



First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Church school : 9:15 a.m.

110 North Adams Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Phone (850) 222-4504 Fax (850) 222-2215

email: office@oldfirstchurch.org

website: www.oldfirstchurch.org

www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch

Pastor's Blog: brantcopeland.com

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

January 17, 2011

MEET ALEX



The Massey Family with Papa Joe Swindle
(Alex's maternal grandfather)

Hello! My name is Alexandra Massey, but I prefer to be called Alex. I am so excited to join the First Church team as the Office Administrator! I grew up in Orlando, FL and much to the chagrin of my Gator family, moved to Tallahassee to pursue a degree in Choral Music Education. I graduated May 2009 and immediately began teaching chorus at a middle school in Orlando. I moved back to Tallahassee in August 2011, and have thoroughly enjoyed being back, especially attending FSU football games! My parents have been married for almost 33 years. My father, George, is a Land Surveyor, specializing in Geodetics, and my mother, Mary, while pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, is serving Isle of Faith United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, FL as the Director of Family Ministries. My brother, Will, who is 3 ½ years my elder, lives in Vienna, VA and is a Payroll Administrator for one of the largest golf management companies in the country, Billy Casper Golf, Inc. BCG, Inc. even manages the Southwood Golf Course right here in Tallahassee! I enjoy photography and traveling. My favorite city to visit is Washington, D.C. I also enjoy singing and cooking, and will never turn down good sushi! I look forward to getting to know the family at First Church and growing in my faith with you all.

January 21, 2012 Habitat Interfaith Build Work Day Cancelled

Plans for provision of breakfast and lunch by First Church for January 21st have been postponed and possibly cancelled because building on that date has been cancelled. The reason for the cancellation is based on the memorial service for Laura Randolph, beloved friend of Bill Stone, the Habitat building supervisor. The memorial service will be held at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church at 11:00 AM, January 21st, with reception to follow at Dorothy Owen park. The interfaith build house is scheduled to be completed by February 4th, but there is a possibility that it may require one additional week to complete. Other churches are already providing the January 28th and February 4th meals, but if it is necessary to extend to February 11th, First Church would be requested to provide meals on that date.

For further information, contact Richard Dolan at 422 -2704.

CORRECTION

The FSU Musical Theatre Ensemble: Dr. Gayle Seaton and students showcase the music.

*Sunday, January 29, 3 PM,
Main Library Program Room*

Young Adult/Young Professionals Supper Club

Tuesday, February 2, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Christy's apt – 2055 Thomasville Road B-304

Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

RSVP to Christy@oldfirstchurch.org



Session Retreat Reminder

January 20 and 21 Westminster Room

6:30-9:00 PM Friday commencing with dinner

9:00 AM—noon, Saturday



PASTOR'S COLUMN
Brant S. Copeland

Pastor's Column

My son Adam gave me the new biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer by Eric Metaxas for my birthday. At 542 pages, ***Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*** made for good reading at the beach following Christmas. As Metaxas guided me through those chilling years of Hitler's rise and the ever-increasing persecution of Jews, I kept asking myself, "If I had been a Christian in Germany at that time, what would I have done?"

Would I, like Bonhoeffer and that small band of pastors in the Confessing Church, signed The Theological Declaration of Barmen, rejecting "Nazi Theology," or would I, like the vast majority of "good" Christians, gone along with what was termed "German Christianity?" Metaxas points out that many, many Germans opposed the Third Reich, but felt it their patriotic duty to serve in the military and not to resist the government openly.

Last Sunday Glenda Rabby gave a wonderful talk to the Inquirers' Class about the role of churches and church leaders during the Tallahassee Bus Boycott and the Civil Rights Movement. I was too young at the time to make adult decisions, but I remember the pressure my father faced as a pastor in Texas.

When Dad stood for Civil Rights, even in a modest way, he was vilified by some church members as a Communist dupe and a disloyal American. Members of the John Birch Society came to our church and took notes during his sermons to make their case against him. My parents received anonymous phone calls at the manse accusing them of being "nigger lovers."

If I had been the pastor of a church in the South in those days, would I have had the courage to speak out? To march with Dr. King? To insist that racial segregation was contrary to the gospel? To drive black voters to the polls?

In hindsight, the issues facing Christians in the 50's and 60's seem crystal clear. At the time, however, things seemed more complicated. The same is true today.

Leon County Supervisor of Elections Ion Sancho has become a voice crying in the wilderness regarding the recent restrictions on voter registration and early voting passed by the State Legislature. He told a crowd on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,

"We are facing a time that few of us thought would be possible. History tells us we have been here before. (The legislators) have another plan they want to implement, to make sure the people who voted in 2008 are not the same people who voted in 2012."

The argument that the new restrictions are merely a hedge against fraud by voters is an obvious sham. It requires a willing suspension of disbelief to see the new law as anything but a means of suppressing votes by those who traditionally vote Democratic. The effect of the law is to limit the votes of blacks and other minorities. The law is not overtly racist, but then again, neither were the old poll tax laws. These days you don't have to be Bull Connor to keep non-whites from voting.

Preach on, Brother Ion! You are a profile in courage.

January 22, 2012 Lectionary

(3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

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. We are in need of more volunteers for the nursery rotation. If you are interested contact Christy@oldfirstchurch.org.



Nursery Volunteer Jan 22 -
Barbara Edwards

Adult Church School Classes

ABC (Adult Bible Class) Calvin Room, #202

The Adult Bible Class is continuing our study of II Samuel. Please read II Samuel 5:11- chapter 7. Visitors are always welcome.

Faith and Families 3rd Floor, Room #307

We will be in Room 206 watching the first segment of Miss Representation – “this film explores how mainstream media contributes to the underrepresentation of women in influential positions in America and challenges the media’s limiting and often disparaging portrayals of women, which make it difficult for the average girl to see herself as powerful.” Join us for the viewing and the discussion.

Hearing and Sharing the Word Room #203 Inquirers Westminster Room

Amy Koehlinger, of FSU's Religion Department, a favorite guest speaker in our class, has done extensive research about the role of boxing in the process by which immigrants have sought to establish their masculinity and their place in American society. That will be her subject this Sunday.

DiscipleFest 2012: Visions of Hope

Friday, January 27 and Saturday, January 28, 2012

\$65. for room, board and workshops

This year DiscipleFest will host Carol Howard Merritt, author of the book, Tribal Church. There are many workshops to choose from including several led by Carol Merritt. The location for Disciplefest is Edgewater Beach Resort in Panama City. There are registration forms on the table in the main hallway of the education building. Contact Christy Williams if you want more information.



Sunday, January 22, 2012

Middle School Youth Group

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Calvin Room

“The changing nature of friends in a cyber-saturated world”

Snacks provided by Aidan

High School Youth Group

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Westminster Room and Kitchen

We will be cooking dinner for Grace Mission kids’ program. Bring \$5. to contribute to the snack packs we will be providing when we serve the meal there on Thursday. We will also be viewing and discussing a segment of the video “Simply Enough” with Shane Claiborne. Also bring Mission Trip registration forms!



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



Mission Experience for Adults and College Students February 8-10, 2012 Cost \$80.

Register for this experience and spend three days ordering your time with prayer, study, reflection and service among a community of others who are seeking to deepen their faith. We will travel to Atlanta, with a stop at The Monastery of the Holy Spirit, to work at Mercy Community Church where we will be part of the prayer and worship time, the bible study and food service to those who struggle with being homeless. Registration forms and more information are on our church website or on the main floor’s bulletin board. Contact Christy Williams with any questions.



Mid-Week Adult Enrichment Series

January 18th and 25th

(Please note this date change!!)



“Reformist vs. Traditionalist in Islamic teaching and law:

What Contemporary Muslims are Arguing About!”

By Shannon Dunn

Shannon is completing her PH.D at FSU. Her dissertation examines how modern Muslims address tensions within their tradition about the role of women.

Dinner is at 5:30 with the program starting at 6:15. Dinner is \$6.50 per person with a family cap of \$15 Children under 12 eat free. Reservations are necessary if you plan to eat dinner and the best way to make them at this time is to call the church office at 222-4504 no later than noon on the Monday prior to the session.

Announcements for the newsletter should be submitted to newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org by noon Mondays.

2012 COFFEE SUNDAYS

February 12; March 11; April 15; May 13; June 10; July 8

(No coffee sales in August; so, stock up in July);

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

Remember \$1.00 per bag goes to disaster relief.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED