



## 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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website: www.oldfirstchurch.org

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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 13, 2011**



### Presbyterian Women Circles Meeting Next Week

**Mary and Martha**—Tuesday, the 21st, at 6:00 PM

Hostess: Robyn Stevenson

Study Leader: Ester Moring

**Dorcas**—Tuesday, the 21st, at 11:45 AM at the  
Westminster Oaks Club House

Hostess: Ann Cullison

Study Leader: Margaret Chase

### SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND OF WITNESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

Thursday, February 16, 12:00 noon

Florida's Capitol Building

If the death sentence is executed this Wednesday, help demonstrate the trend of opposition to Florida's death penalty to our officials. You may park in the Trinity Methodist Church lot and join others who will leave FPC at 11:45 for the walk to the Capitol.

### Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering Salad Pot Luck

**Sunday, February 19 Westminster Room**

Bring a salad (to the kitchen before worship), then join others for lunch, conversation and a stimulating program following worship. The program will feature our own Elizabeth Platt, retired from FSU College of Education, who will speak on her experience last year as a Fulbright scholar in Bangladesh. Her topic will be "Empowering Bangladeshi Women through Re-enactment of their Lives"

All are invited - male and female, member of a circle or not.

## Celebrate!

The Interfaith Habitat for Humanity build is officially over. Thanks to all who worked and otherwise supported this effort! There are still some minor efforts that are needed to finish up, but no need for volunteers to participate. The dedication date has not yet been set but a notice will be included in the newsletter when it becomes available.



### Organ Recital and Choral Evensong

St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday,

February 19, 2012 @ 3:30

Dr. Edie Johnson, Organ Recitalist

St. John's Choristers and Adult Choir  
will sing music by Moore, Piccolo, Mendelssohn,  
and Ireland

Childcare provided

More information: 222-2636, ext. 20



*We are looking for your musical talent!*

If you are an adult, play an instrument, and would be interested in playing for worship some Sunday, please contact Michael Corzine, Organist & Choirmaster, at mcorzine@fsu.edu.

We are also canvassing the Sunday School and Youth Groups for musicians among our children and youth. We will then create a database of instrumentalists, young and old, for future use.



**Pastor's Column**  
**Brant S. Copeland**

As Mark Twain said, "There are lies, damn lies, and statistics." Perhaps that's why my least favorite task is filling out the Annual Statistical Report for the Office of the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Although, unlike many congregations in the denomination, ours is not declining statistically, I still feel uncomfortable filling out that online form because I see no necessary correlation between figures and faithfulness.

We began 2011 with 394 active members. We gained 17 new members, but lost 12 due to deaths, transfers and inactivity. That left us a total of 399 active members. We reckon there are about 460 "adherents" – a term that refers to members, those on the baptized roll, and other people who show up regularly. If anyone asks, you can say that we're a 400-member church. That's not far off the mark.

As is the case with most mainline congregations, ours is graying. We reported 110 members over the age of 65, 104 age 56-64, 57 age 46-55, 77 age 26-45, and 51 age 51 and younger. (These are estimates. We could be more accurate if folks would give us their birthdays, but for some reason, many people would prefer that we guess.)

Our efforts to reach younger people are bearing fruit, however. We have active young adult and college fellowships and a new Presbyterian Women Circle called "Old First Church Young Circle." Check them out on Facebook!

The financial data portray a healthy, but not excessively wealthy, congregation. Regular contributions totaled \$443,693, investment income \$20,357, and other gifts \$43,393. Through wills and bequests we received a remarkable \$242,184 – all of which went into the endowment. We expended \$458,447 for local programs, \$37,449 for local mission, and \$51,000 for "validated mission," which means undesignated support for presbytery, synod, and General Assembly. Last year the Minister's Discretionary Fund expended \$20,365 to help 192 individual neighbors and local households. In our last session meeting it was reported that the current value of our endowment is \$1,330,985.

We don't have the 2011 data for all congregations, but using the 2010 data, our congregation's average contribution per member, \$1,261, was larger than the average for all PC(USA) congregations, \$1,122.07. The reported average contribution per worship attendee, \$2,856, was larger than the 2010 PC(USA) average, \$2,214.83.

Worship attendance averaged 180 – which is not bad for a 400-member congregation, but also nothing to write home about.

Add all that up and what do you get? On paper, we look pretty good. The true measure of faithfulness is much harder to quantify. I'd say the best yardstick is found in the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew. We might look like sheep on paper, but we could be goats in practice.

## **February 19, 2012 Lectionary**

*(Transfiguration of the Lord)*

*2 Kings 2:1-12*

*Psalm 50:1-6*

*2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

*Mark 9:2-9*

## 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 Chapters 13-14. Visitors are always welcome.

**Faith and Families, 3rd Floor Room 307**

Beginning this Sunday we will be discussing the first 3 chapters of the book, *The Blessing of the B Minus*. Books will be available on Sunday or call Christy to pick one up this week.

**Inquirers, Westminster Room**

"Toxic Chemicals and Our Children" - Rachel Carson warned us in *Silent Spring* half a century ago about the dangers of toxic chemicals and over this time the number of chemicals in our daily lives has grown to more than 80,000 most of which have gone through no review governmental review process. We can protect our children from many dangers, but we cannot protect them from exposure to harmful chemicals. Cancer rates are increasing as are asthma, birth defects, learning disabilities and more as the result of this proliferation of chemicals in our daily lives. In preparation for this class you are challenged to make a pizza that has no pesticides, herbicides, endocrine disrupting chemicals, Bisphenol A or other toxics.

We'd like to invite any other classes that may be interested in this topic to join us.



**Nursery Volunteer Feb 19**

**Meg Walker**



*February 19, 2012*

*6-7:30 p.m.*

### Middle School Youth Group

*If you haven't yet read The Hunger Games, you should start reading the first book in order to get ready for the next few weeks of youth group.*

### High School Youth Group

We will be cooking for Grace Mission and watching the last part of the DVD, *Miss Representation*. If you didn't contribute \$5 to our snacks for Grace kids last month, please bring your \$5 this month.



### 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

### Lunch for College-aged Young Adults

**This Sunday, February 19, 2012**

### Following worship in the Calvin Room

Join us for a home-cooked meal! Bring a friend or a roommate. Call Christy if you have questions.

### 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 of 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.

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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\_\_\_

## *Let Roll from Tallahassee to Atlanta—February 8-10, 2012*

### *A Brief Summary of Events*



Our First Presbyterian Church mission team consisted of: Jose Cruz, Meredith Walker, Christy Williams, Marian and Walter Moore, Amy Guthrie and Doug Throm. We began our journey at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia where the pastor of Mercy Community Church in Atlanta met us and walked us through the new Heritage Center and chapel. We were also able to walk the stations of the cross around the lake. After a few hours we headed to Columbia Seminary in Decatur where we were housed during our stay. Trip Porch, a member of our Presbytery and current student at Columbia Theological Seminary, met us and gave us a tour of the campus. Then we drove into Atlanta and had Wednesday night dinner with members of Mercy Church at St. John's Lutheran Church.

After dinner, the assembled dinner group – consisting of men staying the night at St. John's shelter, St. John's 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class and church members and us – all participated in a Bible study. It was eye opening and a wonderful experience of hospitality. The next morning we arrived at Mercy Church and immediately felt like we were seeing old friends from the night before! We helped with some breakfast chores and then really just sat with folks and talked and spent the morning participating alongside all these church members who struggle with daily survival on the streets but come to Mercy for prayer, worship, singing and bible study. On some days these church members are mentored in writing articles, poems and stories for a newspaper they produce and then sell. Other days an art teacher comes and helps them express themselves with paint or pottery.

On Friday while we were there a volunteer barber came and gave haircuts to folks who wanted them and a woman came and did spiritual direction with some of the church members too!

The openness and graciousness with which we were received was touching. We saw what the relational ministry of Mercy Church was doing to transform these members' lives from being in constant fear, to having a place that is safe and where they feel they are important, accepted and have a voice in what goes on and what happens. You could see the community bonds that were formed and how that made each person worry and care for the others around them. We saw people who didn't have enough to eat on a regular basis come and ask for extra



sandwiches for a man in a wheelchair who they didn't think could get to the shelter for food that night. We helped people choose hats and gloves for another friend who didn't realize the clothing closet would still have some and who needed a set for that night. We were the recipients of people's patience as we learned the church's daily routine and of people's friendship as they were willing to share their stories with us and to pray with us when they heard our stories. For two days we were embraced not as "the stranger" but as brothers and sisters in Christ. We were transformed by this community who showed what it really means to put your trust in God and to have a relationship with Jesus the Christ.

## 2012 COFFEE SUNDAYS



**March 11; April 15; May 13; June 10; July 8 (Buy extra in July; no coffee sales in August)  
September 9; October 14; November 11; and December 9**  
**Remember \$1.00 per bag goes to disaster relief.**

Announcements for the newsletter should be submitted to [newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org) by noon Mondays.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
110 NORTH ADAMS STREET  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**