



Retirement Celebrations for Rev. Abell

40 Years of Ministry!

by Kathy Tamashunus and Sandy Polane

On March 1, 2009, receptions will be held in Fellowship Hall after the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services to celebrate Rev. Joan Abell's retirement from 40 years of ministry, of which the last 16 years have been at our church. After the 11



a.m. service, Dr. Bush will make a special presentation to Rev. Abell. She will give her last sermon that day; please come and offer your best wishes.

Our church is very grateful to Rev. Abell; we acknowledge the areas to which she has dedicated her time at First Presbyterian Church, namely, the Christian Education Committee, the Board of Deacons, the Stephen Ministry, sermons and worship, visiting members in the hospital or at home, consultations,

work with Disaster Relief, etc. Come join the fun as we celebrate Rev. Abell's 40th anniversary of graduation from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1969 and her years in the ministry. ❖



Choir Chimes to Be Dedicated February 1

by Jim Poch, Associate Director of Music

Our deepest thanks are extended to Mrs. Lovelle Arnold for a three-octave set of Choir Chimes, given in memory of her late husband, John. These instruments are played like handbells, but have a much different timbre. Although the chimes were heard briefly during the prelude to our Christmas Eve worship services, they will be formally dedicated during the 11 a.m. worship service on February 1st. ❖

When They Ring Those Golden Bells For You And Me

by Jim Poch, Associate Director of Music

That is the last line of every verse of an old gospel song that you may remember. It begs the question, "Who are 'they?'" Here at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, "they" are the Westminster Ringers and Carillon Ringers. They enjoy wonderful fun and fellowship, beautiful music, and the opportunity to serve God by sharing songs with the congregation. But many of our "golden bells" (actually, bronze) sit idle in the cases because we don't have enough hands to ring the full five

octaves of handbells or three octaves of choir chimes. You could be part of this rewarding ministry by joining us. Experienced ringers are available to mentor beginners. Please call Jim Poch (276-6338, ext. 24), to ask questions or express your interest! ❖

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Reflections...

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

"Transitions"

Life is filled with periods of transition of various types for individuals, families and even institutions like churches. Rev. Abell soon will be going through a significant transition period in her life.



One thing about transitions is that they always are nice when people are looking forward to a particular one. Joan has been counting the months, now it is the days and soon it will be the hours that she has left until retirement. Although we will miss her, we are happy for her as she moves on with her life.

Sunday, March 1st, will be her last Sunday with us. The Board of Deacons will be hosting a reception after both worship services that day. We hope that you can be here to wish her farewell.

We are grateful for Joan's ministry in our midst, both as our Associate Pastor for the last 14 years and prior to that as a part-time Christian Education Coordinator. We thank her for everything that she has done for our congregation and for the leadership that she has provided. Our prayers go with her as she begins

a new aspect of her life.

As a matter of information, the Associate Pastor Search Committee continues to receive dossiers for review. All of the information about the available Associate Pastor

position is available on our website (www.firstdelray.com). If you know of a qualified pastor whom you would recommend, please contact the Search Committee Chairman, Mr. Noel Smith (302-8688). Chances are that the most viable candidate may very well come from a recommendation of someone who is a member or a friend of our congregation. Please circulate the word among clergy whom you may know. They may have an excellent candidate to recommend for the position.

During this transitional period, I am most appreciative of the wonderful pastoral dedication of Rev. Garnett, Rev. Harper and Rev. Kinnear. Jo, Linda and Happy are marvelous ministers who know our congregation and whose work with our church is highly respected by everyone who knows them. ❖

Church Staff

Theodore A. Bush, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor

Joan L. Abell, M.R.E.
Associate Pastor

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

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

Happy Kinnear, M.Div.
Youth Leader

Nancy Fine
Office Manager

Christine Davis
Accountant

Paula Hare
Secretary

Aaron Strippel
Head Custodian

Rita Avery
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The Spire

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Men's Club

The February Men's Club Breakfast will be held on Friday, February 20th at 8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Prudy Taylor Board, local writer, editor and speaker will be speaking about the process of getting your writings published; whom to



contact, how to contact and what to expect. Prudy lives and works in Delray Beach and is the author of several books including: *Murder A La Carte*, *A Grave Injustice*, *Remembering Lee County: Where Summer Spends the Winter*, and *101 Tips on Writing and Selling Your First Novel*. Join us. ❖

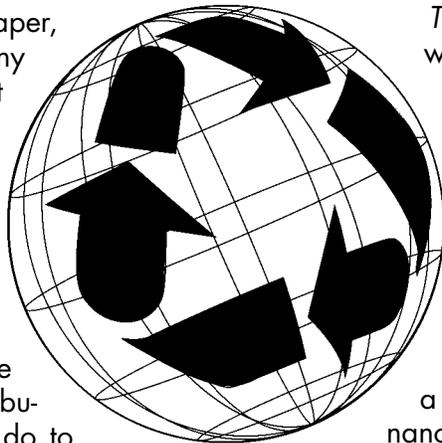
Green and Lean

by Linda Prior

The mail arrived and I was delighted to see *The Spire* and catch up on the latest news in the church. The richness of the shiny paper, the feel of the newsletter, the many pictures send the message that First Presbyterian Church of Delray is active and prosperous.

When we look inside, there is an article about stewardship. Oops! Is stewardship just about contributions or is it about protecting the resources with which God has so generously endowed the earth. Is it about using the contributions responsibly? What can we do to use our natural resources and our hard earned contributions more effectively? Can we make some changes to release the pressure on our bulging budget...even a small change?

We mail about 1,000 copies of the newsletter ten times a year. The postage alone costs approximately \$3,050. The paper, printing, and person power add to the cost. After we comb through *The Spire* and are bolstered with pride in our



church, we toss it in the recycle bin and the paper is reprocessed, another charge.

Suppose we reduce our hardcopy distribution of *The Spire* by one third? That would mean \$5,420 could be used on other programs. How can we make a change?

The Spire is available on the church website, www.firstdelray.com. Would you like to receive a notice when the new *Spire* is published each month? You can view it hot off the press immediately. Do you have to wait for your mail to be forwarded twice a year and miss the latest news? Enjoy it on-line.

If you would like to be part of the Green and Lean program, send a note to Nancy at nancyfine@covad.net. You will receive an email with *The Spire* attached for you to read or to download through our website. You can also save it online or pass on a particularly interesting article to a friend. By the way, the weekly bulletin is on line also, so that you can keep up with what's happening no matter where you are.

Many of you are not electronically connected. You will continue to receive *The Spire* in the traditional way, in your mailbox. ❖

Youth Group Fundraisers

by Britt Smith

Fundraisers at church are fun. The car wash we did in November was work but we got to cool off in the pool afterwards. Unloading the Poinsettia truck was not really hard work, counting all the plants seemed to be the problem! This will be my first retreat and I am looking forward to being with the other youth in such a cool place. I am so thankful that we have this youth group, my older brothers and sisters talked about all their trips when I was little. Thank you for sending us to this event.



by Jeane Forrest

George, Amber, and I have been members of the First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach for 17 years. I was always very involved with the children's programs and activities of our church. To me, it is very important to be active in the lives of our children and the young people of our church because they will be the next generation of members if we want our church to live on. We are very blessed to have such caring, loving and kind people at our church.

Doing the Car Wash and golf-shirt fundraisers were easy because the members were very supportive of our young people. From the little children, the youth and the parents of the children and youth, we want to thank the congregation so much for their support. ❖



Deacons' Corner

by Sandy Polane

The first Sunday in February is when our church greets the new, incoming Deacons, and says "Thank You for serving" to the outgoing, retiring Deacons, of which I will be one this year. Concluding six years are **Sandy Polane**, and **Elise Sherer**. **James Lawrence** concludes five years. **Bruce Gimmy** concludes a three-year term. **Kathy Tamashunus** concludes a two-year term (which technically totals eight years over three terms, but not consecutively). **Susan Miller** is retiring after two years.

Elise Sherer "totally enjoyed" serving as a Deacon, adding, "it's been a very active six years". She served as chairperson of Meet-Your-Deacon Sunday in 2008. This is a huge undertaking. Elise mastered the challenge with her foot in a boot/cast due to an injury. "Caring for and establishing friendships in my Flock" have been a rewarding part of being a Deacon. She has enjoyed getting to know the other Deacons and congregants while graciously giving her time to ushering, the Angel Christmas Tree, obtaining greeters, and the countless other duties Deacons attend to for our church. Elise, your love, concern and hard work are deeply appreciated.

James Lawrence served as Moderator of the Board of Deacons in 2007; was a head usher 2005-present, and trained new Deacons to usher in 2007. James was instrumental in establishing the Deacon Scholarship Program. He says, "Contributions to the Scholarship Fund may be made at any time during the year, as is done with the Music Fund and Minister's Discretionary Fund. My profession is in education, and it's important to create opportunities for young people; I am the Administrative Director for the Nursing Program at Nova Southeast University, where the nursing program is ranked second in the state of Florida." As Chairman of the Flower Committee from 2004-2006, James emphasized the importance of the Sanctuary flowers and the personal reward Deacons receive by taking their turns delivering them to members in the hospital. One of the responsibilities of Deacons who are ushering is to deliver Sanctuary flowers.

James has enjoyed serving as a Deacon and added, "I joined the church on April 1, 1990, and was one of the first black members of this church, and

the first black Deacon. I have never felt any racism at our church. Many years ago, I lived on Gleason Street. The first Sunday I attended this church, Dave Roberts greeted me, and I've felt right at home ever since. My wife, Debbie and my three children are members; two of my children are married, and they were married here. I believe in Jesus Christ to the core of my being, and am glad I had the privilege of serving as a Deacon."

Bruce Gimmy will be missed! During his three years as a Deacon, when ushering he has been in charge of the Covered Patio prior to and during worship. Making sure the east doors are open when the church bells are rung, and closed immediately afterward, are just two of the many thoughtful actions for which he is responsible. Bruce is the owner of a local business and still found time to serve as a Deacon, for which the church is very grateful. Bruce expressed, "Serving as a Deacon was a rewarding experience; you get to work with individuals who believe in love and service. I found ushering especially rewarding; meeting and greeting on Sunday mornings, you get to know people. I'm in the clothing business, so I had fun on Sunday mornings kidding the male members, saying, 'You look great! Did you pick out that tie or did your wife?'" All kidding aside, Bruce added, "because of my Deaconing experience, I feel part of, not apart from, First Presbyterian Church." In closing, Bruce said, the "Deaconing experience reminded me of college; you could audit a class or you were in the class and could become a part of the process. I feel so much more a part of our church because of my Deacon experience. Thank you for the opportunity to serve." He has been generous with his time assisting in all Deacon activities especially the Angel Christmas Tree and Deacon Sunday, and ushering at the Christmas Eve services.

Susan Miller, serving two years, has been enthusiastic about all her Deacon responsibilities, including ushering. Thank you.

Kathy Tamashunus, how can we possibly thank you for all your tireless work as a Deacon? When I joined the church, you were my Deacon; you always made me feel welcome and that I was part of this church family. I now realize you do that for everyone who attends our church and has the good fortune of knowing you. While interviewing Kathy for this article she shared this story. "When I went to Pennsylvania to be with my mom when she was dying, her minister came to the house, and the assistant minister came to the house. They knew her on a first name

basis and treated her like family.” When Kathy returned to Florida, she joined our church, which she had been attending for some time. I wanted a church family like my mom’s where everyone knew my name.” Kathy, many of us not only know your first name, but we can spell your last name!

Do I dare attempt to list the numerous positions Kathy held as a Deacon? Here we go! In 2008, Kathy served as Moderator of the Board of Deacons and in 2004, Vice-Moderator and Chairperson of the Benevolence, Stewardship, and Scholarship Committees. She has Co-Chaired the Angel Christmas Tree Committee, served as head usher Sunday mornings, and has always ushered for the Christmas Eve services. When a Deacon is scheduled to usher on Sundays but cannot make it, nor find a fellow Deacon substitute, Kathy is very gracious with her time, and if she’s available always says, “Sure I’ll be glad to sub for you.”

Describing her position as Moderator, Kathy explains, “The Deacons meet at 7 p.m. once a month; everyone has already put in a full day’s work, and I wanted the meeting over by 8 p.m. It is crucial to keep the agenda moving, to sum up an item under discussion and move on, and not to let time drag. There are several committee reports given each month; but the chairpersons are prepared, thorough, and respectful of the time factor.” As Deacons, we respect Kathy’s leadership qualities, her vibrant enthusiasm for the church, life and love of the Lord. She is a self-described “operations” person who says, “I am a doer.”

As Stewardship Chairperson, Kathy was required to address the congregation periodically during Sunday worship. Her delivery was impeccable, and she appeared confident and calm, as if she enjoyed public speaking. However, during this interview she disclosed, “No one would have guessed that I was shaking like a leaf. I was petrified! I’ve learned to overcome that – somewhat.”

A Co-Chair of the Angel Christmas Tree a few years ago, Kathy revealed that several angel gift tags remained on the tree after the deadline. Consequently, she needed to purchase and wrap numerous toys at home. Her living room looked like a toy store. Her husband, Ed, who has a wonderful sense of humor, began answering the phone “Toys R’ Us!”

In closing, Kathy added, “I’ve loved being a Deacon! The Board of Deacons is a fine group of individuals who work hard for the good of everyone. I’ve loved ushering; it gives an opportunity to meet and greet people on Sunday mornings. I hope to continue ushering when called upon. Undoubtedly, I will return and be a Deacon again sometime. As the saying

goes, ‘Once a Deacon, always a Deacon.’”

Sandy Polane, yours truly, has served for six years as Deacon; all of those years I’ve been on the Communication Committee. I began the first two years under the tutelage of Leslie Horenburger. The last four years either I or a designated Deacon wrote a articles for *The Spire* keeping the congregation aware of the “who, what, where, when, and how” of Deacon activities and events. I’ve loved being the communication link and thank the church for allowing me the privilege of serving in this capacity. In 2006 and 2007, I was asked to serve as Secretary of the Board of Deacons. (It was a big job and a labor of love.) I assisted Marge Scheck (2005 and 2006) and Elise Sherer (2008) on the Meet Your Deacon Sunday committees. I served five years as a head usher; originally trained by Cliff Roberson, Paul Fazio and Bill Bottle (great teachers), or ushering in any capacity required. I have enjoyed working with Pat Duane, chairperson of the Memorials Committee, and volunteered to usher whenever possible. I’ve done my part in helping acquire greeters, bringing food when necessary and assisting with the Angel Christmas Tree, along with all the other 36 Deacons. All Deacon responsibilities are a “team effort”, especially ushering. I helped coordinate the ushers for Christmas Eve services for the past few years; that is the Super Bowl of Ushering! Everyone does his part. If some emergency arises, as sometimes happens, a Deacon is there, doing what he needs to do.

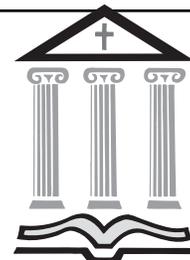
In closing, I would be remiss to not say “thank you” to my husband, Ron, who has helped instruct me on computer skills so that I as the Communication Chairman, could send attachments to Nancy Fine and Paula Hare and meet deadlines for *The Spire* and Board Minutes. Being a Deacon was a great blessing in my life for which I will always be grateful. ❖



Pictorial Directory

Photos of church members will continue to be taken during the month of February. Resident photographer, Reece Galyon, will be taking pictures on Sunday mornings at the following times: Before the first worship service (8:30 to 9 a.m.), between worship services (10 to 11 a.m.) and following the second worship service (noon to 1 p.m.). The photo process for each family unit should be fairly brief. You do not have to be formally dressed for the picture. ❖

2009 EVENTS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PLAN AHEAD!

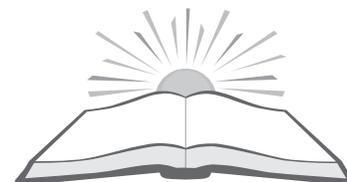


- February 8 YOUTH SUNDAY
(Our youth lead worship. Kid's and Youth choirs sing.)
- February 13 Babysitting Night at Church
Youth Fundraiser 6 to 10 p.m.
- February 14 Youth Car Wash at the church – 8 a.m.
- February 17 Confirmation/Session Dinner
- February 22 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
- February 25 ASH WEDNESDAY
- March 8 Youth Choir sings in Worship
Beach Clean Up led by Youth. Congregation invited
- April 5 Children's Palm Sunday Presentation at 9 and 11 a.m.
worship services
Easter Egg Hunt & BBQ at Noon–Congregation welcome
- April 12 EASTER
No 10 a.m. Church School
- May 3 Summer Worship at 10 a.m.
Choir & Bell Recognition
Church School at 9 a.m.
11 a.m. Church School begins summer recess
- May 10 (MOTHER'S DAY)
- May 24 10 a.m. Church School begins in summer recess
- May 25 Memorial Day
Parents' Morning Out begins summer recess
- June 8-12 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



FPC YOUTH EVENTS

- February 6 Youth Sunday Rehearsal, Movie and Lock-In
Adult chaperones needed
- February 8 YOUTH SUNDAY
- February 13 Babysitting Night Adult chaperones needed
- February 14 Youth Car Wash at the church – 8 a.m.
- February 16 Mission Tour with Confirmation Class
- February 17 Confirmation Dinner with Session
- February 22 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
- March 1 Bake Sale Fundraiser
- March 8 Beach Clean-up
- June 8-12 Volunteer at VBS
- July 25-Aug. 1 Montreat Youth Conference



Church Improvement Committee

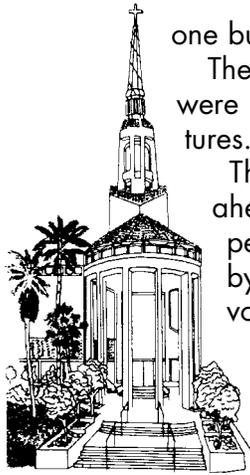
by Barbara Vanderkay

The FINAL, final figure on the 2008 Holly Days Bazaar, including sales made in our post-bazaar Christmas boutique, is \$16,207, almost as much as 2007's total. Thank you all for helping us to do better than we had expected.

