



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

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 9, 2011

Two Mission Experiences Sponsored by

First Presbyterian Church

February 8-10, 2012 & March 18 – 23, 2012

First Presbyterian Church is excited to offer two mission experiences for church members this winter. In both instances we will be working with those who are homeless or struggling with poverty in the Atlanta area.

February 8 – 10: For college students and adults:

Cost: \$80.

March 18 – 23: For High School Students & Adults:

Cost: \$150.

Space is limited!! Register now to hold your spot.

You will find the registration forms on the Old

First Church website, oldfirstchurch.org

The Library was awarded a traveling exhibit by the American Library Association and is hosting it from *Jan 15 to Feb 18*.

A Fine Romance:

Jewish Songwriters, American Songs 1910-1965.

Displayed on the second floor of the main library, it's a 16-panel display of posters, photos, and quotes celebrating all those great musicals and songs. We'll have books, CDs, movies on display for people to check out. Two free performances are part of the exhibit:

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

Sunday, January 25, 3 PM, Main Library Program Room

FSU Jazz Combo: Leon Anderson and students showcase jazz of the era.

Sunday, February 5, 3 PM, Main Library Program

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

First Presbyterian is responsible for providing lunch at the Habitat Build site on Saturday, January 21. If you are interested in helping prepare and/or serve at that time, please contact Marian Moore at:

877-1609 or

mb_moore@comcast.net.

Thank you in advance.



FPC Delegation to the Montreat Conference for College Students



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.



PASTOR'S COLUMN

Brant S. Copeland

Pastor's Column

A colleague sent me an article by Tom Ehrlich, dated January 5, which offers an interesting take on the changes churches will have to make. (Google "multichannel church" for more). Ehrlich, formerly an Episcopal pastor, begins by lamenting the demise of Eastman Kodak, using this company as metaphor for all institutions, especially the church, that fail to adjust to fast-changing realities. He then offers these two lists:

For clergy:

Clergy will need to become strong, assertive entrepreneurs, even in polities that believe in constraining clergy power.

Institutions built on Sunday worship will need to channel resources away from Sunday worship.

Constituents will need to embrace "harvest giving."

Leaders will take a fresh look at facilities – a long and strategic view, not a "survivor" view.

For churches:

1. Constituents who have seen church as a place to get their needs met will need to become **servants**, self-sacrificial and radically inclusive.
2. Laity will need to **let beloved institutions change radically**, and allow leadership to pass to risk-takers, upstarts, new and younger constituents.
3. Judicatory heads trained to manage institutional processes will need to become **advocates for a movement**.
4. **Seminaries** will need to stop preparing ordinands for a church that no longer exists.
5. People will need to let their faith be more than convenient religion, a comforting engagement with affirming fellowships, and instead **wade boldly into disorderly gatherings** marked by diversity and neediness.

The article is helpful in many ways, but apart from the word "servants," I note a decided lack of theological content. I agree with much of what Ehrlich says, but disagree strongly that clergy are to become "entrepreneurs" while members are to become "servants." His characterization of people of faith as possessing only "convenient religion" is downright insulting and a form of bearing false witness against his neighbors.

The people I "serve" (and I use that word on purpose) at First Church are not focused entirely on "comforting engagement with affirming fellowships." They are true servants of the living God who are engaged in God's mission.

While I appreciate constructive criticism, I don't appreciate condescension. The Apostle's advice to the church in Rome seems appropriate " . . . **do not claim to be wiser than you are** (Rom. 12:14).

January 15, 2012 Lectionary

(2nd Sunday after Epiphany or 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

1 Samuel 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51

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.

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 3:22—chapter 5. Visitors are always welcome.

Faith and Families Class

Third Floor, Room #307

We will join the Inquirers' class this Sunday to hear Glenda Rabby's presentation. Next week we will begin the discussion of the movie *Miss Representation*.

Hearing and Sharing the Word Class

Room #203

Inquirers' Class

Westminster Room

Glenda Rabby is the author of *THE PAIN AND THE PROMISE: THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA*. On this week-end when we remember the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Glenda will be our speaker. The title she has chosen is "Race, Religion, and Red-Baiting: The battle for 'moral, simple justice' in Tallahassee."



Middle School Youth Group

High School Youth Group

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Join us from 6 – 8 p.m. for our annual "B-Movie" showing! We promise to bring you a really bad, horror or old movie for you to laugh yourself silly. Look for more information to come via Facebook and e-mail.

We will be meeting in the Westminster Room

See you there!



First Presbyterian Preschool is looking for a donated computer for the children and teachers to use in the classroom. A system running Windows XP or higher would be greatly appreciated. Call 222-4587 or write director@firstprespreschool.net.



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

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.



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.



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110 NORTH ADAMS STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED