

The Meaning of Advent

by Rev. Linda Harper

In those days, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'" (Matthew 3:1-3)

Happy New Year! Advent is the official beginning of our Christian year. There are four Sundays in Advent preceding Christmas Day. The word advent comes from the Latin, *adventus*, which means "coming." In reference to Christ, the first advent is His incarnation; and the second advent is His future second coming.

In this season of Advent, as we "prepare the way of the Lord", we have an opportunity once again to prepare ourselves for the Birth of Christ, our living God, in many different ways. These four weeks help us to refocus with intention the traditional themes of the Season ~ expectation, hope, preparation, and longing.

The liturgical color of this season is purple, which denotes repentance and royalty. Amidst the whirlwind of material preparations, perhaps we might each apportion a time in our days for remembrance of the deep meaning that is in these days - the gift of grace and mercy and forgiveness we are offered by God each and every day. What might our gift to the Christ Child be this year?

Like the great prophet John the Baptist, here the poet, Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, proclaims the coming Christ Who is Saviour and Judge.



"He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
Opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

INSIDE . . .

- Reflections Page 2
Dr. Bush
- Stewardship Page 3
Kurt Bagwell
- Blessing of the Pets Page 11
Kim Winker

DECEMBER

EVENTS



December 6th - 11am

Children's Christmas Pageant

December 13th - 4pm

Caroling by Trolley

December 20th - 9 & 11am

Music Performance of Rutter's "Gloria"

December 24th - 7 & 9:30pm

Candlelight Christmas Eve

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child." ❖

Reflections...

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

"Preparing for Christmas"

Christmas is coming! The Advent season leading up to Christmas gives us the opportunity to prepare ourselves, spiritually, to celebrate the coming of Christ into our world and into our lives.



This Christmas, will we be ready for such a holy adventure? Can we ever be completely prepared for such a profound religious experience?

Soon, the Christmas ornaments will be unwrapped: some for the first time, others for more times than we can remember. Evergreen trees will be purchased at a Christmas tree lot or pulled out of the closet. Outdoor holiday decorations may be hung for the first time or the ninetieth time. Christmas memories will be remembered decades after they occurred as though they happened yesterday.

Amidst all of the preparations and festivities of this holiday season, will we remember the reason that we celebrate the Holy Day of Christmas? Along with all of the excitement, noise and anticipation, will we find time to prepare our souls for the coming of Christ once again?

For many of us, December is a time to start coming back to church. Sometimes the soul can find great solace in the sacred message and music of this holy time of the year.

Every Advent season enables us

to prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Lord. This Christmas season will we take time to read stories that awaken our soul about the true significance of Christmas, therefore stirring us to

action? Will we look for people who will not have a happy holiday unless someone intervenes and helps them improve the conditions under which they are living? All of us are amazingly creative people. We do ourselves and others an injustice when we neglect to use our creativity to make the world a better place for those less fortunate. As the hymn suggests, we should do this for "all creatures great and small."

In the end, it is up to each of us to decide for ourselves how we will prepare for Christmas. Even if we don't find all of the ornaments and decorations that we are looking for, even if we may not be able to afford the kinds of gifts that we used to give our loved ones and friends in the past, we still can prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child once again.

This year, let us each reflect upon how we can best prepare our souls for this sacred day. May God help us to prepare for Christmas in very meaningful ways. If we do, then we will be ready to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Our family wishes you a very blessed Christmas! ❖

Church Staff

Theodore A. Bush, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor

Aaron Janklow, M.Div.
Associate Pastor

Jo Garnett, M.C.E.
Associate for Senior Ministries

Linda Harper, M.Div.
Parish Associate

Donald J. Cannarozzi, M.M., J.D.
Organist / Director of Music

James K. Poch, S.M.M.
Associate Director of Music

Denise Gomez
Volunteer/Staff Coordinator for Children

Nancy Fine
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:
Laura Martinez

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.

Stewardship

by Kurt Bagwell

The following is the Minute for Stewardship that Kurt Bagwell, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, gave during both worship services on Sunday, November 1st:

Good morning.

I stand here before you today in the illustrious position of leading our drive for raising funds for the 2010 financial year – on the heels of the worst economic times in 75 years. First, after wiping your brow and saying “better him than me”, you might be asking yourself how I got into this position. “He seems like a sharp, youthful guy – is he really that gullible or was it standard hazing by the Session members with more seniority?” The answer is neither.

I was raised in the Miami Shores Presbyterian Church 48 miles south of here. My parents were Sunday school teachers. My mother-in-law taught at the preschool there for 25 years. My brother and I, as well as my future wife, Dorinda, and our friends, went on the summer trips to Montreat every year. My Dad served as an Elder and Trustee. Dorinda and I were married in that church. I lived so close to it that I walked there most of the time.

Growing up in Miami in the 70’s and 80’s had its challenges, but we had a great basis in the church and I think it has served us well. My four children have been raised in Presbyterian churches in Kansas City and now Delray Beach, and I hope it gives them the same foundation. So when Ted asked me to serve on the Board and help with Stewardship, after a few minutes of initial balking, talk about being too busy due to travel for my job, and other general excuses - I immediately accepted his offer.

This past Spring, I dove into church meetings, budgets and issues. And even after being a generally faithful member here for 9 years, I learned a lot more than I ever knew about the inner-workings, financing, personnel, volunteers, mission efforts and other areas I never really knew enough about. And, I can tell you that everything I have seen is good. The people behind the scenes here care more than you can imagine. The awareness and concern of the ongoing livelihood of the church is constant. The careful stewardship of funds is also on everyone’s mind.

We all come here on Sundays looking to come away feeling great about ourselves, our God and each other – and other than a few corny jokes and false claims of hope for the Chicago Cubs from Ted, we get what we came for. We help create the atmosphere of spirituality and fellowship that God envisioned. We come here seeking inner peace, seeking an inspiring message, seeking fellowship, offering mission and we get all of that and more. We should be grateful, and I think we are.

This time every year brings the need for Stewardship and your pledges of time and talent to help make these things happen, in addition to a time to solicit your financial support. We ask for your support in keeping the church operationally stable in these modern, but challenging times.

As I was doing some reading on the recent recession and Christian Fundraising, a couple of statements really stood out to me. The first said “in tough times like these, remember, there have always been tough times like these.”

The second was a classic definition of Stewardship. “A commitment to personal and collective behavior that recognizes and honors God’s ultimate ownership and profound generosity in all things. To encourage people to see all resources as gifts temporarily entrusted to us to be used and shared to promote the welfare of all of God’s creation.”

There are many great charities and causes in our area for you to give your time, talent and funds to support. I personally give to several of them and look forward to their continued success, and I will continue to do what I can for them. But at the root of our concern for all these great causes is Christ’s guidance from our church home. This place is our foundation that we need to keep strong and support with all our might. With a strong foundation here, everything else will fall into place.

Make no mistake, money is a necessity for carrying out many of the good works we are called to do as individuals and as a community of faith, so we cannot avoid asking for and collecting material sums for the work done here.

Our church wants you, as donors, to be in a position where you feel the act of giving, whether time and talent or financial sums, can become an occasion to feel and to celebrate your faith, and the sense of God in your lives. I ask that you give generously.

Thank you. ❖



Thank You!

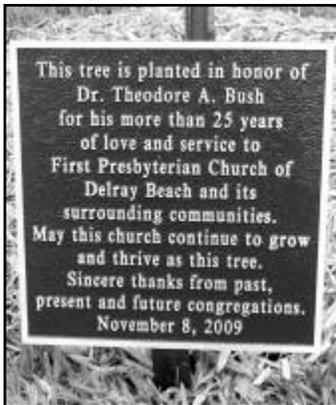
by Dr. Ted Bush

Dear Friends,

There really is no way to adequately thank you for the wonderful celebration for my 25th anniversary with you. It has been a privilege to serve with you. Mary and I are very appreciative of the manner in which you honored us and our family. We were humbled by the kind words that were spoken and appreciated your written cards, notes and letters. We also are grateful for your many thoughtful acts of kindness.



After three months on our staff, Rev. Janklow probably is wondering what he has gotten himself into in his new position. At least now we know how good he also is at ad-libbing and as an emcee. I am thankful for his ministry with us.



Personally, I do not know how to thank everyone. I know that Noel Smith and Bob Teninga were instrumental in coordinating the event. I am most appreciative of their efforts.

It was wonderful to have Rev. Katie Fellows Christie here to share in the worship services. The Memory Book that she put together was incredibly touching.



Seeing your smiling faces, hearing your laughter and reading your comments brought back so many fond memories and put smiles on our faces as well. May God bless you for being who you are and may we continue to seek to do God's work together in this church.

With gratitude,

Ted Bush ❖



Keep It Up

by Rev. Aaron Janklow

As Associate Pastor, I have a lot of contact with visitors and new members to our congregation. Whether it has been in conversations with prospective new members or young professionals in TnT, or even in my own experiences of being welcomed to this congregation just four months ago, it is clear that we have a friendly and welcoming congregation. As we continue to grow and have more

visitors, this is so important, and I want to thank you for this. While wonderful music and strong preaching play large roles in whether a visitor comes back a second time, I think that the way they are treated by others in the congregation is an equally (if not more) important part of their decision to return. I've heard several people remark that the sense of community they find when visiting this church is a large part of why they eventually became a part of it. You need no instruction in this, so this is just to say, keep up the good work. It sure makes my job of calling prospective new members easier. Thanks again. ❖

Christian Education Programs

by Rev. Aaron Janklow

Each Sunday, multiple educational opportunities are provided for the children of our church. This does not happen without the time and dedication of so



many volunteers. Sincere thanks to all who teach and to all who help plan for these programs. Teaching the youngest of our congregation is not an easy task, as often the simpler a lesson needs to be, the more the teacher needs to have a grasp of the material. This is an important task, and I am so impressed with those who do it each week. Thank you. While challenging, I hope that it is equally rewarding. To see someone grow in faith each week is an amazing experience, and it has been wonderful to watch children be so excited to learn and be at the church. ❖

Spiritual Life Retreat

Coming in January

by Chris Del Mastro



Do you want a break from cooking and doing dishes for a whole weekend? Would you like a weekend of fellowship with friends? Would you like a chance to get to know your church family better? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, come join us for a great weekend at the "Circle F Dude Ranch" in Lake Wales. January 22nd through January 24th are the dates. The weather should be fabulous and there will be many great activities to enjoy as well as time to grow spiritually. All ages are encouraged to come. The only requirement is an adventurous spirit, as we will be staying in cabins with bunk beds. There are showers and delicious home-style cooking. The cost is \$40 per person. Please mark your calendars and call the church office to reserve your space. (276-6338) ❖



CROS Walk Update

by Becky Knapp



Thank you to our members and friends who contributed to and participated in the 15th Annual CROS Walk fundraising drive. We had 23 walkers, who gathered sponsorship of nearly \$5000 for our church, to assist CROS with funding to feed hungry people in Delray Beach through The Caring Kitchen and Community Food Pantry. Thank you for taking the time to care. ❖

A Reminder

About the Deacons' Christmas Tree

by Kim Winker

Make a holiday bright! Thank you to all who have taken one of those paper gift tag from our beautiful Deacons' Christmas Tree lighting up the Narthex to fulfill a Christmas wish for an impoverished local child from one of these agencies: Adopt-a-Family, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA), Achievement Center for Children & Families, C.R.O.S. Urban Ministries, Milagro Center and Rolling Green Elementary School. Imagine the joy and excitement of that child opening a gift from you. It may be the only gift they receive this holiday season.



We would like to remind you there is still time to brighten a child's Christmas! Through December 6th, simply take a gift tag from the Deacons' Christmas Tree showing a child's gift request, then return with the gift and gift tag and place it under the tree by Sunday, December 13th. The Deacons will sort and distribute all the gifts in time for Christmas morning.

If you prefer to give a monetary donation and have a Deacon shop for you, we ask that you please put your check in the Sunday offering or mail it to the church office, marking "Deacons' Tree" on the memo line, no later than Sunday, December 6th.

We appreciate your continued generosity and support of our Deacons' Christmas Tree. On behalf of the Deacons and the children you delight and inspire this Christmas, thank you! ❖



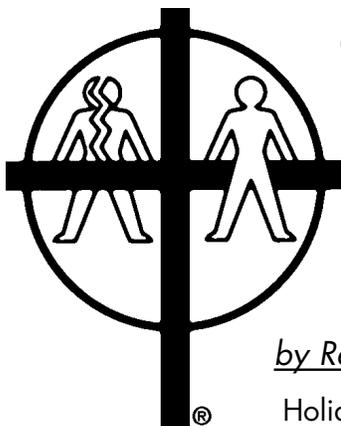
Fun, Pizza and Ministry

by Rev. Jo Garnett

What do these have in common? Come on **Sunday evening, December 13th**, and be a part of our "Caroling by Trolley" activity. We will meet at 4 p.m. for pizza and get on board two Molly's Trolleys to visit and sing Christmas carols for members who are



unable to come to church (that's the **ministry** part). The **fun** part happens all evening as we enjoy fellowship, see the smiles of those we visit and admire the lights along the way. Bet you didn't know you could do all those things in one evening! Sign up after the worship services in the Courtyard at the Trolley Table or call the church office (276-6338). Space is limited, so make your reservations today. ❖



Coping with Holiday Grief

by Rev. Jo Garnett

Holidays tend to be family-oriented and if you have lost a loved one, the season can be especially difficult. Here are some ways to cope:

*Talking about the deceased one is okay. Sharing memories of your loved ones previous holidays are important.

*Things won't be the same. It is normal to feel at odds with yourself and family events. Don't isolate yourself but limit involvement if you are overwhelmed.

*Don't let others' expectations determine how you will celebrate the holidays. If you don't feel like doing something, don't let others force you. Know your limits.

*Plan a special time to celebrate the memories of your loved one. Lighting a candle, looking at pictures and remembering a favorite gift you received from the deceased are all ways to validate your feelings.

*Think about building some new traditions. Planning something totally different is not an insult to your loved one and can be a positive way to help you cope.

*Talk to family and friends about your feelings. Ask them to share memories of your loved one. Loneliness is a major problem during the Holidays. ❖

Fall Church Golf Tournament and Dinner

by Linda Prior



It was a perfect day for golf. The fluffy clouds provided some protection from the sun and the air was fresh. The First Presbyterian Church Golf Tournament was held Friday afternoon, October 23rd, at the Lakeview Golf Club. Twenty-two players participated and about a third were guests. Non-golfers joined the golfers for a buffet with pasta, meatballs, chicken, salad, and dessert.



| Contest | Prize | Winner 2009 |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Putting Contest | Split Pot - \$17 | Larry Berman |
| Straightest and Longest Drive (Male) | Glove | David Fellows |
| Straightest and Longest Drive (Female) | Glove | Carole Howison |
| Closest to the pin (Male) | Sleeve of Balls | Dick Schaublin |
| Closest to the pin (Female) | Sleeve of Balls | Carole Howison |
| Lost most balls | 5 previously owned Golf Balls | Larry Berman |
| Third Place - 56 | 4 Sleeves of Balls | Pat Duane Polly Harrington Carole Howison B.J. Wintrich |
| Second Place - 55 | 4 Sleeves of Balls | Ellen Berman Larry Berman Dick Schaublin Marsha Stein |
| First Place - 50 | 4 Free Games of Golf | Dave Fellows Tom Sears |



Monday Morning Bible Study Helps the Homeless

by Linda Prior

*"Whatever you do for the least of these, you do it to me."
Matthew 25:40*

Last fall, the Monday Morning Bible Study decided to put "The Word" into action. We selected **Family Promise** because of the need of homeless families in our area. Family Promise believes that every child deserves a home. Through the support of a network of interfaith congregations, from Boynton Beach to Boca Raton, they provide temporary shelter and services for homeless families in our area so that they can achieve lasting independence. It usually takes a family about four months with Family Promise to find a job and a home.

Several members of the Monday Morning Bible Study attended a training session to become sensitive to the needs of homeless guests. The number of volunteers from First Presbyterian has grown from Bible Study members to friends of the Bible Study. People are anxious to help when they are invited. Each person participates in a unique way, sharing gifts of time, talent, donations, and prayers. Since their doors were opened last November, Family Promise has served 13 families

with 24 children in a safe, supportive environment where the children have a place to study and their parents can seek stable housing and employment leading to lasting independence.

Carolyn Doelker, Jo Garnett, Joanne Greedan, Miriam Kalett, Cynthia Rennick, Suzanne Weber, and I have prepared and served dinner to the guests staying at host congregations. Many Bible Study members who don't prepare meals, participate by contributing to the cost of the food.

Guests stay at host congregations for a week before moving on to the next congregation. The goal is to have each congregation host up to four families, or fourteen people, one week every quarter. Each family sleeps on air mattresses in

the guests. Gerry Wilcox volunteers every Saturday morning because she loves the children. Sometimes she meets a family while on her errands in Delray Beach and they run up to "Grandma Gerry" for hugs. Miriam Kalett assists wherever needed. Her gift of speaking a second language was vital when there was a Spanish-speaking mother. The guests who are not working spend their days at the Day Center at St. Vincent Ferrer Church, looking for jobs, writing resumes, doing laundry, getting counseling, applying for services, and doing whatever they need to do to pursue independence.

Les Deck helps a graduate guest with her budgeting. Joanne Greedan helps guests with medical issues. Dick Schaublin helps guests with interviewing skills. B.J. Lerpold drives the van that transports the guests from the host congregation to the Day Center. Guests have needs just like us – haircuts, clothes, transportation, gas, auto repair, childcare, medical and dental care. So much is needed!

Invite someone to help.

I became involved with Family Promise through an invitation of a friend from St. Paul's Episcopal Church. What I like to do best is to tell people about the courage and hope our guests have. What a difference we have made in the lives of the families and they have made in ours. Visit their website www.familypromisepbc.org.

Stories about the guests:

A mother, who has a background in accounts payable, and her 12-year old son, had no place to go. After a hateful marital separation, they arrived at Family Promise in desperation. It was an



Family Promise[®] of South Palm Beach County

Building community, strengthening lives

their own room in a congregation, perhaps a classroom or a meeting room. The easiest volunteer job is to be an overnight host. Jo Garnett and I have stayed with the guests overnight. Besides the ten host congregations, there are eleven congregations that support Family Promise. Because of our volunteers, First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach is considered a supporting congregation.

Carolyn Doelker, Miriam Kalett, B.J. and Roda Lerpold, and Suzanne Weber volunteer weekly during the season at the Day Center where they help in the office answering the phone or making follow-up calls, doing research, entering information in the computer, or interacting with

adjustment to live in host congregations on a weekly rotating schedule. She and her son became friends with another mother and two sons in the program. They shared stories, laughter, video games, and plans. Both families have graduated and are living independently. Another mother with her 5-year-old daughter couldn't afford an increase in rent although



Three year old Jakob loves computer games. His mother looks on. Fadina has warehousing experience and is waiting for the opportunity to be independent.

she had a part-time job. She now has a full time childcare position with benefits and they are living independently. Teen pregnant parents arrived with no place to go. After the birth of a disabled child, their courage and strength has sent them in new directions of growth. They are both working part-time with hopes of full-time work and are now living independently. Although these guests have achieved housing independence, they remain in touch with Family Promise through their mentoring program. ❖

This year's Christmas Eve Offering will go to support the work of "Family Promise". If you will not be here on Christmas Eve and would like to send a donation to this effort, please send it to the church office, marked "Family Promise" on the memo line.

Church Improvement Committee

by Barbara Vanderkay



It is a pleasant coincidence every year that just about Thanksgiving time is when I have the happy task of conveying our heartfelt thanks to all who once again made our November Holly Days Bazaar a great success. Much as we would like to thank each one of you face-to-face, there are too many of you whose efforts are greatly appreciated. We trust that you will all be reached by this medium of *The Spire*.

First, let's think of the fifty-some Holly House workers, without whose nimble fingers and creative talents we would be lost. Those women of the church and their non-member friends work almost year round on Tuesdays and Thursdays, forming bonds of friendship as their fingers fly. New members are welcome at any time, and soon become part of the "gang". Thank you, ladies!

How would we get along without Regie Moorcroft, our indomitable leader, who not only tells us what to do, but can show us exactly the best way to do it. She has wonderful organizational ability and has earned the sincere respect of all the workers. Thank you, Regie!

Once again the Presbyterian bakers produced their specialties, many by request. It is lucky that so many goodies can be safely frozen for future endeavors. Thank you, bakers!

We certainly won't forget the men of the church who were invaluable helping to set up tables, bringing truckloads of sale items from one or another church location to Fellowship Hall, helping to set up the tent in the Courtyard, and serving lunch on Friday and Saturday, as well as acting as parking attendants and guides. Thank you, gentlemen!

The staff at First Presbyterian is really tops. They are cheerfully willing to take on all the extra work this affair demands of them, while still carrying on their regular tasks. We especially appreciate all that Nancy Fine, our Office Manager, and Aaron Strippel, our Head Custodian, did for us. Thank you, staff!

Of course, without customers there would be no sale. We are pleased to see so many familiar faces every year. We certainly are doing something right. Thank you, loyal customers (and new ones, too)!

Our preliminary financial report shows deposits which total \$10,500 with more to come. We are pleased with such a good start. Thanks again, everyone.

If by some chance you still need presents for your friends and relations, remember the **Holiday Crafts Boutique**, which is open **Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at Bronson House. This is the yellow house on Bronson Avenue to the east of the church. It can be reached through the east parking lot, just north of the church, the other side of the big gates. There are lots of good things for you there, including a Bargain Room full of useful things like wrapping paper. It is also open after each service on Sundays, through **December 20th**.

Now we wish you a Merry Christmas filled with things to be thankful for, such as our wonderful church family who can gather for worship in such beautiful surroundings. ❖



“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

In 1865, a young American preacher named Phillips Brooks spent time in and around the fields of Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve, he attended worship in the Church of the Nativity, located on the site where tradition says Jesus was born.

Brooks was so spiritually touched by the experience that he later wrote a hymn for children to sing on Christmas Eve in his Philadelphia church. Lewis Redner, the church organist and Sunday school superintendent, composed the music for the beloved hymn, “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” Today it appears in most denominational hymnals. Brooks, a giant of a man physically (6’6” tall), was known throughout America as an eloquent and dominant force in the pulpit.

There is a large statue of the gifted man of God in front of Boston’s famous Trinity Church, where Brooks last served. His death in 1893 was a major event in Boston. Upon learning of his passing, a 5-year-old girl exclaimed, “Oh, Mama, how happy the angels will be.”

Thanksgiving in a Box

Donations are Up!

by Becky Knapp

Partnering with The Caring Kitchen, First Presbyterian Church was asked to once again provide the fixings for Thanksgiving dinner to 50 deserving families in Delray Beach. Since 2003, when I started coordinating the project, we have participated in this worthwhile effort. This year, I signed up to provide ingredients for 65 families, then sought for and received donations for 80! In addition to those pledging to return a box filled with the promised traditional Thanksgiving ingredients for a family of 5-6 people, and through the generosity of our members and friends, we also received cash donations totaling just shy of \$500. These gifts covered the purchase of the required 80 turkey pans and 80 pounds of butter for the families, along with the artwork supplies used to decorate the food boxes (enough for several years)

and finally a cash donation directly to the Caring Kitchen for the balance of \$162.20. I would like to thank the volunteers, Susie Canada, Jim Fisher, Janet Howard, Ed Jessell, Tony Parasiliti and Kathy Smith for helping to transport the 80 boxes, stack of 82 turkey pans and 80 pounds of butter to The Caring Kitchen. In the midst of our national recession, we were able to offer all of this assistance for our most disadvantaged local families. Your participation is our tool to providing God’s love and hope in our community. Thank you for taking the time to care! ❖



Inaugural Blessing of the Pets

A Great Success for Deacons' Scholarship Fund

by Kim Winker



A parade of almost 90 pets and over 120 adoring humans convened in the Courtyard October 25th for the inaugural Blessing of the Pets! This fundraiser for the Deacons' Scholarship Fund, which assists deserving members of the church pursuing full-time higher education, was a wild success garnering over \$1,600 in a free-will offering. From a pet goat to pet caterpillars to dogs and cats, all the animals were happy to be there for this special worship service dedicated to them. A service dog named Ali from S.N.I.F. (Special Narcotic Investigative Forces) was also there as a special guest.

After the short worship service led by Reverend Aaron Janklow, each attending animal, pet photo and

even stuffed animal received an individual blessing by Rev. Aaron. Additionally, all the pets received a blessing certificate emailed to their owners commemorating the event.

This event also introduced our church to many non-members in the community who came out with their pets.

The Deacons give a special thanks to church friend Dr. Jacqueline Pevny, who gave a generous \$500 donation to our Deacons' Scholarship Fund in honor of this event. Also, thanks to all the Deacons and youth who helped make this first annual event a winner!

Mark your calendars! The second annual Blessing of the Pets has already been scheduled for next October 24, 2010. ❖



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH OF DELRAY BEACH

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Palm Beach, FL
Permit #3064

The Community Church by the Sea

33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, Florida 33483

Sunday Morning Worship Services

9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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

Adult Church School 10 a.m.

Children's Church School 10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School 11 a.m.

Middle School Youth Fellowship 5 p.m.

Senior High Youth Fellowship 6 p.m.



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.

Estate Planning and Planned Giving Seminar

Hosted by Kurt Bagwell, Sr. - Church Elder and Trustee

Presented by Manley H. Thaler, Esquire, Thaler & Thaler, PA

Friday December 4, 2009 in Fellowship Hall from noon to 1:30 p.m. A hot lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 2nd to Nancy Fine at 276-6338, ext. 10 or by email (nancyfine@covad.net).

Topics To Be Discussed:

I Domicile in Florida - Why you may want to be a Florida resident and how to become domiciled in Florida.

II Jointly Held Property - You can avoid costly probate expenses if your property is titled appropriately but be careful, there are joint ownership traps to avoid.

III Estate Planning - Wills, Revocable & Irrevocable Trusts, Healthcare Documents, Gift Trusts and Special Needs Trusts

IV Financial Planning, IRAs & Pension Funds - Be sure that your assets are titled correctly.

An Estate is not a proper beneficiary of your investments.

V Charitable Giving & Tax Benefits of Giving to Your Charity - Charitable Remainder Trusts, Charitable Lead Annuity Trusts, Charitable Gift Annuities, Pooled Income Funds, Making a Bequest in your Will

About the Speaker:

MANLEY H. THALER graduated from Cornell University with A.B. and Juris Doctor degrees. Admitted to the New York Bar in 1953 and to the Florida Bar in 1977. Licensed to practice in the U.S. District Courts in Florida, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, all District Courts in the State of New York, Second Circuit Court of Appeals and U.S. Supreme Court. Member of the American Bar Association, New York Bar Association and Florida Bar Association; member of the Real Property, Probate, Estate Planning and Tax sections of the Bar and noted estate planning lecturer. Attorney Thaler is the managing partner at Thaler & Thaler, PA, with offices in West Palm Beach, Boca Raton and Tallahassee. ❖