What have we been doing with our well-earned money? We spent approximately \$34,000 renovating the "new" Holly House, (39 Gleason Street), which is open for your inspection by appointment only with Regie Moorcroft (495-5376), until the Step-Above-Rummage Sale is over in mid-February.

We saw a need for handrails in three places in our multi-level courtyard and paid some \$1,500 for them. Now, we wonder how we got along safely without them.

We paid for a new golf cart for \$2,200, which Aaron's pleased to scoot around in, and which the Holly House ladies find very useful to take things from



one building to another.

There are, of course, smaller unbudgeted items we were glad to buy, but these are the major expenditures.

The **Step-Above-Rummage Sale** is just ahead and we are asking for more volunteer sales people than we have before. This is necessitated by the extra day the sale will run this year. Please volunteer for more than one shift if you can do so.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the weekly bulletin or get in touch with Regie Moorcroft (495-5376), or any board member. We need YOU.

To remind you, the sale will be the second weekend in February as usual, but the schedule will begin with the members' presale from 1 to 3 p.m.

on Wednesday, February 11th and continue Thursday, the 12th, Friday, the 13th and Saturday, the 14th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the public. It seems clear already that extending the sale to include Thursday will alleviate some of the crowding on Friday.

Donations will only be accepted through **Monday morning, February 9th**, thank you.

Speaking of donations, we have three lovely handmade quilts for sale this year.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the weekly bulletin or get in touch with Regie Moorcroft (495-5376), or any board member. We need YOU. ❖



Adult Forum Sunday Class

by Rev. Jo Garnett

More than one-third of Jesus' teachings were in the form of Parables. They paint word pictures that help us understand the world in which Jesus lived. Beginning Sunday, February 1st, we will explore how these stories, in light of our own lives can bring us closer to Jesus and give us new insight for living in the kingdom of God. We meet at 10 a.m. in the Christian Learning Center. Rev. Garnett leads this study. ❖

Youth Babysitting Night

by Kim Dykstra

Avoid the Valentine's Day crowds and instead have dinner with your Valentine on Friday, February 13th! Let your children enjoy the evening with our caring and responsible Youth Group members (along with some experienced parents). Babysitting will be held in the Christian Education Building from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. This event is a fundraiser for our youth groups.

The cost is \$20 per child or \$30 per family and is available for infants through older children. There will be a game room, movie room, craft room and FUN. Snacks will be served. Reservations are required. Call Paula Hare (276-6338, ext. 23), to reserve your spot and support our youth group's mission trips. ❖

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:

Francelia Willis - January 16, 2009 ❖

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

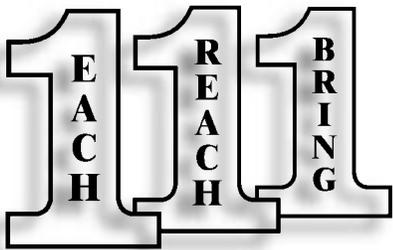
This newsletter is available online at www.firstdelray.com. If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter, please email Nancy Fine at nancyfine@covad.net.

Sunday Morning Worship 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.



Give the Gift of Hope

Blanket Sunday
by Rev. Jo Garnett

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women, Blanket Sunday will be held on February 15th. The money raised from this event goes to provide blankets and tools for victims of war, and natural disasters in the US and around the world. Last year, our church family raised \$3500. Checks may be made to the church, designated for Blanket Sunday. ❖

Ash Wednesday Service

by Rev. Jo Garnett

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season when we ready ourselves for Easter. Join us in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evening, February 25th at 7 p.m. We will read Scripture and raise our voices in song as we begin to travel the road with Jesus to the cross. ❖

Presbyterian Women's Tea

by Carol Possanza



The Presbyterian Women will host an afternoon tea on Friday, February 27th at the St. Andrews Club on A1A. We will have a guest speaker from the Orchid Society.

Our theme this year is "The Mad Hatter's Tea Party". The tea is open to all members and friends of the church, so ladies wear your favorite hat and please join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Tickets will be on sale in the Courtyard immediately following church services during the month of February. For more information, please call Patty Years 276-5192. ❖