Laura, Jonathan, & Timothy Epperly
- 6 Fran Farris
- 7 Sarah Ferry
- 8 Dick & Sandy Fisher
- 9 Robert & Carol Fogg
- 10 Ray & Cheri Foley

JULY

- 11 Mary Fulwiler
- 12 Paul & Arlene Gebel
- 13 Ron & Neta Gensemer
- 14 Frank & Sue Gready
- 15 John & Hazel Hames
- 16 Robert & Carolyn Hansman
- 17 George & Adelaide Hauck
- 18 Doris Henning
- 19 Richard & Anna Hill
- 20 Mel & Rose Ann Hobert
- 21 Joan Hoffman

JULY

- 22 Stanley Hoinacki
- 23 Bob & Jean Humphreys
- 24 Christina Hutchinson
- 25 Pat Ihrle
- 26 Ernie & Connie Johansen
- 27 Jerry & Nancy Julius
- 28 Mary Kasbohm
- 29 Carl & Mary Kimberly
- 30 Walt & Joy Kiser
- 31 Bob & Joyce Kiskaddon



- Stephanie Anderson 3
- Carol Crockett 4
- Joyce Rebholz 4
- Jerry Julius 8
- Kay Perkins 16
- Barbara Shinn 16

- Sandy Fisher 18
- Doris Henning 20
- Bruce Peters 20
- Dave Woods 20
- Ron Beasom 23

- Ernie & Connie Johansen 6
- Bruce & Myrna Peters 7
- Don & Joyce Rebholz 21
- George & Adelaide Hauck 25

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 August issue of *The Messenger* are due in the church office by **Monday, July 16th**.

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.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Our church music is available to you on the internet at <http://public.me.com/rpc1220>. Click on one of the folders to view Organ Music, Choir Music, Praise Team Music, or *Music On a Winter's Eve* concert. Feel free to share with friends, family or potential members. Questions or comments may be directed to Randy Curtis at rpc1220@me.com.

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



R.O.M.E.O.S. (Retired Old Men Eating Ot Someplace) will meet for breakfast at 8am at Sky View Café, Punta Gorda Airport on **Thursday, June 14 and 28th; and Thursday, July 12th and 26th**. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FUNDRAISER

Presbyterian Women (PW) are selling note cards as a fundraiser. There are 5 cards in a set for a cost of \$2.50. A sample & an order form are on the PW table in the Narthex.

EMAIL UPDATE

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

COMPUTER AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE



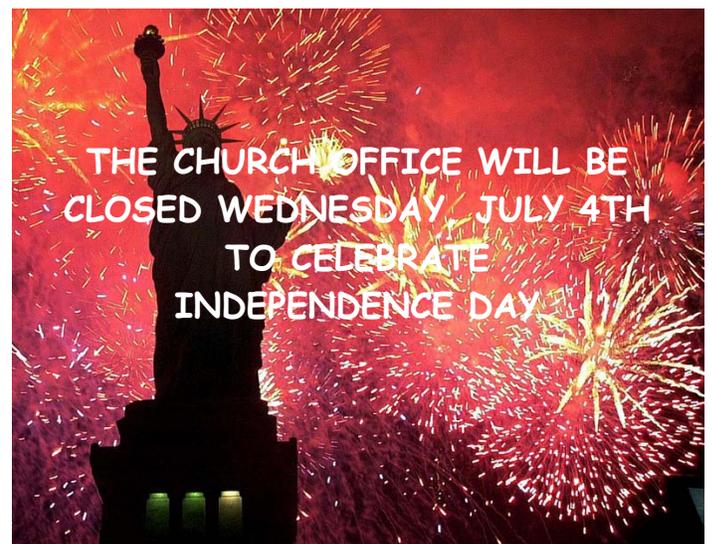
We've set up a computer in the Conference Room for those of you who need the use of one. It has high-speed internet access and is available during office hours. We suggest you call to reserve the time before coming to use it.

LOAVES & FISHES MINISTRY

Loaves & Fishes Ministry is a great opportunity for those of us who like to cook to share a meal with a church family after surgery or illness.



Having a familiar, friendly face at your door with cooked food when you return home from the hospital is a very loving experience for both the cook and the recipient. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please put your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet on the table in the church entrance or contact Kay Callahan.





BIBLE QUIZ



According to the Old Testament book of Hosea, who was Gomer?

- A. Hosea's wife
- B. A promiscuous and adulterous woman
- C. A symbol for Israel, beloved of God despite her sinfulness
- D. All of the above



Answer: D (See Hosea 1-2.)

"When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry."
—Jewish Proverb

Fortunate Typo

A pastor had his sermon titles published weekly in the city newspaper. One Monday, he phoned to thank the paper for making an error.

"The topic I sent you was 'What Jesus Saw in a Publican,'" he said. "You printed it as 'What Jesus Saw in a Republican.' I had the biggest crowd of the year."

The Winner

A father of five won a toy in a raffle. He gathered his young children to ask who should get the present.

"Who's the most obedient?" Dad asked. "Who never talks back to Mom? Who does everything she says?"

Five small voices answered in unison. "Okay, Dad. You get the toy."



"And this is my dad. He begat me."

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
Joy Kiser — Bereavement	575-9745
Elaine Schultz — Flowers	505-8339
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
revmock@fpcpunta.org



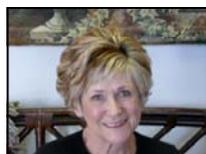
Volunteer Office Assistant
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Volunteer Office Assistant
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PC(USA)



MEMBER, CONFESSING CHURCH



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH