



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

by Jeanne Heavilin,

Co-Chair, Mission Outreach Committee

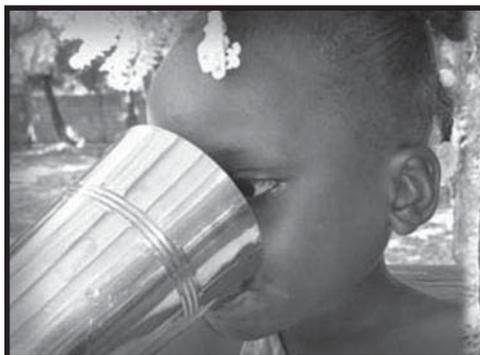
“I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for Me.” (Matthew 25: 35b, 40b)

This year, our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will provide drinking water to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. For the past nine years, Air Mobile Ministries has been providing portable water purifiers that produce safe, clean potable water. Each unit weighs 20 pounds and can produce 25 gallons of clean water per hour, enough for 500 persons per day. If electricity is not available, these units can be converted to solar power. They have been distributed worldwide, although Air Mobile Ministries has made a major commitment to the people of Haiti to maintain these units.

During our mission trip to Haiti last spring, we watched many young children walk miles on narrow mountain paths to get water for their families; water that we wouldn’t drink. And they did this numerous times before going to school.

A major cause of disease in Haiti, as in other third-world countries, is contaminated water. One of these units can, and will, have a major impact in the villages of Haiti as well as in the hospitals and clinics there. The cost per unit is only \$3,000.

We will have a unit here on Sunday, March 17th to demonstrate the purification process for anyone interested. ❖



Holy Week Worship Opportunities

**Palm Sunday Worship Services
in the Sanctuary
Sunday, March 24th – 9 & 11 a.m.**

**Holy Week Music and
Meditation
in the Sanctuary
Monday, March 25th through
Friday, March 29th
Noon until 1 p.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Worship
Service
in the Sanctuary
Service of Communion and
Tenebrae
Thursday, March 28th
7:30 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday Worship Services
in the Sanctuary
Sunday, March 31st – 9 & 11 a.m.**

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From My Heart to Yours

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

Senior Pastor



“We can bring heart, mind, and soul to the Bible by expecting God to meet us there.” — Richard Foster

There is no more important resource than the Bible for the Christian faith. Our formation into Christlikeness (Christian Formation) is based upon the Bible as God’s reliable and authoritative revelation. As the Christians’ primary source of truth, the Bible informs, corrects and directs us in our daily walk with Jesus. Regular reading of the Bible is as essential to the Christian life as is air and water to the physical life. There is no substitute.

I have made it no secret in the eight months I have been your pastor that I love the Bible and read it daily. Additionally, I want others to love the Bible with the same uncommon devotion and expectancy. One of the great teachings of our faith is that we can meet God in the Bible. If we go to the Bible expecting to meet God, our reading takes on a fresh energy and joy. Again, there is simply no substitute for the regular reading of the Bible for a vital, life-giving experience of the Christian life.

As a pastor of twenty-five years, the most common reason given me for not reading the Bible is lack of comprehension. Many have shared with me that they have had one failed attempt after another to read the Bible regularly. It is their lack of comprehension that causes them to put the Bible away. And many confess this with considerable guilt.

Accessibility of the Bible to the common person (people not trained in a theological school) and ease in understanding has always been the key driver in every translation through the history of the Christian church. As language changes, as it does continuously, so must available translations of the Bible. The most current translation of the Bible in the English language today is the Common English Bible, completed in 2011. Sponsored by the Presbyterians (USA), Episcopalians, United Methodists, Disciples of Christ, and United Church of Christ, the translators sought to make the Bible as easy to read and comprehend as reading email.

In another place in this newsletter, more information is provided about this new translation. What I want to do here is celebrate the decision by your elected leaders to make this the standard translation for the ministry of the church. Naturally, you are free to continue to use whatever translation that speaks most meaningfully to you; that is consistent with our larger desire, that people read the Bible for comprehension and enjoyment. Yet, since it is practical to have only one translation in the pews for morning worship and in the classroom for teaching, the Common English Bible was chosen for its wide accessibility and comprehension. Indeed, this is an accurate, clear, and inspiring version of the Bible and it is my prayer that it will result in more people finding enjoyment in God’s Word. ❖

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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

Five Minutes for Christian Formation

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

My daughter Rachael loves photography. She is rarely without a camera. She arranges her life around her love for this art form. Additionally, because of her love for photography and her passionate pursuit to grow her ability as a photographer of amazing images, she has developed a rare eye for seeing through the lens what many of us miss. Anything, any opportunity that is in the way of her capturing images is often dismissed.

My son Nathanael loves movies. And he loves to write about movies. He has written weekly for three-plus years on a personal blog about old, critically acclaimed films and is paid for his writing on several other websites. It is a rare week that he doesn't make the time to view another film from the deep reservoir of films produced in the history of film-making. Like his sister, Nathanael simply arranges his life around what he loves. Isn't that true for many of us?

Christian formation is the name of what people do when they arrange their life around Jesus. There is a large difference between someone who is a member of a local church and someone who is a genuine follower of Jesus. The former is content with some good music and a good sermon once a week and will spend the rest of the week building a life around what pleases them. Followers of Jesus arrange all that they do every day of the week around the question, "What would Jesus have me do and be?" Little else matters. Such people do not mind being ignored, belittled, or poor. They know the secret that nothing in the entire world will ever separate them from their first love, Jesus Christ. ❖

A Basic Approach to Christian Formation & Discipleship



Formative Practices

Formative practices, intentional disciplines or habits, are how we make our home in Christ rather than in the world. They are lifestyle routines that help us keep on track in living into the life and character of Jesus. Five formative practices that are generally considered fundamental are, worship regularly, pray daily, learn and apply God's Word, participate in a ministry and give financially to the work of the church.



Time in Solitude with God

Christian formation and growth require a growing attentiveness to God, to where God is active in our lives, and to where we are being led. This attentiveness requires that we regularly make a place in our lives to sense God's presence and to hear God speak. This is a time for reading the Bible, prayer and sitting before God in silence.



Time in Community of a Small Group

The Kingdom of God is relational. A decision to follow Jesus and grow in His likeness cannot be accomplished alone. The Apostle Paul teaches in his letter of Romans that, though Christian discipleship is intensely personal, it is corporate in character (Romans 12: 3-5). Regularly meet with a small group and commit to the study of the Bible using this basic structure: Read, Reflect and Respond. Additionally, small group members hold one another accountable for spiritual growth and offer encouragement.



Time Sharing Your Faith with Another

Our daily conversations do more than provide a running narrative of our lives; such conversations shape our experiences, practices and life with one another. Ultimately, Christian formation is the quality of life we live. That life develops positively in the manner of Jesus as we regularly make time to share with another our personal growth in faith.

© W. Douglas Hood, Jr.

Deacons' Corner

by Siena Del Mastro

It's that time of year again; the time of year when the new Deacons are beginning to arrive. It is customary for me to write an article about some of the new Deacons each month. The two Deacons I interviewed for this month's article are Amanda Tidmore and Mary Martinez.

I'm going to begin with Amanda Tidmore. I've known Mandy for a really long time. She is an amazing piano player with wonderful self confidence. The past two summers when we attended the Montreat Youth Conference, Mandy was in both talent shows: once playing the piano, and the second time singing a song that she wrote. She inspired me to participate in the talent show the second year, which was an amazing experience.

Mandy loves going to the North Carolina mountains where the gentle fog has a majestic feel to it. Her favorite food is mac'n cheese, and she can't wait to join the Deacons where she can help the community.

The second Deacon is Mary Martinez. I met Mary through my parents in their Sunday School

class, so we have already become acquainted.

Mary is a water color painter and often does portraits of family and friends. She also enjoys travelling, singing and reading. Her faith journey has taken many turns but she wanted to serve Christ and our congregation more actively. This is a way for her to feel closer to God.



I hope after this article you can feel that you know these two new Deacons better. But to go along with my article on them, I would also like to let everyone know that Meet Your Deacon Sunday is March 17, 2013.

This is a great opportunity to eat delicious food, enjoy one another's company and most important: You get to meet your Deacon!

Stay tuned for the next article about other new Deacons, and I hope to see you at Meet Your Deacon Sunday on March 17, 2013.



More About Meet Your Deacon Sunday

It's time again for our annual "Meet Your Deacon Sunday" reception March 17, 2013. This special event will be hosted by our 33 Deacons and coordinated by Maryann Rana, Merrill Beveridge, Diane Hopkins and Ellen Tuggle. We will gather in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 9 a.m. service from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and after the 11 a.m. service from noon to 12:30 p.m. This is a great way for you to meet your Deacon and for your Deacon to meet you.

Food and refreshments will be plentiful, with delicious goodies brought in by each Deacon. We hope you will make it a point to join us as we enjoy these tasty treats and the warm fellowship of our church family on Sunday, March 17th!



Church Improvement

by Barbara Vanderkay

The March Spire is our annual Good News Issue, where you can learn how well we did in the Step-Above-Rummage-Sale. So far this year we have raised \$23,155, with more to come. The Holly House ladies are especially pleased with these results, about the same as last year, because we actually had fewer workers and customers, due to a variety of conflicts, illnesses and the loss of several members who have moved away or passed on.

On behalf of the whole church, sincere thanks go to all who stepped into the breach and did whatever was required, including, perhaps, buying more than usual.

This event is important in the life of the church because it is such an opportunity for building relationships within the congregation. It's a happy occasion, giving the participants the unique pleasure of knowing there is both a monetary value and a spiritual one in all this hard work.

Traditionally, this annual affair provides funds for the Church Improvement Committee's contributions to take care of unbudgeted, unforeseen expenses of the physical plant of our beautiful church. Now we are also paying for our new Holly House, which provides a venue for some of the activities of our busy congregation, as well as being a workshop for all the crafts of the Holly House ladies, under one roof at last.

Again, we want to say thank you to all those who chose to demonstrate their love for God's Church and their fellow members by their participation in this mission of outreach to the community. ❖

Spring Golf Tournament!

by Linda Prior

The Annual Spring First Presbyterian Church Golf Tournament will be held Friday afternoon, March 15th, at 2:30 p.m., at the Lakeview Golf Club on Dover Street. The cost for golf is \$20 plus gratuity. Players may purchase 3 mulligans for \$3 during registration. Join the split-pot putting contest at 2 p.m. for \$5. There will be several contests: the longest drive, the straightest drive, and closest to the pin. Dinner will follow at 6 p.m. at the Delray Beach Municipal Golf Course. A buffet of green salad, pasta, meatballs, and chicken will be available for \$10. People who do not play golf are welcome to attend the dinner when the winners will be announced. Reservations will be taken during the fellowship hour following services on March 3rd and March 10th, or you may call Linda Prior, 561-330-0245. Invite friends and colleagues to participate in this fellowship event. Reservations must be made by Monday, March 11th.



Please Volunteer for Vacation Bible School

Connect Children with God's Eternal Good News at VBS: All children need to hear the Good News that Jesus, their Savior, is by their side, forgiving them and strengthening them no matter what mountains they face. At Tell It on the Mountain VBS, June 10th through June 14th, you will connect children with the most important message of their lifetime: the miraculous story of what Jesus did for us, which we could never do for ourselves. If you can help with VBS full or part time we have many ways for you to be involved that will suit your schedule and interests. Call Paula Hare at 276-6338, ext. 23 or email Paula at paulahare@covad.net for more information.



Spirit to Action!

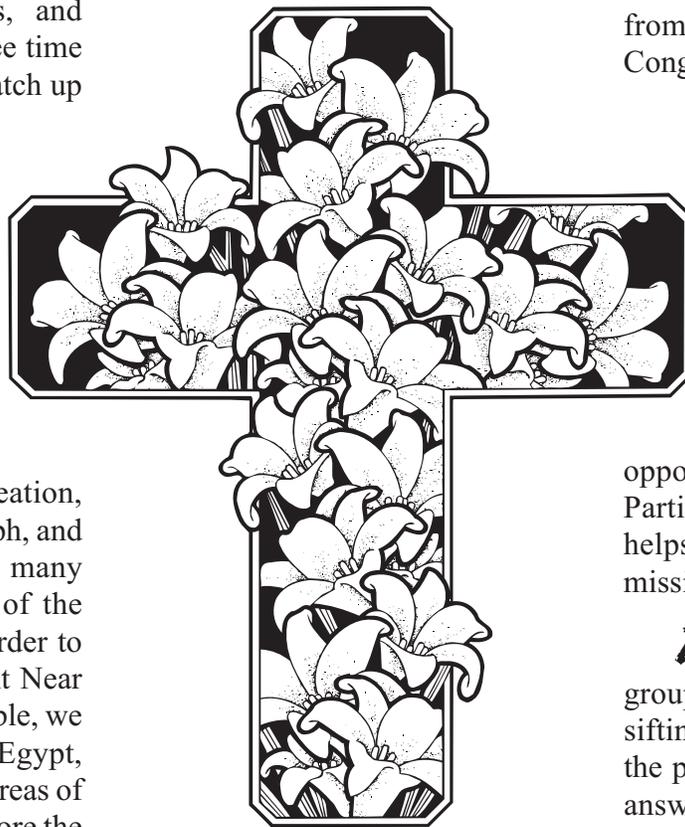
By Linda Prior

The Monday Morning Women's Bible Study is a source of spiritual and intellectual growth and friendships for approximately 25 women who come and go during the year. During the summer, six or eight women continue to get together to study, discuss, and share. We treasure the coffee time before the study begins to catch up with the activities of the week.

The current video series focuses on the Book of Genesis from a variety of perspectives, including literary, historical, theological, and archeological. Most of the stories in Genesis (creation, flood, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and so on) are well known, but many crucial issues in the study of the book are less familiar. In order to see how neighboring ancient Near Eastern regions affect the Bible, we look at the cultures of Egypt, Canaan, and Mesopotamia, areas of interest even today. We explore the question of women in the Bible: Why does the Bible include so many female characters, especially in comparison to other ancient Near Eastern literature, and why are these women often portrayed in unexpectedly heroic fashion? We take the time to consider the way later generations of Jews and Christians understood the Bible, especially given that these later readings are often quite different from the original authorial intent. The multifaceted book of Genesis

allows for numerous avenues of inquiry.

All topics lead to lively discussions. What does the discussion mean to us today? How can we put Faith into Action?



We have put faith into action by supporting mission projects including Family Promise and financially supporting the CROS Walk.

Family Promise empowers families to transition from homelessness to sustained independence. Through the support of interfaith congregations, families have temporary shelter and services

so that they can achieve lasting independence. Volunteers from our congregation provide dinners for the families, stay overnight at hosting locations, teach piano lessons, work in the office, help with resume writing, drive the van transporting the families to and from the Day Center to the Host Congregation, and assist at various events. Families who have graduated to independence have found employment in health care, retail, bookkeeping, property management, and cosmetology. Presently, there are four families under the care of Family Promise. This mission opportunity is hands on. Participation in Family Promise helps us to be one with Christ's mission.

We have a well-rounded group of women who work hard sifting through new ideas, stirring the pot without necessarily getting answers, but getting more comfortable with a relationship with God. Each person is unique in her spiritual journey. The common thread is inclusiveness and sharing joys and sorrows.

The Monday Morning Bible Study has been a source of spiritual and intellectual growth and friendships. It has been enlightening to have women join from other faith congregations. For more information, call Linda Prior, 330-0245.



What is the Common English Bible and Why Did We Convert Our Bibles?

by Nancy Fine,
Office Manager

What is the Common English Bible?

The Common English Bible (CEB) is “easier than any other Bible translation to read and understand. English words that were once readily understood by Bible readers even ten years ago, today may not carry the same meaning or context. Words such as ‘alas,’ ‘alien,’ and ‘ephod,’ are more quickly grasped in the 21st century when they become ‘oh my!,’ ‘immigrant,’ and ‘priestly vest.’ The Common English Bible is the only translation using terms you naturally speak – a common language.

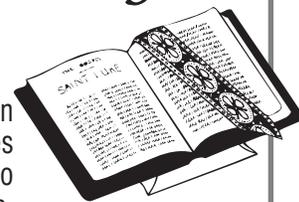
This Bible is broader in its development than any other translation for greater trustworthiness. More than 700 people, including Bible scholars, pastors, and everyday readers, collaborated to make sure you can trust the CEB to accurately reflect the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages in which the Bible was originally written. The Common English Bible translation is academically rigorous and denominationally neutral because 120 translators from 24 denominations built it on common ground” (www.commonenglishbible.com).

Why did we change our Bibles?

Primarily, we did this to rectify a confusing situation. During the worship services we had been using two versions of the Bible: the Revised Standard Version (RSV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). Originally, everyone used the RSV translation that was purchased in the 80’s. Through the years, some of the original Bibles became so well-used that they were retired. Others were lost to people who took them home after the worship services. About 10 years ago we tried to buy additional RSV Bibles, but we discovered this translation was no longer being printed. We determined that the best option was to purchase

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Donate a Common English Bible Today!



On December 18, 2012, Session approved converting all of the Bibles in the Sanctuary and Covered Patio to large print Common English Bibles.

The names of those in whose memory or honor the Bible(s) are given will be printed on a bookplate and placed in a Bible.

Help us provide this marvelous new worship resource for our First Presbyterian Church family of faith. Please send your orders/donations to the church office.

Yes, I wish to purchase and donate Common English Bible(s) for our church!

Your name, as you want it to appear on the Bookplate (Please Print):

Given by _____

Choose Bookplate desire:

IN HONOR OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

I would also like to purchase additional Bible(s) for my own personal use at home.

Number of Bibles requested for personal use.

You will be contacted about delivery of your personal use order.

Signature _____

Phone _____

Cost \$15 per bible

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach and place it with your order form in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to First Presbyterian Church, 33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, FL 33483.

We Welcome to Our Membership . . .

January 27, 2013

Tom and Kay Adams

Evelyn Babbitt

Susan Goulet

Robert and Tomilee (TLee) Harding

Robert and Phyllis Harris

Sheila Jones

Jane Kennedy

Robert and Ruth Landis

Sara (Sally) McLellan

Stephen Murray

Linda Reeves

Stone and Julie Roberts

Robert and Dolly Smith



Welcome

Celebration of Eternal Life...

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

– Elizabeth Dorchin –
January 30, 2013

– William Bottle –
February 18, 2013



Remember the Church When . . .

Estate Planning

Our Endowment and Remembrance Funds are two excellent opportunities for your giving consideration, be it your will, stocks, or as a named beneficiary of an insurance policy. This financially wise method of stewardship helps ensure the long-term financial stability of the church and provides a planned means for the church to continue its role in the lives of our members and those to whom we reach out, in our community and beyond. For more information on long-term giving, call the church office (276-6338). ❖

Distribute Funds from an IRA

For 2013, anyone over 70½ can distribute funds from an IRA (Individual Retirement Account) directly to the church (or any charity) up to \$100,000. This will not be included in income and will not be deductible, but it can be counted as part of the required minimum distribution (RMD). This is a great way for many of our congregants to support the life and work of our church. If you are interested in doing this, please call Christine Davis (276-6338, ext. 16). And as always, for financial matters, please also consult with your financial advisor. ❖

What is the Common English Bible and Why Did We Convert Our Bibles?

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enough NRSV Bibles to use in the Covered Patio.

However, with the publication of the Common English Bible, it was decided that it would be beneficial to have everyone in our faith community use the same version. Since the CEB is the translation that is the easiest to read and understand, the Session approved converting to Large Print CEB Bibles which are now in the pews. ❖

What will we do with our old RSV and NRSV Bibles?

Being good stewards to other faith communities is important to us in First Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery of Tropical Florida is partnering with us to find homes for them in other churches in our Presbytery that do not have Bibles to worship with. These small churches with limited resources appreciate having Bibles for their members and we at First Presbyterian of Delray Beach are glad to know that they will provide spiritual nourishment for the years to come.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy or copies of the Large Print Common English Bible for your personal use, please complete the Donation Form found in this newsletter. And, if you would like to donate the cost of a Bible or Bibles in honor of or in memory of a loved one, complete the form and a Bookplate will be placed in the front of a pew Bible according to your request. ❖

Easter Egg Hunt

by Chris Del Mastro

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Palm Sunday, March 24th, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service with a pool party and lunch provided. Bring your whole family to this fun-filled event. All are welcome. RSVP by March 21st to Paula Hare (276-6338, ext. 23 or paulahare@covad.net or on our website.

Don't forget to bring your basket!



Spaghetti Dinner

On Sunday, March 10th in Fellowship Hall, the youth will be having a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monies raised will support the Youth Mission Trip Fund. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door, with take-out meals available. Please support our youth while enjoying a great meal and fellowship.

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Palm Sunday Drama

On Palm Sunday, March 24th, the Sunday Church School children will open our 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services with a short Chancel drama. In song, dance, and dialogue, they will tell the story of the first Palm Sunday, culminating in the waving of palm branches during the opening hymn. The children have been rehearsing on Sunday mornings since February 17th, and they are excited about portraying the children of Jerusalem as they welcome Jesus into their lives and their city.

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Holy Week Music and Meditation

Come to the Sanctuary for personal prayer and reflection from Monday, March 25th through Friday, March 29th for Holy Week Music and Meditation from noon until 1 p.m. Our pastoral staff will read Scripture from noon until 12:15 p.m. Our organists, Don Cannarozzi and Jim Poch, or guest organist, Alan Cook, will then play appropriate music from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Take advantage of this opportunity to deepen your spiritual involvement during Holy Week in preparation for Easter.

Resources on www.firstdelray.com

*by Nancy Fine,
Office Manager*

The church website, www.firstdelray.com, is a wonderful place to find resources to help you on your spiritual journey. The “Resources” section contains information for everyone to click on the second line from the bottom of the menu on the left side of the screen.

On the Donations & Giving Page, you can download and print a Stewardship Giving Guide & Estimate of Giving Card. Additionally, if you would like make a donation, you can use the Gift and Offering Form. If you are interested in making a donation in memory of someone, the Memorial Gift Donation Form is what you need. To donate a pew Bible in honor of or in memory of a loved one, you can print out that form.

Sometimes we are unable to attend the morning worship service due to illness or traveling. If you would like to watch the worship services via Video Streaming, you can click the Video Streaming link. There, you can either watch the service live, or view archives of previous services. This way, you will never miss a worship service.

If you are a snowbird and are heading to your summer home, you can stay connected to First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach over the summer.

Are you interested in reading Dr. Hood’s Blog? A blog is a published discussion on the Internet, most often by one individual. Dr. Hood has been posting a weekly blog since August. You may view his entries through our website or sign up to receive his blog postings by email.

Dr. Hood also has a Resource page. It is here that you may find the text of some of his sermons, recommended resources or letters to the congregation.

The Guided Sermon Study Sheet is the single greatest resource available for growth into the character of Christ through the regular reading and application of the Holy Bible. This study sheet can structure your time with the Bible in such a way that your reading and application of God’s Word becomes more thoughtful and intentional in its application to life.

Each Sunday, Dr. Hood writes a Heart and Soul Meditation which is printed on the inside back cover of

the worship bulletin. In this section of the website, you are to read all of his meditations and print out those that are the most meaningful to you.

The Weekly Prayer section is a new resource on our website. Each week, Dr. Hood writes a prayer to help you with intentional prayer. Make sure to check this section each week as this is the only place that this resource can be found.

Are you interested in reading the current or previous issues of our newsletter? In the Spire Newsletter section of the website, you will find a link to all of the editions since February 2009.

And last in the Resource section of the church website is the link to our Facebook Page. You can like us or friend us. By doing so, you can stay connected to your church through social media.

While you are exploring the Resource section of the website, make sure to look through the other sections. It is here that you can find all of the information about who we are, what we are doing, and how we are living our lives as disciples of Christ. ❖

Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae Worship Service

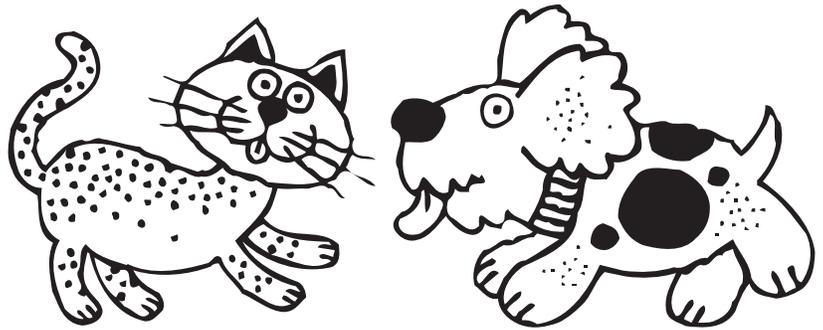
The Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae Communion Service will be held on Thursday, March 28th at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Communion will be served.

The service of Tenebrae, meaning darkness or shadows, has been practiced by the Church since medieval times. Join us as we walk with Christ with music and Scripture through the seven events of Good Friday.

At each stage, a light will be extinguished until only the Christ candle remains. The Christ candle will be carried into the Sanctuary on Easter morning as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. ❖

STEPHEN MINISTERS:

by David Fellows



Pets are a gift of love from God. They give us an opportunity to create a mutual bond with another living creature. Fish or fowl, dog or cat, horse or reptile, we can find comfort in caring for a pet. Not surprisingly, the pet can often care for us.

Much medical research has been done on the benefits of pet ownership with dogs being the primary focus. Infants raised around pets have been shown to have stronger immune systems. For adults, pets have been shown to have an impact in reducing blood pressures and in controlling stress-induced spikes in Blood Pressure and heart rate. Simply petting a dog or cat for 15 to 30 minutes may reduce blood pressure up to 10%. Men who own dogs have been shown to have higher heart-attack survival rates for the first post attack year over non-dog owners. Stress reduction is another area in which pet ownership has consistently been shown to have an impact. You can never be alone when you have a pet. Moods are improved because pet interaction can actually influence the production of certain “feel-good” neuro-transmitters in the brain. This can also be a great benefit for people dealing with depression.

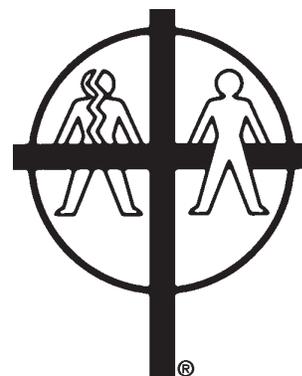
Pets can help us to get out of ourselves and improve our mood. They make us more approachable, thus increasing our social interaction and social support. They get us on our feet to go for walks; we can’t be depressed when we are up and active with a good friend. Dog owners are much more inclined to go for that daily walk when they can do it with a buddy instead of by themselves.

Cat owners may be quick to add that, if they are physically limited, they don’t have to go for the walk and they don’t have to deal with the accompanying

“goodie bag.” Bird owners may chirp in that they have the most appropriate way to make use of yesterday’s newspaper. Meanwhile, fish owners will simply smile, lean back in their easy chair and watch the activity in their aquarium.

We often think of pets as being fun for kids. But as we age, the physical, emotional and spiritual benefits of pet ownership can be even more important. It can give us a new and different sense of “family,” when we may not have any human family around us. We all need love and companionship. Assuming we are capable of handling the responsibilities of pet ownership, we may well find that in taking care of a pet, we are also taking care of ourselves. In choosing to acquire a pet, we may actually be accepting a gift from God. As anyone who has ever owned a dog will tell you, there is no better creature on earth for expressing unconditional love than a dog.

**Perhaps that’s why a dog is a dog
because dog spelled backwards is
G-O-D.**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH OF DELRAY BEACH

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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@covad.net.

Sunday Morning Worship Services

9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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

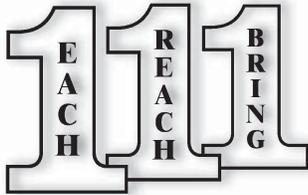
Church School

Adult Church School 10 a.m.

Education Hour Sunday School 10 a.m.

Worship Hour Sunday School 11 a.m.

Youth Fellowship 5 p.m.



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.