



The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA

MAY 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.

MUSIC NOTES

Randall Curtis, Music Director

What a joy it is to come together each week to worship our God. It is joy for me to provide the music at both our services, but I could not do it without the help of all our Praise Team and Choir singers. The help that Diane and Laurel provide in filing all the music and keeping things organized also allows me to concentrate my efforts on the music. Together we are a great team that I hope lasts for many years to come.



Join me in thanking each member of our music team that works hard providing the music that is such a vital part of our worship services. The Sanctuary Choir will be singing through the end of May and then take a few months off until September. The Praise Team will continue to sing at some of our summer services along with other members and groups who will provide the Special Music throughout the summer.

A few months ago I wrote a short article about being a "Joyful Worshipper." To me, no Sunday offers more joy in worship than Easter Sunday. My prayer is that this joy will be present in all our lives each and every day. Let the joy of the Lord be abundant in our lives and hearts in all that we do. He is our Risen Lord and has conquered death for each one of us. Let us be joyful in our worship of Him and let us be glad to rejoice in Him. Let us be a "Joyful Worshipper" and sing His praises every day of our lives.

For Him!

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SESSION NOTES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE APRIL 16TH SESSION

- Session approved the summer worship schedule. There will be one service at 10am beginning June 3rd and continuing thru September 9th.
- SBA Mortgage balance is \$106,749.51
- Session met with representatives from Peace River Presbytery: Chuck Wiggins, and Ruth Schaaff, representing the Committee on Ministry; Graham Hart, General Presbyter; and Clint Cottrell, Stated Clerk of Presbytery. The discussion was started with Pastor Steve giving a brief background of how the Session got to their decision to seek dismissal. Each session member then shared their thoughts and reasons on why they reached this decision. Presbytery reps then shared their feelings and thoughts on where we go from here. Clint Cottrell went over the dismissal process with us, explaining what will be our next step, which is to call a congregational meeting and requires 25% of our active members to be present. At this meeting, there will be open dialogue for members to ask questions and share concerns. Presbytery representatives and Session will have the opportunity to share their perspectives and respond to the questions. **NO VOTE WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.** This meeting will probably be some time in June. We, your Session, ask that you keep us in your prayers as we continue on this discerning process, seeking God's guidance for the future of our church.

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session



To my dear church family,

Your thoughts, cards, phone calls, and prayers have blessed me so much both during pre and post surgery. Thank you from my heart.

*In Christ,
Pat Ihrie*

To my church family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, calls and cards before, during, and after my surgery.

A special "thank you" for the delicious lasagna dinner and salad for Paul and daughter while I was in the hospital.

They saved me some and I have to say it was delicious.

Each day I'm a little better and soon will be back to normal, whatever that may be.

God bless you all.

*Love,
Arlene Gebel*

To Steve, Randy, the choir, the Presbyterian women and all those who gave, and continue to give, such comfort at the time of John's passing, I give my heartfelt thanks. What a wonderful family I have!

*God bless you all,
Diane Truby*

I appreciate everyone's loving concern for Barbara Shinn and myself after our car accident. It lifted my heart to realize my church family cared enough to overwhelm the Emergency Room staff... as well as the CC Sheriff's officer on the accident scene. Words can't express the love I felt. Thank you for being there for us.

Kay Callahan

CHANGES

CHANGES ARE ALL AROUND US
WHEREVER WE GO.
THE WEATHER MAY BE BRIGHT
THEN READY TO SNOW.

OUR FAMILIES ARE HERE
THEN CHANGE AS THEY GROW
OUR JOBS SEEM SECURE
THEN CHANGE WITH THE FLOW...

OUR MONEY SO GREAT
MAY CRASH WITH THE MARKET.
THEN WHERE DO WE GO
TO GET BACK ON TARGET?

OUR SIZE ONCE SO SMALL
CAN GROW WIDE AND TALL.
OUR HOUSE WE LIVED IN
MAY BE MUCH TOO BIG
AND THEN WE DOWNSIZE TO ONLY A TWIG.

OUR FRIENDS LIVE AND DIE
WE KNOW WITH A SIGH.
OUR FUTURE NOT CLEAR
BUT WHY SHOULD WE FEAR?

GOD, ALWAYS THE SAME
IS THERE EVERYDAY
SO REMEMBER THIS TOO
HE IS ALWAYS THE SAME FOR YOU.

--NANCY BEASOM



A MESSAGE FROM THE BEREAVEMENT TEAM

When is Extra Help Needed

Stephen Levine wrote that, at times, grief moves us to a plane where professional help is needed. To help you know that plane in yourself and others, let's take a look at where help is needed:

1. Feelings of extreme loneliness and introversion
2. A severe faith crisis
3. Fear that something is going to give
4. Drug and alcohol abuse
5. Avoidance behavior
6. Extreme unhappiness
7. Violent outbursts to family and friends
8. Feelings of wanting to die
9. Extreme guilt (warranted or not)
10. Over-idealizing the deceased
11. Grief lasting over two years
12. Nightmares
13. Losing communications
14. Frequent, uncontrolled crying

Help must be sought at these points. Remember that extremes rarely get better without professional help.

"Grief is the rope burn left behind when what we have held to most dearly is pulled out of reach, beyond our grasp and control." –Stephen Levine

God bless you and care for you all summer,
Joy Kiser



- 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 in Scott Air Force Base, IL.
- Capt. Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Fred & Rachel Pfaender, stationed in 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.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women's Bible study continues the **first and third Tuesday of the month** through May at the home of Sharon Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande Drive, PGI. We will continue to study women of the Bible. Our text is "Life Principles from the Women of the Bible." This study is arranged so that at each session we will look at a different woman in the Bible. We will study Eve, Sarah, Mary and Martha, and Mary, mother of Jesus among others.

As in the past, our studies start at 10am and last for about one and one half hours, with time for fellowship and coffee. They will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month through May. All women of the church are invited.

"PRICELESS TREASURES" TABLE

We are again having our "Priceless Treasures" fundraiser in Fellowship Hall. A table is set up for your donations. Please – no clothing. You are encouraged to bring household goods and appliances in good working order, toys, general-interest books, CDs, DVDs, and decorative items. If you find a "Treasure" that you would like to take home, just put your donation in the container provided. This is an on-going Presbyterian Women fundraiser for their use in outreach projects.

CHRISMON CRAFTERS

The Presbyterian Women Chrismon Crafters meet once a month, on the third Wednesday, in Fellowship Hall from 10am to 12 noon. Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, May 16th** for our next gathering. New crafters are always welcome.

2012 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW



The Blue Angels and
Kenneth Hoffman & mother, Joan



The Blue Angels and Elaine & Bill Schulz



THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. Proverbs 31:31

Wishing all women a "Happy Mother's Day!" Our church community has been so enriched by our church women, many who work silently and without recognition. Surely in heaven you will all hear, "Well done, good and faithful servants!"

If you haven't seen me lately, that is a good thing. I fell and hit my head directly above my left eye and sustained a non-displaced fracture, with no treatment needed besides new glasses. I tripped over a 2½ gallon jug of chlorine bleach while walking IN THE DARK on my lanai. Why is it we have to learn the hard way?

- Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths in those over age 65. Every year 1 out of 3 adults over the age of 65 fall, with 1 out of 2 adults over the age of 85 falling as well.
- 31% of falls are because of tripping.
- 17% of falls are because of balance and walking problems.
- 13% of falls are because of dizziness.
- 60% of falls occur in the home.
- Most falls occur in the bathroom.

A majority of falls are preventable. Falls can be prevented by paying attention to: Our vision - have regular check-ups, wear corrective lenses, use sufficient lighting, allow ample time to adjust to changing lighting conditions, and keep glasses clean.

Risk factors - Adapt your habits to your body changes. If you are on blood pressure medication, be sure to sit on the side of the bed for a few seconds to let the body adjust to this position. Maintain and increase your activity levels to increase strength, agility, balance and coordination. Don't smoke or drink and always wear proper footwear.

How can you fall-proof your home? Pick up your Home Safety Checklist on the table in the church entrance.

Did you know the Punta Gorda Fire Department has a FREE program to check and change smoke alarm batteries? You don't have to get up on a ladder and do it yourself. You can also set up a program to check and replace smoke alarm batteries for your entire neighborhood. Call 575-5529 to inquire about this program.



Because He lives!

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



Our prayers and sympathy are shared with:

✠ Mel and Rose Ann Hobert whose son, Tim, went home to the Lord April 13, 2012.

"Because I live, you also will live."

John 14: 19b

MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

WHAT IS PENTECOST OFFERING?

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life. With the Spirit's coming, we no longer need to settle for business as usual but can know the transforming, redeeming love of God that makes the impossible possible. Gifts to Pentecost Offering help bring God's transforming, redeeming love to children at risk, guide and nurture young people's growing faith and provide opportunities for young adults to become spiritual leaders - all in the name of Jesus Christ.

The benefits are all around us. Presbyterian congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at risk in their own communities. General Assembly programs are advocating for children and developing youth and young adult leaders. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised more than \$8 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.

- 40% is kept in our congregation for use on behalf of children at risk.
- 10% supports General Assembly child advocacy ministries.
- 25% goes to support ministries with youth aged 12-18 and those called to accompany them (scholarships, development of leadership, worship and study are a few).
- 25% goes to young adult volunteer opportunities to work with our mission partners, travel in USA and overseas, emphasis on self-care, cultural sensitivity and learning from our global partners and gives the tools to be effective and faithful in their ministry. Providing monies for year-end retreats that prepare them to integrate their mission experience into their life after service, which produces approximately one third of the volunteers being involved in ordained ministry.

This year, our Pentecost offering will be taken on **Sunday, May 27th.**

BUTTERBRAIDED COFFEE CAKES



We have coffee cakes available for \$12.00 each with \$5.00 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 yours today.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CEDARKIRK CAMP FOR IMMOKALEE CHILDREN

Your donations will provide each child with a duffle bag and all the clothes and essentials for camp. This will be a gracious gift for these children and something their parents would never be able to afford. Cedarkirk is a wonderful place for children and adults alike and these experiences will be something they will remember for life.

A TRIP TO IMMOKALEE

Would you like to experience a trip to Immokalee...no, not to the Casino but to Misi3n Peniel. 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. We have a lot of fun. We laugh and we smile and we show our love for people who might only have that love handed to them once a month. Come and enjoy the experience. We stop at Cracker Barrel on the way home to wind down - and we all look forward to that. Come spread the love. Contact Dianne Sizemore at 743-5637. Thank you for all your generous gifts of clothes, toiletries, food etc. now and throughout the year.

FOOD FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Bring jars of peanut butter and jelly and spaghetti sauce for the community. These are two things that usually run out quickly. Our neighbors are very thankful for all the food you bring each week as the need is so great.

Bless you all.

Dianne Sizemore and your Mission Team

MAY 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

MAY

1 Walter & Veralou Scott
 2 Barbara Shinn
 3 Dave & Ella Sifferd
 4 Lorraine Sisson
 5 Dianne Sizemore
 6 Andrew & Nancy Smith
 7 Gerald & Margie Smith
 8 Stan Smith
 9 Mae Snyder
 10 Paul & Vicki Steffen
 11 Craig Stephens

MAY

12 Charles & Connie Stickler
 13 Mary & Sarah Stones
 14 Larry & Betty Strong
 15 Betty Stroth
 16 Anne Swift
 17 Fred & Diane Tabert
 18 Gail Thornton
 19 Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale
 20 Diane Truby
 21 Mary Vincent
 22 Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh

MAY

23 Doug & Esther Wheeler
 24 Rich & Jan Wilkinson
 25 Ed & Pam Williams
 26 Vern & Marlene Wilson
 27 Dave & Barb Woods
 28 Constance Wrock
 29 Bob & Natalie Wylie
 30 Joseph Yerger
 31 Larry & Andrea Yerger



Shirley Berg 6
 Jill Curtis 7
 Art Koon 11
 Charles Sampsel 13



Sam Crockett 14
 Robert Cuzner 19
 Joan Hoffman 24



Gene & Janet McLemore 11
 Paul & Vicki Steffen 17

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 June/July issue of *The Messenger* are due in the church office by **Monday, May 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.

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 Out Someplace) will meet for breakfast at 8am at Sky View Café, Punta Gorda Airport on **Thursday, May 3rd, 17th and 31st**. 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.

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.

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.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

We invite you to join us in celebrating Charlotte County's *NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER* at Punta Gorda City Hall Annex, Harvey Street on **Thursday, May 3rd at noon**.



BIBLE QUIZ



Which of the following is an accurate mother-child match from Scripture?

- A. Lois and Eunice
- B. Rebekah and Joseph
- C. Eve and Isaac
- D. Hannah and Eli



Answer: A (See 2 Timothy 1:5.)

The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness.
—Honoré de Balzac

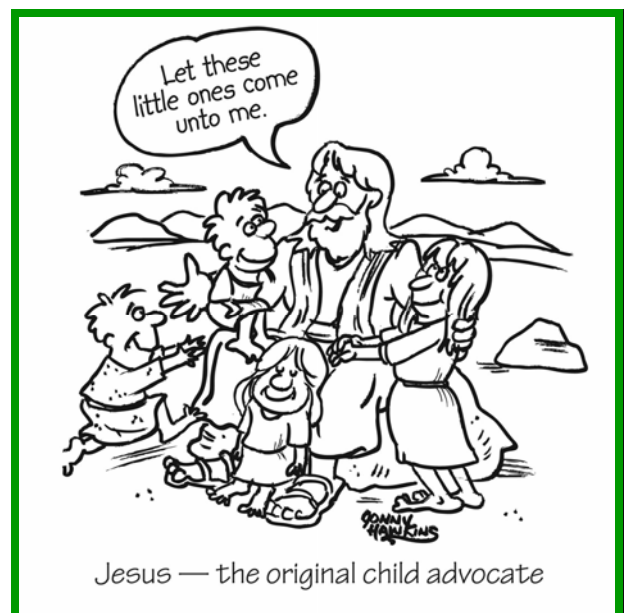
Thanks, Mom

Dad came home to find toys all over the living room, dirty dishes stacked in the sink, clothes piled in the laundry room, beds unmade and kids still in their pajamas. The house was a wreck, like nothing he'd seen before.

Worried, Dad rushed upstairs to find Mom reading a book in bed.

"Are you okay?" he asked. "What happened?"

"You know how you always ask what I do all day?" Mom replied. "Well, today I decided not to do it."



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



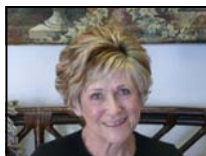
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PC(USA)



MEMBER, CONFESSING CHURCH



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH