



A Place in History

On the steps and under the Rotunda facing Gleason Street, the crowd gathered for the unveiling of the new, State of Florida, bronze historical marker that greets all who are preparing to enter the front doors of our Sanctuary.

Here, Nancy Young, an Elder and our Church Historian, welcomed those gathered, including our honored guests and long-time members of our congregation. The latter were recognized by Dr. Bush for their involvement in the life of our congregation over the years.



Representing the Delray Beach Historical Society, Mrs. Dorothy Patterson and Mr. Robert Ganger each spoke as well as Vice-Mayor, Woodie McDuffie (pictured left). In addition, Mr. Gordon

Bloom, son-in-law of Mr. Robert Neff (the Marker's sponsor), spoke on Mr. Neff's behalf.

After recognizing the long-time members in attendance, Dr. Bush officially dedicated the historical marker. Those gathered then proceeded to a Reception held in Fellowship Hall, the site of our original Sanctuary, as the cast iron bell from the original church rang in the Courtyard.

Special thanks to Mr. Bob Teninga, for all of his work in beautifying the front entrance to our present Sanctuary and to Mrs. Nancy Young for her diligent work in preparing the background information necessary to receive this historical recognition by the State of Florida.

Here is a copy of the sermon that Dr. Bush preached at both services on March 8th, the title of which was "From This Place".

"Nature took centuries to create the sandy patch of land upon which this church was built. It has taken less than a century for this church to rise up from its foundation of coral rock to flourish like a banyan tree, extending its reach far and wide into the surrounding community and well beyond. In a place made sacred over time, the Creator of the physical world somehow saw to it that a sour orange grove would be planted on this land, thus providing shade, shelter and sustenance for weary, ship-wrecked sailors who sought refuge here from the stormy seas.

History begets history. Churches, like people, have individual stories all their own. From one creative, divine act, came a multitude of amazing human achievements. Whether it was the Seminole Indians, Minorcan immigrants from Europe, or the Spanish who planted the trees, or perhaps God alone Who made the decision, the grove was here long before the town was ever considered. The future of a city still was hidden far beneath the horizon of anyone's mind.

Directly to the north of this sour orange grove, the United States life-saving station, the Orange Grove House of Refuge #3, was built. Almost side by side, people could find another place where they could seek shelter and respite from the stormy weather.

In time, the town of Linton, would give way to the City of Delray Beach. Mr. Schrader's Mediterranean revival-style Chapel would become the Gibson Memorial Baptist Church.



In 1926, the great Depression came and destructive hurricanes followed. Presbyterians rented the building, eventually purchasing it in 1929.

The story could have ended there, but it didn't. In time, the town became a city; northerners discovered the idyllic character of this tropical paradise; and, other buildings, including a beautiful new Sanctuary, rose from this place.

Over time, the life of this congregation changed along with the city around it.

To this place, where sailors once sought refuge from the tumultuous seas, people came seeking refuge from the uncontrollable storms that were dissipating their lives. They still keep coming.

Here, in this place, children would be baptized, raised in the faith and confirmed before the congregation. Marital vows would be exchanged in a place once shaded by orange tree branches. Loved one's lives would be celebrated and remembered. Many of them would be interred in our Memorial Garden. Like the ebb and flow of life itself, families would come and go as their lives moved with the tides of time. Still, the church carried on.

Today, the old cast iron bell that
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Reflections...

Theodore A. Bush, Ph.D., Senior Pastor

"The Resurrection"

The joy of the Resurrection comes into our lives not only with the calm peacefulness of still ocean waters but also with the thundering crash of behemoth waves breaking against the rough boulders imbedded along the ragged coastline. The resurrection offers a profound sense of peace for souls troubled by what is happening to them in life. It also offers us the thrill of knowing that death does not have the final word. In fact, we are told, death has been defeated and nothing can silence the joy of eternal life.

So it is that we dare to approach the holiest of days, Easter. We come to Easter because we need real hope in our lives. What the world offers is too tangible. Worldly things can corrode and dissipate before our very eyes. They can slip out of our hands and escape our grasp. While what other people offer, under the best of circumstances, may appear to be lasting, nothing earthly lasts forever. Even relationships find themselves with considerable limitations.



Yet Easter, with its promise of eternal life, is one thing that is everlasting. It is a gift that is given to us by God out of pure love. The promises of Easter will never go away nor can they ever be taken from us.

The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that one day, our own resurrection also will come.

What more could we ask for from God? What more could we hope for in life? What more could God give us that is of a lasting, spiritual nature? What more could God give to our loved ones than the promise and assurance that one day we would be reunited in heaven with our Risen Lord and those who have gone before us?

If all of this isn't enough to celebrate Easter then I don't know what more we reasonably could ask for from God. Whether I see you in person or you only can be with us in spirit, may we meet once more at the Empty Tomb of our Risen Lord to celebrate the true joy of the Resurrection. Happy Easter! ❖

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Holy Week Music and Meditation

Monday, April 6th through Friday, April 10th of Holy Week, our Sanctuary will be open for personal prayer and reflection from **noon until 1 p.m.** Our organists, Don Cannarozzi and Jim Poch, or a guest organist will 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. ❖



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once announced Sunday worship services to the congregation and community, summoning people to worship, continues its melodic tradition.

The silence of yesterdays long gone has faded into memory only to be recalled by the guardians of the past. Now, the city is a bustling place and this church continues to minister to a restless and uncertain world.

Over the years, people have smiled, laughed and cried within the confines of these sacred walls. This congregation has carried hope beyond this holy ground to people whose pain is sometimes known to many, but often known only to themselves and God.

Trees of life took root in the hearts and minds of people whose faith was seeded and nourished in this holy environment. From such plantings, these trees put forth branches that have stretched out far and wide into the community and around the world.

In September 1969, a childcare center began in our education building. Classrooms used for Christian Education on Sunday mornings



were converted to provide a safe place to help care for needy children. From such humble beginnings, evolved the Achievement Center for Children & Families on Lake Ida Road.

In 1988, the Association of Retarded Children began using our facilities while they worked with severely mentally and physically challenged children. As many as thirty-five children were here every weekday. Eventually, they moved to a new building on the Florida Atlantic University campus.

From this place, came the idea of not only feeding hungry people, but also helping them to get back on their feet again. What started with the distribution of groceries from a closet has become the Caring Kitchen now located on 8th Avenue and the Community Food Pantry program in this city. Between these programs and the Soup Kitchen in Boynton Beach, as well as the Community Caring Center in Boynton Beach, needy people are fed every day in our community.

If you travel west on Boynton Beach Boulevard, past the Florida Turnpike, you will see the Caridad Medical Clinic. It was Cari Ascencio's dream. What began in a used trailer that our church helped purchase, sitting on sandy soil, has become a medical clinic where every available space is used to treat migrant children and their families as well as other needy children. Our congregation gave \$15,000 to fund this clinic and one of our members gave an additional \$15,000. Together, with a similar amount donated by a Boynton Beach church, Cari Ascencio's dream came true. Today, next to the medical clinic sits a Mobile Vision Clinic that our congregation gave over \$9,000 to renovate. Today, volunteer doctors, dentists, nurses and nursing students make it possible for many who need medical help, but cannot afford it, to receive it.

From throughout the United States, to Mexico, Europe, Africa and the Philippines, people have been or are being fed, housed, medically treated, educated and cared for because of what you and others before you have done.

Why spend time on this today? Is it merely to celebrate the dedication of a bronze historical marker? No! It's much more than that.

Last week, one of the candidates being interviewed for the Associate Pastor position asked the members of the Search Committee, "What one thing would we each celebrate

about our church?" Almost to a person, the answer was the same. It was the people. We care about each other and about the world beyond our walls. We share with



others because we do care so much. All that we and those who preceded us have ever tried to do here is to be faithful disciples of our Lord.

Back in the 1980's, after I had been here for a few years, a reporter asked me about the importance of this church to this community. I said that if you took this church out of this community, there would be a void that could not be filled. I would say that this is even more true today.

Where once sailors sought refuge from the stormy seas, now people come here to find shelter and respite from the storms of life.

The Samaritan, we are told, stopped, leaned over, bandaged up and cared for the man who everyone else passed by. We have no choice but to do what that Samaritan did. Isn't this what Jesus asks us to do?

With every plate of food served to a hungry person, with any medical care given to a needy child, with every decent place of shelter provided to a homeless family, we follow in the footsteps of that Samaritan doing the work of our Lord.

May we never cease to do this in this place or wherever we may go.

Lord Jesus,

Help us to be faithful to You and to serve You every day of our lives. Teach us humility and compassion. Grant us Your peace as we struggle with the storms that rock our lives. Help us always to find shelter and respite with You. Amen." ❖

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009

I love Palm Sunday! It's fun! It's festive! As a child, I loved processing in front of the church waving the palm fronds. As an adult, I love watching my own daughter parade down the aisle singing "Hosanna! Blessed is the One Who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" with her eyes firmly fixed on the palm branch she holds. I've often imagined myself there with the crowds, throwing down my cloak, waving my branch, shouting and dancing as I welcome Jesus to Jerusalem. And if I stop on Palm Sunday, all is well. Yet Jesus didn't stop there. And I'm sorry to say, neither did the crowds.

When I put myself in the "Hosanna" shouting, palm-waving crowd on Palm Sunday, I can't help but find myself in the crowd later in the week as well...when the crowd forgot their "Hosannas!" and shouted "Crucify Him!" instead. And when Jesus hung dying on the cross and prayed, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" the crowd was nowhere to be found. So I ask myself the heart-wrenching question: Where would I have been?

The Palm Sunday crowd was overjoyed at what they hoped Jesus would do for them. But He didn't do it. He didn't do what they wanted or what they expected. So a few short days later, they turned and called for His death, and then left Him alone completely as He died. What would make me think that I would have been any more faithful than they? Does Jesus always do what I want? Does He always fulfill my expectations? And when He doesn't, how do I respond?

I challenge you this Palm Sunday, this Holy Week, to find those places where Jesus isn't exactly Who you want Him to be and then pray; ask God to give you the strength to step away from the crowd and remain faithful to Him even when the way is hard—through joys and hosannas, pain and agony, and even through death.

Wave your palm branches with the crowd today...worship the Messiah; but let's pray for the grace to leave the crowd and remain with Jesus.

*Rev. Happy Foster-Kinnear
Youth Leader*

Monday, April 6, 2009

John 12:1-11

Jesus is traveling toward Jerusalem on what will be His final earthly journey. He stops in Bethany, the home of His friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. They give a dinner in Jesus' honor. Something pretty amazing happens. Mary anoints Jesus' feet with costly fragrant perfume and wipes them with her hair. Why would she use expensive perfume to wash Jesus' feet? Mary demonstrates that she knows what is important in life—to give of her best in an action of selfless giving to her Lord. As we approach Easter, in what ways are we giving ourselves to God? Do we only do what is convenient or do we make Bible study, prayer, worship

and service a priority? Jesus is going to Jerusalem to give His life for us. What shall we do for Him?

*Rev. Jo Garnett
Associate for Senior Ministries*

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Our Loving Lord,

With humble hearts, we pause this Holy Week remembering the road You walked for each of us. It is because of Your unending love that we are able to love others and our spiritual nourishment comes from You daily.

You painfully suffered and died that we might have liberating life. We are grateful. Help us to be willing to accept all our sufferings in life so that You may turn them into blessings. Thank You, dearest Jesus, for Your love that is always with us. May it live and shine in our hearts, minds, eyes and deeds each day. Amen.

*Mrs. Marilyn Roberts
Elder and Chair,
Worship and Music Committee*

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

John 12:27-36

"Believing in the Light"

I love the way that after sunset, the light lingers in the darkening sky. And then slowly, the light of the stars and moon fills the night. Despite the darkness of night, we always have light. Jesus faced the darkness of the crucifixion. Yet, it did not remain dark for long, for Jesus himself was the light. We, too, face dark times when it seems like the light is far from us. It is in those times that Jesus calls us to "believe in the light" (v.36). Our challenge, as a people of faith, is to believe in the light of Christ, even in darkness.

A suggestion for spiritual practice:

In the evening, either with family or by yourself, find a quiet room in your home. Light a candle and then turn off all the lights. Spend several minutes reflecting on the ways in which Christ has been present in the dark times of your life.

*Kellen Smith
Member of our congregation, currently a student at
Princeton Theological Seminary*

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2009

As I prepare to transition into the next step of my spiritual journey, I cannot help but to search and attempt to find the deeper meaning in all that I encounter. For me, this level of inquisitiveness is not newfound. When I was much younger (both spiritually and physically), I remember asking the Pastor of my church (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk) to explain the meaning of Maundy Thursday and why on earth should I have to go to school on such an important day! After my Pastor regained his composure from a hearty laugh, he cleared his throat and told me that the meaning of Maundy Thursday is deeply significant to many religions, as it was the Last Supper that Jesus Christ had with His disciples during which He commanded that they love each other as He loved them. We both stood in silence for a moment and then he gave me a Bible verse to learn: "This is My com-

mandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12). The impact of what my Pastor shared with me was so meaningful that I did not realize at the time that he never told me why I still had to go to school that Thursday!

I have sought refuge in the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ conveyed to us by the most magnificent book ever to exist (the Holy Bible) countless times. Every time I encounter the sacred words of the Bible the preponderance of meaning that floods my mortal mind and resonates in my soul is nothing short of phenomenal because of its spiritual implications. Consequently, after an introspective study of Jesus Christ's commandment stated in John 15:12, it is apparent that one would have to be void of spiritual being to not be moved by the events of Holy Week. Suffice it to say that we all can empathize with the thought of being hurt by the ones we hold most near and dear to our heart. In the world today, we often say that hindsight is 20/20. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in His omniscient nature knew that Judas was going to betray Him; nevertheless, Jesus still shared His New Covenant: His Body (Bread) and His Blood (Wine) with ALL of His disciples after washing their feet.

As I observe and worship during Holy Week, I often feel inundated with emotions of sorrow, guilt, humility, perhaps even anger as I ponder in earnest the hours leading up to the moment when Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Perhaps this is why during Holy Week we find Jesus Christ's compassion for humankind, despite the circumstances, to truly be the definition of a most magnificent and inexorable love. I pray that we remember to thank Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior for the spiritual knowledge bestowed upon us by the Bible as it provides an account for His glorious past. May God have mercy upon us, so that we may with our entire spiritual being look to His resurrection before us. In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Karlton Brown, Deacon

This summer, Karlton will begin studying for the ministry at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa, as part of their long-distance learning program..

Good Friday, April 10, 2009

"Even Now"

"She stands

beneath His dying
and will not be persuaded to leave,
despite the urgings of others.

They huddle against her
in an effort to hold her

against the pain,
but she stands erect,
unleaning,
her eyes upon His face.

From the hillside
the sounds of weeping and wailing
hang heavy in the air,
but she who held Him
in a stable in Bethlehem
stands silent
beneath His cross in Jerusalem

her heart pondering still,
her soul magnifying the Lord,
her spirit praising God,
knowing even now
that she is blessed among women."

Ann Weems, Kneeling in Jerusalem

*Rev. Linda E. Harper
Parish Associate*

Saturday, April 11, 2009

"Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." These words from Psalm 30 provide an important reminder during times of fear and uncertainty. Over the last year, many of us have found ourselves wondering how long it will be before the economic and other struggles in our lives will turn around. Sometimes it can feel almost hopeless, as though the darkness may last forever. On this day between the death and resurrection of Christ, let us remember that as they wept in the night, the early disciples were unaware that joy was truly coming on that first Easter morning. As Christians, our eternal hope is that there will come a day when all of the weeping will be over. And when this day does come the joy will last long after the morning. It will last forever.

*Rev. Katie Fellows Christie
Chaplain with Crossroads Hospice, Tucker, Georgia
Katie grew up in our congregation and was ordained to the Ministry in our Sanctuary on June 3, 2007.*

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009

The soul has enough cloudy days and dark nights with which it must contend. What we need as much as anything in life is hope.

Easter morning, with its bold proclamation that "Christ is Risen!", infuses the human spirit with as much hope as a human being ever could dream of receiving. For Christians, this depth of hope that reaches from the deepest recesses of our souls to the farthest point of the universe, proclaims that God alone has the final word in this life.

Although our earthly limbs may deteriorate and our mortal life crumble, the eternal life offered to us through the Resurrection of our Lord, reminds us of the magnificent beauty of an Eternity still to come. Without such hope, all of our worldly struggles will have been in vain. Yet, with such hope, we can see the Promised Land of Eternal Life that the appearance of our Risen Lord proclaimed.

Today, when you greet the coming light of dawn, remember the eternal Light that still keeps shining through from the Risen Christ, Himself. "Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!" Alleluia! Amen.

*Dr. Theodore A. Bush,
Senior Pastor ❖*

6th Annual Spring Golf Tournament & Dinner



The sun shined for The First Presbyterian Church Golf Tournament, Sunday afternoon, March 15th, at the Lakeview Golf Club. Fifty-two players participated with approximately a third who were guests or friends of the church. There were a few father-son teams, including Jack, the 12-year old son of Peter Quaid, and James Lawrence IV, son of you know who. Following the tournament, a pasta buffet at Lakeview was enjoyed by golfers and guests. We were delighted with the impromptu entertainment provided by John Williams who sang songs and played his guitar. Golfing awards were presented following dinner. Prizes were donated by Lakeview Golf Club and Phil Anstead.

Eleven people participated in a putting contest for a split pot prize and each player had the opportunity to buy mulligans to get legal do-overs.



Contest	Prize	Winner 2009
1. Putting Contest	Split Pot \$28	James Lawrence
2. Straightest Drive (Man)	Tokens for 2 buckets of balls	Tony Golovan
3. Closest to the Pin (Man)	Tokens for 2 buckets of balls	Marvin Bolinger
4. Closest to the Pin (Woman)	Golf balls	Judy Hodge
5. Longest Drive (Man)	Tokens for 2 buckets of balls	Peter Quaid
6. Longest Drive (Woman)	Glove	Judy Hodge
7. Lost Most Balls	5 previously owned golf balls	James Lawrence
8. 3rd Place (54)	Tokens for 2 buckets of balls each player	Peter Quaid Jack Quaid Richard Schaublin Harvey Tanner
9. Second Place (54) Card playoff	4 lunches at Delray Golf Course	Ron Barrett Tom Daley Dave Kerr John Williams
10. First Place (52)	4 free games of golf	Ron Price Bill Kunkel David Bayless Don Holland

Deacons' Corner

by Kim Whitaker

As a recently ordained Deacon, along with the other nine new Deacons this year, I am learning what it means to be a Deacon, to serve our church and to serve you. In the next couple of months, it will be my honor to introduce you to these special people with unique stories to tell.



When **Deacon Dr. Alexandra Harris** was asked to be a Deacon she said, "Absolutely!" For her, it was "a legacy...a destiny." After "church shopping" for fifteen years, Alexandra, a licensed psychologist, had an epiphany two years ago that led her back to her family roots and where she found our church.

Alexandra is a descendant of William Brewster, who was the church Elder on the Mayflower when it made its voyage to Plymouth in 1620. After some research, Alexandra determined that William Brewster's beliefs were closely related to those of a Presbyterian. She was inspired by his service to others throughout his life and although she had been helping people throughout her career, she wanted to be of service in a more spiritual capacity.

At the same time she was researching Brewster's beliefs, a co-worker invited her to attend one of our church services. She felt so comfortable and welcome at that first visit that she joined our church a few months later. She retired in November 2007 and has made a commitment to be of service to others.

Besides being a Deacon, Alexandra is in Stephen Ministry training. She is also the Chairperson of the Deacons' Scholarship Committee and is Vice Governor and Scholarship Committee Chairwoman of the John Alden Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants. At home, she is training her recently adopted puppy, Boo Bear, to be a therapy dog.

Deacon Richard Schaublin grew up a Presbyterian on Long Island, New York. After leaving New York, he headed to the San Francisco Bay area where he spent 25 years as a Human Resources Director for several large electronic companies. When Richard retired three years ago, he moved to Delray Beach and found our church in the phone book.



Richard remembers how he made the decision to join our church, "True story. I had attended our church for a few months and had a bout with cancer. After being absent for probably four months, I came in one Sunday and the usher/Deacon said 'Where have you been? We missed you.' I knew then this was the church for me!"

Richard, who also volunteers at the Delray Beach Medical Center and American Cancer Society, has joined the Deacons' Communications Committee and hopes to

meet a lot of church members as a Deacon.

He is blessed to have a close family including his 97-year-old mother who just came to visit him, one sister, two sons and four grandchildren. We are blessed to have Richard as a member of our church family!



Deacon Gayle Stevens is a registered nurse at Vitas Innovative Hospice Care and was a former Deacon for three and a half years at the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale. She grew up in New Jersey and was raised a Catholic, but she became a Presbyterian 16 years ago. Faith has always been important to her. She believes everyone needs a "strong foundation—a rock to lean on during challenges in life."

Her closeness with God is her rock and is what "kept her going" through one of the most difficult times in her life when her teenage daughter, Bree, was diagnosed with cancer. Bree, who attends White Mountain School in New Hampshire, is now 18 and cancer free.

Last year, Gayle formed a team in Bree's honor for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk called "It's a Bree'z," and her team raised nearly \$12,000! This year, Gayle is on the executive planning committee for the fundraiser walk and is thrilled that Bree will be honored at this October's Light the Night Walk in Boca Raton. (Let Gayle know if you are interested in walking with her team on October 24th.)

For Gayle, the "timing was right" to be a Deacon. She loves people and looks forward to serving our congregation. ❖

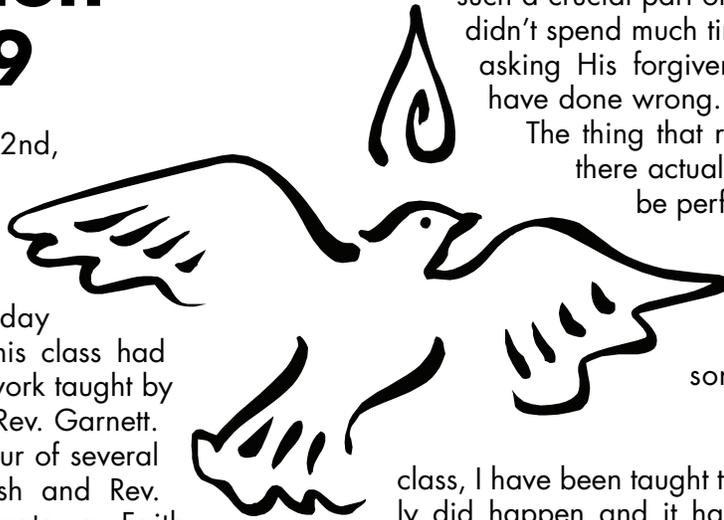
Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for the wonderful reception, generous gift, and kind words you extended to me on my last Sunday. It was a joyous celebration that left me with many happy memories. The Deacons know how to give a grand reception. As I traveled north for a short vacation, I thought of the many enduring friendships I have made throughout the years. The memories will remain in my heart forever as I continue on my journey greeting new friends. The Christian fellowship is indeed a family that extends beyond all borders giving us meaning and purpose in life. I wish you all the very best as you continue your great ministry in the Delray Beach community. Know that you are in my prayers.

Grace to you and peace.
Love,
Joan LeRoy Abell ❖

Confirmation Class 2009

On Sunday, February 22nd, seven young people completed their Confirmation Class training and were welcomed into our church membership during the Sunday morning worship service. This class had completed 12 hours of class work taught by Rev. Abell, Rev. Kinnear and Rev. Garnett. They also participated in a tour of several mission sites led by Dr. Bush and Rev. Garnett. Each student wrote a Faith Statement, which they read to their families, pastoral staff and members of Session. These are printed below. We are fortunate and blessed to have these young people as part of our church family.



happen. Jesus was and still is amazing and is such a crucial part of my faith. At first, I really didn't spend much time thinking about God or asking His forgiveness for the things that I have done wrong.

The thing that really gets me is how can there actually be one person that can be perfect and create all of these miracles? It's just too complicated to think about. Could there really have been a person that could walk on water? Throughout my confirmation class, I have been taught that all of these things really did happen and it has definitely increased my amount of faith in God. I've also realized that before this class, I just went to church to get it over with and so I could do something fun with my friends afterward. But then, I realized if I don't go to church to learn about the wonderful amazing things that Jesus has done for us, then I won't be a strong believer. Jesus had saved me from many sins and sadness but now I realize that there is one and only one God that can keep you out of harm's way. He works through me and will always love me every second and moment of my life.



Dalton Davis

I am blessed to be a part of a great life at home and at my church. My whole family tries very hard to teach me about God's blessings and also to teach me to use God's Word to help me with my daily life in school and in the near future. Above all else, I am a Christian, and what this means to me is that I try my best to live my life knowing that the Ten Commandments are not guidelines but rules that everybody should obey. I also believe that it is very important to listen to what God teaches you in the Bible. What God represents to me is that if I am having a hard time in life, God will help me if I pray for His help and put my faith in Him. I believe that God, the Father, sent His only Son, Jesus, to save us from sin and to teach us about His Word. I believe in the power of prayer and through my faith, I know that God will always be there for me as long as I keep my heart open to Him.



Siena Del Mastro

I believe in God, the Father, the Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His Son Who died on the cross to save us from sins. I believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

As I've been going through weeks of confirmation, I've been learning many things about the Bible and about Jesus that I never expected would and could



Taylor Dykstra

I believe in the God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. At first, I didn't understand what that meant. But, since I went to confirmation class, I do. The trinity makes perfect sense. I think of it as the ice cube; God is the solid form, the Son is the water form, and the Holy Ghost is the gas form.

I now also know that God is with me everywhere, that He can come in any way, shape or form to be with me. I also understand that God always answers our prayers; we just sometimes don't realize it. I feel confident in my faith now that God will be with me in the hardest times of my life. I believe that He will always forgive me if I ask Him to and will always have open arms to me. I also believe that He is there no matter what, and no matter what I'm going through, He knows how I am feeling.

I have a story a lot like Amber's. When I was in 5th grade, my grandmother became diagnosed with colon cancer. I turned to God and asked Him to keep my grandmother alive. But, when her case got worse, I started asking Him questions like why aren't you answering my prayers? When she died, I suddenly lost my faith completely. I thought if God didn't help

my grandmother, then why should I believe in Him? A few months later, I realized that He did do the best thing for her, He took her with Him to heaven and now she is probably the happiest she ever has been. I am glad that He did that because I now know that He is always there and He does and was answering my prayers; not in a way that made me the most happy but made other people happy.



Amanda Gaudree

Throughout my life, I have always known to call upon God. In times of joy and bliss, in times of sadness and woe, God has always been by my side, my Savior, and my constant companion. And I know that God will always be there for me wherever I go. By learning more about God and Jesus, my faith will continue to grow. I know that my faith has and will always play an intricate part in my life. And through this confirmation, I know that I will be able to reach new heights with my faith.



Olivia Gaudree

Over the months of going to Confirmation Class, I have learned many new things. God is the Father of all, Creator of all. God has many names. To some, He is known as Savior; others, Lord. He has no true form but I have learned that we were created in His image. We were given His image to follow His Word. I realized that I have not been praising God for all that He did. He gave His only Son, Jesus, to teach us about God and to save us from our sins. Jesus died on the cross for me and now sits on the right hand side of God. Jesus is a path into the life of God. He gives us an example of how we should live.

I do not think that I have been following His Word as I should be. It is hard to fathom the many miracles that Jesus performed, such as the fish and the bread. But what I have learnt in Confirmation Class is that faith is a journey and not everything is clear to us all of the time.

I have to continue on this journey and to continue to learn God's plan for me. I know that there will be times on my journey of faith that I won't understand why things are happening the way they are, if I try to remember God's love for me and keep going forward, I will know that I am in the hands of God.

Stevie Marinak

I believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in a loving, compassionate, wise creator, and inspirer of the laws of life as read in Scripture.



I believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son, Who died on the cross for our sins and rose again so that we can have a right relationship with God. Jesus is God's expression of love to us. He is our teacher, our brother, our challenger. He turns the world

around with what He says and all His lessons teach us to see things in a new light. Jesus teaches us how to seek the essence of humanity and God's Presence in every individual. He shows us the abundance and joy of God's love.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, sent to be among us to be our counselor, teacher, encourager, healer, comforter, supporter, and source of inspiration. God's message of hope, joy, and love continues to be revealed to us through the Presence of the Holy Spirit.

I confirm the living Presence of God as I participate in the holy sacraments of baptism and communion. Through the waters of baptism, we come together to share in communion, celebrating the unity we have as the Body of Christ, and the uniqueness we cherish as individuals in the new covenant of Christ's blood.

I believe that we are children of the Living God, dearly loved and instructed to go out into the world to help bring about God's Kingdom on earth, to deliver Christ's message of hope and compassion, and to share the power of the Holy Spirit with rejoicing. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Grant Schultz

What God means to me is that when I have a problem, He is the one that I go to for help. So many times in my life when I didn't know what to do, I put my faith in His hands. I always feel God's Presence in my life. I know He looks after me and makes me feel safe. This Bible verse means a lot to me. It's from Psalm 55, verse 22. It goes, "Turn your worries over to the Lord. He will keep you going. He will never let godly people fall". I believe that if I follow God's teachings, I will meet Him in the next life. I believe God is everywhere. God has helped me so many times even when I wasn't aware of it. I want my faith in Him to grow as I grow older.

Ryan Sipp



I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who was sent to earth to save us. I believe that if you follow the teachings of Jesus, you will have everlasting life. ❖

Stephen Ministry

by Dick Walgrove



Stephen Ministry was begun in 1975 by Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist. In that year, he trained nine laypeople in his congregation to be Stephen Ministers. Those nine people, together with Dr. Haugk, provided one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around their congregation.

This small group was so enthused with this new ministry that they encouraged Dr. Haugk to offer Stephen Ministry to more congregations. Over the next few years, he trained new Stephen Ministers in several congregations. However, this proved to be inefficient, since he could only visit a limited number of congregations and those congregations were dependent upon him to train additional caregivers.

As a result, in 1978, Dr. Haugk held the first Stephen Ministry training course to train Stephen Leaders. These newly trained leaders then returned to their congregations to train and supervise their congregations' Stephen Ministers.

Since that time, more than 10,000 congregations enrolled in the Stephen Series. These congregations represent more than 150 different Christian denominations from all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces and 24 other countries.

More than 55,000 individuals have been trained as Stephen Leaders. In turn, they have trained more than 500,000 laypeople to be Stephen Ministers. It is estimated that since 1975 Stephen Ministers have provided one-to-one Christian care to more than a million people. ❖

Palm Sunday

Easter Egg Hunt

by Craig Hammett



On Palm Sunday, April 5th, after the 11 a.m. worship service, the Young Adults will host an Easter egg hunt. The hunt will begin in the Courtyard. Children of members and guests are invited to participate.

While the children are searching for eggs (which will only take a few minutes), the Christian Education Committee will be hosting a barbecue for members and guests. If you enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers, beans, potato salad and potato chips, you definitely will want to join us. After the barbecue, children and youth are invited to attend a pool party with their families at our Guest House on Bronson Avenue. ❖

Movie Night

The Young Adult Committee invites everyone who wants to have a wonderful night of movies and pizza to come Saturday, April 18th at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. R.S.V.P. to the church office (276-6338) by April 17th ❖

Maundy Thursday

Service of Communion and Tenebrae

Tenebrae is Latin for shadows. The purpose of this service is to recreate the events of Holy Week leading to the cross and is left unfinished, because the story is not over until Easter Day. Please join us on Thursday, April 9th at 7:30 p.m. for this time of Scripture, music, reflection and communion. ❖

Blanket Sunday Award

by Rev. Jo Garnett

Thank you for supporting Blanket Sunday, sponsored by our Presbyterian Women's Association. Your generosity raised over \$2,900 this year. We were one of ten groups or churches that received an award. Church World Services administers this program, which also provides seed and tools for those in need. Jesus said, "When you have done it unto the least of these My children, you have done it unto Me." ❖





Presbyterian Women's Tea Party

by Carol Possanza

On February 27th, the Presbyterian Women hosted a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" at the St. Andrews Club. 100 women attended this event, with guest speaker Annette Jackson, former president of the Delray Orchid Society. There was a question and answer session following an informative presentation. ❖

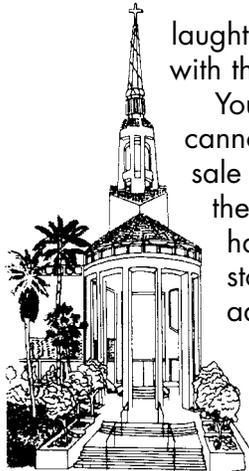


Church Improvement Committee

by Barbara Vanderkay

The final report for the Step-Above-Rummage Sale shows receipts of \$19,500, better than we have done in several years. It is very rewarding for all the hard-working volunteers to see that their efforts really paid off, both for our church and for those in the community who were glad to have this source of very inexpensive necessities and nice-to-have indulgences for their families. Thanks to everyone who made this possible.

The Church Improvement Committee / Holly House ladies have now moved on to work for the November Holly Days Christmas Bazaar. As of March 31st, the craft workshops will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or later. All women of the church and their friends are welcome to come to the new Holly House at 39 Gleason Street, whenever they are available, to help make the interesting things which we are famous for. If you are good at crafts, like to sew by hand or machine, or just want to try it out, please come. Don't be shy about coming alone, you'll be part of the friendliest, nicest group of women you ever met. You'll be shown how to do things that you will enjoy, with lots of conversation and



laughter. This is the most active group in the church, with the most camaraderie.

You may or may not need to be reminded that we cannot accept donations for next year's rummage sale until next January, unless you are moving, or there is a home to be cleaned out after someone has passed on. We simply do not have enough storage space to take care of things for months in advance. However, don't forget our one exception, **costume jewelry**, which we will take any time.

The leader of this whole group is Regie Moorcroft with an Executive Board of Helen Antal, co-chairman; Ruby Churchill; Edna Fisher, Revia Gotzeff, Mary Jane Sickel and Barbara Vanderkay. Any of these board members will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

We're hoping for a good turnout on either, or both, Tuesdays and Thursdays, so do come and swell our numbers. ❖

Celebrations of Eternal Life...

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

Ruth Boyd - February 25, 2009

Verne Calvert - March 10, 2009 ❖

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Sunday Morning Worship Service

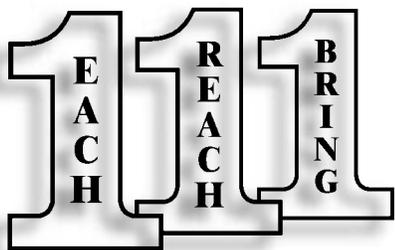
9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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

Church School

Adult Church School 10 a.m.

Children's Church School 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.



Vacation Bible School

Under construction is a missions action children's Vacation Bible School designed to share the love of God and encourage the growth of Christian service habits among preschoolers and children. Under Construction was developed in full partnership with Habitat for Humanity International. The program is biblically-based, uses a construction theme, and involves the children in activities that teach the value of "building" Christian community and participating in outreach service missions. Program elements include Bible theme activities, worship, music, dramas, community stories, and special craft projects for the children. ❖



Vacation Bible School Needs Your Help!

by Chris Del Mastro

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School is coming soon. June 8-12, to be exact. Volunteering for Vacation Bible School is a wonderful way to get to know the children of our church and, in the process, become more like children ourselves. It is fun! By the end of the week, you won't be able to get the theme song out of your head and you'll be sad the time went so fast. There are many tasks to choose from. We need help in the kitchen, with crafts, art, drama, recreation, etc! If you've never volunteered before, it's a great way to meet members of our congregation. Come share your talents and the love for others God has blessed you with. The more volunteers we have, the better our Vacation Bible School will be. Please help us to make this a great week for our children! Call Chris Del Mastro 496-5650 for more information. Thank you. ❖