



First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Church school : 9:15 a.m.

110 North Adams Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

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Pastor's Blog: brantcopeland.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 AM—12:30 PM AND 1:30PM—5:30PM, Monday—Friday

February 20, 2011



Presbyterian Women Circles Meeting Next Week

Together in Service

Tuesday, the 28th, at 9:30 AM

Location: FPC Education Building, Room 206



Presbyterian Women

Please mark your calendars for the 106th Annual Gathering of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Florida. This gathering will take place in our own home town, on Saturday, March 17th, at Lafayette Presbyterian Church. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the program will end at 2:30. Luncheon tickets are \$8.00 per person. If you will be attending, please let Mary Jane know and send her a check for \$8.00 to place your luncheon reservation. The deadline for responding is February 24th. We hope to see you there!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



There will be a training for all new elders in procedures for serving communion following Lord's Day worship, February 26, 2012. Any elder who wishes a refresher course on the process is welcome to attend.

Interested in learning more about Reformed theology and worship and the mission of First Presbyterian Church? You're invited to an information session on March 4th at 9:15 AM in Room 206 of the Education Building.

The session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, March 11, following Lord's Day worship. The purpose of the meeting is to review the pastor's terms of call and to take actions to conform to recent changes in the *Book of Order*.

Spring Cleaning? – We need your pants!!

Members of the high school youth group will be heading to Atlanta for a Spring Break Mission trip on March 18. Before we leave, we want to collect adult-sized jeans, pants and shorts that are in decent condition. Mercy Community Church (where Thomas Guthrie works and where our Adult Mission Trip participants volunteered) needs men's and women's pants and shorts all the time. So clean out your drawers and bring us your pants! We would also like to bring travel sized toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner and lotion. You can drop these items off in the Christian Education office anytime between now and Sunday, March 11.



2012 COFFEE SUNDAYS

**March 11; April 15; May 13; June 10;
July 8 (Stock up this month; no coffee sales
in August)**

**September 9; October 14; November 11; and
December 9**

Remember \$1.00 per bag goes to disaster relief.

Food First Sunday March 4th First Presbyterian Church

Food items are collected the First Sunday of each month and distributed to ECHO. Pick up a reusable shopping bag next Sunday, February 26th and bring your non-perishable food offering on the 4th.





Pastor's Column
Brant S. Copeland

"Lent" is an old word for Spring. It's also a season in the liturgical year which runs from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday – 40 days not counting Sundays. The number forty carries lots of Biblical weight. Remember the 40 nights and days it rained on Noah and his crew, the 40 years Israel wandered in the wilderness, and the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness following his baptism?

Lent is a season for preparation for Easter, marked by prayer, penitence, alms-giving, and often fasting and some form of self-denial. The Reformers of the 16th century were opposed to Lenten observance -- indeed to the liturgical calendar altogether. They felt that attention to times and seasons muddied the pure gospel of grace.

Growing up as a Presbyterian in Roman Catholic South Louisiana, my experience of Lent was purely second-hand. I had Roman Catholic friends who "gave up" stuff for Lent – usually chocolate – which never made much sense to me. On Sundays, however, they could eat all the chocolate they wanted. Sundays, being feast days, aren't part of Lent proper.

Even if you don't fancy Lent as a liturgical season, the idea of entering into some kind of spiritual discipline as we approach Easter seems soundly Reformed to me. The Ash Wednesday liturgy in the *Book of Common Worship* suggests that the minister say to the congregation:

I invite you . . . in the name of Christ,
to observe a holy Lent,
by self-examination and penitence,
by prayer and fasting,
by works of love,
and by reading and mediating on the Word of God.

As we enter this season at First Church we will gather in the Westminster Room for a simple meal, conversation round tables, and a service of Holy Communion. The ashes from the burning of last year's Passion Sunday palms will be provided, and those who wish can receive the imposition of ashes.

The free meal begins at 5:30 p.m. this Wednesday, February 22. Worship begins around 6:15 or so. If you can't join us for the meal, I hope you can join us for the service. Everything happens in the Westminster Room.

I welcome responses to my columns. To comment, please go to my blog: brantcopeland.com.

February 26, 2012 Lectionary

(First Sunday in Lent)

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

Childcare

Childcare for infants through pre-K children is available in our education building from 9:15 – Noon on Sundays. Infants and toddlers are cared for in our nursery on the main floor. Preschoolers have a classroom on the third floor, room 305. *Heavenly Helpers Agency* provides our babysitters and they are all background checked and trained in caring for children as well as CPR/First Aid. Volunteers also assist sitters in the nursery.

Adult Church School Classes

Hearing and Sharing the Word, Room #203

Adult Bible Class, Room #202

The Adult Bible Class is continuing our study of II Samuel. Please read II Samuel Chapter 14:25-33 and Chapter 15. Visitors are always welcome.

Faith and Families, 3rd Floor Room 307

This Sunday we will continue our discussion of the book, The Blessing of the B Minus. We will be talking about questions and comments that stood out to us in the first 5 chapters. Books will be available on Sunday or call Christy to pick one up this week.

Inquirers, Westminster Room

Leo Sandon will return to lead the discussion as we continue watching the PBS series, "God in America." This week's topic is "Liberalism and Conservatism in America."



**Nursery Volunteer Feb 26 -
Kira Sullivan**



February 26, 2012

Middle School Youth Group

Meet in front of the Education Building at 1:15 PM. You will be walking down to the Civic Center for the FSU's women's basketball game which begins at 2:00 PM. Bring money for snacks if you think you will want any. Parents will be called around 4:00 to let you know when pick up at the church will be. You must let Christy know by Thursday if you are planning to attend the game so we can be sure we have enough tickets! No evening youth group. We will be back to the Hunger Games next on March 4.

High School Youth Group

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Lent has begun! What does that mean to us? How might we observe Lent and challenge ourselves to live out our faith more fully? Activities and discussion.

**Any HSYG member who wants to attend the FSU game with the MSYG, please contact Christy by Thursday also.



First Presbyterian Preschool

We are currently registering children who will enroll at Preschool in August 2012. If you are interested in knowing more about a fall 2012 opening at First Presbyterian Preschool for a two year old, three year old or four year old, please call Andra Copeland at the Preschool, 222-4587. The Preschool also participates in the state of Florida VPK program (Voluntary Prekindergarten). Children who are four years old, on or before September 1, 2012 are eligible for VPK.

*** Limited openings are available for immediate enrollment at Preschool. Please call Andra for more information. 222-4587

Ash Wednesday Dinner and Service February 22, 2012

Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. Service begins at 6:15 p.m.

Westminster Room

Reservations required for the dinner – Lentil Soup, bread and dessert

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENT

NO FUTURE WITHOUT FORGIVENESS

A LENTEN CLASS SERIES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS

Led by The Rev. Brant Copeland, the Rev. David Killeen and David McNaughton, professor of philosophy, Florida State University

SPECIAL GUEST

On **March 21**, Agnes Furey will share how she is learning to forgive the murderer of her daughter and grandson.

Dinner and classes in the series take place on four consecutive Wednesday evenings:

MARCH 7, 14, 21 & 28 AT ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALFRIEND HALL

(Entrance on Calhoun Street between Call and Tennessee Streets and nursery care will be available.)

REGISTRANT DINNER 5:00 PM

LENTEN CLASS SERIES 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Join us for food, fellowship and a timely study on the topic of forgiveness. Through a Biblical and theological lens, we will see how accepting and offering forgiveness, one of life's greatest challenges, can open the way to a hopeful future for God's people.

Please return registration form to your church as soon as possible.

NO FUTURE WITHOUT FORGIVENESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH LENTEN SERIES
Wednesdays March 7 through March 28

Supper **\$6.00** adults; **\$5.00** child; **\$20** Max for family (Money for dinner fee will be collected at the door.)

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CLASS AND MEALS PARTICIPATION.

_____ Wed. Mar. 7 No(s). Attending Supper___ Class___
(Print names of adults attending, and ages of children who May need nursery care.)

_____ Wed. Mar. 14 No(s). Attending Supper___ Class___

_____ Wed. Mar. 21 No(s). Attending Supper___ Class___

_____ Wed. Mar. 28 No(s). Attending Supper___ Class___

Please submit newsletter items to:
newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org
by noon Mondays.



Members of the Middle School Youth Group last Sunday evening as they showcase their costumes as "Tributes from their Districts" in their study of *The Hunger Games and Our Faith*.



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110 NORTH ADAMS STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED