



The Messenger

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

SUMMER 2014



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



Last month we looked at the biblical mandate to plant churches. This month we're going to look at why church planting is important now?

First of all, we plant churches to be true to the Great Commission of Jesus, to "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them all that I have commanded..."

"New churches best reach new generations, new residents and new people groups."

New churches best reach new generations, new residents and new people groups. New generations are disproportionately found in newer congregations. Long-established churches develop traditions that reflect the sensibilities of the long-time leaders of older generations who have the influence and money to control the church life. Younger generations are in large part turned off by these attitudes and practices. They prefer openness and freshness in approaching their relationship and worship of God.

New congregations almost always reach new residents better. It is harder for new residents to enter into the life of an older congregation because relationship patterns are already set and leadership less open. In a new congregation, relationship patterns are developing equally as is

Continued on page 2: Mock's Musings



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Summer Worship Schedule	2
Session Notes	3
Wednesday Bible Study	3
A Word from the Word	4
Music Notes	5
Presbyterian Women	6
Upcoming Events	6
Military Prayer List	7
"Helping Hands"	8
Parish Nurse Health Corner	9
Ministry News	10
Mission Ministry	11
Prayer Calendar, Birthdays & Anniversaries	13-15
This 'n That	16
Bible Quiz	18
Church Officers & Staff	19
Monthly Calendars (see inserts)	

leadership. New residents tend to have equal power with long-time residents.

New congregations always reach new socio-cultural groups in a community better. For example, if new retirees move into a new community development surrounded by an established, older community like Punta Gorda, a new church would be more attractive to them than an older congregation that continues to be oriented to the established community. New racial groups are best reached by a new church that is intentionally multi-ethnic from the start. For example, say a large section of Punta Gorda becomes 33% Hispanic. A new, deliberately bi-racial church will be far more likely to create 'cultural space' for newcomers than an older church in town. Not to say it is impossible for an older church to adapt, but a newer church is more effective in attracting and reaching new groups.

In summary, new congregations empower new people and new peoples much more quickly and readily than older churches. Thus they always have and always will reach them with greater facility than long-established bodies.

The second reason it is important to plant new churches is new churches best reach the unchurched. Denominational studies have confirmed that the average new church gains most of its new members (60-80%) from people who are not attending any worshipping body, while churches over 10-15 years of age gain 80-90% of new members by transfer from other congregations. This means that the average new congregation will bring 6-8 times more new people into the life of the Body of Christ than an older congregation of the same size.

Older congregations are established and stable with their focus on the needs of their members and therefore not necessarily looking beyond their walls to reach the unchurched. It is the natural progression of a church's life to do so and there is nothing wrong with this. Many need stability and traditions. It also doesn't mean the older congregation is totally inward focused, in fact, many non-Christians will only be reached by church with long roots in the community with their trappings of stability and respectability.

But, new congregations, as studies have shown, are forced to focus on the needs of its non-members simply in order to get off the ground. Since so many of its leaders have come very recently from that group of non-members, it makes sense that they would be more sensitive to the concerns of the non-believer. Also, in the first two years of our Christian walk, we have far more close, face-to-face relationships with non-Christians than we do later. Thus a congregation filled with people fresh from the ranks of the unchurched will have power to invite and attract many more non-believers into the events and life of the church than will the members of the typical established body.

Therefore, given these facts, the planting of new churches is imperative if we are going to reach non-Christians for Christ.

In the next newsletter, I'll address the question: what about existing churches like our own that need help?

In Christ,

Steve

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

There will be one blended (contemporary and traditional) service at **10am June 1st through August 31st**. Our regular Sunday schedule (9am and 10:30am) will resume **September 7th**.

SESSION NOTES



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAY 19TH SESSION

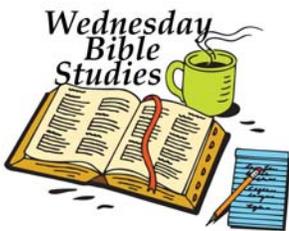
- Presbytery meeting will be held on June 6th & 7th at the First Presbyterian Church of North Palm Beach. Those attending will be Rev. Steve Mock, Rev. Larry Yerger and two elders, Joan Hoffman and Diane Culver-Truby.
- With deep regret we accepted the resignation of Dave Woods from the Session. The Nominations Committee will seek to find a replacement. Dave will continue to oversee the Property Team.
- Next meeting will be June 16th.

Dianne Sizemore, Clerk Pro Tem

Session:
Nancy Beasom
Joe Cherny
Diane Culver-Truby
Sharon Cuzner
Joan Hoffman
Marguerite O'Brien
Dianne Sizemore
Don Washabaugh

Moderator:
Pastor Steve Mock
Clerk of Session:
Gail Thornton

PASTOR LARRY'S WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Summer time - a great deal of sunlight - daylight savings time - YEAH! Time to fish, go to the beach - even yard work. Traffic is less because the snowbirds are gone. People going on vacation. Busy, busy, busy.

What happens to our faith when summertime hits? Does it go on 'vacation' too? It is well known that church attendance goes down, programs are put on hiatus, but some things continue as they should. There are continuing opportunities this summer for you to engage in, enriching your spiritual lives by not foregoing church and our ministry opportunities.

You are also invited to increase your scriptural knowledge, by joining the Wednesday morning Bible study, led by Rev. Larry Yerger. This study is appropriate for all ages regardless of your own scriptural expertise (especially since the less you know the more there is to learn and the more you know the easier it is to challenge the teacher - it does happen!) So, if you want a "knowledge infusion" this summer, come join us every Wednesday morning at 10:00am for fun and (spiritual/scriptural) profit! Perhaps to whet your interest, we will be doing an in-depth study of the Acts of the Apostles...hope to see all of you there!

A WORD FROM THE WORD

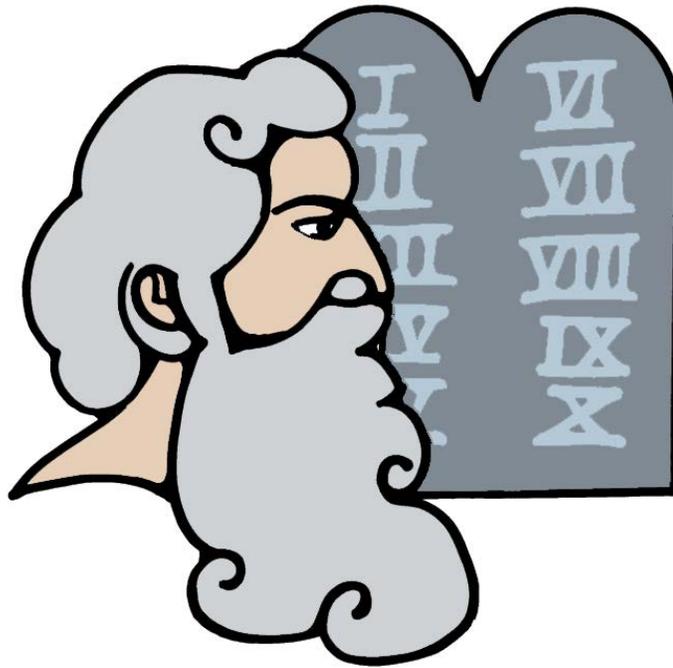


Rev. Larry Yerger, Assistant Pastor

The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20:3-17

I thought that perhaps a short recap of where we have been in our serialized study of the Ten Commandments would be in order as we enter the summer: we will resume our individual “commandments” review in the fall.

We have covered the First Table of the Law - the Decalogue - of the Ten Commandments so far. These four commands all deal with how we relate to God: He alone is God and He alone is to be worshipped; we are not to take the Lord’s Name in vain; we are to refrain from making idols of any kind (though in the ancient text these idols are represented by “graven images” - there are many other idols in the world of which we must be aware); we are to “keep” the Sabbath holy - set apart - for God’s glory and our rest. These four commands, on the surface, seem to be easy to follow; yet we have problems adhering to them with the plethora of distractions (idols) in the world, our speech (and actions) which do not honor God, remembering that there is only one God, and forgetting about getting our Sabbath rest. I urge you to pay attention to these



dictates for your (our) lives in your daily activities this summer (and, actually, always).

We also began an exploration of the Second Table in the fifth Command - honor your parents. This we can do, even if they are gone from us, by being the best Christian people that we can be and by attending to their needs and desires if they are still here with us. We will be building on this ideal - dealing with the interpersonal relationships that the Second Table is devoted to - when our

newsletter resumes in the Fall.

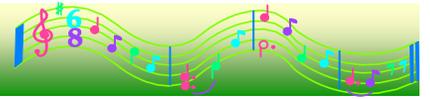
Until that time, have a blessed and safe Summer season!

Blessings and peace...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Larry Yerger".



MUSIC NOTES



On June 1st we start our one blended worship service for the summer. So what exactly is a “blended” service? I for one have a real dilemma when it comes to a blended service and not for the reason you may think. I want everyone to feel the love of God through all the music we do in this Church. I also know many of you prefer one style over another. I, on the other hand, love it all. I enjoy singing an upbeat praise song just as much as I enjoy singing or playing an old classic hymn. I love most all of the music that praises our God.

So as you come to our summer services you will be exposed to a variety of styles and genres of Christian music. I will use the organ, piano, and keyboard at most services. The first three weeks of June, you will enjoy some inspiring selections from our Praise Team along with a hymn or two, and maybe a praise song. I hope they all inspire us into a closer

relationship with our Lord. After these three weeks, Diane and I will be heading to the hills of Franklin for a couple weeks of R&R.



We still have plenty of opportunities for those of you wishing to provide some “special music” during the summer. Please see me before or after the service if you are interested. There is also a signup sheet in the Choir room.

As always, your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please see me after the service or you

may email me at rpc1220@me.com

In Christ,

Our prayers and sympathy are shared with:

- † Phyllis and Helmut Ehrhardt. Phyllis' sister, Grace Marie, lost her 10-year battle with cancer on April 25, 2014 and now is serving her Lord in heaven.
- † Mae Snyder and family on the loss of her brother, Lynwood Metcalf, on May 13, 2014.

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



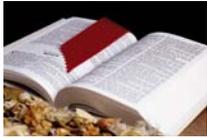
Helmut and I want to thank the congregation for all your prayers to heal and the lovely prayer shawl to bless him. Also, thank you for your prayers and love at the passing of my sister, Grace Marie.

God bless,
Helmut and Phyllis Ehrhardt



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women of the church are Presbyterian women and are invited to participate in all our activities.



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study is taking a summer vacation and will meet again in the fall on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, **beginning September 16th.**

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS



The prayer shawl group is taking a summer hiatus and will meet again in October.

TREASURES TABLE



The Treasures Table will continue over the summer with some of the items that have not sold donated to St. Vincent de Paul. If you have any items that you would like to repossess, please remove them.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!

Fellowship is planning a potluck and movie night on **Wednesday, June 25th at 6pm.** Here is an opportunity to invite your friends to come and enjoy a great meal and a good movie. We are going back to using the alphabet to help you know what to bring. Last names beginning with: (A-G) salad/veggies, (H-P) dessert, (Q-Z) meat.

Plates and silverware as well as coffee and tea will be furnished. Come for the fun of sharing great food and fellowship with your church family. Again, this is a great time to invite your friends to your church.

A sign-up sheet is on the table in church entrance.
(Movie to be announced)

COMING IN JULY

Ice Cream Social

Date & Time - to be determined

Check your Sunday bulletins for more details.





- 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.
- Caleb Driggers, Army, step-grandson of Fred & Diane Tabert, stationed in South Korea.
- Msgt. Sarah Blackburn, Air Force, daughter-in-law of Georgia Cherny, stationed at Fairfield AFB, Spokane, WA.
- Major Dave Peterson, Army, friend of Gail Thornton, stationed in Hawaii.
- Pvt. Alex Washabaugh, Army, grandson of Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh, stationed in Fort Benning, GA.
- 1st Lt. Eric Engstrom, Army, son of Alan Engstrom, stationed in Afghanistan.

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. Also, please let us know if your loved one is stationed elsewhere or his/her circumstance has changed. Thank you.



HELPING HANDS

REACH OUT YOUR HANDS
YOUR HELPING HANDS
LET OTHERS KNOW
THE LOVE YOU SHOW.

GIVE THOSE YOU PASS
ALONG THE WAY
THE HEALING LOVE
FROM UP ABOVE.

LET OTHERS KNOW
YOUR HANDS TO GIVE
TO THOSE IN NEED
YOUR SPIRIT FREED.

GIVE A SOFT TOUCH
UPON A BACK
AND SPEAK OF LOVE
FROM UP ABOVE.

LET HANDS DO WORK
AND SAVE OUR BROTHERS
TO CHANGE A LIFE
SO FULL OF STRIFE.

TO SHOW OUR CARE
ACROSS THE WORLD
LET HANDS JOIN HANDS
TO COMPLETE OUR PLANS.

DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN
PLEASE USE OUR HANDS
TO DO YOUR WILL
YOUR WORK TO FULFILL.

—NANCY BEASOM

THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:11-13

As members of the body of Christ, all the women of the church are grateful for the male leadership in our congregation. Happy Father's Day to all the men that exhibit the virtues of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our National Day of Prayer event for Punta Gorda on May 1st was spiritually uplifting. The ability to pray on city property is a blessing and a joy. The City of Punta Gorda always issues a proclamation naming the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer. It is wonderful to have so many city officials support this nationwide event. I thank God that we dwell in such a wonderful city and county!

Last month I reiterated information from Dr. David Perlmutter, board-certified neurologist from Naples, Florida. He has written a book titled, "Grain Brain," which I hope everyone will read.

Here is his advice to **SAFEGUARD YOUR BRAIN**:

- 1- Inflammation IS one cause of degenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, arthritis and heart disease.
- 2- Gluten and a high carbohydrate diet can cause inflammation!
- 3- People with a HIGH normal blood sugar have a greater risk of brain SHRINKAGE (6-10%). Diabetics have double the risk of dementia.
- 4- Studies show folks with higher cholesterol have better brain function.
- 5- Cholesterol is your friend! It is the MOST VITAL CHEMICAL for a healthy brain. Anyone on a statin drug should read this book but please don't just stop any drug without talking to your physician.
- 6- Eating good fats is very healthy These include avocado, coconut oil, pumpkin seeds, nuts and seeds, eggs and dairy.

ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE:

The risk of getting Alzheimer's disease is 50-50 or the flip of a coin. There are no drugs to help with prevention or cure, much less stabilization. There is plenty we can do to prevent Alzheimer's disease.

1- Aerobic Exercise turns on genes to promote brain cell growth.

2- DHA in omega-3 fatty acids (wild salmon) also turns on the same genes to grow new brain cells. The risk of Alzheimer's decreases by 67% when taking DHA. DHA talks to your genes and tells your genes to increase brain cells. This helps your memory and causes resistance to Alzheimer's.

3- Vitamin D – Multiple studies link low vitamin D levels with increased risk for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, plus multiple sclerosis.

4- Adequate Sleep – Every system in the body is affected by the quality and amount of sleep we get.

5- Weight loss – The fatter we are, the smaller are our brains.

6- Supplements – These include resveratrol and tumeric.

WHAT TO DO?

Even if you are NOT diabetic, getting a fasting INSULIN lab test will tell you how close you really are to diabetes. Also getting a hemoglobin A1C test will tell you how your blood sugar has been over the last 3 months. Dr. Perlmutter also recommends a fasting blood sugar, fructosamine, homocysteine, vitamin D level, C-reactive protein, gluten sensitivity test with Cyrex array 3 test. **His book has a 4-week plan to improve your health.**

FINALLY THE GOOD NEWS!

Dr. Perlmutter talks about our DNA and states, "We are not a victim to our heredity." Our genes are influenced by our habits and lifestyle choices. He believes we are in control of our genetic destiny (called the science of Epigenetics). Furthermore, we have recently learned we can grow new brain cells throughout life, even at the age of 80-90 (called the science of Neurogenesis). We can turn ON new brain cells in the hippocampus, the area affected by dementia.

PRAISE THE LORD!

Because Jesus lives!

Debbie Carney, RN, Parish Nurse,

carneydeb@hotmail.com, 941-456-6804

MEET OUR DEACONS & BOARD OF MINISTRY



Ministry NEWS

help them occasionally.

Communion is prepared by Georgia Cherny for the first Sunday of the month and occasionally needs someone who might be available to help or fill in when she's away.

Laurel Aumend delivers the Chancel Flowers every Sunday to the shut-ins, the sick, nursing homes or to someone who needs some cheering up. This is a good way to meet fellow parishioners and you are always welcomed by the receivers. Would you be able to help her in this mission occasionally?

Our Parish Nurse is Debbie Carney who does a wonderful caring service in our church. There is a need, however, for visitation to our shut-ins, especially when Debbie leaves for the summer. Would you be willing to visit one of our shut-ins once a month? You will find it very rewarding as they are so appreciative of seeing someone from church and know they are not forgotten.

We are in need of a Deacon of Communication. What it entails is sending out cards to the shut-ins once a month and those that are sick.

Also needed is someone for the Helping Hands Ministry. This person/persons would be available if you

need some minor job done that you are no longer able to do or if you need advice on whom to call, he or they might be able to help.

Can you knit or crochet or would like to learn? Margie Smith is on hand to help you. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a well received mission. Receivers are always grateful. The group is also making Linus Blankets and have started making Chemo Caps. They meet on the second Monday of the month at 10am from October to May.

Sharon Cuzner leads us in Presbyterian Women Bible studies, which have been well received and teaches the S.H.A.P.E. class. Hopefully in the fall, a men's Bible class will be formed.

Last but not least, is our Stephen Ministry program led by Mary Ann Washabaugh. If anyone would like to know more about it, being one or in need of a Stephen Minister, contact Pastor Steve or Mary Ann. They will be glad to answer any questions you might have about this program.

If you feel a calling to help out occasionally in any of these ministries, it will be greatly appreciated and you will feel blessed in many ways.

Thank you,
Joan Hoffman, Elder of Ministry



MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

ONE OF OUR EXCITING NEW MISSION PROJECTS

It has been several years since we have supported a foreign missionary, and your mission committee feels it is time to again fulfill the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



Rob and Jennifer Taylor have responded to God's call to participate in His mission in Africa. The Taylors served in Swaziland and are now in the US on Home Assignment. With the blessing and support of both their home church of Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church of Gig Harbor (part of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church denomination) and The Antioch Partners (TAP), the Taylors will be returning to a new ministry in Zambia when they return to Africa in late spring or early summer of this year.

Before moving to Swaziland in June 2012, the Taylors lived in Gig Harbor, Washington with their four children: Matthew, Luke, Will, and Rachael. Rob was a paramedic firefighter and Jennifer was at home taking care of the children.

God prepared the Taylors for their ministry in Swaziland through short-term, international mission trips, leadership development and training. When the Lord, in His timing, led them to the farm at New Life Homes (NLH) in Swaziland in November of 2010, there was no turning back. The Taylors are excited about the new ministry to which God is calling them in Zambia. They will be partnering with a network of local Zambian churches in community-based ministry and also serving with Teen Challenge – Zambia.

The Taylors will be leaving for Zambia in mid June. Your Mission Committee has agreed to support them for one year. **If you would like to give additional support, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda and put the Taylors name on the memo line.**

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

What is Neighbor to Neighbor? Let me tell you. Beginning **June 20th, from 4pm to 7pm**, your Mission Team will be starting a new outreach to the community. Our target is the elderly, families who are needy and the homeless. The third Friday of every month we will be serving a hot meal consisting of an entrée, dessert and beverage. Flyers are being delivered to St. Vincent de Paul and to several housing projects to pass out to area families.

We will be serving spaghetti, chicken and noodles, stews, soups, etc. We estimate that it will cost \$4 or less per person to do this. A hot meal with fellowship and ministry is our goal. We hope to get some donations for bakery products from stores and bakeries in our area to help with the cost.

Continued on page 12: MISSION MINISTRY

◆ **MISSION TEAM** *From page 11*

The program will be run by Sharon Russell, Richard Beck and his sister, Lorena Beck. Gail Thornton and Dianne Sizemore will oversee, cook and help out wherever they are needed. We want to eventually be able to help people sign up for food stamps, have some musical programs, things for kids to do, game night, etc. This is a big undertaking for us and we will need a lot of help with greeting, fellowship, serving, etc.

What can you do to help? **PRAYERS** are needed for our success. While everyone can do that, we need some to help with cookies, sheet cakes and dessert items. How else can you help? We need some men volunteers as well as people to visit with our guests. Also, we need people to help clean up, which will include making sure bathrooms are clean and ready for Sunday mornings. If you would be willing to help with any these items, call the church office or contact Dianne or Gail. If you care to donate money for food, please make checks payable to the church with a notation that it is for the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

We are collecting school supplies for the many homeless children in Charlotte County. Homeless children face many obstacles that others do not, and so homework may not be a priority in a family unsure of where their next meal is coming. Most homeless youth are four to six months behind their peers.

The Homeless Coalition is running a tutoring program at the shelter, using retired teachers and college students working toward their undergraduate degrees in education, volunteering to help the youngsters. Homeless students often do not have the access to basic materials such as pens, pencils, paper and backpacks, etc. This is where the Mission Team and Presbyterian Women come in. A Pack 'n Play in our church entrance in which you can leave your gifts for us to deliver as a help to this program. Thank you for helping us in this cause.

Some Suggestions:

Notebook paper, regular and also college-size notebook paper; composition books; black or blue ballpoint pens, #2 pencils; crayons, 16 or 24 count; blunt-point scissors; 12" rulers; notebook binders; colored folders with pockets; colored markers; erasers; individual pencil sharpeners (small ones); glue sticks; small boxes/packages of tissues.

HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL IN IMMOKALEE

Misión Peniel needs gently used blankets and towels. Used clothes, new socks and new underwear (28 thru 36), as well as any hygiene products are also appreciated. Men's pants, 28"- 36" waist, are always needed. Our next trips to Immokalee to Misión Peniel will be on **Friday, June 27th, July 25th and August 22nd**. We would love to have you come with us and experience the peace, love and satisfaction you get from this great outreach. We carpool from the church at 12:15pm. Telephone Dianne Sizemore, 743-5637 or call the church office if you need a ride.

Rice and Pinto Beans

The **second Sunday of every month** we collect RICE and PINTO BEANS for the Immokalee migrants.

REMEMBER TO FILL THE BLUE BIN

Remember to donate food to the blue bin each Sunday. We would appreciate a can of soup, or peanut butter and jelly, or any other item of your choice to feed the people of Charlotte County,

BUTTER BRAID COFFEE CAKES



The Mission Team is still selling the Butter Braid Coffee Cakes for \$12 each. They are great for a special morning treat or special dessert. You can purchase them Monday through Thursday in the church office or on Sunday morning from any of the Mission Team. For each one sold, \$5 goes to AMI Kids Crossroads. Your Mission Team: Dianne Sizemore, Chair; Laurel Aumend; Nancy and Ron Beasom; Georgia Cherny; Sharon Russell and Richard Beck; Elaine and Bill Schultz; Nancy Smith; Gail Thornton.

JUNE 2014 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

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Jerry & Nancy Julius | 12 Myles MacDonald | 23 Jim & Marge Parks |
| 2 Mary Kasbohm | 13 Steve MacDonald | 24 Pat & Mary Ann Patterson |
| 3 Carl & Mary Kimberly | 14 Larry & Sue Mesler | 25 Bruce & Myrna Peters |
| 4 Joyce Kiskaddon | 15 Glee Miller | 26 Dick & Donna Peterson |
| 5 Art & Fran Koon | 16 John & Joan Milligan | 27 Fred & Rachel Pfaender |
| 6 Verner & Cheryl Laird | 17 Steve & Joanie Mock | 28 Jack & Beth Porter |
| 7 Ken & Lynda Lambert | 18 Bruce & Mary Nielsen | 29 Linda Potthoff |
| 8 Ernie & DeAnn Lehman | 19 Alma Norment | 30 Paul & Louise Quillman |
| 9 Cy & Marcia Ling | 20 Edwina Norton | |
| 10 Connie Luther | 21 Robert & Eleanor Norton | |
| 11 Wallace & Barbara Lynch | 22 Marguerite O'Brien | |



- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1—Laurel Aumend | 10—Lorraine Sisson |
| 2—Gail Thornton | 16—Bill Schultz |
| 7—Connie Diller | 22—Walter Scott |

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| 6—Bob & Jean Humphreys | 50 |
| 14—Ron & Nancy Beasom | 56 |
| 14—Helmut & Phyllis Ehrhardt | 13 |
| 25—Donald & AnnaBelle DeBlauw | 63 |
| 26—Steve & Joanie Mock | 38 |
| 30—Art & Fran Koon | 52 |

JULY 2014 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

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Don & Joyce Rebolz | 12 James & Nancy Selch | 23 Sarah Stones |
| 2 David & Milanne Richards | 13 Barbara Shinn | 24 Betty Stroth |
| 3 Ed & Phyllis Richardson | 14 Dave & Ella Sifferd | 25 Anne Swift |
| 4 Thomas & Shirley Richey | 15 Lorraine Sisson | 26 Fred & Diane Tabert |
| 5 Gayle Rosa | 16 Dianne Sizemore | 27 Gail Thornton |
| 6 Jack & Patricia Rothley | 17 Andy & Nancy Smith | 28 Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale |
| 7 Sharon Russell & Richard Beck | 18 Gerald & Margie Smith | 29 Mary Vincent |
| 8 Barbara Ryan | 19 Stan Smith | 30 Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh |
| 9 Charles Sampsel | 20 Mae Snyder | 31 Doug & Esther Wheeler |
| 10 Bill & Elaine Schultz | 21 Craig Stephens | |
| 11 Walter & Veralou Scott | 22 Mary Stones | |



- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 4—Carol Crockett | 18—Sandy Fisher |
| 4—Joyce Rebolz | 20—Doris Henning |
| 8—Jerry Julius | 20—Bruce Peters |
| 16—Ernie Lehman | 20—Dave Woods |
| 16—Barbara Shinn | 23—Ron Beasom |

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| 7—Bruce & Myrna Peters | Years
7 |
| 18—Randy & Diane Curtis | 33 |
| 21—Don & Joyce Rebolz | 58 |

AUGUST 2014 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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Ed & Pam Williams | 12 Richard Beck & Sharon Russell | 23 Joe & Georgia Cherny |
| 2 Vern Wilson | 13 Shirley Berg | 24 Al & Helina Churchill |
| 3 Dave & Barbara Woods | 14 Rick & Kay Berner | 25 Jean Cleffi |
| 4 Bob & Natalie Wylie | 15 Dorothy Blue | 26 David & Cathy Coleman |
| 5 Larry & Andrea Yerger | 16 Phyllis Botticelli | 27 Doris & Charlie Costa |
| 6 Joseph Yerger | 17 Bonnie Brown | 28 Sam & Carol Crockett |
| 7 Jay Aldridge | 18 Marion Brown | 29 Irene Csontos |
| 8 Craig & Dotty Anderson | 19 Kay Callahan | 30 Diane Culver-Truby |
| 9 Tom & Vera Aping | 20 Ronald Campbell | 31 Daniel, Jill & Michael Curtis |
| 10 Laurel Aumend | 21 Bonnie Carey | |
| 11 Ron & Nancy Beasom | 22 Dave & Debbie Carney | |



- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 20—Richard Beck | 26—Joanie Mock |
| 22—Neta Gensemer | 28—Georgia Cherny |
| 24—Paul Gebel | 30—Marion Brown |
| 25—Gayle Rosa | |

- | | Years |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 11—Joe & Georgia Cherny | 2 |
| 16—Andy & Nancy Smith | 56 |
| 19—Fred & Rachel Pfaender | 65 |
| 24—Sam & Carol Crockett | 14 |
| 26—Walter & Veralou Scott | 63 |
| 29—Ron & Neta Gensemer | 61 |

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 September issue of *The Messenger* are due in the church office by **Monday, August 18th**.

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.

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, June 5th and 19th; July 3rd, 17th and 31st; August 14th and 28th**. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

ECO SHIRTS

First Presbyterian ECO shirts are available for a \$20 donation that will go to Missions. See Pastor Steve if you would like one.

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

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet again in October.



SPONSOR SUNDAY FLOWERS

The cost to sponsor flowers for 2014 is \$37. 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.



Congratulations to:

† Jean Hinman on the birth of her fourth great-grandchild, Landry Ray Hinman on May 3, 2014. He weighed 9 lb. 4 oz. and his proud parents are Nick and Melissa Hinman.

Hit the Road

When a teenager received his driving permit, he asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss use of the car.

His father said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut, and then we'll talk about it."

A month later, the young man returned to continue the discussion. "Son, I've been real proud of you," the father said. "You've brought your grades up and studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The teenager replied, "You know, Dad, I've been think-ing about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair and even Jesus had long hair"

"Yes," the father said, "and they walked everywhere they went!"

Live to Give

In Acts 20:35, Paul quotes Jesus as saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Interestingly, that's the only recorded statement of Jesus that's not found in one of the four gospels.)

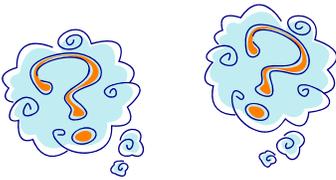
The blessings of giving are profound and lasting. Poet Maya Angelou says, "I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."

Heavenly Thoughts

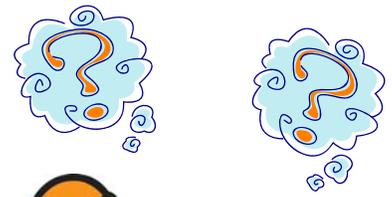
What is heaven going to be like? Just as there is a mystery to hell, so there is a mystery to heaven. Yet I believe the Bible teaches that heaven is a literal place. Is it one of the stars? I don't know. I can't even speculate. The Bible doesn't inform us.

I believe that out there in space where there are one thousand million galaxies, each a hundred thousand light years or more in diameter, God can find some place to put us in heaven. I'm not worried about where it is. I know it is going to be where Jesus is.

—Billy Graham



BIBLE QUIZ



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

- A. Saul and David
- B. Zechariah and Joseph
- C. Abram and Ishmael
- D. David and Boaz



Answer: C (See Genesis 16:15.)

Helping the World See Jesus

The church's role isn't only to "take Christ to the world," thus fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, but to recognize Christ already at work in the world and help others see him, too. God is visible through his handiwork, but easily seen? Not always. So the church is called to direct the world's gaze past mere "human decency" or "good fortune" to God as the ultimate source of goodness.

When someone professes atheism but also awe at nature, we might gently share our conviction that God designed such beauty. When medical care yields a cure, we can thank Jesus openly for healing. When community volunteers deliver toys to foster children; when counselors help families communicate; when neighbors welcome newcomers ... there is Jesus.

Christ doesn't hole up in church buildings until church members "take him" to the world; he works in the world, through church and unchurched alike. But the church is key to helping people recognize him.



Carve Your Name on Hearts

A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when the forget-me-nots are withered. Carve your name on hearts, and not on marble. —Charles H. Spurgeon

MEET OUR OFFICERS

ELDERS

Nancy Beasom — Fellowship	505-9383
Joe Cherny — Administration	575-2186
Sharon Cuzner — Discipleship	637-1792
Joan Hoffman — Ministry	639-4907
Marguerite O'Brien — Administration	639-7226
Dianne Sizemore — Mission	743-5637
Gail Thornton — Clerk of Session	639-5510
Diane Truby — Worship	637-7407
Don Washabaugh — Worship	255-8616

DEACONS

Debbie Carney — Parish Nursing	637-9389
Laurel Aumend — Flowers	625-5238
Margie Smith — Prayer Shawls	833-0185
Georgia Cherny — Communion	575-2186

MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



Pastor
Steve Mock
steve@fpcpunta.org



Assistant Pastor
Larry Yerger
revyerger@yahoo.com



Music Director
Randall Curtis
randy@fpcpunta.org



Volunteer Office Assistant
Gail Thornton
gail@fpcpunta.org



Office Mgr., Bookkeeper & Editor "The Messenger"
Elizabeth Dunn
elizabeth@fpcpunta.org



Volunteer Office Assistant
Dianne Sizemore
dgsizemore@comcast.net



Parish Nurse
Debbie Carney
carneydeb@hotmail.com



Treasurer
Joe Cherny
cjchern321@yahoo.com



First Presbyterian Church

25250 Airport Road
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950



Telephone: (941) 639-1959
Email: first@fpcpunta.org
Website: www.fpcpunta.org



ECO

A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
Presbyterians



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



MEMBER, CONFESSING CHURCH

A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH