

We Welcome Our Littlest Worshippers!

by Grace Cameron Hood,

Director of Children and Family Ministry



Jesus welcomed the little children. First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach welcomes them also.

For your convenience there is a nursery provided for children from birth to two years of age. Ask any usher for directions.

We invite all children to start the morning in worship.

During both worship services (9 a.m. and 11 a.m.), children through first grade are dismissed to Bible Bunch after The Time With the Children in Room #113 on the first floor of the Christian Education Building.

During both worship services (9 a.m. and 11 a.m.), children from second through fifth grade are dismissed to Sunday School after The Time With the Children in Room #203 on the second floor of the Christian Education Building.

You are encouraged to keep your older children with you so they can begin to experience worship with God's people. Worship Kits and Bibles of all kinds are available for your children on the Children's Table in the Covered Patio.

It is important to remember that little legs and little bodies cannot keep still for

one hour. Here are some tips to help make church more enjoyable for your little worshippers and the people sitting around you.

✂ Tell your child one reason you as a parent like to attend church.

✂ Visit the restroom and water fountain before entering church.

✂ Greet the worshippers sitting around you and introduce your children to them.

✂ Look around for someone your child knows. Encourage them to smile at their friend. This helps a child know they are not alone in worship.

✂ Sit near the front. This helps children feel they are more part of what is going on. This also helps remind the pastor and congregation that there are children present.

✂ Find something in the bulletin that your child can do. For example, they can help find hymn pages.

✂ Pick up a worship kit and a Bible at the Children's Table in the Covered Patio. There are many versions of the Bible for all ages available. We want to make God's word interesting and fun.

✂ Ask questions after church about what happened or what was said. This helps them listen more carefully.

Holy Week Worship Opportunities

Palm Sunday Worship Services

in the Sanctuary
Sunday, March 29th – 9 & 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

in the Sanctuary
Service of Communion
and Tenebrae
Thursday, April 2nd – 7 p.m.

Good Friday Music & Meditation

in the Sanctuary
Friday, April 3rd – noon

Easter Sunday Worship Services

in the Sanctuary
Sunday, April 5th – 9 & 11 a.m.

✂ Share a hymnal with your child. If they are learning how to read, point to the words as you sing along.

✂ Have a small treat, such as Life Savers. Tell the child in advance they will receive them only when they are doing well. Make it a rule that they cannot ask for a treat.

✂ Make Sunday Worship a fun and meaningful event. Help your children understand how important worship is to you so they can learn to make it important in their lives! ❖

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From My Heart to Yours

by **Dr. W. Douglas Hood, Jr.**
Senior Pastor



Beachcombing

“I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ.”

Philippians 3:8 (Common English Bible)

Beachcombing has become one my favorite activities that I share with my wife. The treasure that is freely presented by the sea changes with every wave that washes ashore. Rare pieces of sea glass, interesting stones and shells and the occasional piece of driftwood provide a most fascinating diversion from the daily tasks and responsibilities that can consume any of us. Collecting unusual pieces and sharing what I have found with my wife helps me unwind and slip out of my day-to-day routine. Worries fade for both of us as we become caught-up in the fascination of discovery.

There is also trash and dangerous sea life that washes ashore. Broken glass with sharp edges and jellyfish tend to present the greatest danger to bare feet on the beach. Most beaches provide a purple flag to alert those walking the edge of the surf to the presence of dangerous sea life. This is helpful, of course, but the eye must remain sharp to see other harmful items that wash ashore such as nails, needles and sharp pieces of metal. Placing the bare foot upon any of these changes one’s mood and diminishes an otherwise beautiful day. Worries that had faded are replaced with other worries.

What is important is developing a sharp eye to discern between treasure and trash, what is a collectable and what is dangerous. Our spiritual lives require the same discernment. What we collect in life will either draw us closer to God or lead us away. Particularly in the midst of the craziness of life, busy schedules and the need to multitask we must exercise care to carry God with us. Otherwise we may discover one day that we have spent our life gathering those things that have little value. Worse, we may realize that we completely missed the true treasure – a life-filling relationship with Jesus.

Paul doesn’t want us to miss the treasure. So he makes a sharp distinction between what he once considered valuable and now knowing Christ. By comparison to Christ Jesus everything else is little more than “sewer trash”. Perhaps this is hyperbole. Perhaps it isn’t. What is important is that as Paul walks the shores of life he now understands the difference between what has value and what doesn’t. And he urgently wants us to know the same. ❖

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If you or a family member are hospitalized, please notify the church office. Even if you give the name of the church upon admission, the hospital will NOT notify us.

DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS

by Dr. W. Douglas Hood, Jr.
Senior Pastor

“My problem is not that I fail to understand the gospel.

My problem is that I have no intention of doing anything about it.”

*I can imagine Jesus saying something like “Follow me”,
to which I respond:*

“I’m going to need to get back to you on that.”

(Jay Sidebotham)



A Basic Approach to Spiritual Growth



Formative Practices

Worship Regularly
Pray Daily
Learn & Apply God’s Word
Participate in a Ministry
Give Financially



Time in Solitude with God

Identify a regular time each day to be alone with God for a minimum of twenty minutes reading the Bible and prayer. Also helpful is the use of a devotional guide such as Dr. Hood’s *Heart & Soul* available from the church.



Time in Community with Others

One hour each week, spend time with one or more people reading the Bible and discussing the application to life today. Also share how your faith is growing or faith challenges you are facing. This may be done with a spouse, children, or friends. Make it enjoyable with a beverage and snacks.



Time Sharing Your Faith with Another

Our faith expands richly by sharing with another person how we are personally experiencing God or what we are discovering by our personal reading of the Bible. Be intentional and do this once or twice each year with different people like colleagues at work or friends in social circles.

© W. Douglas Hood, Jr.

Deacons' Corner

by Mary Martinéz

Our Newest Deacons: Led By the Spirit to Serve

By now, we hope that each person in our congregation knows who his or her Deacon is! We are so pleased to have our newest Deacons on board; their willingness to serve makes it possible for each of us to have a flock that is small enough to get to know each of you well and enables us to better meet your needs. As we have in the past, we'd like to introduce you to each of our new Deacons here in this column. Those who have just joined us bring a wealth of prior experience, and we're starting our introductions with Carol and David Lewis and Andrea (Andy) Miller. What struck me in my conversations with all three individuals was the depth of the spiritual calling they felt to serve as Deacons.



Carol and David have been attending First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach for about a year and half, and joined

about a year ago. Previously from Carmel, NY, they have lived in Boynton Beach for seven years and Florida for ten. During this time, they have attended different churches but seem to have found the combination of spiritual growth and outreach that they value here in our congregation.

David noted that he was motivated to take on the Deacon role, in part, based on one of Dr. Hood's five points for spiritual growth: participating in a ministry. Having met in Sunday School in Poughkeepsie, NY, Carol and David have a history of supporting the mission of the church through service. In their previous churches, they have been, respectively, a Deacon and an Elder, and supported both the administrative operation and the congregational life of the church, including assistance with record keeping and financial tasks, caring for the church grounds, and participating in outreach efforts such as "Midnight Runs" to feed the homeless in NYC, CROP walks (C.R.O.S.), and spending two weeks in New Zealand with a Habitat for Humanity building project.

Here in Boynton Beach, they are both part of the C.O.P.'s program (Citizens Observer Patrol), and David volunteers in the radiation/oncology unit of a local hospital. Carol and David have been married for 51 ½

years and have an adopted daughter from Korea and two other children.



Andrea (Andy) Miller and her husband, Paul, have been attending First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach for about five years, having rented in the vicinity of the church, found their way to our worship services, and never felt the need to look further! They joined the church last year – the first time they have become actual members of a congregation, and Paul has accepted the role of Elder as Andy becomes a Deacon. The couple now spends six months here and six months in New Jersey, where they are the owners of a group of car dealerships. Andy is just stepping away from her CFO role by mentoring a successor. Andy and Paul have been incredibly active and committed wherever they have attended, including the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in NYC, where they first became involved in the Macedonian Ministry.

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From Your Hearts to Wheels from the Heavens: Christmas Eve Offering Update

By Jeanne Heavilin, Co-Chair, Mission Outreach Committee

This past Christmas Eve, we asked you to “Contribute to the needs of God’s people...” as Paul instructed Christians in Romans 12:12. You contributed generously and, thanks to you, at least five families in our community will have reliable transportation. Shira, referred to us by Adopt-A-Family, was the first recipient of a car purchased through Wheels from the Heart. She will no longer spend 4+ hours a day on buses to get to work, church, and treatments, and will be able to take her daughter to school. ❖



Adopt-A-Family caseworker, Shira and Steve Muschlitz of Wheels from the Heart with Shira’s “new” car.

Shira’s smile says it all: THANK YOU!

Continued from page 4

Our Newest Deacons: Led By the Spirit to Serve

In addition to her financial expertise, Andy brings strong organizing, fund raising and outreach skills to our Deacon team. In terms of interests and other pursuits, Andy comes from a family of nine children and her large family is a focal point of her life. In addition to her three grown stepsons, she has 19 nieces and nephews and 26 great-nieces/nephews. In addition, she and Paul enjoy skiing, scuba diving and golf.

When asked what aspect of being a Deacon has the most appeal, Andy said she just wants to serve in whatever way is needed -- wherever “there is a hole.” She describes herself as very spiritual and says she wakes up each morning with a smile on her face. When faced with obstacles, she has learned to “breathe in faith; breathe out fear,” and I know she will help her flock to practice this as well. ❖

Thank you to all who made the No Talent/Talent Show & Auction a success! You helped us add \$4,900 to the Deacons’ Scholarship Fund from the proceeds of the event, which was also a wonderful opportunity to enjoy music, food, and fellowship. Supporting college-bound students from our congregation, financially and through our prayers, is critical to the development of young people who will carry forward the faith and values of our Christian community into the future.

Upcoming Family Events

by Grace Cameron Hood,

Director of Children and Family Ministry



Eggstra Eggciting Easter Eggstravaganza

Remember to put March 29th, 5 p.m. on your calendar for an Eggstra Eggciting Easter Eggstravaganza. Come as a family with your children and youth for a fun-filled evening of pizza, an egg hunt and some great activities! We will meet in the Youth House at 5 p.m. to get things rolling! Reservations can be made on our website www.firstdelray.com under Upcoming Events.



Welcome to the Lord's House

As we welcome our youngest worshippers into church, it is important for them to understand what is happening. In the month of May, families are invited to come to church an hour early for a time for children and parents to be introduced to worship in the Lord's House. This event will focus on children from five to eight. More details to come!



Vacation Bible School

Put VBS on your calendars now! Monday, June 8th to Friday, June 12th from 8:45 a.m. to Noon. Spoiler alert ... we might be using a time machine to travel back in time to learn more about God's love for us!!! If you would like to participate in the planning of this great week, email: gracehood@firstdelray.com.



Opportunities to show God's love...

Substitute teachers are needed for Bible Bunch, Sunday School and the Nursery. Wonderful people have committed to leading these classes but subs are important to have. If you would be available occasionally to help out please email: gracehood@firstdelray.com. Lesson plans and supplies will be ready for you! All you have to do is come prepared to share God's love!! ❖



Church Improvement

by *Barbara Vanderkay*

Having deposited \$24,369 from our Step-Above-Rummage Sale, we are ready to turn our attention to the next items on our yearly calendar, the Holly House Workshops which lead toward the Holly Days Bazaar next November. Beginning on Tuesday, April 7th, all women of the church and their friends are invited to gather in the new Holly House to make the crafts for us to sell at the bazaar.

Our first meeting is always "Show and Tell", when we are interested to hear what different ideas members of the group have gleaned in their travels. We like to see samples of possible new

products for our line. (Samples will be returned, if desired.) We will start the actual work on Thursday, April 9th, and continue Tuesdays and Thursdays through the summer, with usually a two week vacation as agreed by the group.

Each session begins at 9:30 a.m. and runs until 11:30 a.m., although workers' hours vary, depending on what they plan to do later. Many women stay to enjoy lunch together, something from home or picked up near by. This is the friendliest group in the church, and we welcome craft experts, novices, sewers, flower arrangers, artists, and

just congenial women, members of the church or not. We don't require any commitment, just come when you can. If you want to take something to work on at home, or when you are on vacation, we can probably find just what you would like to do. If you change your mind, or can't finish it, just bring it back and someone else will take over.

Come join the Holly House ladies and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are doing something that will directly benefit our beautiful church, while you have a pleasant morning with old and new friends. ❖

We Welcome to Our Membership . . .

Chip Allen

John Caldwell and Hope Anderson

Jenny Fox

David and Dianne Heisler

Steven Heisler

Michael and Adriene Ovia

Welcome



Maundy Thursday Service of Communion and Tenebrae

The service of Tenebrae, meaning darkness or shadows, has been practiced in the Church since medieval times. Join us on Thursday, April 2nd at 7 p.m. as we walk with Christ with music and Scripture through the seven events of Good Friday. Communion will be served.

At each stage a candle will be extinguished until only the Christ candle remains and the communion table will be covered with a black cloth. The Christ candle will be carried into the Sanctuary on Easter Morning (April 5th) as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.



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Sunday Morning Worship Service

9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Please join us on Sunday mornings as we worship the Living God together.

Church School

Adult Sunday Forum 10 a.m.

Sunday School for Children 11 a.m.

Youth Fellowship

Middle School

5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Senior High

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Our Pathway of Ministry & Mission



This is our ministry of connecting people with Jesus Christ and the church. Jesus' priority for the church is to share the Christian faith in such a way that people place their trust in Jesus and participate with Jesus in His ongoing work through the local church.



We were never intended to remain the same. Through this ministry, we engage people in intentional processes for growing in the character of Jesus.



Implanted deep within the nature of men and women is the hunger to serve others. Through this ministry, we engage people in a process that helps them discover, develop and deploy their God given gifts for service to Jesus in the local church and community.



One of the distinctive teachings of the Christian faith is that we are called to live in community. In community, we support, encourage, hold accountable and care for one another so that no one has to make the journey of life alone.