



Changed Lives: What We Do Together Stewardship 2016

Changed lives are the greatest evidence of the church's impact.

The question for all church leaders is this:

Are we observing mature Christians growing in the application and discipline of their faith?

One answer is the level of generosity.

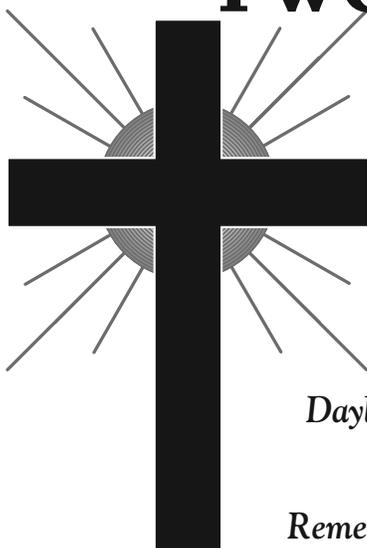
Generosity is the product of a transformed heart.

This is because beliefs determine actions.

Watch your mail for a stewardship message from our pastor.



Two Worship Services



On Sunday, November 1st,
we will resume two services

9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

*Daylight Savings Time ends on Saturday,
October 31st.*

Remember to set your clocks back one hour.

INSIDE . . .

- Church Improvement
- Holly Days Bazaar Page 8
- Deacons' Tree Page 4



From My Heart to Yours

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

Senior Pastor



THE SECRET OF SPIRITUAL POWER

***“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary.”***

Isaiah 40:31 (Common English Bible)

A woman stepped into my office today. With tears and considerable emotion, she asked that I pray for the world. She mentioned nothing specific. She didn't need to. Another shooting this week on a college campus that left ten people dead. An accidental bombing of a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Afghanistan killed twenty-two people. Hundreds of thousands of people fleeing terrorism, seeking new homes throughout Europe and the United States. These stories drain our strength and cause us to need renewed power.

In the time that Isaiah wrote these words, his people also faced despair. Threatened by domination by a mighty foreign power, Isaiah's people needed all the encouragement and strength that a genuine faith in God could bring. So do we. Just as the natural rhythm of life demands nourishing food, exercise and rest for the body, the same condition applies to our souls. Spiritual energies are rapidly depleted by the crises, suffering and fear that consumes our attention. Replenishing that spiritual energy is urgently needed. So Isaiah reminds his people – and us – that our sufficiency is of God. We remain weak unless we derive strength from God.

How do God's people claim this strength? “Hope in the Lord,” writes Isaiah. The “hope” Isaiah speaks of is not wishful thinking or “hoping for the best.” Here is Isaiah's call to “trust unflinchingly in God.” It is a call to “hold onto God” with expectant dependence. A constant reliance on God, meditating on God's words and promises in the Bible, generates spiritual power and makes each of us alert for God's intention to use us mightily for God's redemptive purposes in the world. Isaiah asks that we attach ourselves to God as a child clings to a parent.

As in the day of Isaiah, it still takes time to be holy; to be a people set apart for God's purposes in a world shaken by fear. Schedule time each day for reading the Bible and prayer, for reading devotional literature that awakens the senses to new understandings, and do not neglect moments to simply be still and contemplate God's love. These things, along with weekly worship in a community of faith, gives release to the inflow of God's power that renews strength, restores hope, and lifts hearts as on the wings of eagles. ❖

Church Staff

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

Moderator – Presbytery of Tropical Florida

Jessi Higginbotham, M.Div.
Associate Pastor

Jo Garnett, M.C.E.
Associate for 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, CA
Office Manager

Christine Davis
Accountant

Paula Hare
Secretary

Aaron Strippel
Head Custodian

Rita Avery
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

PROOFREADER:
Barbara Vanderkay

SPECIAL THANKS:
Printers Choice

**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

A basic premise in medical care is that you will be honest in describing your symptoms to the examining physician.

Spiritual formation (being shaped into the image and character of Jesus Christ) *is the task* of the church. Unless people are honest about their lack of spiritual wholeness there is little the church can do for them.

A culture of pretending and simply trying to look good works against true formation. Below is one pathway – or prescribed course of action – for growing in spiritual health.



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



Making A Difference – What One Christmas Gift Can Mean

We all have different memories of childhood Christmases. I am fortunate never to have had a Christmas when there weren't presents under our tree – or a time when there was not even a tree. I think sometimes my parents spent money they didn't have, but it was their way of showing us their love. All of the gifts were special because they were things that I had been wishing for, whether it was new Barbie doll clothes or paint-by-the-number or potholder weaving projects (yes, you can figure out my age from this!).

But this is not the case for everyone. Some of you may have had years when there just were no resources to celebrate the coming of Christ with gifts. You may have experienced this as a child, or perhaps even more difficult, as a parent who wanted badly to make the season special for your children – but didn't have the means to do so. If so, you can relate to the children and families that we are able to assist with our Deacons' Christmas Tree gift project.

The organizations we work with serve some of the most needy families in our local area. The gifts that we so carefully shop for, trying to picture the child on the tag, make a huge difference for these families. Because of what you as a congregation so

generously share, hundreds of children not only receive a gift, but feel they are uniquely loved because the gift is just for them.

In addition to gifts for children, we also assist some families with much needed clothing and other basic things that we take for granted. We are glad to be able to provide for each adult and child. In cases where the specific needs of the recipients are not known, we provide gift cards and donations that the agencies can use to brighten the lives of those whom they serve.

As we do our shopping and see the presents mount under the tree in the Narthex, we can also keep our partner organizations and the people they help in our prayers. Here are the agencies with which we work.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County – this group is new to us in 2015, but may be familiar to many of you. It 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.

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA) – where our gifts are put in a “store,” allowing clients to “shop” for items they want to give their families.

Adopt-A-Family – which serves homeless and low income families.

Achievement Center for Children &

Families – where we gift 100 of their 800 children.

Milagro Center – where last year we helped to buy leotards for some of the girls who were taking part in a dance program the agency was sponsoring.

Rolling Green Elementary – where the teachers and counselors provide suggestions based on their knowledge of the kids and we are often able to add additional gifts so that all children in a family receive something, even if they don't attend this school.

It's a huge job coordinating all of this, but the Deacons have an incredibly dedicated team of volunteers, led by Jen Buce, who demonstrated her natural talents last year and did an amazing job! We also receive lots of help from others in the congregation, and the church staff - particularly Nancy Fine, Paula Hare, Christine Davis, Aaron Strippel, and Rev. Jo Garnett. All these people make it possible to set up the tree, write the tags, hang the tags, organize and bag the gifts, and keep everything straight.

As we experience the season of Advent in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Savior, we hope you will take the opportunity to join us in making God's love real by helping others in our community through the Deacons' Christmas Tree project.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help in some way, please contact Jen Buce at

561-251-1945.



Haiti Mission Trip

by Jeanne Heavilin, Co-Chair, Mission Outreach Committee

The Mission Outreach Committee is exploring the idea of sending a volunteer team of up to 12 adults (18 and older) to Haiti for a week of service in April or May. We would be based at the Be Like Brit Orphanage, helping to build homes in the community, working with the children, and learning about the many issues impacting the people of Haiti.

The Be Like Brit Foundation built the orphanage in Grand Goave to honor the last wish of Britney Gengal, one of the Lynn University students killed in the earthquake of 2010.

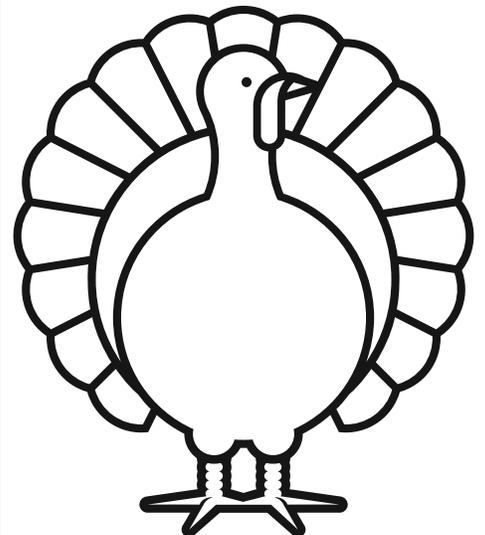
Our goal is to keep the cost to a maximum of \$1,000 (including airfare) per participant. If you have any interest in being part of this team, please contact Jeanne Heavilin at 561-901-8714 or at jcheavilin@gmail.com by November 30, 2015.



Gobble Gobble

*by Jeanne Heavilin, Co-Chair,
Mission Outreach Committee*

Again this year, we are happy to continue our tradition of donating Thanksgiving boxes for The Caring Kitchen in Delray Beach. Please pluck a feather from the Thanksgiving Turkey in the Courtyard to sign-up to fill a box with all the “trimmings” for a Thanksgiving dinner or make a donation to feed a family.



Twenties and Thirties Are Committed to Church



by Rev. Jessi Higginbotham,

Associate Pastor

*W*hen I was younger, I never imagined all the things I'd be doing in my twenties and thirties. I imagined a life without school or class, a life of making money, traveling the world, hanging out with my friends and enjoying life. While I have had opportunities to do some of these things, the "real world" life of responsibility truly surprises me. The other day I decided to make a check-list of all the bills I pay in a month; do you know I couldn't remember half of them?

*Y*oung adults are learning the ropes of the world. New jobs, new marriages, new babies, new bills, and new schedules are more than they ever thought they would be experiencing. While the world is full of adventures for young adults it's also full of wake-up calls and bills (lots of bills).

*W*hen I look out at our congregation on Sunday mornings, I'm thrilled to see so many young adults making worship a priority in their life. They could be sleeping in, hiding under the covers and

taking just a few extra hours to relax before the demands of life start calling. Instead they are here with us. Not only that, but they are active in our Twenties and Thirties group. Weekly, yes weekly, I get at least one email from a young adult asking to join our email list. Our group has close to 30 people in regular attendance. I did a little math and found that on Ash Wednesday our worship service was 25% people in their twenties or thirties.

*O*ur church is blessed to be a place where young adults, despite their busy schedules and new demands in life, are not only willing but excited to be.



Please Save the Date



A Christmas Dinner Theater

By First Presbyterian Church

December 13, 2015

5-7:00PM

A.C.T. for Missions

by Jeanne Heavilin, Co-Chair, Mission Outreach Committee

A.C.T. (Actively Changing Tomorrow) is an initiative to engage members (of all ages) in our congregation in community projects. These will take place after church services or on Saturday mornings throughout the year. Upcoming projects include decorating boxes for our “Thanksgiving in a Box”, wrapping shoe boxes for the Back to Basics Angel Program, sorting bottle caps for Caps of Love, and gleaning crops in local fields. Dates and details of each project will appear in the Sunday Bulletin and church website. **Please join us!** ❖

Church Improvement

by Eileen Robinson

Annual Holly Days Christmas Bazaar

November 13 and 14, 2015

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Church members are invited to come early for all the beautiful things the Holly Days Christmas Bazaar is offering this year on Thursday, November 12 from 1-3 pm!

Donations: Please keep bringing in donations of any type for the bazaar. The Jewelry Department is interested in any unwanted costume jewelry, and would appreciate your donations.

Do You Like to Bake? We need lots of goodies to sell during the bazaar, so please donate your favorite baked goods. Just bring the baked goods Friday morning (November 13th) and/or Saturday morning (November 14th) to the Holly House. Have the item(s) wrapped and labeled so we know what your delicious treats are called. We can't have enough of these items – so bake away!

Would You Like to Help? We are looking for helpers to work morning or afternoon shifts, either Friday or Saturday in all departments. Complete the volunteer form available on our website or in the Sunday bulletin. All helpers are treasured and are promised a great opportunity to share in fellowship as we help our church.

For more information about being a helper or donating baked goods, contact Donna King at 561-523-6091.

*See You
at the
Holly Days
Christmas Bazaar!*



We Welcome to Our Membership . . .

Lawrence and Diane Betsill

Peter and Jessica Dimmick

Bill and Jean Hilton

Davis Lewis, Jr.

Randall and Milissa Regnier

Esther Thambidurai

Michael and Holly Watts

Welcome

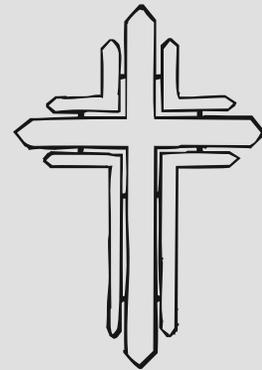


Celebration of Eternal Life...

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

– Jack Armstrong –
October 13, 2015

– Patricia Moss –
October 16, 2015



HANGING OF THE GREENS DINNER AND WORSHIP SERVICE

Please join us on Sunday, November 22nd at 5:30 p.m. for a dinner in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$7 per adult, \$5 per child, and a maximum of \$20 per family. You may RSVP for the dinner on our website www.firstdelray.com under Upcoming Events or call the church office (276-6338). This will help us with our planning.

Then at 7 p.m., join us as we decorate the Sanctuary in preparation for the beginning of Advent. The Hanging of the Greens is a special worship service filled with familiar carols and traditions. We will also decorate the Chrismon Tree. If you are unable to attend the dinner, do plan to attend the worship service.



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

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

Sundays, 5 p.m. – 7 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.