



Faith and Fun for Families and Children

*by Grace Cameron Hood,
Director of Children and Family Ministry*

Summer Spectacular Sunday School

Each Sunday during the summer, the children in elementary school will be exploring who God is with a different workshop during the Sunday School time. Each Sunday will be a unique time of fun and faith led by different people in the church. Nursery and Bible Bunch will continue as normal. We hope that this will make the summer a fun time for everyone in the church! ❖

Vacation Bible School

It is not too late to sign up for VBS! Vacation Bible School will be held June 11th – 15th, from 9 a.m. to Noon. We will be using Group's Shipwrecked... Rescued by Jesus. This year we will be concentrating on how Jesus takes care of us in all situations. To register, please fill out the forms on firstdelray.com. ❖



Upcoming Events for the Youth

There is a place for you!!

Thank You!

The youth would like to thank the church for their continued support! The Spaghetti Luncheon on Sunday, April 29th raised almost \$2000. The events at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza on Tuesday, April 24th and Monday, May 21st also helped raise over \$300.

Youth Mission Trip to Mobile, Alabama, June 23rd – 29th

The youth will be joining with another church to help lead a VBS for underprivileged children. For more information contact Grace Hood (gracehood@firstdelray.com).

Montreat Youth Conference, July 21st – 28th

This is for completed 8th graders through high school. The theme is Lift Every Voice. Youth will continue the tradition by staying at Grandma's House. How about some white water rafting and rock hopping?



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From My Heart to Yours

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

Senior Pastor



TAKING JESUS SERIOUSLY

“When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Leave me, Lord, for I’m a sinner!’”

Luke 5:8 (Common English Bible)

Recently, I began working with a personal trainer after nearly five years of absence from a gym. Stepping into the gym I saw muscle tone where I lacked muscle tone. I saw the absence of fat where I had much. Here were women and men, of all ages, in nearly perfect physical form, radiant, confident, full of energy. I nearly turned and walked out the door. The comparison of these Olympian-like gods and goddesses to my aging, late 50s body disheartened me. Each person in the gym that morning disturbed me. I did not belong to this community. I cannot rise to that. Instinctively, I wanted to escape their company.

Luke’s Gospel tells us that this was precisely Simon Peter’s response when it dawned upon his consciousness who Jesus was, “...he (Peter) fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Leave me, Lord, for I’m a sinner!’” Peter had come to know Jesus, welcomed Jesus as a guest in his home, and was welcomed by Jesus into discipleship. But, it was after Peter began to see the kind of person Jesus was, and the astonishing work Jesus did, that Peter realized – in both a stark and unsettling manner – that Peter stood in extraordinary company. Peter wasn’t simply in the presence of a god-like individual. Peter was in the presence of God!

Simon Peter was right – right to understand so clearly and profoundly that satisfied admiration, adoration, and worship are insufficient in the reality of the divine presence of God. From the depths of Peter’s whole being was released a cry, “Leave me, Lord.” The divine presence disturbed Peter. He did not belong on that scale of life. Peter could not rise to that. Instinctively, Peter looked for an escape. Peter took Jesus seriously.

Many people have pretty much reduced their Christianity to an admiration of Jesus. Such a response is easy, and natural. Yet, that is all the Christianity they have – admiration. But that is not enough. To truly grasp the divine presence is unsettling. It is to become aware of just how far we are from that measure of life. And, unable to rise, we seek an escape. After approximately seven sessions with my personal trainer, Bill Dorton, he asked me to perform a chin-up. I could not. Not one. Again, I wanted to escape. And then Bill spoke, “I’ll get you there.” And it was enough to remain, struggling to become more. Jesus did the same for Peter, “Don’t be afraid.” It was Jesus promising Peter, “I’ll get you there!” That day, Peter left everything and followed Jesus. ❖

Church Staff

W. Douglas Hood, Jr., D.Min.

Senior Pastor

Len Battifarano, CLP

Associate for Membership and Pastoral Care

Donald J. Cannarozzi, M.M., J.D.

Organist / Director of Music

James K. Poch, S.M.M.

Associate Director of Music

Grace Cameron Hood, B.C.E.

Director of Children and Family Ministry

Nancy Fine, CCA

Business Administrator

Christine Davis

Mindi Cole

Accountant

Secretary

Aaron Strippel

Rita Avery

Head Custodian

Custodian

First Presbyterian Church

33 Gleason Street

Delray Beach, FL 33483

phone: 561-276-6338

fax: 561-272-8505

e-mail:

administrator@firstdelray.com

web page: www.firstdelray.com

The Spire

EDITOR:

Tim Knapp

LAYOUT:

Char Conklin

SPECIAL THANKS:

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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.

Journey Map for Spiritual Progress

– Using Heart & Soul Volume 2 –

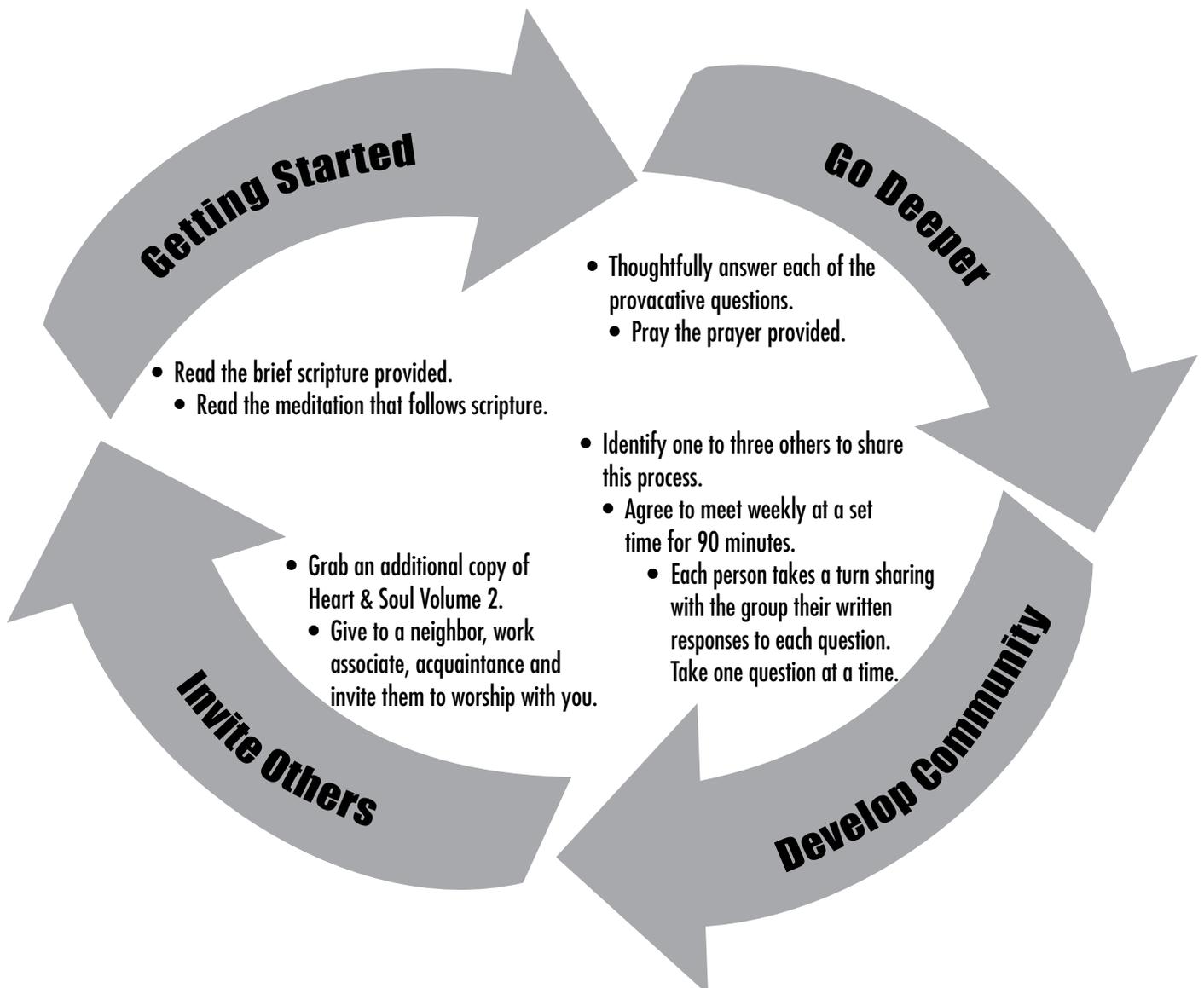
“Remember, to believe something is to act as if it is so.”

(Dallas Willard)

“The aim of regular devotional time, such as the daily use of Heart & Soul, Volume 2, is not to discipline oneself to be more like Christ. It is to participate with the active presence of the Holy Spirit that seeks to change the interior of our lives.

It is then that Christlike behavior ceases to be performance.”

(Doug Hood)



Deacons' Corner

by Chuck Holderness

Even More New Deacons!

We are excited to continue the introductions to your new Deacons. Welcome to our team! We are blessed by the enthusiasm and dedication of all of our new sisters and brothers in Christ, and the special gifts each of them brings to serving our congregation and community. This month, we asked more of our new Deacons to respond to the same three questions we asked last month:

#1: What motivated you to take on the role of Deacon at this point in your life?

#2: Are there special gifts, talents, or experiences that you see yourself bringing to the role?

#3: What is one thing that most of us wouldn't know about you that you'd like to share with the congregation? (Can be serious or funny!)



Courtland Weisleder

says that the church has meant a lot to him and his wife ever since they were married there in January 2015; their Sunday routine of going to church, eating brunch, and then having a relaxing afternoon is one of his favorite times of the week. He says, "Dr. Hood and his phenomenal staff really make attending church a real joy!" Courtland was involved in the Big Brother program for 15 years, and has coached youth lacrosse in his free time. He enjoys working with kids to help them reach their goals and become better people, and will surely be able to use these experiences and his passion for service in his new role as Deacon.

Courtland shares TWO exciting facts with us – he ran with the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain and on the same trip bungee-jumped off a 600-foot cable car in Interlaken, Switzerland, although he admits that "those were back in my

younger days" and "I am now afraid of heights – go figure!"



Lawrence Betsill

says that taking on the role of Deacon "was another pivotal point in my life". For health reasons, he left a P/T job which he felt was "helpful to others", and the next day he was called to be a Deacon. He modestly admits that he can't think of any special gifts, talents, or experience he might

bring to the role, but his experience caring for others and desire to help guide them through difficult times will certainly serve him well as a Deacon. He would like to share with the us that "my love for God grows bigger everyday".



Diane Betsill

says that at this point in her life, it just seemed like the "right time" to serve as a Deacon. She enjoys reaching out to people through thank you notes, birthday cards, and more, displaying an enthusiasm and gift for communicating with others that she will surely be able to utilize in her new role as a Deacon. Diane thinks that most people would be surprised to know that during her career at Bell Telephone and AT&T she was an Installation/Repair Foreman and climbed telephone poles!

All of our Deacons, new and old, are a great blessing to our ministry, and we look forward to introducing even more of the team in the next issue. In the meantime, please continue to get to know them better yourself! Feel free to greet them on Sunday mornings, and let them know how much you appreciate their dedication to this special mission of service.



Summer BBQ Social, Sunday July 1st

Be the first to celebrate July 4th with a Church Family BBQ on Sunday, July 1st following the worship service. Grilled burgers, hotdogs, and beverages will be provided. You are invited to bring a side dish for this Super Cool Fun event for the Family of God. *All are welcome!*



Session Report

During the month of April, the Session examined and received new members as well as approved a baptism. At the regular meeting on April 17th, the Session:

- Determined that there was a need for additional parking spaces for those with disabilities. In response, signage will be added to the raised parking area for disabled parking.
- Approved Dr. Hood's request to change the dates for his 2018 sabbatical so that he is available for the first several months of our Associate Pastor Elect, Greg Rapier's arrival.

CHURCH OPERATIONS SUMMARY THROUGH MARCH

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Member's Pledge Payments | \$255,605 | \$242,369 |
| Other Operating Receipts | 103,824 | 113,236 |
| Investments Used | 34,112 | 66,972 |
| Operating Reserves | 11,802 | 7,556 |
| Funding Sources | \$405,343 | \$430,133 |
| Operating Disbursements | \$405,343 | \$430,133 |

As of April 30, 2018



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF DELRAY BEACH

Your Home by the Sea

Capital Campaign Goal: \$3,500,000

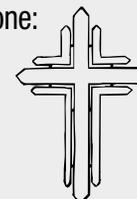
Amount Pledged: \$3,449,931

Amount Received: \$3,180,146

Celebration of Eternal Life...

Our Deepest Sympathies as a congregation is extended to the family of the following member upon the death of their loved one:

Joe Freeman – May 1, 2018



We Welcome to Our Membership

Marsha Berry

Rawlins Boodoo

Mary Brower

Amy Pond

Florence Rivera-Davis

John Shubin

Susannah Shubin

Welcome



Upcoming Employment Connections Ministry Workshops

by Michaela Logue

Our heavenly father promises us an abundant life. In the book of Isaiah 48:17, it states, “Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, *“I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go”*. When we let the Lord lead us in our lives, we are allowing his grace to truly heal us and make us better than we are. Opportunity for growth is available to all of God’s children regardless of what stage of life they are in. It is our divine right through Jesus Christ to live our best lives. This is the ultimate mission for the Employment Connections Ministry of our church.

Our goal is to facilitate growth and learning for our congregation through workshops and resources to assist in creating the best life available to you. Because it is your divine right to live your best life, the Lord provides us opportunities to learn, grow and stretch past our comfort zone. In the months of June and July, we will be continuing with our mission by offering two groundbreaking workshops for our church members as well as their family and friends.

The first workshop is entitled **“Powerful Resume Writing”** and it is confirmed for **Thursday, June 28th, 2018 at 7 p.m.** in the Conference Room in the Center for Christian Studies. Having a powerful resume will get you noticed and through the front door at any company. Representing yourself powerfully on paper is a skill as well as an art form. This workshop will be truly beneficial for members of any age who are looking to find more fulfilling work.

The second workshop is entitled **“Body Language of Interviewing”** and it is confirmed for **Thursday, July 26th, 2018 at 7 p.m.** in the Conference Room in the Center for Christian Studies. What is a human’s primary source of communication? You guessed it, BODY LANGUAGE! However, many of us have no idea how we come across in an interview setting and how that may influence the employer interviewing you. Do you want to learn about the key body language cues which you can use to get the job you want? Are you interested in learning what key body language cues you can use to create a positive

impression? This workshop is for you.

Please feel free to RSVP to one or both of our upcoming workshops by logging on to our website (employmentconnectionsministry.com). You can also call Michaela Logue (284-3554) or send an email (jobs.fpcdb@gmail.com) indicating which workshop you would like to attend, or if you would like to volunteer.

I want to leave you with the following idea:

Ephesians 2:8-9 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast”*. It is a gift from God that our church is blessed to be able to offer so many resources, and we hope that you will take advantage of these opportunities.



Mission Agency Tour Recap

by MarcheLe Courtney

On April 18th, the Mission Committee hosted our annual agency tour. We visited three of the agencies that our church supports. Our group of 20 church members carpooled through Delray Beach to visit Wayside House, The Achievement Center for Children & Families, and the Boys & Girls Club. We received a special treat at the Boys & Girls Club – a violin performance! The tour showed us first-hand how our church is making a difference in the community. ❖

Wayside House

Wayside House is a women’s addiction treatment center that offers residential and outpatient treatment. Their mission is to be a healing environment that helps women with drug and alcohol dependence by providing them with tools to rebuild their lives, reconnect with loved ones and recover from active addiction, with their goal being to help the women they serve emerge as physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually healthy women ready to maintain sobriety and thrive. ❖

The Achievement Center for Children & Families

The Achievement Center is a community based organization that has a long history of providing childcare and academic opportunities to low-income children in southern Palm Beach County. Their mission is to ensure school readiness, provide skill-building opportunities, promote academic achievement, and support healthy lifestyles. Their affordable, nationally accredited programs allow families to work, increasing their overall stability. ❖



First Presbyterian at the Achievement Center.

Holly House

by Eileen Robinson

Holly House celebrated the 90th birthdays of several members at a beautiful party: Helen & Ben Antal, Marie Buss, Nancy Crell, B. J. Mays, Betty Rodriguez, Joan Sopp, Estella Killian, and Barbara Vanderkay. Delicious food with great surprise entertainment made it a perfect party. We are blessed to have these devoted women as part of Holly House.

Have a few minutes? We are busy with Operation Gratitude – Gail Benson, one of our Holly House members, is asking for help with this project to write cards/letters to those serving in the Military (deployed, new recruits, veterans, and first responders). Here is how you can help:

- 1.** Donate blank cards and general cards such as Thinking of You, and Holiday/Christmas. (No envelopes please!)
- 2.** Write a card to any/all of the four groups at home, and bring them in to Holly House. *Please indicate (post it note etc.) who the cards are for so we can package them accordingly OR come by Holly House and fill out cards.*
- 3.** Make a monetary donation to the Holly House to help defray the cost of postage.
- 4.** Ask your friends and neighbors to join in.
- 5.** Pray for the success of this project!



Please come and volunteer some time to write a few cards at Holly House any Tuesday and Thursday morning. We have a table set up with blank cards and inspirational ideas for what to say. Our goal is to send 1000 card/letters by the end of the year. The first group of cards will be sent by June 1st. Summer is a difficult time for the military and they appreciate being remembered.

Holly House is always looking for any unwanted costume jewelry, so please bring us what you no longer want. The jewelry group will clean, repair, and sort it for the Fall Bazaar.

Looking for unique gifts and holiday décor? Come to the Holly House and see our newest creations – beautiful wreaths, one of a kind handmade jewelry, table linens, and much more.

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The Boys & Girls Club

Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County works to help youth of all backgrounds develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and leaders. The Club offers daily access to a broad range of programs in six core program areas: Character and Leadership Development; Education and Career Development; Health and Life Skills; The Arts; Sports and Fitness, and Technology. They provide a world-class Club Experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters their doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.



The children at the Boys & Girls Club give the Mission Tour participants a special violin performance.

First Presbyterian continues to make a difference both locally and internationally, and we are truly blessed to be a part of these wonderful missions. ❖

Holly House

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The Holly House is located on the north side of the Christian Education Building. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please join us! Our meetings are informal, open to new and long-standing Presbyterian women and their friends.

Contact Cindy (374-8707) and she will be happy to answer your questions.

Looking forward to seeing you soon! ❖





CARGO

A Movie Review by Nathanael Hood, MA,
New York University



Martin Freeman made his career playing affable fish-out-of-water characters – friendly, helpful fellows, but basically audience proxies that replicate the viewer’s incredulity at outlandish people and things. He’s the perpetual straight man, the sounding board against which *The Office*’s David Brent and *Sherlock*’s eponymous detective bounce against. Even in the realms of fantasy and sci-fi, he mainly plays second bananas: befuddled intergalactic traveler Arthur Dent in *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* (2005); pubcrawler and unexpected android Oliver “O-Man” Chamberlain in *The World’s End* (2013); CIA agent and Wakandan tourist Everett K. Ross in *Black Panther* (2018). Then there’s his role as Bilbo Baggins in Peter Jackson’s ill-conceived *Hobbit* trilogy. Somehow these films saddled J.R.R. Tolkien’s diminutive yet big-hearted hero with the personality and charisma of a soggy paper towel. He was more placeholder than protagonist, a POV from which the audience could follow the exploits of the barely more interesting dwarves on their journey to the Lonely Mountain.

It’s this legacy that makes his turn in Ben Howling and Yolanda

Ramke’s *Cargo* so remarkable. Set in a post-zombie apocalypse Australian Outback, Freeman spends the majority of the film with nobody but a baby to work with. There’s no self-deflating banter, confused double-takes, or moments where he realizes he’s not in Kansas anymore. There’s only the desperate need to survive in a desperate situation. Find supplies, get to safety, make allies, avoid enemies, and hope that everyone will still be alive the next morning. This is Freeman stripped to his barest essence. And his steely-eyed performance is what helps elevate the film from passable zombie-horror to something touching and occasionally profound.

But maybe “zombie-horror” isn’t the right way to describe *Cargo*. It might take place in a world overrun with the undead, but it’s first and foremost a family drama pulsing with richly realized metaphors on parenthood, grief, and institutionalized racism. (Yes, the zombie sub-genre as imagined by George A. Romero was explicitly allegorical, but decades of gore films and self-referential meta-comedies has ensured that audiences can no longer assume that modern zombie films have such hidden depths.) The film

opens with married couple Andy (Freeman) and Kay (Susie Porter) and their infant daughter Rosie traveling down a river on a salvaged houseboat as they try to reach a military base. When they come across a scuttled yacht – ironically christened the “Serendipity” – Kay breaks the cardinal law of cinematic river trips and gets off the boat. She’s promptly attacked and bitten. And though survivors in this world have 48 hours after infection before they “turn,” a second accident accelerates her transformation into an unthinking monster. After killing the thing that used to be his wife, Andy takes Rosie and sets off on a journey across the Outback to find what little society might be left.

Along the way he meets Vic (Anthony Hayes) a deranged ex-miner who uses kidnapped Aboriginal children as bait to hunt zombies. After suspecting Andy of trying to run away with his “wife” Lorraine (Caren Pistorius), a young woman from the mining camp

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CARGO

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whom he's imprisoned, he's thrown in a cage with Thoomi (Simone Landers), a young Aborigine on a self-proclaimed quest to recapture the spirit of her zombified father so he can be healed by her people's Cleverman. They break out, rescue Rosie, and flee once more into the Outback, becoming a surrogate family on the run from both zombies and a vengeful Vic. You could write the first half of this film in your sleep, but during these scenes where we see the confluence of Western and Aboriginal cultures the film suddenly jolts into life. We've seen families on the run from zombies. But the last half of this film uses the zombie genre to revisit many of the ideas first explored in Nicolas Roeg's *Walkabout* (1971), itself a film about white people lost in the Australian wilderness with nobody but an Aboriginal child to guide them. Both meditate on the stripping-away of modern society in favor of antediluvian cultural heritages, and both ponder the possibility of cultural exchange and communication despite centuries of racial oppression and violence. But Howling and Ramke do more than retread Roeg's themes – they expand them to explore the redemptive power of sacrifice and the salvific grace of love. One of the final moments of the film – one involving a wooden spear and a vial of perfume – sits alongside Bub listening to music in Romero's *Day of the Dead* (1985) as among the most beautiful and poignant of the zombie genre; it's a supreme illustration of mankind's capacity for transcending our beastly natures. If not for the predictable, plodding first half, I wouldn't hesitate in naming *Cargo* one of the best zombie films in recent memory. But what's new and brave and true here shouldn't be missed.

CONTENT WARNING: *The film does contain occasional scenes of gore and frightening situations. While the violence is not on the same level as most zombie movies, the film isn't recommended for young children.*



SUMMER HANDBELLS

We will have two opportunities for handbell ringing this summer, running from June 7th through July 5th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Bell Room.

BEGINNING HANDBELLS

This class is for people who are curious about bell-ringing but have no experience. Ability to read music is not a prerequisite. No performance is planned, but one could be added at the end if participants are interested and ready.

SUMMER HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

This group is for experienced ringers who welcome the opportunity to continue ringing during the summer. In past years it has been a smaller group playing a more challenging repertoire, and including ringers from neighboring congregations.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Jim Poch (276-6338, ext. 24 or jimpoch@firstdelray.com) to discuss your interest and availability.



The Community Church by the Sea
33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, Florida 33483

This newsletter is available online at www.firstdelray.com. If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter, please email Nancy Fine at nancyfine@firstdelray.com

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10 a.m.

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

Church School

Sunday School for Children 10 a.m.

Prayer Ministry Team

Oswald Chambers said, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." Here at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach we believe this is true. We intend every ministry of the church to flourish in the rich soil of prayer. And since a praying church is made up of praying people, we want to encourage and equip our membership in the vital ministry of prayer.

The Prayer Ministry Team is taking a summer break. However, prayer requests that come through our worship services or through the church office are still distributed by the church office to the prayer ministry team for individual prayer.

Each request is handled with respect, confidentiality, and care. If a request includes a name and address, a card will be sent to confirm that prayer was offered during the week the request was received. You are invited to join this prayer ministry team simply by calling Sharon Koch (414-9165). Sharon will be happy to provide additional information about this ministry and welcome you to participate.