



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, February 17th at 7 p.m.** We will read Scripture and raise our voices in song as we begin to travel the road to the cross with Jesus. Child care is available. ❖

Communion

The Worship and Music Committee recommended to Session that the Sacrament of Communion be celebrated monthly. Session enthusiastically endorsed this idea.

For 2010, Communion will be celebrated on the following dates: February 21st (the First Sunday in Lent), March 7th, April 1st (Maundy Thursday), May 2nd, June 6th, July 4th, August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd (World Communion Sunday), November 7th and December 5th. ❖



Stewardship Campaign 2010 Update

by Kurt Bagwell

Pledge goal for operating funds is \$1,000,000

So far we are still short of our goal and are looking for your support if you have not yet pledged. The church has been operating in a deficit for a couple of years and we need everyone to

commit time and funds as they can. Our church has a lot of great things happening right now and we need to raise our operating funds to the proper level to support the programs and avoid any cuts. If you have already turned in your pledge card, "thank you!" If you have not, please contact Christine at 276-6338, ext. 16, or send a note with your pledge. ❖



Children in the Bata National High School in Bacolod City, Philippines, enjoy a meal served twice a week through a feeding program funded by our congregation's Mission Outreach.

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Reflections...

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

"Our Pilgrimage Together"

As I am writing this, two days have passed since an earthquake devastated Haiti. By the time you read this, there will be much greater clarity as to the horrific consequences of this disaster upon the Haitian people and many more details concerning this sad tragedy will be known. In an interview the day after the earthquake happened, Haitian President, Rene Preval said, "I am still looking to understand the magnitude of the event." We are trying to do the same.

Like many of you, I watched in stunned silence as our national media reported on what had happened, how people were trying to cope with it in Haiti and beyond, as well as details of the relief efforts underway by the international community. As I sat there, I tried to pray but realized that I could not pray as easily as I thought that I could.

How does a person pray for people who, as is so often said, have a difficult enough time to survive on a "good" day much less at a time like this? How do we pray for those who, while they might not have much to begin with, suddenly have nothing and no one left in their family? How do we watch as children reach out, pleading for help, struggling to free themselves from the rubble? How do we pray for those who need medical attention immediately when both we and they realize that it won't be coming for a long, long time?

The old expression, "There, but for the grace of God, go I", comes to mind. Yet, the truth is that there, but for the grace of God, could be you and me.



Our Mission Outreach Committee is recommending that those who wish to give do so through the church to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program of our denomination. Already, the Presbyterian Church nationally has sent \$100,000 toward relief efforts in Haiti as an immediate response to the crisis. While many competent relief organizations are involved in this response, as we have witnessed previously in multiple disasters, the mainline denominations will be there long after the large cadre of reporters and other organizations have left the scene. We will stay for the long haul. I encourage those of you who wish to help in these relief efforts to send your donation to the church, marked "Haitian Relief", and we will send whatever we collect directly to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

At the local level, we are approximately 18% short of our stewardship goal for 2010. I encourage those of you who have not yet pledged to do so today. We are known as a mission church that cares deeply about our members, our community, and the world beyond our walls. We can meet the challenges that we face, both locally and internationally, if we put our minds and hearts to this task. Let's get both jobs done.

Among other things, February marks the beginning of Lent. This is the time when we begin to spiritually prepare ourselves for Easter. This should be a time for personal and communal prayer, as well as spiritual reflection.

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Even with the inconceivable tragedy in Haiti, or perhaps as a result of it, let us take some time each day to ponder the meaning of the life of Jesus. Who knows, we just might be better equipped to better understand and celebrate our Lord's Resurrection. I look forward to seeing you as we make this Lenten pilgrimage together. ❖

Church Improvement Committee



brings more chilly weather and whatever good and useful items you no longer need.

There is still some relish, mango chutney and watermelon pickles, made by the special church recipes, available at the Bookshelf Table in Fellowship Hall following Sunday services. Regie Moorcroft will accept telephone orders (495-5376). Please bring your donations to Fellowship Hall from **9:30 to noon, weekdays and Saturdays until Monday, February 8th**. Don't forget to bring us some costume jewelry, as early as possible, please. That is always such a good seller.

A brief report on a few of the things your purchases at the Bazaar and the Rummage Sale have funded for the church in the last year: We contributed more than half the money to renovate the Youth House, we repaired the breezeway ceiling near Fellowship Hall after a bad leak, we installed the Historic Marker in front of the church, we paid for new spotlights, we repaired the Ladies Room off the Narthex, we bought six dozen battery operated candles for the children to use in the Christmas Eve service, and, of course, we bought some craft supplies for the Holly House Workshops.

Here's where we beg! PLEASE sign up to work for the Rummage Sale, before, during or even afterward. It isn't arduous, the co-workers are great and we have sitting jobs for those who require them. We need more people who will work more than one shift, on different days instead of the more tiring all day stints. If you have never helped at a sale you will be surprised at how nice everyone is, customers and fellow workers alike. So PLEASE sign up on the inserts in the weekly bulletins and join the group. Excuse the cliché, but "You'll be glad you did!" ❖

by Barbara Vanderkay

Before we look ahead to 2010, there is one leftover 2009 item of interest to the congregation. Our Holly Days Bazaar in November produced a final figure of \$17,000. We can pat each other on the back for exceeding 2008's total and almost equaling 2007. Considering the poor economy, we actually did much better than we had reason to hope. Hooray for First Presbyterian!

February, of course, brings the Step-Above-Rummage Sale. Last year, some people said our prices were too low, but in the end, we made over \$19,000, more than we had made in several years. In fact, we were able to sell more things to people in need of them in this tight economy.

This year, we are continuing our policy of having the sale open to the public for three days, **Thursday, February 11th, Friday, February 12th, and Saturday, February 13th**. We will be open from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** From **1 to 3 p.m.** on **Wednesday, February 10th**, is the time of the pre-sale for members and regular church attendees. (Your faithfulness is hereby recognized and rewarded!).

As you probably know already, we accept donations of good, CLEAN clothing, small household items, antiques and collectibles, books, usable sports equipment, pieces of furniture that are small enough to fit in your car, linens, including blankets in case this winter

One Last Thank You

by Rev. Aaron Janklow



As many of you already know, the Youth House has been almost completely renovated. In past articles I thanked Elsa Robinson, who donated the financial gift that sparked the entire renovation, and Bob Teninga who oversaw the work and was integral throughout the

process, but some others that I want to thank are the women of Holly House, who also played an equally big part through the Church Improvement Fund. I would have thanked them much sooner for their help in making these renovations possible, but to be honest, it wasn't until very recently that I was made aware of the role that they played. The youth of this church, their parents, and I, thank you. Not a week passes that I do not see bustling activity coming from the Holly House, and their hard work helps the work of the larger church by funding unbudgeted expenses that might arise during the year. The renovated Youth House is just another example of this. Thank you to the Holly House. ❖

Deacons' Corner

by *Kim Winker*



Each year at this time the congregation welcomes a new set of Deacons donning their navy blue and white to serve the church in various ways and to greet you each Sunday morning. The Board of Deacons is delighted to share this unique experience with the "freshman" Deacons of 2010, but we are also appreciative of those outgoing Deacons who have unselfishly given their time, talents and TLC to the congregation for many years. Here are some of those "graduating" Deacons and their sentiments.

Diana Bush served as a Deacon for six years and enjoyed ushering and getting to know church members better. She also learned more about the organization of the church. For five years, she was chairperson of the Shepherding Committee where she assigned members of the congregation to the Deacons' flocks. Diana, we truly are grateful for your dedication!

For six years **Sue Chaney** brightened the Board of Deacons. Her enthusiastic efforts as a Deacon led her to graciously head the Flower Committee for the last five years. This meant that she was in charge of organizing the Sanctuary flowers every Sunday and ensuring their delivery to our shut-in members by her and other Deacons after the services. She truly enjoyed visiting with shut-in members and learned that not everyone wants flowers. Sue also

liked meeting and working with fellow Deacons and getting to know many members of the church. She will miss the Deacon camaraderie and says, "It was a real honor to serve as a Deacon."

Marina Coviello can't believe how fast her six year term as a Deacon went. As a nervous first year Deacon, Marina recalls Kathy Tamashunas and Sandy Polane taking her under their wings and showing her the ropes. "They were wonderful, making me feel I was one of the family, and this is what it is all about. The Deacons become part of your family and your close friends." Marina dutifully served as Head Usher for five years, as well as being on the Deacons' Christmas Tree Committee for three years. For the last two years, she created the monthly ushering schedule and loved it! She has nothing but praise for Office Manager Nancy Fine, who assisted her over the years with the ushering schedule. Marina fondly says of Nancy, "She knows her stuff!" Marina has been a blessing to the Deacons and the church with her great sense of humor and hard work. Marina concludes, "Being a Deacon, I have met so many wonderful people. Everyone has been so helpful, kind and understanding. I enjoyed myself so much and the worst thing of all is that now I have to think of what I am going to wear to church. I'm sure going to miss that blue and white outfit, but don't worry, I'LL BE BACK."

Dan Coviello was fortunate to serve with his wife, Marina

Coviello, during her last year as a Deacon. The by-laws were changed in 2009 allowing spouses to serve together. Dan served on the Special Events Committee during his one year term. Dan recalls a memorable moment when he was ushering, "My favorite experience was when, after ushering a few times, I was feeling good about my performance and was in such a good mood that I walked down the aisle swinging the offering plate rather than holding it reverently in two hands. Marina being the Head Usher at the time dressed me down and told me she would be keeping an eye on me at all times. Tough lesson learned!" What did he like best? Dan liked knowing exactly what to wear for services when he ushered. Thank you for your service and sense of humor, Dan.

Deacon extraordinaire **Pat Duane** is leaving the Board of Deacons after a total of 11 years (six of which were in this current term). This Delray Beach resident of 55 years loved greeting and assisting people on Sunday mornings. She also liked getting to know her flock over the years. For the last two years, she tirelessly headed the Memorials Committee where she helped memorial services run smoothly by organizing and asking fellow Deacons to usher at these important services. She found the "Deacons were always willing to help." Pat, in the true spirit of a Deacon, says that she will always be glad to help out the Deacons whenever she is called to do so.

Kay Huckle has been a busy member of the Board of Deacons for the last six years. For three

years, she had the big responsibility of being head of the Deacons' Christmas Tree Committee and played "elf" when it came time to provide the toys the congregation purchased for the needy children of the agencies we service. We also have this retiring Deacon to thank for those beautiful Christmas and Easter cards members receive each year in the mail from their Deacons. She was also responsi-

ble for getting the flowers that were given out on Mother's Day and chocolate kisses on Father's Day. Kay enjoyed getting to know not just her flock, but other members of the congregation, as well. She loved to contribute her time and talents to her beloved church. Kay feels privileged to have been asked to serve as a Deacon and says, "I encourage any member who is asked to accept and enjoy

a job that provides more rewards than work."

Among the other retiring Deacons this year are **Bunny Lyon, Kathy Diamond** and **Bill Bukovsan**. These dedicated Deacons have made a difference in our church, and we are blessed to have them in the congregation. Thank you for your years of service! ❖

Christmas Eve Collection Helps Local Homeless Families

by Linda Prior

The First Presbyterian Church generously donated \$6,865.52 from the Christmas Eve collection to Family Promise, an

interfaith network of congregations that provides shelter and services to homeless families in the Delray Beach area



on their journey to independence. Guests stay at host congregations for a week before moving on to the next congregation. Sixteen families moved from homelessness to independence since Family Promise opened its doors in November 2008.

Joy Richards with Kira, her five-year old granddaughter, journeyed from homelessness to self-sufficiency. She shared her story with our congregation during the worship services on December 17th. Her hours at work had been reduced. She could no longer afford her apartment. After four months with the Family Promise network, she obtained a full time job in

childcare with benefits, and she has her own apartment.

The money from the Christmas Eve collection will be used to support the families as they

work toward independence. The adults are job ready and are looking for work in real estate, security, forklift operation, warehousing, landscaping, cooking, food service, housekeeping, and retail sales. They need money for gas or transportation to get to job interviews. Childcare is needed for the children so the parents can work or search for jobs. The families need warm clothing. They need haircuts and dental care. They need help setting up their own apartments when they graduate. They feel the security of God's arms surrounding them as loving volunteers help them along the way.

Family Promise believes that every child deserves a home. Thank you for helping to make that happen. ❖

Taizé During Lent

Join us on Friday mornings at 8 a.m. in the Covered Patio beginning February 19th.

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:

Pauline Krestel - December 7, 2009

Fern Hasebrock - December 25, 2009 ❖

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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.



Spiritual Retreat

by Suzanne Weber

There is an open invitation to the women of our church to join Dr. Calvin Jackson as he leads a retreat at Quail Ridge Country Club on Monday, February 22nd. The cost is \$25 per person which includes lunch. Call Suzanne Weber at 734-2658 to register.

The Grace of Receiving and Giving

Life is a gift to receive with gratitude and an opportunity to share in service in the unfolding calendars of our faith. We are called to audit our lives with honesty and in the light of our Christian journey.

In this retreat we will focus on what we have received. The apostle Paul puts it this way, "What do you have that you haven't received?" Let us count our blessings and acknowledge our regrets.

In the second part of our session, we will look at what is our opportunity to give and what is our opportunity to receive. This is the gracious rhythm of life: giving and receiving. During Lent, we have the opportunity to renew our hope and vision. ❖

Presbyterian Women's Tea

by Cathy Bolinger

The Presbyterian Women will host an afternoon tea from **2 to 4 p.m. on Friday, February 26th** at the **St. Andrews Club** on A1A. Pam Carey, a new author, will be speaking on her new book, *Minor League Mom*. After the tea, the author will be available for a book signing.

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 the worship services during the month of February. Tickets are \$30 and proceeds from this fundraiser will be used for the Achievement Center for Children & Families. For more information, please call Nancy Freeman (278-2107). ❖